

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal is one of the developing countries in the world. Formal microfinance emerged in Nepal in 1956 as co-operatives began to provide saving and micro credit services to their members. Recognizing the larger need for micro services, the governments should involve in promoting the sector. The modern banking system was introduced in Nepal after the establishment of Nepal Bank Limited as the first commercial bank in 1994 BS. The microfinance formally started in the year 2036/37 when the Agriculture Development Banks (ADB) launched the small farmer's development project. Intensive banking program was started by RastriyaBanijya Bank in 2038 BS under the direction of Nepal Rastra Bank. In the year 2039 BS, the Department of Women's Development (Government of Nepal) started credit project for rural women.

The absolute level of poverty is estimated to remain at 16.67 percent in fiscal year 2019/20, which was 18.7 percent in fiscal year 2017/18(Economy Survey 2019/20).Currently, financial sector is rapidly expanding. With the increased financial accessibility financial transaction have been expanding remarkably. By the mid- march 2020, there are altogether 162 banks and financial institutions including 27 commercial banks, 23 development banks, 22 finance companies,89 micro finance companies and 1 infrastructure development bank are in operation. The number of branches of bank and the financial institutions including micro finances has reached by 9,640. 61% of the citizens have at least one bank account in the bank and financial institutions(Economy Survey 2020/21).

Women in Development is an approach of development project that emerged in the 1960's, the Commission had begun to address women's role in economic and social development. Delegates from developing countries drew attention in particular to the situation of women in rural areas and the need to enhance their contributions and address their priorities and needs. UNDP consider women in Development in during the 1970s and 1980s, discussions in civil society, governments and United Nations agencies focused on increasing attention, developing protection mechanisms and dedicating resources to advance women's equity and social justice. These debates on international norms and standards led to the adoption of the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979. It established a critical reference point underscoring the importance of gender equality in development, with an explicit focus on reducing discrimination against women. It was followed by the Beijing Platform of Action in 1995, which enshrined 'gender mainstreaming' as a central tenet of all development activity. But disappointingly, more than three decades later, gender equality remains an elusive goal.

Nepal has made specific policy declaration to indigent women in development since the early 1980's successive five year plan. The legal status of women is mixed. While the 1990 Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all citizens without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, caste, religion, or sex, including property inheritance, there have been no specific laws in Nepal to back this up. On the contrary, the family laws in Nepal that govern marriage, divorce, property rights, and inheritance, reinforce the patriarchy and put severe limits on women's command over economic resources. For example, the National Code of Nepal (Mulki Ain) of 1963, which codifies the inheritance system, derives from the Hindu system of beliefs emphasizing patrilineal descent and a patrifocal residence system. Some of the provisions severely limit economic options for women.

The world's bank report claims that the 32 percent population of Nepal is below the poverty line (World Bank Report, 2019). Gender equality is one of the predominant conditions for poverty alleviation. Nepal ranked 101st out of 153 countries in economic participation and opportunities on the Global Gender Gap Index Report 2020 (World Economic Forum (WOFUM), 2020). The prevailing disparity of income and resource, lack of good governance and economic opportunity, and stagnant industrialization impede the aim of the poverty abolishment of the country (Acharya, 2020). Microfinance can be a viable instrument that generates employment and self-employment to deal with the persistent predicament of poverty. Notably, microfinance services are not able to augment the economy (saqfalhait, 2019).

The importance of women's participation in development process and need for their advancement has been growing in many nations, especially in recent years. In Nepal, necessity of the participating women in the development process was explicitly realized only after sixth five year plan. The initiative have been taken to mobilize and participate women both as agents and beneficiaries in the development process.

Microcredit is based on the premise that the poor have skills which remain unutilized or underutilized. It is definitely not the lack of skills which make poor people poor....charity is not the answer to poverty. It only helps poverty to continue. It creates dependency and takes away the individual's initiative to break through the wall of poverty. Unleashing of energy and creativity in each human being is the answer to poverty (Yunus. 2003)

Microcredit, or microfinance, is banking the un-bank-able, bringing credit, savings and other essential financial services within the reach of millions of people who are too poor to be served by regular banks, in most cases because they are unable to offer sufficient collateral. In general, banks are for people with money, not for people without. (Maanen 2004).

Microcredit belongs to the group of financial service innovations under the terms of microfinance, other services according to microfinance is micro savings, money transfer vehicles and micro insurance. Microcredit is an innovation for the developing countries. Microcredit is a service for poor people that are unemployed, entrepreneurs or farmers who are not bankable. The reason why they are not bankable is the lack of collateral, steady employment, income and a verifiable choices and opportunities with a reduced risk. It has successfully enabled poor people to start their own business generating or sustain an income and often begin to build up wealth and exit poverty.

Microfinance plays an important role in fighting the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty. Microfinance increases household income, like food security, building of assets, education, health etc. Microfinance is also a means for self-empowerment. It enables the poor to make changes when they increase income, become business owners and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks like illness, weather and more. Women participation in development process has been growing in many counties in recent years. NRB is now taking the initiative to declare a national microfinance policy. The NRB and Department of co-operatives are working through the regulations to formalize MFIS.

Giving women access to microcredit loans therefore generates a multiplier effect that increase the impacts of microfinance institution's activities, benefiting multiple generations. There was no formal GO microfinance policy until now. NRB is now taking the initiative to declare a national microfinance policy. The NRB and Department of co-operative are working through the regulations to formalize MFIs. Policy issues discussed in recent days include such

areas as: capital requirements; areas of coverage; role of Government; capacity building; regulation and supervision and the creation of STI. The discussion is expected to support and provide inputs to the NRB on microfinance policy issues related to the role of the Government, micro finance best practices and regulatory issues that will have impact on wider outreach.

The importance of women participation in the development process has been growing in many countries in recent years. Consequently numbers national and international organizations have been established and carried out the programs and targeted towards to enabling women and creates awareness about their role and rights. The provision of the micro finance credit is regarded as one of the potentially strongest force towards achieving their goals.

