

**WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION:**

"A Case Study of Narayan Municipality -02, Dailekh, District, Nepal"

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis entitled **Women Participation in Agriculture Production: A case study of Narayan Municipality 02 Dailekh District** has been prepared by Ram Bhakta Neupane under my guidance and supervision I therefore, recommend it for the evaluation by the research committee for acceptance.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for human beings from ancient times. Most of the third world economies are rural and women plays vital role in all the rural economics and farming system. Studies from most developing countries show that women participations in agricultural works, both in crop cultivation and livestock raising is wide spread. Women are the primary food producers in Africa where the division of labor is by crops (Gautam, 2010). As in other developing countries, Nepal's economy is also based on agriculture. The agricultural sector provides employment to around 80 percent of the total labor force (CBS, 2012).

Women play a major role in agriculture activities both directly and indirectly, along with their household responsibilities and socio-cultural obligations.

The role of women has always been a multi-dimensional and significant as women have performed well in case of agricultural activities, domestic activities, marketing activities as far as labor requirement is considered. Decision making is the fundamental process that incorporates all the functions of family resource management. The decision-making process is an important segment of every household because the functioning of family resource management depends on the efficiency of decision-making progress. So, women's involvement in decision-making process has been of great importance because women play an important role in every household activity and gives outstanding performance most of the time. It may be related to household activity or for the decision.

Women are responsible for 70% of actual farm work and constitute up to 60% of the farming population (Chaudhary and Singh, 2003). They contribute a higher proportion of labor in agricultural sector than men. However, they are not active in decision making.

The growing problem of poverty in our country has promoted the economic planners to come up with various programmers to curb poverty. Decision making plays a crucial role in agriculture enterprise, where women's high involvement in necessary. The

participation of female in decision making process is an important segment of each and every household.

As we know that, Nepal is a developing country, having vast and varied rural sector and primarily agrarian socio-economic setup. Farming in Nepal is mainly a family occupation. The farming capabilities for taking timely and judicious decisions by the farm families have a direct bearing on the/ agricultural development in country. There has been little realization about the contribution of women in the economic activities of a country.

The Nepalese case presents a mixed, transitional one neither totally traditional nor modern. In fact, a society becomes traditional or modern not by material achievement it possesses or lacks but by the status it accords to women. It is because the role of women in social change is vital. According to census 2021 the total population of the country is 29,192,480 among which 1, 42, 91,311 are males and 1, 4901,169 are female (CBS, 2021). Therefore, females cover 51.04 percentage of the country's population.

Agriculture is a key driver of Nepal's long-term growth and food security, where the vast majority of the population of the country nearly 65.6% depends on it as a source of livelihood and shares significant proportion of the total GDP of the country.

The sector is dominated by mixed farming where crops and livestock play major roles in serving dual purposes for domestic consumption and foreign currency earning. Agriculture contributes about 23.95% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 30% of the national export earnings (MoF, 2019). Although the main source of the national earnings is obtained from this sector, the sector is dominated by traditional subsistence and fragmented type of smallholder farmers (IFPRI, 2010).

Despite the great significance of women contribution, gender inequality and division of labor remain to be serious problem causing imbalanced distribution of resource, power, and privileges between women and men. In addition to this, the exposure of women to deep-rooted traditional mal-practices and abuses is one of the indicators, which could prove they have been forced to live in such defective socialization. Since gender inequality is a deeply rooted feature of the rural community, poverty has become more gender based where women comprise of the biggest ratio of the poorest population in the society. They also are more exposed to the risks associated with

manmade and natural calamities (MOA, 2011).

In practice, women farmers tend to rely on rain-fed agriculture, and have poor access to inputs fertilizers, seeds, and water, to extension most extension agents are men, to credit, and to markets for their products. Women also bear the brunt of the burden of providing social protection services both to vulnerable people within the immediate family and those in their community. This limits potential as agricultural producers. At the same time by force of circumstance by culture, women are often highly resilient, able to turn their hands to many different tasks and to find ways of overcoming obstacles (Lindiwe, 2012).

For development to take root in the country women's role should be recognized and they have to be given their share over all the properties. These days' government and non-government organizations are trying to help women get recognition from society which they are part of what is more surprising is that most women themselves do not realize that they are prevented from owning what they deserve recognition and appreciation. When women do participate in extension activities, they may not be provided equal recognition for their responsibilities and skills. This is because farmers and farming activities continue to be perceived as "male" by policy makers, planners, and agricultural service deliverers, thereby ignoring the important and increasing role women play in agriculture (Messay, 2012).

The important contributions made by women in farming and agriculture justify the necessity to make the system more equitable. Therefore, specific situations need to be reviewed and perspective action on the need basis. The above background, therefore, provides the necessary basis and justification for this research study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Studies on rural women in Nepal reveal that they represent approximately 51% of the total population and account for 70% of the household food production. Their share in the total agricultural labor force is considerable where about 48 % of the agricultural labor force is driven from female family members (MOA, 2011). The majority of rural women in Nepal have been barred from having equal access and control over the fundamental resources such as land credit, livestock, farm input and basic facilities and services. All of these have brought negative implications on the economic

condition and position of women. Only the men are emphasized for the role of farm management while the role of women and children in the Nepal farming systems has been ignored. In addition, the dominance of men in various income generating activities affects highly the economic empowerment and participation of women.

Rural women, especially those from poor households are facing a particular burden in terms of division of labor, they have to spend considerable time fetching water, getting health care for their children, and reaching markets. Although women are playing an important role in performing household farm management practice their role are not recognized due to perception bias. Such perception bias is a serious problem in Nepal despite the enactment of gender equality policies. Although anyone who has spent just a short time in rural Nepal can readily observe that in most parts of the country women are intimately involved in all aspects of agricultural production, marketing, food procurement, and household nutrition, the view is widely held that women do not farm. This socio-cultural perception remains strong even though numerous household farm tasks are deemed women work, including weeding, harvesting, preparation of storage containers, management of all aspects of home gardens and poultry raising, transporting farm input to the field, and procurement of water for household use.

While women take an active role in performing household farm management practices and processing and marketing of food products their identity as farmers is highly contested within the agricultural development framework in Nepal. This has led to a series of structural barriers, augmented by local cultural perceptions that have largely precluded women participation in the agricultural extension process. Unless these structural and cultural barriers are actively addressed by agricultural development program women location within the agricultural production process will continue to be marginalized hampering efforts to obtain household food security at a regional and national level.

Although women's participation in the decision-making process has a significant impact on their improved status and greater role in society (Begum, 2002), their involvement in decision making process especially related to money matters is low-. Over the years women cultivators are typically and wrongly characterized as economically inactive and women cultivator play only a supportive role in agriculture

as farmers' wives (Samanta, 1994).

In rural families, type and size of the family, caste, size of land holding, socio-economic status of the families, education level of rural women, their employment status and rational position affect her involvement in decision making. Illiteracy, poverty and unemployment are the major problems of many developing countries, to which Nepal is no exception.