Nepalese women who comprise half of the population of the country have always been involved of in national development, although deprived of control over economics resources as property income are employment as well as the others resources. Nepalese women are underprivileged and disadvantaged in terms of their socio-economic status in corporate to their male counterparts.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

Commercial banks often focus on men and formal businesses, neglecting the women who make up large and growing segment of the informal economy. Seventy percent of the poor are women in the world. Yet traditionally women have been disadvantaged in access to credit and other financial services. The business case for focusing on female clients is substantial, as women clients register higher repayment rates. They also contribute larger portion of their income to household consumption than their male counterparts.

Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Violence against women as the most shameful of human rights violation. Violence women get various forms like domestic violence, rape, women trafficking, forced prostitution and violence in armed conflict (such as murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy) and honors killings, dowry related violence, female infanticide and parental sex selection in favor of male babies, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices and traditions (www.un.org/women watch).

Political status of women in Nepal was improved Women's access to political and administrative decision-making positions have been minimal (less than 10 percent and 5 percent, respectively), due to the lack of access to education and economic resources, social expectations for exclusive household responsibilities, and restricted mobility, as compared to male counterparts. In the political arena, matters have improved significantly at the grass roots level since the 1996 Ordinance on Local Elections required that all contesting parties to the election must have at least one woman candidate among the five ward member contestants. At least 100,000 women contested the last local election in 1996. This ordinance has also made provision for nominating at least one woman to village development committee and district development committee executive committees and also to the municipality boards.

Women's role in Nepalese society appears to be changing in the cities but it is only a surface change. There are lot of facilities available to expand people's minds and involve women in different areas they previously did not have access to. Women are receiving more education and are therefore able to find employment. The respect they receive in this employment is still in question. The attitude of male domination is the underlying foundation of Nepalese society. Unfortunately, the majority of women are living in rural areas of Nepal and do not have access to any of these facilities. Most of the land of Nepal is rural, and here change is coming at a painfully slow pace. It is hard for us to think of what a difficult life the uneducated, under privileged women has. Daughters are treated as a burden to their family, despite the fact that they run the household and work in fields. Sons, having received an education, will be the ones to leave the village to find work; often leaving wives to raise the family. The rural women have little or no self-confidence and do not consider themselves on par with men. The village women's life is nothing more than that of a servant or a possession of the family. They do not appear to know the value of their individual lives.

There are various constraints of the women participation in microfinance program in gender disparity has been one of the mast widespread and persistent feature in the Nepalese society. The rural development banks are also microfinance institution focused on women and small farmers. So this study deals with the following issues,'

1. What are the problems with women to participate in microfinance programmer?
2. Is this program effective improving overall economic status of women?

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this study is to analyze the relationship between participation of increase in economic status of women in micro- finance program. The specific objectives of the study are as bellows.

1. State the extent of women participation in micro-finance.
2. To examine the enharcement of economy status of women after their participation.

1.4 Significance of the study

Most of research on micro finance has been done under the poverty and employment generation aspects however researcher left the strong aspect of women participation, where the research work attempted to concern. It is much more interesting and also newness in the field of research. It would support for the upcoming research to extended and research on the holistic approach. It is believed that the findings of this study provide a new test of ideas those who stay in policy making level.

All over the world, the significant of women entry into the workforce over the pastthree decades has produced profound transformations in the organization of families, society the economy and urban life. Since the late 1950s, women's economic activities have been steadily increasing.

Women have always actively participated in their local economics. In Africa, for example women produce 80 percent of food and in Asia 60 percent and in Latin America 40 percent. In many cases, women not only produce the food but market it as well, which gives them a well-developed knowledge of local markets and customers.

In the context, credit for microenterprise development has been a crucial issue over the last two decades. Research has shown that investing in women offers the most effective means to improve health, nutrition, and educational standards for families and consequently for the whole of society. Thus, a special support for women in both financial and non-financial services is necessary.

In general, women need access to small loans(especially for working capital), innovative forms of collateral, frequent repayment schedules more appropriate to the cash flows of their enterprises, simpler application procedures and improved access to saving accounts. Many

elements contribute to make it more difficult for women participation in small business to make a profit. The importance of women's work in society we show above. It is the real extent of women's contribution, especially in developing countries, not only to the labor force, but also their role as a significant income- sources for the family.

For instance, in Nepal all tasks related to a family's support are the responsibility of women. Due to cultural and traditional aspects, a women's presence has been a question of survival of her family. Women, especially poor mothers, must divide their time between work "productive role" and family "reproductive role" and balancing all the demands. Time is valuable for these women, as their livelihoods depend largely on their ability to fulfill the multiple demands of the household and the marketplace.

Unfortunately, labor markets have followed this perception and have offered less favorable conditions to women. Women workers consistently earn less than their male partners do. That is the case of women who work, for example, up to 8 hours a day, but at the end of the month, their income is far below monthly minimum wage of Rs 5000.

Considering the entrepreneurial environment, women's activities are very interesting as they offer a great source of knowledge and innovation. For example: there is no single type of female micro- entrepreneur, they differ in social background, educational level, experience and age another interesting factor is their strong social coherence that allows them to maintain strong communications-channels at all levels.

1.5 Limitations of the study

Every study has its own limitation. This study could also not be separated. This study is only concentrated on women participation in micro-finance program in Resunga Municipality of Gulmi District. Thus the result has drawn from selected areas only but it has not generalized to the other part. The study have following limitations:

- a. The conclusion of study might not be generalized for whole because this study is very specific like social, economic, cultural, traditional, geographical studies.
- b. This study completely based on limited beneficiaries groups and micro finance and operating within a territory of Resunga Municipality ward number 7, 8 and 10.

- c. Decision making role may vary by types of livestock price of goods, the findings forms may not be represents true picture, it rather presented average change.
- d. The major tools for data collection were used by checklist, questionnaire, group discuss only.

1.6 organization of the study

This report is dividing into five different chapters. The first chapter begins with introduction, which describes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter is covers the review of the literature including both empirical and theoretical aspects. The third chapter explains the research methodology. The four chapter devoted data presentation and analysis. In the fifth chapter, summary, conclusions and recommendation of the study is presented.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This section deals with the review of related literature being based on the available reports, annual reports, presentation paper, website related documents, workshop proceeding and studies on micro- credit program and institutions undertaken globally and nationally. In this study deals with certain concept of women's participation and the available literature relating to women empowerment and capacity building specially about the contribution of microfinance program in women's empowerment in Nepal.

2.1 Definition and Concept of Microfinance

Microfinance is a financial service aimed at low-income individuals or at those who do not have direct access to typical banking services. Microfinance encompasses a number of financial services like micro-credit, micro-lending, micro-insurance, savings and money transfer among others.

Microfinance is a banking service provided to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would have no other access to financial services. Microfinance allows people to take on reasonable small business loans safely, and in a manner that is consistent with ethical lending practices. Microfinance practices that become popular in different period, demonstrate that they contributed to the dynamism of this field evolving with various models.

a. Cooperative Model

Cooperative models are mostly implemented by the saving and Credit Cooperatives (SCCs) under which a wide range of savings and loan products are provided to the members. The SCCs target all community members in a given locality regardless of their social and economic status. However, organizations established by development programs stress more on serving the disadvantaged population. Although the SCCs serve almost all the districts in Nepal, they are considered a more suitable financing model for the hilly and mountain residents as they provide both savings and financial services to the members in a homely atmosphere without much bureaucratic hassle.

b. Small Farmer Cooperative Limited (SFCL) Model

A SFCL is a multi-service cooperative formed to provide financial as well as non-financial services, like, social mobilization, training and technical support services, to its members (farmers), mostly in rural areas. Managed by the members themselves, it also provides financial loans in wholesale. A SFCL's services are targeted only at small farmers and are generally confined to a single Village Development Council (VDC) serving round 500 household catering 200-700 clients within a community.

c. Grameen Bank Model

This popular model, founded in 1976 by the Nobel Laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh, is quite popular worldwide and has been adapted by a large number of organizations. First introduced in Nepal in the early 1990's, the Grameen Bank model is comparatively more feasible in Terai, where the economic activities are more flourished with a relatively more developed market and road infrastructure. Under this approach, peer groups, each comprising of five members, are formed. The typical loan offers of MFIs under Grameen methodology are general loans, seasonal loans, specific loans (sanitation, housing) and the loans issued from the group fund while the savings products comprise of the compulsory group fund savings, and any additional personal, voluntary savings. In recent years, several leading Nepalese microfinance providers have started offering diversified saving schemes such as pension fund savings, education savings, and micro-insurance covering risks related to health, life and livestock's in Grameen Generalized System (GGS).

d. Village Bank (VB) Model

Village banks are credit and savings associations that are managed and run by the community members. Established by NGO's with an objective to provide members with access to financial services, VB's build community self-help groups and help members accumulate savings. A typical village bank consists of 25 to 50 members, who are low-income individuals, seeking to improve their lives through self-employment activities. Aiming to enhance the social status and intra-household bargaining power of women, VB's mostly seek more female participation.

e. Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/Community Organizations (COs) model

Based on the concept of “self-help”, SHG’s are small groups of individuals formed into groups of ten to twenty and operating a savings-first business model whereby the member’s savings are used to fund loans. In a SHG usually women from a similar class and region come together to form a savings and credit organization. They pool financial resources to make small interest bearing loans to their members. The terms and conditions and accounting of the loan are set by designated members in the group. The ‘Dhukuti’ system is one such example of a very old form of self-help group in Nepal which has been in operation for over four decades.

f. Association Model

In association type, the target community such as youth or women from an association regarding political, religious or cultural issues through which, microfinance activities are initiated.

g. Bank Guarantee

As the name itself suggests, a bank guarantee is used to obtain loan from a commercial bank. This guarantee may be arranged externally through donors/government agencies, and internally it is arranged using saving of its members. Bank guarantee is a form of capital guarantee scheme and the guaranteed funds can be used for various purpose including loan recovery.

2.1.1 Development of micro- finance

The Microfinance Development Strategy ensures permanent access to institutional financial services for a majority of poor and low-income households and their microenterprises. It aims to support the development of sustainable microfinance systems that can provide diverse services of high quality. Microfinance Plus, as an NGO, aims to develop, implement and promote innovative financial services to the poor whereas establishing and maintaining relationships with other NGOs, Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and relevant agencies of state to provide customized and sustainable services to the poor. The firm also seeks to provide capacity building to MFIs and the poor in addition to the mobilization of funds for lending to the productive poor with women and the youth being the core targets.

The operations of Microfinance Plus are mainly based in the rural and peri urban communities where specialized pro-poor financial services are rendered to its clients. The firm’s vision is to

become the leading provider of Microfinance Services in Ghana to improve livelihood of the poor with special focus on women.

Although some microfinance institutions provide enterprise development services such skill training, marketing and social services such as literacy training and health care, however, they are not generally induced in definition.

2.2.1 Micro finance in world

Over the past centuries, practical visionaries, from the Franciscan friars who founded the community-oriented pawnshops of the 15th century to the founders of the European credit union movement in the 19th century (such as Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen) and the founders of the microcredit movement in the 1970s (such as Muhammad Yunus and Al Whittaker), have tested practices and built institutions designed to bring the kinds of opportunities and risk-management tools that financial services can provide to the doorsteps of poor people.

The history of micro financing can be traced back as far as the middle of the 1800s, when the theorist Lysander Spooner was writing about the benefits of small credits to entrepreneurs and farmers as a way of getting the people out of poverty. Independently of Spooner, Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen founded the first cooperative lending banks to support farmers in rural Germany.

The modern use of the expression ‘micro financing’ has roots in the 1970s when Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, founded by microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus, was starting and shaping the modern industry of micro financing. The approach of microfinance was institutionalized by Yunus in 1976, with the foundation of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Another pioneer in this sector is Pakistani social scientist Akhtar Hameed Khan.

Since people in the developing world still largely depend on subsistence farming or basic food trade for their livelihood, significant resources have gone into supporting smallholder agriculture in developing countries.

In ten years, microfinance institutions (MFIs) have lent hundreds of billions of dollars, with an average annual growth rate of 11.5% over the past five years. At the same time, the number of borrowers worldwide continued to increase – albeit at a slower pace than in the 2000 to 2010

period – recording an average annual growth rate of 7% since 2012, compared to a rate of nearly 20% in the previous decade.