It is required to identify the real reason why the women are lagging behind the men. Hence, location content specific situation analysis of the factors that influence rural women participation in performing farm management is essential to identify the gaps and constraints in increasing their participation on farm production. In the research area, however, no practical attempt has been made about the issue of rural women participation to understand how they are participating in different household farm management practices. Following table will indicate the Research question for the study

Research Questions

- What are the current level of participation of women in agriculture in Narayan municipality 2 Dailekh
- What are the factors that influence the Woman participation in Agriculture in study area.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to find out the participation of women in agricultural production. However, the specific objectives of this study were as follows:

- To assess the extent and level of rural women participation in agriculture,
- To identify factors influencing the rural women participation in performing agriculture in the study area.

1.4 Organization of the Study

The study on "Participation of women in agriculture production " consists of six chapters. First chapter deals with the introduction of the study. It included background

of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, organization of the study, significance of the study and limitations of the study. Similarly, second chapter reveals the existing literature on the related topic, and it also includes the conceptual framework of the study. Third chapter expressed the research design, nature and sources of data, universe and sampling, data collection tools and techniques, data processing and analysis. It also contains reliability and validity of data. Fourth chapter included the analysis and interpretation of the data which were collected from primary as well as secondary sources Fifth chapter indicates the factors influencing the participation of woman and sixth chapter describes the findings and conclusion . The analysis and interpretation conducted using different tools and fifth chapter included the finding derived from the study. After expressing the finding of the study, the researcher concluded and recommended for the improvement of and further study to new researchers.

1.5 Significance of the study

Significances of the study were as follows.

1. The study is useful to assess the socio economic and political status of women in Narayan Municipality-02, Dailekh District, Nepal. This will be useful by giving the information about the involvement of women in agricultural production in the study area.
2. This Study would provide information on the general condition of women participation in performing household farm management practices.
3. It would be significant in finding the problem of women while involving in Agriculture production in the rural area.
4. It would be useful to the policy makers of local government and NGO/INGO and local area researcher.
5. This study might be helpful for the further researchers in similar field. Concerned social scientists will add value on the women participation in farming sectors for the improvement of rural women in socio-economic improvement, top up to this research finding

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The study would be limited within the following points:

1. The study was based on participation of women in agricultural production and may not be exhaustive in considering the entire explanatory variables that influence rural women participation in household farm management practices.
2. Only women who are living in Narayan Municipality-02, Dailekh, Nepal were taken as the population of the study and census method was taken to select the respondents for the study. With respect to the limitation of this study as it was undertaken in one district and 134 sample respondents, it would be difficult to make generalization about the whole region.
3. Simple random sampling method was adopted to draw the sample size for the study.
4. Structured interview schedule was used as the main tool for the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

The changing pattern of women's participation in the labor market has drawn social and academic attention resulting in many studies on gender aspects of employment. One of the most important goals of development efforts is the full integration of women into the economy. Changes have been observed in the economic structures of nations all over the world since the commencement of Nineteen Eighties due to the impact of globalization.

The transfer of population from agricultural to non-agricultural sector must be accompanied by a rise in productivity in the former sector for providing food and raw materials to the latter sector. Theoretically, it is natural for economic activity among women to follow a U- shaped curve along the course of development. In the initial stages of development, when society is primarily agrarian, increased demand for female labor leads to higher workforce participation among women. Industrialization gives rise to greater demand for skilled labor and as a consequence involves displacement of women labor and its substitution by male labor. It is only in the later stages of development, as a consequence of the emergence and expansion of tertiary sector demand for women labor is renewed. In material conditions of living, reflected in indicators of social development that are comparable to that of many developed countries, even though the state's per capita income is low in comparison to them. The advancement in the health and education sectors of the state is the root cause for the low levels of infant mortality and population growth and high levels of literacy and life expectancy. Highly educated women constituting more than half the population of the state with their visible as well as invisible services within and outside the household played a crucial role in addressing the paradox in the so called Nepal model. The economic and social contribution of women in Nepal imparted certain extent of sustainability to the model,

To explain the peculiarities of women employment in developed and developing economic it is worthwhile to mention some of such important theoretical formulations in the women employment scenario, before examining the nature and participation of

women in the service sector. The first session of this chapter deal with the theoretical perspective regarding the economic activities of women within the context of their households. In the second session, some of the available literature on the various aspects of women employment is extensively reviewed

Many economists attributed the increased feminization of labor force since the Eighties to supply side macro-economic policies and structural adjustment in which the gender gaps in earnings are more pronounced than in the formal sector due to the relative difficulty of organizing members for collective action (Cagatay, 1997). The theoretical basis for explaining female labor force participation could be collapsed in to two groups namely feminist theory, Marxian frameworks.

2.2 Feminist Theory

The feminist framework strongly rooted in the theory of patriarchy came up in response to the strong wave of feminism in the Sixties in the western world. The central idea behind this approach is that the position of women in the labor market is governed by patriarchy, rather, male dominance. It was successful not only in exposing the male bias of the existing theories, but also in bringing out the primacy of the gender relations as well. Consequently, the feminist framework using the theory of patriarchy became central to the study of women and labor market in sociology, economics and political economy models. By adding a gender dimension to the existing models, this approach resulted in evolving a dual system theory, one dealing with the labor market and the other dealing with the position of women in it. It assumed that patriarchy and the resultant male dominance were the products of capitalism with one conditioning the other. But patriarchy being a social system has its own social, cultural and historical specificities which make theorizing difficult. During the same period domestic labour and sexual division of labour emerged as interrelated categories in a conceptual framework for dealing with women oppression in the labour market.

2.3 Marxian Framework

The classical Marxian paradigm is largely gender-neutral with its emphasis on class relations in the capitalist mode of production. Women are increasingly thrown out of employment as capitalist development proceed, being the most volatile fraction of the labor market. Marx has distinguished three forms of the reserve army of labor, floating (who are unemployed recently), latent (who are not employed previously) and

stagnant (who are unemployed for a long time). But the increased participation of women in the labor market during the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries has laid bare inconsistency in the theory. Modified versions of the reserve army model the substitution hypothesis and the models of compositional change have tried to solve the inconsistency in the theory. The substitution hypothesis postulates an increase in women's employment and subsequent displacement of men in sectors where women's employment is high.

The Labor Process Theory of Knights, David (1974) is perhaps the most important contribution to the theory of segmented labor market within the Marxist framework. According to this theory skills are socially constructed and hence gendered. As capitalist development proceeds and more labor are displaced by machines, a deskilling process ensues. This leads to the creation of a hierarchy of job. Since women already have a lower position in the social hierarchy, they get inferior positions in the labour market also. Moreover, skilled male labors are being reluctant to take up unskilled work women are forced to take up the unskilled categories of work.

2.4 Review of Previous Studies

This chapter is about the empirical literature review, fully related to the present study. The objectives of this chapter are to interpret the present study with the farm work of the previous related studies.

Patki and Nikhade (1999) In a study of Involvement of rural women in decision making towards animal husbandry practices. Maharashtra, reported that the husband-oriented decision-making activities in more than 45% cases were stopping of milking before calving, vaccination against contagious disease, and purchase of feed, fodder and concentrates. Major wife-oriented decision-making activities were number of milch animals to be kept, type of green fodder to be fed, milk selling to whom, feeding of young calves, quantity of fodder to be fed to milch animals, care of newly born calves, source of drinking water for animals. Husband and wife jointly took decision in major activities such as fixing the rate of milk, quantity of concentrate to be fed to milch animals, breeding practices in animals, care and weaning of calves and kids. Few decisions were taken by parent and children and by contacting others for grazing of animals 36 % respondent took decision jointly in consultation with parents

and children. They also stated that in skillful and risk bearing practice, women decision making was less. The rural women participate in decision making of most of the animal husbandry practice and not in all practices. It was also noted that with the advancement of age, the involvement of rural women in decision making tend to decrease.