In 2018, 139.9 million borrowers benefited from the services of MFIs, compared to just 98 million in 2009. Of these 139.9 million borrowers, 80% are women and 65% are rural borrowers, proportions that have remained stable over the past ten years, despite the increase in the number of borrowers. With an estimated credit portfolio of \$124.1 billion, MFIs recorded another year of growth in 2018 (+8.5% compared to 2017).

Over the past decade, MFIs have also improved their efficiency. Despite a decade marked by a sharp increase in the cost per borrower, from an average of \$68.4 in 2009 to \$106.7 in 2018 (+56%), the operating expense ratio decreased by 2.7 points over the period. Between 2009 and 2018, MFIs also recorded an increase in their returns on assets (+1.3 points) and equity (+2.9 points).

Nevertheless, there was a slight deterioration in the quality of the portfolio over the entire period, with the portfolio at risk (PAR) over 30 days having risen from 6.4% in 2009 to 7% in 2018. After a decline in the PAR > 30 days between 2010 and 2012, it rose again and stabilized between 2016 and 2018 at around 7%.

Others developed countries in which the micro-loan model is in fact gaining impetus include Israel, Russia, Ukraine and more, where micro-loans given to small business entrepreneurs are also used to overcome cultural barriers in the mainstream business society. The Israel Free Loan Association (IFLA) has lent out over \$100 million in the past two decades to Israeli citizens of all backgrounds. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/microcredit#cite_note-7).

2.1.3 Micro Finance in Nepal

The livelihood of majority of the Nepali population depends on agriculture and micro-finance was initially introduced in the country as a tool for rural development. When policies related to ‘rural finance’ started to be implemented in Nepal, they targeted small farmers, intended as the household head, normally a man. After the introduction of the Grameen Model in the early 1980s, microfinance initiatives started to target women. Programs were elaborated with an instrumentalist approach to female targeting: women were chosen because of their better repayment rates and because they spent more for the wellbeing of the whole household,

especially the children, compared to men. A large part of microfinance programs had women's empowerment listed in their aims because it was considered important for donors, but it hasn't been prioritized as a paradigm for microfinance projects. In fact, ideological barriers to a transformatory approach to gender relations persist. Nepali society is also very hierarchical and stratified: differences among women related to caste, ethnicity, age and position in the family can overestimate the potential of groups to enhance solidarity among women. Despite this, researcher conducted in Nepal showed that microfinance programs, especially when integrated with other activities such as literacy classes and trainings, can improve the status of women.

In the early, 1960s the cooperative movement became the first vehicle of microfinance in Nepal, as 13 credit cooperative societies to provided flood victims to financial services adapted to their specific needs. In parallel, rural finance institutions were established such as the Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal, which aimed at providing credit and marketing support to agriculture. Microfinance has encouraged income generating activities among the rural entrepreneurs by providing small loan and saving facilities. Till date, there are a total of 85 MFIs licensed by the central bank.

In 1974, the two state-owned commercial banks, Nepal bank Ltd, and Rastriya Banijya Bank were directed by the central bank, Nepal Rastra Bank, to invest at least a portion (first 5% to increase as high as 12%) of their deposit liabilities in the 'small sector'. This marked the beginning of the directed credit system in Nepal. In 1976, the scope of the small sector was broadened to include agriculture, cottage industry and services, and has since then been called the 'priority sector'. The credit didn't reach the poor, as only influential and well- connected people, with collateral, were able to access the program. This led to the development of targeted initiatives, such as the Intensive Banking Program in 1981, initiated by the government and the central bank, through partnerships with commercial banks. Under this approach, group guarantee for loan repayment were used instead of physical collateral.

With the promulgation of the development bank Act in 1995, Nirdhan was the first NGO (1998) to transfer its micro finance portfolio into an autonomous microfinance rural bank (Nirdhan Utthan Development Bank). Since 2000, three other microfinance rural banks were created through the same process first initiated by Nirdhan, with DEPROSC Development Bank in 2000,

Swabalamban Bikas Bank Ltd and Chhimek Bikas Bank in 2001. Acknowledging the poor performance of the RRDBS under public ownership, the central bank started a restricting program, which will lead ultimately to the privatization of the five RRDBs.

The institutions involved in microfinance incorporate both national as well as international institutions. The national institutions include banks, non-government organizations (NGOs) and cooperative registered within the exiting regulatory framework of the country. International institutions includes bilateral and multilateral agencies and international non-government organizations (INGOs) supporting directly or indirectly for the expansion of microfinance activities in Nepal. Agricultural Development Bank (ADB/N), CB, DV, RRDBs are the formal institutions. On the other hand, finance companies, saving and credit cooperative, FINGOs and social and financial intermediately, NGOs (SFINGOs) are semi-formal financial institutions operating in Nepal. Central Bank takes the responsibility of keeping records of credit and reimbursement to the participating bands. It also provides refinance facilities to the ADB/N and RRDBs and also executes donor-funded microfinance programs through the participating organizations. (Bashyal, 2008).

2.2 Review at International Context

Hossain & Rahman (2001), had mentioned that women living in rural developing countries position in bottom line in both class and gender. Moreover, social, economic, legal structure and cultural factors restrict them having control over their own life. They find difficult in productive activities as commercial banks show less faith in women as debtors due to little or not having any collateral. Even when they seek loan from the bank, the manager questions them if their husbands are made aware of that or not. This 42 kind of barrier allow them to very little chance in financial autonomy, spatial, and occupational flexibility. The present study prevails that there is significant relationship between poverty reduction and women empowerment. That is the preset study shows that Microfinance has target rural poor women as main borrowers to help them enhance their income and contribution to economic growth. MF ensures that women get control over resources, land, employment and income to improve their status relative to men.

Cheston (2004), women tend to have higher saving ability and repayment of loan is higher than men. It is stated that rural poor women despite of being illiterate, work on group base and guarantees rather collateral. Article: December, 2013 39 opportunities for income but also

manage risks against emergencies and planning for their kids future and family members. They therefore value saving and are more careful about investment decision which helps to continue business for long term. The present study suggests that there is positive relationship that women use to save more than men. The next study shows that has been argued that the MF services do not reach the very poorest of the poor. Whether it is true or not true, MFIs still reach to millions of poor who do not get loans from commercial banks easily. Before MFI starts poor used to get loan from landlords and other rich people in excessive interest rate. This used to take borrowers into a lifelong debt cycle.

Supriya Garikipati (2008), it is likely women are more concerned about the improvement of their household rather than their individual wellbeing and status in the family. Evidence suggests that lending to women strengthens the household as a whole by improving the household's ability to cope with various vulnerabilities. However, the women themselves do not experience significant changes in their status. This suggests that women are more concerned about the wellbeing of their homes and families. As a result, they usually make purchases and invest in items that would benefit the entire family, rather than themselves individually.

Lendwithcare (2016), MFIs has emerged as a strategy for economic survival in the life of poor women. The main idea is to empower them by generating income for themselves or for household by providing earning opportunities. The Present study is related with Microfinance and their space in poverty reduction. This may lead in the growth of self-esteem, self-confidence and their status within the family and society.

Katharine Esty (2014), MFIs target women because women make better use of small loans in compare to men which means women value money by not spending it into luxurious items. Instead they make proper use of it by investing into some small business, for instance, in poultry farms which over the time improves the health and education, contributing to the cycle of poverty alleviation.

Cornwall. A. Harrison. E. and Whitehead, A. (2007), the rationale for providing women access to Microfinance services is that gender inequalities inhibit economic growth and development. Hence, the Canadian International Development Agency provides increased access to productive assets (especially land, capital and credit) processing and marketing for women.

Kishore (1997), it has conceptualized empowerment in terms of control by which women would be able to access information, take decision and act in their own interest or for their dependents. She has considered three categories of composite indicators to measure women's empowerment. These are direct evidence of empowerment, source of empowerment and the settings for empowerment. She has grouped the indicators of behavioral and attitudinal factors into ten dimensions. We have listed these indicators including the variables.

Dusuki (2008), Microfinance sector required innovative ideas beyond traditional financial system. Social intermediation increase human capability and group base lending schemes reduce processing cost and decrease financial risk in relation to providing credit to poor. Micro financing is the tool to decrease financial cost and expenses in an efficient way.

Greetha (2006), Microfinance and changing the lifestyle of women Poverty is one of the major problems of the world at this juncture. Of course, Nepal is not an exception to it. It is proven that poverty can be reduced from Microfinance. It is also admitted that role of Microfinance is not just restricted to poverty alleviation but it also diversifies income-carrying sources, builds assets and improves the status of women. It has a positive impact on income and assets levels.

Armendariz and Morduch (2005), the literature suggests that the impact of Microfinance in different contexts due to factors such as financial literacy, type of services provided, population density, attitudes to debt, and group-cohesion.

Rooyen, Stewart, and de Wet (2012), the impact of Microfinance still varies from one country to another. Revealed that the impact of microcredit was mixed in the sub-Saharan African countries, ranging between no impact, positive impact, and negative impact. Marital conflicts have also been known to rise when men force their wives to seek microcredit for their households.

. Parveen (2005) on micro credit intervention and its effects on empowerment of rural women: "This article concludes that there are some positive contributions of micro-credit interventions on rural women's economic autonomy. Hence more loans should be expanded to the low income women by development agencies, especially by BRAC."

Awudjan, I.E. (2019) Microfinance and women empowerment in Ghana. 'Women have been shown to spend more of their income on households. Microfinance should intensify training of

their clients on financial literacy, skills development, business advisory and good agricultural practices to enhance their competences and increase their income.'

Murshid N.S (2016) Men's response to their wives Participation in microfinance; Perpetration and Justification of intimate partner violence in Bangladesh:" This study findings indicate that living in urban areas is negatively associated with justification of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Microfinance participation in urban areas may not be normalized in the same way it is in rural areas of Bangladesh.'

Lindgren.E.H (2003) Microfinance and women's empowerment in rural Bangladesh, 'With growing interest in and support for micro credit programs in developing countries, many of which have been directed towards poor women, controversy mounts over effectiveness of MF effort, Bangladesh largely through the effort of Muhmmamd yunus has been a leader in MF movement.

Brunswick (2016), the word Poverty indicates the situation where people cannot meet their basic requirements for livelihood of food, shelter and clothing. It is not only about fulfilling these basic needs, it is also about not getting a chance to participate in major requirements of life, for instance, sending kids to school, not being able to pay for illness, or making any trip as per own wish .

Iceland (1997), Poverty gets even worst when poor are recognized with little representation and less public and political priorities in the society. This problem may vary from nation to nation but always exists in rich or poor countries. In general, research suggests that the longer a person has been poor, the less likely it is that he or she is going to escape poverty.

Cheston (2002), women tend to have higher saving ability and repayment of loan is higher than men. It is stated that rural poor women despite of being illiterate, work on group base and guarantees rather collateral. They focus not only in investing opportunities for income but also manage risks against emergencies and planning for their kids future and family members. They therefore value saving and are more careful about investment decision which helps to continue business for long term.

Microfinance services lead to women's empowerment by positively influencing women's decision-making power and enhancing their overall socio-economic status. By the end of 2006,

microfinance services had reached over 79 million of the poorest women in the world. As such, microfinance has the potential to make a significant contribution to gender equality and promote sustainable livelihoods and better working conditions for women.

2.3 Review at National Context

Acharya (2020), the agriculture development bank in Nepal initiated a systematic and formal microfinance program from 1973 to the small farmer development program. Other commercial banks also commenced different services like priority area loan, poverty-stricken loan, and loan without collateral but discernible achievements were not recorded. In 1992, specialized microfinance, in the form of the 'Grameen Bank model of Bangladesh', a rural development bank established. This bank contributed to economic mobilization by spreading financial access to rural people.

Majorano (2007), assessed the impact of the rural microfinance projects based on the observation and analysis of MFIs working in Kathmandu, Makawanpur, Dhanusa, Sunsari and Morang districts.

In her study she found that the microfinance programs aimed at women empowerment have contributed to it in different ways. The women treated their saving as a means of building up an assets base and gaining a certain independency from their husbands. The programs have increased women's self-confidence and their influence in household decision-making process has also increased. From her analysis; she has concluded that the microfinance services have reached the poor and the poorest families. The women clients have improved their confidence, leadership decision-making power and entrepreneurial skills after participation in the microfinance programmed.