IFAD (2011) stated that women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies. In all developing countries, their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many part of the world where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. Rural women often manage complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. Their activities typically include producing agricultural crops, tending animals, processing and preparing food, working for wage in agricultural other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members and maintaining their homes.

Tyobeka (2012) In a study of Women in rural development program in Swaziland Mentioned that Women need to be able to use and own land and other productive resources in order to secure livelihoods and food security of their families. Women as farmers, worker, and entrepreneurs face more constraints than men in improve women access to financial, technological and extension services, as well as to markets. Giving women an equal say in decision-making processes in rural development institutions improve their access to resources, factor of production such as land and capital and to market. Due to their frequently lower standard of education, women are generally less likely than men to know and understand their statutory right. Only a few countries systematically integrate gender sensitive information on agriculture and rural development into their national or regional statistic.

FAO (2012) stated that agriculture is important to women but female farmers have less access to the productive resource and service, such as land, livestock, human capital, extension service financial service and new technology required by agricultural producers. Improving women's access to land and security of tenure has direct impact on farm productivity but through strengthening women status and influence in the household, has implications for improving household welfare as well. For example, strengthening land ownership by women in Nepal is linked with better health outcomes

for children. Women across all developing

Harun (2014) in a study of Women's workload and their role in agricultural production Ambo district Ethiopia, estimated that there are numerous cultural, social, political, and legal factors that influence women lack of property and inheritance right, and specific patterns of ownership and disenfranchisement vary widely. Lack of control over both productive and non-productive resources in both rural and urban settings places women at a strong disadvantage in terms of securing a place to live, maintaining a basis for survival, and accessing economic opportunities. For instance, the widespread lack of official title to land and property among women means that, they have virtually no collateral with which to obtain loan and credit. These factors exacerbate women's generally low status and high levels of poverty when compared to men.

Kasanga (2014) In a study of stated that women, despite having key role in advancing agricultural development and food security, their contribution is undervalued and they have been neglected in the making of agricultural policies. With the aim of tackling gender issues in agricultural production this study estimated total hours spent in farm associated task, identified activities performed by women and examined the influence of selected socio- economic characteristic of women on their participation in agricultural production. A two-stage random sampling technique was used to select 180 respondents for this study. The research was carried out by the use of well-structured questionnaires to obtain the necessary data. The findings reveal that, while women are found with less agricultural resources and low decision-making power, they spent 26 hrs. per week in farm activities showing high rate of involvement in agricultural production. It was also found that marital status income and age had significant impact on women participation in agricultural production

USAID (2011) mentioned that increasing opportunities for women can have a powerful impact on productivity and agriculture led growth. Women are just as efficient agricultural producers as men and can achieve similar yields when given equal access to resources, including training and services. Women could increase their crop yields by approximately 20% if given the same access to the same resources as men. It was estimated that if women had the same access to productive resource as men they could increase yield on their farms by 20–30%. This increase could raise total agricultural

output in developing countries by 2.5–4% and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12–17%, up to 150 million people.

Mijindadi (2013) In a study of The agricultural extension role of rural woman participation in agricultural development in Erbil province Iraq, estimated that women are responsible for 70% of actual farm work and constitute up to 60% of the farming population. Similarly, 76% of women are actively involved in farming activities or are engaged in their husband's farms. Women supply most of the needed labor in agricultural activities and this is the most important factor of production to farmer as it is needed at the stage of agricultural production. Even women in seclusion generate substantial income through food crop processing. Women generally achieved farming objectives through collective work Shiva (2011).

In a study of Gender issues in agriculture and rural development in Nigeria: The role of women stated that women were involved in land clearing 58% in planting 72%, in weeding 80% transporting of products 82%, in harvesting 93%, in processing 93%, in marketing 88%. Women, who had their personal farms, plant mainly groundnut 62 %, rice 40%, cowpea 28%, maize 25% and vegetables 10%. They also keep livestock such as pigs 48%, goats 23%, sheep 17% and poultry 3%. None of them had land by inheritance, 50% had by husband and relatives, 32% by hiring, while others paid for land for farming. Looking to the sources of income for farming for women, only 13% were able to obtain bank loan, 21% used their salaries, 23% farm output, 33% obtain financial help from their cooperative societies, while other borrowed money either from friends or relatives. Lack of credit facilities ranked first 88%, land problem 83% second, late farm input delivery ranked third 50% while other constraints were less than 50%.

Sharma, J. R. (2016) mentioned that Nepal's agriculture is overwhelmed by subsistence family farms. 78% farm holdings have been reported to be producing mainly for consumption. The proportion of holdings that produce mainly for sale is not even 1%, while little over 21% farm families use their farm produce almost equally for both sale and home consumption. Ironically, these subsistence farms are not capable of supporting the adequate subsistence of the farm families.

World Bank, (2009) stated that demand for agricultural commodities is changing

rapidly, generating new opportunities for both men and women producers. Increasing demand for higher value products and advances in agricultural technology are changing what is produced, how it is produced, and by whom. The failure of past breakthroughs and innovations to benefit men and women proportionately has left many development practitioners with a profound sense of opportunities missed, and a resolve that the opportunities implicit in technologies and market trends today be capitalized upon to redress that legacy. These opportunities may well represent new entry points from which to address gender disparities and to empower women. However, for these entry points to be exploited, careful gender analysis is required to give us as complete a picture as possible of the practical realities that women face.

Mahabub and Manik (2004) conducted a study on “Nature and impact of women’s participation in economic activities”. The study found that women working hours in economic activities were low due to their substantial involvement in non-economic household works as only 6% of the women worked for more than six hours a day in economic activities: livestock rearing and homestead gardening and cottage industries, which are significantly higher than that of men while men have allocated more time to non-agricultural activities in which earnings are higher as a result influence women participation in agricultural activities and recommended that the women empowerment and their economic participation in the labor force are extremely depended on their education and outward mobility in an established liberal society.

Fabiyi (2007) in his study of the Role of Women in Agricultural Development stated that the social demographic of women cut across all sphere of human endeavor in which majority 72% of the respondents were small-scale farmers having 0.1-3.0 hectares of farmland for cultivation of food crops. Many of these women acquired land for farming from their husbands and relations (freehold), while others hired land for farming. The respondents' sources of income for farming were through cooperative society 33 % and previous farm output 23 % only few 13 %) were able to secure Bank loan, while others borrowed money from friends.

Chayal, Dhaka, and Suwalka (2010) in their study of the analysis of role performed by women in agriculture found that there is greater involvement of women in various agricultural operations. They concluded that policy intervention could enhance women participation in actual farm work to as high as 70%. In addition they found

landholding, age, and family income greatly influence women participation in agriculture and recommended for effective policy intervention in order to boost women socio-economic structure.