According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (2011), husband or male counterparts are heavily involved in decision-making on issues related to women. In the case of women's health care, the decision is made jointly by husband and wife, while for men's health care; it is largely the husband who makes the decision.

Sarkhar (2014), some of the most common social issues in Nepal affecting women's existence are child marriage, social exploitation, domestic violence, lack of education, and cultural and ritual abuses. Among other religious practices, a Chupardy Prather (tradition), Kumara Prather,

Human, Deuki Pratha, Kumari Pratha, which violate child rights, are banned in Nepal's Children Act of 1992; however the imposed prohibition was challenged by the violation of cultural rights.

The issue on the rights of citizenship through mother's name has been raised in the new constitution of Nepal. The Citizenship Act and the Interim Constitution draft explicitly states that the children may obtain citizenship in various ways including by birth, descent and naturalization. Contrary to it, the provision of citizenship to the children through mother's name has made legal only in special condition. The special condition here states that the children born out of rape or accidental intercourse. The interim constitution makes the provision discriminatory stating foreign and stateless women married to Nepali men are entitled to get the Nepali citizenship, and their children is going to grant the citizenship. But, Nepali women married to foreigner, or single mothers do not have option to obtain birthrights of being Nepali citizen to their children.

Neupane (2001), explained about the Microfinance and its socio-economic impact on rural women. He studied about the self-help banking program in Dhading district. He had concluded that involvement in the micro-finance programs have empowered women in 49 varying degree. It has offered opportunities for poor women to come out of their household confines, to organize themselves in group and to work in productive and social activities. The present study is related to Microfinance and institutions to empower women. There is increase in healthcare, in case of women and children, sanitation, reduction in smoking, alcohol consumption due to awareness programmes. Members have become more aware of gender equality, human rights and women rights. The study reveals that intervention of the MFI is significant in increasing the consumption pattern, health situation, sanitation.

Shakya (2016), conducted thesis of International Business on 'Microfinance and Women Empowerment' concluded the following findings. The study establishes the concept about poor villagers as less risk taker to continue credit as they are highly depending on agriculture sector. Since urban women are completely on commercial business (no matter the type of business), they tend to be determined to continue loan rather dropping out caused by natural disasters for instance, floods.

Neupane (2014), conducted thesis on 'The effectiveness of Microfinance in Nepalese economy'. A case study of Pratapur VDC, Nawalparasi, concluded that Microfinance has supported to

respect the needs of the poor small clients of small loan. Due to the MFPs women and indigenous groups of deprived sector are greatly benefited.

Karn (2018) shows some challenges and opportunities of Nepalese microfinance sector. In his study, he found out some problem of microfinance which needed to be reformed regarding targeting. According to Karn there are problems in social awareness in Nepalese microfinance sector. Along with that he suggested a lot of opportunities in microfinance such as: stimulating growth of economy, increasing volume, accessibility and outreach.

Basu Dev (2020), microfinance is one of the best alternatives to generate self-employment specially the poor women in the rural areas. Women who could gain access to microfinance services have been able to create self-employment opportunities and have been economically and socially empowered through increased income through small projects. Microfinance has a profound impact on the economic status, decision making power, knowledge and self-worthiness of women, community activities and self-help group programs. The study reveals that there is a positive relationship between microfinance and women empowerment. Microfinance becomes catalyst for social change and women's empowerment. Early marriage, Grass roots development, Poverty alleviation, Self-confidence, Self-employment, Women empowerment.

Shakya, Kristina (2016) Microfinance and women Empowerment ; ‘There is a general consensus that microfinance is not equal to all poor women, Although MF’S are mushrooming in Nepal the poor villagers are remained under high interest rate with less accessible of money lending comparing to the women in city.’

Ranabhat and Dhungana (2021), Micro-credit has a positive correlation with initial investment, revenue generation, employment generation, expansion of business and profit generation. The study also finds that micro-credit has encouraged clients to engage in the micro-business and enterprise development activities. The study recommends that it is necessary to adopt an effective utilization policy of micro-credit that may benefit both microfinance institutions for its sustainability and clients for their living standard improvement in Micro-credit, micro-business, micro-enterprises, and microfinance institutions.

Gurung (2021), ‘Women in Nepal have been restricted by patriarchal social, economic, and political structures for centuries. Domestic violence is a serious challenge to women’s human

rights, said Sumitra. “Gender equality for women means having access to knowledge and money, being recognized for their capabilities, being independent to make their own choices and decisions, and being able to represent themselves at all levels of governance. The company’s effort to provide access to financial services to women and support them in developing entrepreneurship has resulted in hundreds of women emerging as entrepreneurs,” she added.

Presently, over 4 million women across Nepal receive microfinance support. Mahila Sahayatra is advocating and working for the continued expansion of this approach, so that more women can become economically independent and free of domestic violence.

Microfinance is considered a useful tool for addressing gender inequalities and poverty at the same time: by accessing capital, women gain more bargaining power within the household and in participating in groups they have the possibility to share their experiences with other women, take conscience of their collective oppression and organize to bring about social and political change. However, on the empowering potential of microfinance, evidence is often controversial and a deeper analysis of its mechanisms is needed.

There is equality between men and women in some places. But at times women have been marginalized. The researcher women’s themselves are responsible for such things as we often take ourselves for granted. If a little effort and courage is shown by women to come to the fore using their capability and skills, then the researcher think no need to chant the slogan of women empowerment. Women need to make decisions on their own rather than depending upon men, it help them get a step closer towards being empowered.

In all above studies more or less have the similar view regarding the women. However, with the help of reviewed studies it can be concluded that women have a lot of responsibility within society as well as family. To reduce poverty all the problems that women are facing in their daily life should be removed. For this, microfinance programs to empowered women’s socio-economic conditions and to increase standard of living of women will be the right option.