Butt, (2010) conducted a study on the role of rural women in agricultural development and their constraints. The study found women playing crucial role in food security and stability of rural areas due to keeping crop production, livestock production as well as cottage industry alive. They also found women having incomplete access to farm input/resource agricultural extension education services and newest technical knowledge and information sources. They recommended that serious attention be given to eliminating constraints faced by women because they hold the backbone of agricultural development and food security in many part of the world.

Khanduri and Chandra (2011) the study also revealed that the participation of women in decision-making process related to home affairs was comparatively lower 13.64% than farm affairs 28.18%, while in case of males, the situation was just reverse as the participation of male in decisions related to home affairs 27.27 % was higher than the farm affairs 7.27%. Thus, males were dominating the scene regarding decisions related to home affairs as compared to their female counterparts, whereas in decisions relating to farm affairs it was the women who dominate the scene. This is a unique situation of the rural Garhwal of Uttarakhand, where women perform more than 80% home and farm activities but their participation in decision making has been less than 20.91%. It shows that there was a clear-cut gender bias in the society, which explains traditionally subjugated status of women, as well as their role in decision-making process. These gender biases shall improve with the improvement in the education of women in rural areas.

Chouhan (2011) reported that the majority of the decisions regarding farm management were not performed by tribal farmwomen thus they were husband dominated decisions such as when to irrigate the fields 87.50%, quantity and type of fertilizers to be used in the farm 85% introduction of new crop varieties buying farm machinery/equipment, using plant protection measures, borrowing money for farm operation, installing oil engine, electric motor and pumps, The selection of seed, deciding area to be sown under each crop etc. The joint decision was male only in case of hiring farm laborers 66.67%, buying and selling of land and selling of surplus farm

produce. It can be concluded that the tribal women did not play dominant role in making important decision of farm management. The decision about selection of fodder and feed was dominant by tribal farmwomen (81.67%) followed by sale of milk and its products. The jointly taken decisions were sale purchase of animals 65% followed by selection of animal breed and keeping size of herd. It can be concluded that the important decision regarding animal husbandry were dominated by tribal farmwomen themselves. The husbands remain recessive in decision making regarding animal husbandry.

Tekale (2012) reported that rural women were using more locality sources of information like neighbor, relative/friends and progressive farmers. While taking decision in agriculture relatively large percentage of women were only consulted in decision making process in the area of preparation of land, method of sowing, proper time of sowing, selection of crop and crop varieties to be sown. Secondly, opinion of rural women was considered in the major area, harvesting of crop, storage of farm produce and use of labors. Rural women were actively involved in final decision in areas, use of labors, storage of farm produce, harvesting of crop and intercultural operations. As rural women were participated in decision making process in agriculture the extension functionaries may organized specialized training program and other extension program especially for rural women for effective transfer of technology and overall development of agriculture.

Doss (2013) stated that women participate in agro-processing or value added activities at different levels. It ranges from cottage industries to micro, small and medium sized businesses. There are rural women who employ each other in their small businesses as casual laborers while others work in larger establishments. The transition from housewives to business women in rural communities has created for women a high level of respect and the chance to achieve dreams including the opportunity to change the quality of family life and make decisions on the way forward.

The scoping study of Ghale (2008) also shows that due to the absence of male members in the village, there was not only shift in the labor role of women but also women took leadership roles in the agricultural sector in Nepal, as they were involved in many nontraditional areas like negotiation and household resource allocation. Increasing level of engagement of women in agriculture are observed in the post

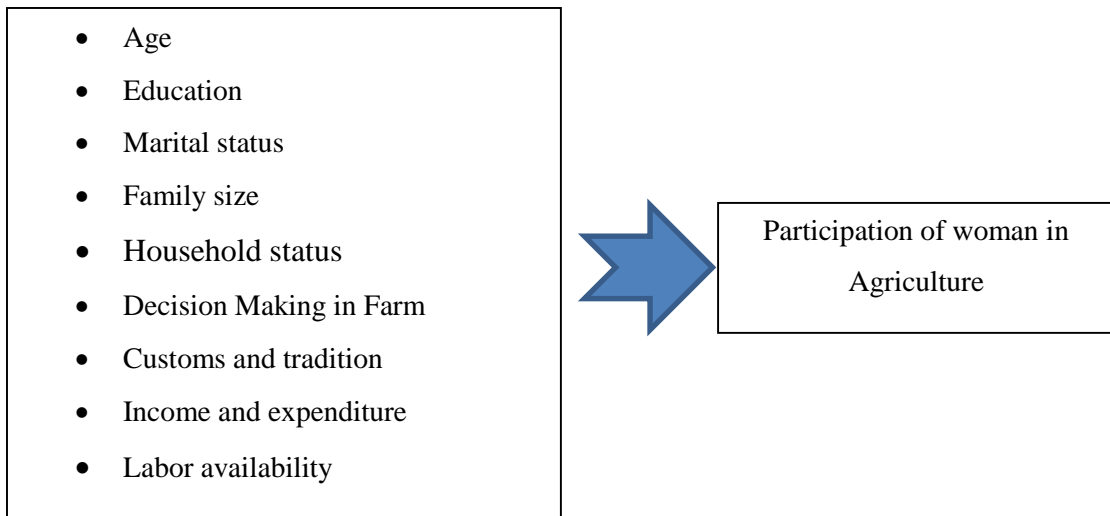
conflict context because of women's empowerment and male outmigration and poor health.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Different researches have indicated the impact of socioeconomic factor on the participation of woman in Agriculture. Though it may seem that the individual's interest, skill, time, family structure and the background are general Factors that determine participation. these factors are not absolute in themselves to determine the participation. Though the individual's may have the interest and skill to start certain job , s/he may not be able to work or participate in that job due to various socio economic factors like age, education, household status and family size of the household. Hence in this Case rate of participation of woman is great extent determine by the socioeconomic factors following figures shows the relationship between the independent and dependent variable which will be taken in consideration

Independent Variable

Dependent Variable



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodologies to be applied to carry out this study. Research design, population of the study, sampling procedure and sample size, tool of data collection, validation of tool, data collection procedure and method of the analysis and interpretation of data are described below.

3.1 Research Design

In this study descriptive research design was applied to describe the finding. It is exploratory in the sense that this study effort to assess factors influencing rural women participation in performing household farm management practices. On the other hand, it is descriptive in the sense that all variables used for the study were elaborately described.

3.2 Area of the Study

The study area lies in the Bhurti village, ward no 2 of Narayan Municipality, Dailekh District, Karnali province. The area of the study identified is one of the place where the all the woman are involved in agriculture and this is the most potential site for agriculture production but the biasness in gender role is prevalent. In the study men are considered above female and they are kept deprived on certain things like, planning, practices, decision making, innovation etc. and the main occupation of the people residing in the locality is agriculture.

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

In the study area, there were 203 households in this study area (Ward information of Narayan Municipality 2) and Raosoft calculator is used to calculate the sample size at five percent margin of error and 95 percent confidence level that signifies the sample size as 134 for the study. All the respondent were female and were selected by using simple random sampling method for data collection.

3.4 Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary data sourced were used throughout the study. The primary data were collected from the household survey.. All the quantitative data were collected using pretested structured interview schedule from the sample respondents. The secondary data was collected from reports, journal, book, bulletins, statistical reports, published thesis and from web sites.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

For the collection of primary data structure questionnaire schedule was prepared related with the objective of the research and data of the study was collected through interview schedule. Female enumerators who have acquaintance with the knowledge of the culture of the society as well as local language proficiency and good capacity of approaching the respondent were selected. They were oriented on the interview schedule and they were also made to practice the interview schedule the village nearby Dailekh Bazar, Narayan Municipality. The queries of the enumerators were addressed and they were made efficient in collecting the data as per the requirement of the study.