2.4 Research Gap

The literature review is a major component of this conceptual framework. The purpose of literature review in research is to situate the proposed research in the context of what is already known in the field. It should be able to provide the conceptual basis for the current work on the

one and helps to narrow down the proposed topic on the other hand. So, this study has been undertaken to examine the relationship between participation and economic status of women in microfinance program. In addition, this study also focused that until the 21st century, through women enjoy more freedom and power than ever before. However, it is still disadvantaged when compared to men in virtually all aspects of life. Women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital, and decision-making powers in the political, social, and business sectors in Nepal.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this chapter the methodology used in this research has been discussed. The population, sample, study, area and research design of this study are specified. The sources of data, sampling technique, process of data collection and data procedure has also been explained.

3.1 Research Design

This study mainly focus on nexus between participation and economic status of women in micro-finance program in Resunga Municipality of Gulmi District. It is intend to find economic impact and social benefit in specific area. A descriptive as well as exploratory research design is applied to analyze and interpret the quantitative and qualitative data collection from the concerned field. Loan investment, repayment process and other development process are related to micro finance program. Primary and secondary data are used for the study of rural poor women and related bank staffs.

3.2 Sources of Data

The study is based on the primary as well as secondary data, but the focus is given to survey using structured questionnaire, observation and interaction. While secondary data also collected from following sources.

1. Published and unpublished documents/data related to micro-finance program.
2. Books, articles, magazines, information available at web pages.

3.3 Population and sampling

The population of research defines those women who are involved in the micro-finance program in Resunga Municipality of Gulmi. There are 2500 member committees having around 121women members at Resunga municipality in small and large micro- finance program (MFP). The sample size of this study will be 62 members from 121 members,the sample was drawn randomly lest from 121 members. The information provided by 2 respondents was not so clear, the analysis and interpretation have been done on the basis of information provided by 60 respondents. All the respondents were women. Large samples of 60 members were drawn for investigation.

3.4 Data collection and process

Without using any technique of data collection, required information cannot be obtained. So, present study was household survey of the sample household, organizational assessment of selected savings and credit groups and focus group discussion with women members. Further, record review was done to assemble and analyze secondary data. To get primary data we used structured questionnaire to find out the information about the respondents, on social participation, on decision making role, on gender discrimination, on income, ownership of land, occupation and living standards of respondents after participation in program and the questionnaire is filled up by researcher himself visiting all selected women.

This study has adopted the simple random sampling technique to collect the relevant primary data. For this purpose the sampling frame was prepared from the list of members involved in the microfinance program in Resunga Municipality which was provided by the SWBBL. From the sampling frame 62 were chosen as the sampling unit for this study by applying lottery method. Then, the key information was interviewed and the necessary primary information's required for this study were collected through structured questionnaires. The primary data had collected by structural closed ended questionnaire which is protested according to the objectives. Collected necessary information the researcher also discussed with professionals which had very much useful to prepare this report. Necessary tabulation of data makes for proper analysis of the result that collected from the fields.

3.5 Data Analysis and Presentation

To make study more reliable quantitative and qualitative study is also made. When the doubtful answer has provided by the respondents, researcher has made interview to the family head of the respondent family and has taken the observation of the situation of the occupation of the respondent for the qualitative study. The techniques here include are the use of quantitative statistical tools like percentages, bar diagram, pie charts and many other appropriate tools. The data are presented in different tables.

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This section is the main body of the research which analyzes and interpreted the results and finding of the whole data and information and presented as per the objectives of the study.

4.1 Introduction of the Study Area

4.1.1 Profile of Resunga Municipality

The settlements lying within the Resunga Municipality are the area for this study. As the study oriented to empowerment perspective, settlements lying within the influence of saving and credit groups within this community will be primarily taken for the investigation. Thus, 7,8 and 10 ward of Resunga Municipality of Gulmi District are the settlements particularly chosen for the assessment of this impact study as these settlements lies in the influence of saving and credit groups.

4.2 General Information about the Respondents

General information about family head, economic background, age, marital status, family size, caste, saving, occupation, education level etc. are the determinants of socio-economic empowerment and living standards of the respondents of the study area.

4.2.1 General Information about Caste Distribution

The caste distribution of the borrowers of the Resunga Municipality are presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Caste Distribution of the Respondents

S.N.	Castes	Number	Percentage
1	Brahmin	16	26.67
2	Chhetri	14	23.33
3	Magar	12	20
4	Newar	8	13.33
5	Dalits	6	10
6	Gurung	4	6.67
Total		60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.1 shows that the about 26.67 percent member of borrowers are belonging to Brahmin caste. 23.33 percent of the respondents are come from the chhetri caste. Likewise 20 percent respondents are belonging to the magar caste and 13.33 percent respondents are found related to Newar. Dalits and Gurung represents 10 percent and 6.67 percent respectively.

4.2.2 General information about the Age Group

The given table and figure of population distribution by age are presented with their numbers.