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data was processed through Microsoft Excel. After processing and tabulating the data was presented with the help of table in order to interpret. Simple statistical tools were employed to present the data in meaningful ways.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

Every research needs to go through a formal process of research ethics review. So, the researcher requested the research committee to approve the ethic review that the researcher is no violating any considerations. It was requested to the women for the process of data and information. The researcher has no intention to do anything that would cause any harm to the respondents. The study on 'Involvement of Rural Women in Agriculture was conducted under the assumption that the findings were helpful for each and every one who want to know about the women in the study area.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

This chapter deals with analysis and interpretation of the data collected from the

4.1 Socio demographic characteristic of the respondent

This section describes the characteristic of the respondent by Gender, caste, ethnicity, family size educational status and their occupation etc.

4.1.1 Population description

Population describes the number of male and female population in the study area. It can be determined either through VDC profile, documents, etc. While analyzing the population we can determine the different demographics terms and socio-economic aspects.

Table 4.1 Population description of Sampled Household Source

Family Member	Number	Percentage	Remarks
Male	120	37.15	
Female	203	62.84	
Total	323	100	

Source: Ward information From Narayan municipality 2 (2022)

Out of 323 populations 134 household were selected for surveyed with the total population. The female members were found to be more than the male members. Female are larger number than the male number in the context of our country also.

4.1.2 Age structure

Age is the duration of time that a person or thing has existed. In the study, respondents with different age groups were found which has been presented in the following table.

Table 4.2 : Distribution of the respondents by age group

Age group	No. of respondents	Percent
Less than 20	17	12.68
20-25	20	14.95
26-30	23	17.16
31-35	25	18.65
36-40	34	25.37
Above 40	15	11.19
Total	134	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 4.2 shows that 12.68 percent respondents belonged to the age group less than 20 years, 14.9 percent of respondents belonged to 20-25 years, 17.16 percent of respondents belonged to the age group 26-30 years, 18.65 percent of respondents belonged to the age group 31-35 years. Similarly, 25.37 percent of them belonged to 36-40 years group and 11.19 percent of the total respondents belonged to above 40 years in the study area.

4.1.3 Family Size

Family size is a fundamental social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children. Respondents were asked about the number of their family members and the response obtained from them has been shown in the Table no 1.2.

Table 4.3: Distribution of the respondents by size of family

Size of family	No. of respondents	Percent
Up to Three	5	3.7
Four	32	23.88
Five	49	36.50
More than five	48	35.82
Total	134	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 4.3 reveals that 3.7 percent of respondents had up to three members in their family. Similarly, 23.88 percent of respondents had four members, 36.50 percent of respondents had five members and 35.82 percent of respondents had more than five

members in their home. The median family size is 5 members in the study area. CBS (2011) shows that the average family size of the Nepalese people is 4.88 members whereas nearly half (46 percent) of respondents had average family size as compared to the national data.

4.1.4 Ethnicity status

The distribution of population according to the ethnicity determines how many people are engaged in different type of occupation as it is already divided by the ancient ruler there is not hard and fast rule for this generation any one can do any occupation as they wish to do.

Table 4.4: Population distribution by caste/ ethnicity

Caste	Number	Percentage of the total
Dalit	5	3.73
Janajati	11	8.20
Others (Braman, Chhetri, Thakuri)	118	88.05
Total	134	100

Source – Field survey, 2022

In the study area, only 3.73 are Dalit, 8.20 percent are Janajati and 88.05 are other caste (Braman, Chhetri, Thakuri). Other ethnic are major ethnic group. Regardless of the religion, all of the respondents are Hindu.

4.1.5 Educational status

Respondents were asked about their educational status. The following table identifies the literacy status and then among the literate primary include 1 - 8, higher education includes up to 12 and above, illiterate means adult literacy or informal education. The response obtained from the respondents has been shown in

Table 4.5 Distribution of the respondents by educational status

Educational status	No. of respondents	Percent
Illiterate	45	33.58
Basic Level (1-8)	70	52.23
Secondary level(9-12)	15	11.19
Higher level and above	4	2.98
Total	134	100

Source: Field survey, 2022

The table above presents that 33.58 percent of respondents were illiterate whereas 52.23 percent of respondents have basic level educational status 11.19 have secondary level and only 2.98 percent have higher level educational status .

4.1.6 Occupational status

Occupation is a person's daily work or business, especially as a means of earning a living. Therefore the study tries to reveal the occupational of the respondents. Their occupational background has been shown in table following table

Table 4.6. Distribution of the respondents by their occupational status

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percent
Agriculture	129	96.28
Government job	1	0.74
Non-government job	2	1.49
Daily wage labour	2	1.49
Business	-	-
Trade	-	-
Total	134	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2022

Above table showed that 96.28 respondents are regularly doing agriculture as their occupation in the study area. CBS (2011) showed that 65 percent people were involved in agriculture in Nepal. It indicates that the women participation towards agriculture in the study area is very high as compared in national data.

4.1.7 Cash earning of the respondents

Respondents were asked whether they earn cash from their agriculture work or not and the response obtained from them has been presented in table below .

Table 4.7: Distribution of the respondents by their cash earning

Response	No. of respondents	Percent
Yes	134	100.00
No	-	-
Total	134	100.00
Earning (Monthly)		
Below Rs. 5,000	48	35.82
Rs. 5,001-Rs. 10,000	47	35.07
Rs. 10,001-Rs. 15,000	23	17.16
Rs. 15,001 and above	16	11.94
Total	134	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2022

The table shows that all the respondents had cash earning from their agriculture related work . Among them, 35.82 percent of respondents earn below RS. 5,000 per month, 35.07 percent of respondents earn Rs. 5,001 to 10,000. Similarly, 17.16 percent of respondents earn Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 and 11.94 percent of respondents earn above Rs. 15, 000 from their occupation.

4.1.8 Land ownership

Land ownership is one of the indicator for determining their social status in the study area their land ownership is as follows:

Table 4.8: Distribution of the respondents by land ownership

Land ownership	No. of respondents	Percent
Yes	134	100.00
No	-	-
Total	134	100.00
Among the 'Yes' responses		
Less than 5 Ropani	29	21.64
6-10 Ropani	61	45.52
10-13 Ropani	28	20.89
More than 1 Bigha	16	11.94
Total	134	100.00

Source : Field survey, 2022

Above table shows that all the respondents had land (all had land). In the study area, 21.64 percent of respondents less than 5 Ropani of land, 45.52 percent of respondents had 6-10 Ropani of land, 20.89 percent of respondents had 10-13 Ropani and 11.94 percent of them had more than one Bigha of land for cultivation.

4.2 women Participation in agricultural Production

This sub section of the study was concerned with the analysis and interpretation of Women's participation in agricultural production in the study area, which has been Shown in the following sub sections:

4.2.1. Women Participation in different Agriculture Task

In most of the agriculture work, there is active participation of female. Women are performing most of the agriculture activities in the production cycle of different crops starting from Nursery to marketing.

Table 4.9 : Status of women participation in different Agriculture Task

Farm Activities	No of respondent	Percentage
Ploughing	10	7.6
Irrigation	134	100
Weeding	134	100
Harvesting	134	100
Sowing	134	100
Hoeing	134	100
Leveling of land	134	100
Collecting fodder for cattle	134	100
Milking	125	93.28
Threshing	110	82
Winnowing	115	85
Manuring field	134	100
Applying chemical fertilizer	20	14.5

Source: Field survey, 2022

From the above table it has been observed that majority of women are participating in most of the agriculture activities. In ploughing, and applying chemical fertilizer, men are also

participated. About 7 percent of the respondents family are doing some difficult cultural operation like ploughing and digging field. Male are supporting in some difficult cultural operation however in most of the activities like weeding, sowing, collecting firewood, collecting fodder to animal, hoeing, manuring field, milking, women participation is higher. Out of 13 major agriculture activities mentioned above in table, 11 major activities are performing with the active participation of women

4.2.2 Caste Wise participation in Different Agriculture Sector

Amongst the medium caste, the participation of male and female is near to be equal but in the case of the high and low caste, there is the gap between the different gender in the various agriculture activities. This result is also supported by Dhakal *et al.*, (2018).

4.2.3 Gender Division on Decision Making in Agriculture

In most of the agriculture work, there is regular and active participation of female but in the decision-making process of agriculture activities, the scenario is different. Most of the managerial activity is under the control of male because of our patriarchal society. In activities like sowing cereals, keeping livestock, growing cash crop, using fertilizer and hiring of outside labour, men controls other decision makes process. But only in few activities, growing vegetables and using household income, female plays some part in the decision making process of the agriculture.

Table.4.10: Status of Women in decision making of different agriculture activities

Farm Activities	No of respondent	Percentage
To sow cereal	120	89
To grow vegetable	134	100
To Keep livestock	100	74
To grow cash crop	50	37
To use Amount of Chemical fertilizer	80	59
To spend HH Income	70	52
To hire outside labor	56	41

Source: Field survey, 2022

Above table indicate that Most of the managerial activity is under the control of male

because of our patriarchal society. Activities like growing vegetable(100%) sowing cereal(89%) and keeping livestock (74%) are the controlled under women where as only 37 percent women has the decision making power for growing cash crops and 41 percent women have the decision making power for hiring labor from outside .

4.2.4 Effect of Migration on the Decision-Making Role of Gender in Agriculture

Only in few activities, growing vegetables and to sow cereal, female plays some part in the decision-making process of the agriculture. Because of migration of male member major of the decision-making role is under the control of female. Out of major seven decisions, female has dominated in six decision making process of agriculture. It can be seen from It was observed that that women in some cases have to take on tasks that are generally considered “men’s work”, in most of cases like migration of male to abroad.

4.2.5 Wage Difference between Men and Women

The wage difference is due to the discrimination in perception about the different capacity of work between different gendered group.

Table 4.11: Wage Difference between Men and Women

Wage difference	No of Respondent	Percentage
Yes	134	100
No	0	0
Total	134	100

Source Field survey, 2022

Table 4.11 shows that about 100 percent of the respondents have said about the wage difference exist between men and women. Average of about 400-500 Rupees is paid higher to men than female in some agriculture works. Women have the perception that men can do any task of agriculture comparatively few persons think that women can do any task of agriculture that the men can do.

4.2.6 Time spent in agricultural activities

It was intended to identify the women participation in agricultural activities in the study area. The data provide a complete account of time spent by women for

agricultural production. For this purpose, the respondents were asked about the time spent by them in agricultural activities.

Table 4.12: Distribution of respondents by their time spent on agricultural activities

Time spent	No of respondents	Percentage
Regularly	96	71.6
Sometimes	21	15.56
When required	17	12.68
Total	134	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2022

The above table and figure show that 71.6 percent respondents were regularly spending their full time in agricultural activities, 15.56 percent respondents spending sometimes and 12.68 percent respondent are participating in agricultural activities only when required. As of above data showed that women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied all fields including, main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvesting operations, etc. Rural women participate in all aspects of agriculture, from crop selection to land preparation, to seed selection, planting, weeding, pest control, harvesting, crop storage, handling, marketing and processing. Rural women are the major contributors in agriculture and its allied fields. They participate in all aspects of agriculture, from crop selection to land preparation, to seed selection, planting, weeding, pest control, harvesting, crop storage and handling, marketing and processing in addition to the household activities. From ancient time in farming, women are playing important role as that of men.

Women, along with their men, have a significant role to play in agricultural activities in Nepal. In the absence of male, female members of the households are bearing more responsibilities in agricultural activities than they used to do before. It is happening within the male-dominant agriculture system, which is not only adding to women's workload but is also inappropriate and unfriendly for them. In this situation, women are increasingly adopting the strategy of continuing farming as best as they can.

4.2.7 Types of crops produced

It was found that the important crops in the study area are rice. Fluctuation in rice production was very common because of changes in rainfall , however, rice production had increased following the introduction of new cultivation techniques as well as increases in cultivated land. The types of crops found in the study area had been shown in the following table.

Table 4.13: Distribution of respondents by types of crops they produce in their farm

Selected crops	No of respondents *	Percentage
Maize	134	100
Paddy	130	97
White	112	83.58
Millate	39	29.10
Vegetable	80	59.70
Fruits	30	22.38
Cattle Farming	80	59.70
Bee keeping	10	7.46
Other crops	24	17.91

Source: Field survey, 2022

* Multi response

In the above table, all the respondents involved in production in maize, similar number of respondents are involved in paddy, 97 percent respondents used to produce Maize , 83 percent respondents are involved in production of white, 29.10 percent respondents are involved in production of Millet, 59.70 percent respondents are involved in production of Vegetable , 58 .70 Participant are involved in Cattle farming ,7.46 percent are involved in bee keeping 22.38 percent respondents are involved in production of fruits and only 17.91 percent respondents are involved in production of other crops in the study area.

4.2.8 Engagement in additional activities

Women are generally less able than men to participate in economic opportunities because they face a work burden that men do not. In the study area ,women are also responsible for other works like child caring activities as well rearing of small

livestock and others . This additional work burden is unpaid and limits women’s capacity to engage in income-earning activities, which often require a minimum fixed time before being profitable. However, respondents (women) were asked about their involvement in such activities.

Table 4.14: Distribution of respondents by their engagement in additional activities

Engagement in additional activities	No of respondents*	Percentage
Only household works	38	28.35
Start-up cottage industries	5	3.73
Fuel and water collection	50	37.31
Food preparation	134	100.00
Working in their husband in agriculture Farm	130	97.01

Source : Field survey, 2022

* Multi response

In the study area, 28.35 percent of the total respondents spent their time on household works (looking after their families)along with their farming activities , 3.73 spent their time in their cottage industries like handicrafts and traditional works, 37.31 percent them spent their time in collecting fuel and water for cooking. Similarly, all the women involve in preparation of food in their house and 97.01 percent of them were engaged in helping their husband in agriculture work in their farm.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 Factors influencing the rural women participation in performing agriculture in the study area

More than 96 percent respondents are actively working in agriculture as their occupation in the study area. In Most of the agricultural activities from nursery to marketing females are mostly participated. Out of 13 major agriculture activities we asked 11 major activities are due to the major participation of women. Male are involved in such difficult field work. About 7 percent of the respondent's family were involved in difficult intercultural operational work like ploughing and digging field. Economic status of the family may have the effect the female in participation towards agriculture work however in the study area various characteristics and variables act together are influencing the women participation in agriculture such as: i) Age structure,ii) Educational background iii) Social activities iv) Feminization of agriculture , v) Training , capacity building and networking activities .

5.1.1 Age structure

The age of selected rural women varied from below 19 to above 40 years. Most belonged to the age group from 36 to 40 years. The age group 36-40 had the highest actively participated rural woman in agriculture activities.

Table 5 .1Distribution of the respondents by age group

Age group	No. of respondents	Percent
Less than 20	17	12.68
20-25	20	14.95
26-30	23	17.16
31-35	25	18.65
36-40	34	25.37
Above 40	15	11.19
Total	134	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2022

The data generated from the survey shows that 71.6 of the respondent (Table 4.6) the rural women were within the age bracket of 36-40 years, which actually represents the

economically active population who are complete account of time use by women for agricultural production. Most of the agriculture activities are labor-intensive and that might explain the reason why the middle-aged group formed the majority. The age of rural women has a great influence on their ability to take part in economic activities and, of course, influences benefit from the Agricultural activities in the survey area. The choice of income activities also depends on age. Young women of the study area are less interested to conduct such Agricultural activities where they need to go to the market regularly. Young women also reported that they often are bothered and face problems from bad elements of the society when they conduct income activities in the market place, while such problem is relatively low for middle-aged women.

5.1.2 Educational Background

The job opportunity in Nepal is very less. Many people in the survey side go abroad each year in search of job. Furthermore, majority of women in study area only the primary level and in formal literate and cannot contribute to be efficient manpower for other industrial works. Therefore, commercialization of agriculture may become a main door that engage all those, either literate or illiterate which results more participation of women and provides them a source of income.

Table 5.2 Distribution of the respondents by educational status

Educational status	No. of respondents	Percent
Illiterate	45	33.58
Basic Level (1-8)	70	52.23
Secondary level(9-12)	15	11.19
Higher level and above	4	2.98
Total	134	100

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table shows that 33.58 percent women are illiterate and more than 52 percent are basic level education hence they and cannot contribute to be efficient manpower for other industrial works so they have to participate in agriculture activities for their livelihood .

5.1.3 Participation in social activities

Women who are limited in their household activities were get chance to show their performance, ability, capacity through innovative technology in agriculture production as well as earn money to run their family easily through expenditure on daily used household materials and sending their children to boarding school and private college as well. The economic condition of the developing countries like Nepal can be uplifted through commercialization in agriculture through the use of advanced technologies and mechanization for the cultivation, production, harvesting and marketing which encourage women more participation agriculture related activities.

Table 5.3: Overall impact of Agricultural activities on livelihood of rural women while participating in Agriculture production

Statement	Opinion of Respondent		
	Improved	Same as before	Decreased
Position in the family	90	44	0
Dependency on husband	94	40	0
Food availability	100	28	5
Participation in social activities	70	60	4
Freedom in cash expenditure	80	38	16
Overall livelihoods improved	93	41	0

Source: Field survey, 2022

5.1.4 Feminization

The scoping study of Ghale (2008) also shows that due to the absence of male members in the village, there was not only shift in the labor role of women but also women took leadership roles in the agricultural sector in Nepal, as they were involved in many nontraditional areas like negotiation and household resource allocation. Increasing level of engagement of women in agriculture are observed in the post conflict context because of women's empowerment and male outmigration (KC et al., 2016; Upreti, Subedi, et al., 2016).

Female are actively participating and their role in the agriculture aspects is moving forward and this is happening due to globalization and advances in transportation and communication because it led the young people to migrate outside of their home

country in search of a better life and job. Due to economic active male family member migration for better job opportunity to abroad, the agricultural labor is being increasingly feminized.

5.1.5 Training and capacity building and networking

Female led agricultural co-operatives have helped a lot in bringing out this transformation. These co-operatives help women raise finances that are needed for commercial farming. With the establishment of women farmers' groups, the procurement of improved seeds and modern equipment has also become easier.

Table 5.4, Affiliating with Farmers Group/Cooperative

Affiliation in Farmers group / Cooperative	No of Respondent
Yes	134
No	0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

This empowered confident and self-reliant involvement of women in commercial agriculture has encouraged their managerial ability and their potential for economic prosperity. Women have also been investing their earnings to grow their enterprise. Also, remittance economy allows increased flow of cash in villages, improving women's investment in agriculture. They are now receiving focus from governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as research and development projects. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) has emphasized GESI integration in the Agriculture Development Strategy (GoN/ADS, 2014). Similarly with the awareness of different agriculture techniques to handle and manage different agricultural problems through knowledge gathered through the trainings, female role in the decision making has been enhanced.

Various characteristics and variables act together to influence the drudgery reduction for women in agriculture such as: i) socio- demographic (location, age, marital status, family type, education, occupation and outmigration); ii) economic (access to road, energy, infrastructure, technologies, land ownership, other property right, access to ICT, agribusiness development through value chain approach); iii) institutional (capacity development, awareness, memberships, access to financial and service); and iv) other framework variables (like access to extension service, work load and income

distribution and sharing). Considering above aspects, the workload of women (time and energy) spent on on-farm activities can be reduced in two ways:

- Making existing tasks easier or increasing the productivity of existing labor, and
- changing farm practices with woman friendly farm mechanization or introducing new technologies and practices.

5.1.6 Family Size

It was found that in the study area majority of the participants (36.50%) had five family members whereas more than 35.82 percent have family more than 5 people in family size (Table 4.3). This suggests that there is a lot pressure on the women for the upkeep of the households, which probably leads to more work on the farm.

5.1.7 Decision Making in Farm

Household Decision Making Market oriented farming has some gender connotations as it involves decision making at all levels of production and marketing of agricultural products. Households decide what and how to produce and in male headed households, the woman in most cases might not have the power to influence decisions.

5.1.8 Marital status

Marriage is almost universal in our country, which is a tradition and social institution and is highly cherished for social and economic reasons. Most of the girls are found to be married at the early age in this research area after marriage they have to bear responsibility of their family occupation and family business so they ultimately have to participate in agriculture.

5.1.9 Income and expenditure

Annual income is the amount of money generated by a woman herself within a year. Income of a rural woman was measured by summing of money earned from different sources, including agricultural and non-agricultural sources. In the study area major income source of women is Agriculture Cattle and goat rearing, poultry, aquaculture, vegetable cultivation, bee keeping which is encouraging the female to participate in agriculture production regularly.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter especially describes the Summary, findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study which has been shown as follows

6.1 Summary

This thesis entitled “Women Participation in Agriculture production” has been carried out with the main objective to find out the women participation in agriculture production and the factors influencing the participation of women in agriculture. The population of the study were the 134 women of Narayan Municipality -2, Dailekh who are involving in agricultural production. Similarly, the structure interview schedule was used as the tool for data collection. The interview schedule was divided into three parts. The first part of the interview schedule was related to the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, the second part included the participation of women in agricultural activities and the last one for influencing factors for the participation of women in agriculture.

In the study area there were 323 population out of them 37 percent are male and more than 62 percent are female among the respondent only 11.19 percent respondents belonged to the age group less than 20 years and higher number of respondents had more than five members in their home.

More than 88 percent respondents were from the other caste (Braman, Chhetri and thakuri) whereas 3.73 were dalit and 8.2 were janajati .

More than 96 percent respondents were actively participating in agriculture as their occupation in the study area. The study found that all the respondents had cash earning from their agricultural work. Among them, 35.82 percent of respondents earn below RS. 5,000 per month with their agricultural activities. In the study area, all the respondents had land.

Out of 13 major agriculture activities mentioned above in table, Women were actively participating in 11 major activities. In ploughing, and applying chemical fertilizer, men are mostly participated. About 7 percent of the female respondent were doing

some difficult cultural operation like ploughing and digging in field.

Economic status of the family may have the effect in participation of women in agriculture in medium caste, there was equal participation of male and female in majority of agriculture activities in the case of the high and low caste, there is the gap between the involvement of the different gender in the various agriculture activities

In most of the agriculture work, completed through the participation of women but in the decision-making process of some major agriculture activities, the scenario is different. Most of the managerial activity is under the control of male because of our patriarchal society.

In the absence of male, female members of the households are bearing more responsibilities in agricultural activities than they used to do before. It is happening within the male-dominant agriculture system, which is not only adding to women's workload but is also inappropriate and unfriendly for them. In this situation, women are increasingly adopting the strategy of continuing farming as best as they can

Women are responsible for most of the household and child-rearing activities as well rearing of small livestock, although norms differ by culture and over time. This additional work burden is unpaid and limits women's capacity to engage in income-earning activities.

6.2 Findings

6.2.1 Socio-economic Status

37 percent HH are male and more than 62 percent HH are female among the respondent only 11.19 percent respondents belonged to the age group less than 20 years and higher number of respondents had more than five members in their home.

- More than 88 percent respondents were from the other cast (Bramin, Chhetri and shahi thakuri) whereas 3.73 were dalit and 8.2 were janajati.
- More than 96 percent respondents were involved in agriculture as their occupation in the study area.
- 35.82 percent of respondents earn below RS. 5,000 per month with their agricultural activities. In the study area, all the respondents had land.

6.2.2 Women participation in agriculture work

Out of 13 major agriculture activities mentioned in our Questionnaire 11 major activities are due to the major participation of female.

Women have been participating in most of the agriculture activities from seed to marketing. whereas men are mostly participated in some difficult cultural practices such as Ploughing field and spraying the chemical in crops.

Economic status of the family may have the effect on female involvement towards agriculture work. In medium caste, the involvement of male and female is near to be equal but in the case of the high and low caste, there is the gap between the involvement of the different gender in the various agriculture activities

Most of the managerial activity in agriculture sector is under the control of male because of our patriarchal society.

In the absence of male, female members of the households are bearing more responsibilities in agricultural activities than they used to do before.

Women are responsible for more additional regular work along with their farm work this additional work burden is unpaid and limits women's capacity to engage in income-earning activities.

In the surveyed area, there is the feminization of labor but still lacks the feminization of management. Women participation in the different farming systems is still high but the decision-making power is fully controlled by men in most of the cases. However, training and education activity has dramatically increased the number of female in the decision making process in almost all the agriculture activities

6.3 Factors influencing the rural women participation in performing agriculture in the study area

Major factors influencing the participation of women in study are i) Age structure, ii) Educational background iii) Social activities iv) Feminization of agriculture, v) Training, capacity building and networking activities.

In the study area, women are also responsible for other works like child caring activities as well rearing of small livestock and others. This additional work burden is unpaid and limits women's capacity to engage in income-earning activities, which

often require a minimum fixed time before being profitable

Considering above aspects, the workload of women (time and energy) spent on on-farm activities can be reduced in two ways: Making existing tasks easier or increasing the productivity of existing labor, and changing farm practices with woman friendly farm mechanization or introducing new technologies and practices.

6.4 Conclusion

More than 96 percent respondents were involved in agriculture as their occupation in the study area. In Most of the agricultural activities from nursery to marketing females are actively participating. Out of 13 major agriculture activities we asked 11 major activities are due to the major participation of women however Male are involved in some difficult field work. About 7 percent of the respondent's family were involved in difficult intercultural operational work like ploughing and digging field. Economic status of the family may have the effect the female in involvement towards agriculture work. The decision-making process in most of managerial activity is under the control of male because of our patriarchal society.

Factors like age structure, educational background, Social activities , Feminization of agriculture , Training , capacity building and networking activities are influencing the participation for women in agriculture In the absence of male, female members of the households are bearing more responsibilities in agricultural activities than they used to do before. It is happening within the male-dominant agriculture system, which is not only adding to women's workload but is also inappropriate and unfriendly for them. In this situation, women are increasingly adopting the strategy of continuing farming as best as they can. In the study area, women are also responsible for other works like child caring activities as well rearing of small livestock and others . This additional work burden is unpaid and limits women's capacity to engage in income-earning activities, which often require a minimum fixed time before being profitable Considering above aspects, the workload of women (time and energy) spent on on-farm activities can be reduced in two ways:

- Making existing tasks easier or increasing the productivity of existing labor,
- Changing farm practices with woman friendly farm mechanization or introducing new technologies and practices.

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Annex

Interview schedule

Involvement of Women in Agriculture

(A Case Study of Narayan Municipality 2 Dailekh District)

Section A

General Information

1. Demographic Details

Name of Respondent..... Caste.....

Age..... Sex.....Religion.....

Education..... Occupation..... Permanent Address

..... District.....

Municipality/VDC.....Ward.....

2. Information of Family Members: Family Size

SN	Family Members	Relation to Respondent	Sex	Age	Education	Occupation	Religion	Land owned by

3. Do you earn cash money from your work / If yes how much ?

Response	
Yes	
No	
Total	
Below Rs. 5,000	
Rs. 5,001-Rs. 10,000	
Rs. 10,001-Rs. 15,000	
Rs. 15,001 and above	

Section B
Status of Women Participation

1. Do you have land in the name of your family members in this area?

- a) Yes b) No

If yes, what type of land? a) Paddy Land

b) Marginal Land

c) Bush Land

d) Others

2. What is the size of your field?

- a) Less than 5 Ropani b) 5-7 ropani c) 6-8 ropani d) 10-13 ropani e) More than 14 ropani

3. What type of crops do you cultivate in your field?

- a) Food Crops Rice , maize, wheat b) Cash Crops c) Vegetables d) Fruits e) Others

4. How many time do you spent on- a) Regular b) Sometimes c) When Required

5. Do you involved all the activities mention in below at the time of production

Farm Activities	Yes	No
Ploughing		
Irrigation		
Weeding		
Harvesting		
Sowing		
Hoeing		
Leveling of land		
Collecting fodder		
Milking		
Threshing		
Winnowing		
Manuring field		
Applying chemical fertilizer		

6. Is their any difference in wages between male and female ?

- A) Yes B) no

7. What types of crops do you produce in your farm ?

Selected crops	Yes	No
Maize		
Paddy		
White		
Millate		
Vegetable		
Fruits		
Cattle Farming		
Bee keeping		
Other crops		