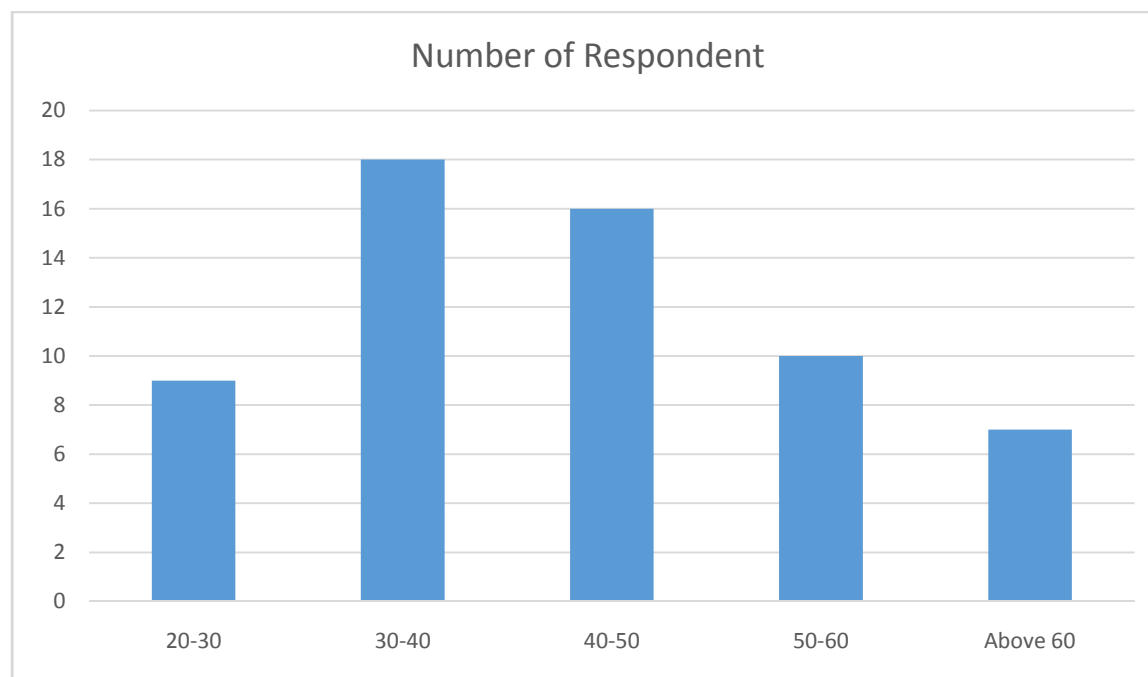
Table 4.2 Age Group of the Respondents

Age of Respondent	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	Above 60
Number of Respondent	9	18	16	10	7

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure No. 4.1

Age Group of Respondent



Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure 4.1 shows that over 30% of the respondents were between 30- 40 and 40-50 years who have heavy financial load for their survival and other social responsibilities such as giving education, marriage of their children etc.

4.2.3 General information about the Education Status

Education is the basic and valuable foundation of social and national development. Its play an vital role in our life to develop personality. The respondents are classified according to their educational level in the table 4.3.

Women have made substantial gains in literacy over the last 25 years, partly due to vigorous government programs for girls’ education starting in the early 1970s, including the training of female teachers from backward areas.

Major reasons for not sending daughters to school include lack of household resources, lack of sense of importance since girls will marry, girls’ workload at home, high school fees, lack of female teachers or adequate facilities so that they are illiterate.

The level of literacy is still low, and the gender gap in the literacy rate remains enormous, due to government policy the women are joint ‘non-formal education’, Since then, MOE has been providing reading and writing programs through various channels. In recent decades, many government and non-government agencies including INGOs have begun to conduct literacy programs, and the number of such agencies has been increasing every year.

Table 4.3: Educational Status of the Respondents

S.N.	Level of education	Number	Percentage
1	Illiterate	16	26.67
2	Literate	13	21.67
3	Primary	10	16.67
4	Lower secondary	8	13.33
5	Secondary	7	11.67
6	Higher education	6	10
Total		60	100.00

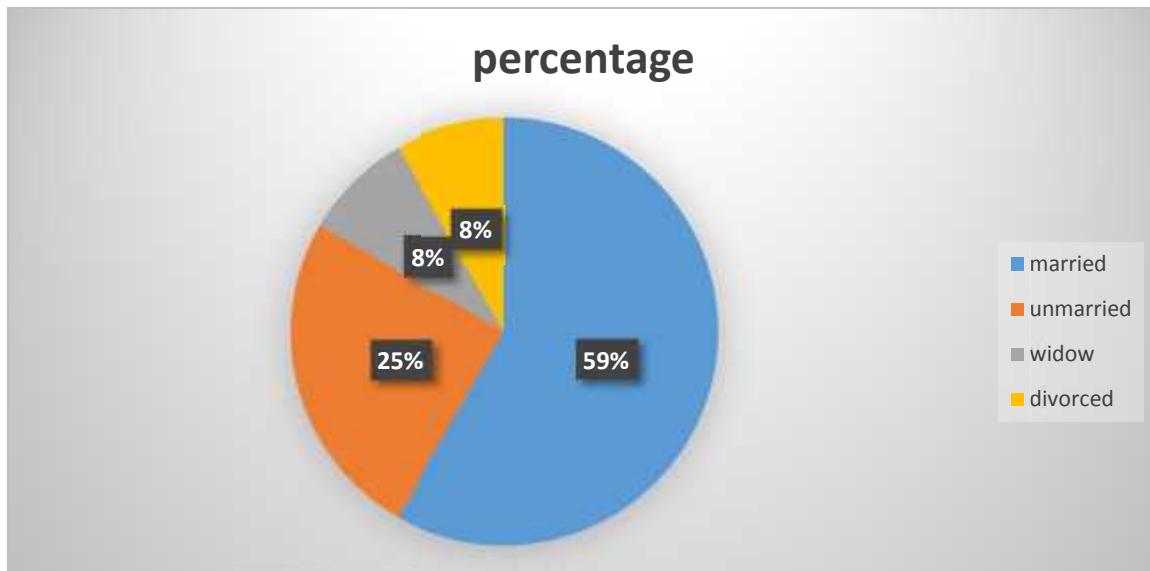
Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.3 illustrates the education status of the respondents of the research area of the Resunga Municipality. 26.67% borrowers of the research area are illiterate because due to the Household income, workload, and the level of concern with the purity of the female body, which leads to early marriage, are important influences in deciding whether to send girls to school and 21.67% are literate the government should make a policy for women to write their name and signed so that there is little bit increase now a day. According to this study area I found that 16.67% went to primary school, 13.33% respondents have to get education at lower secondary level. 11.67% get secondary level and only 10% borrowers to get higher education.

4.2.4 Marital Status of Respondents

The marital status of the borrowers in the research area, Resung Municipality in ward number 2,4 and 6. Its shows in pie chart. Its shows that 58.33% women are married and 25% are unmarried. According to the research it found that widow and divorced is 8.33%.

Figure No. 4.2. Marital Status



Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above figure illustrates that 59% of the total respondents were married while 25% found unmarried. 8% of the respondents are widow and divorced. On the basis of this, we can come to the point that the participation of married women in microfinance program is high. For the

program, the reason behind the high participation of married women is that, the women who are married are more responsible for family than that of single one.

4.2.5 General Information about the Family Size

The family size of the borrowers of the research area of the Resunga Municipality is presented in Table 4.4. For simplicity, researcher has made four categories on basis of family members.

Table 4.4. Family Size of the Respondents

S.N	Family size	Number	Percentage
1	Up to 3	7	11.67
2	4 to 6	25	41.66
3	6 to 7	20	33.33
4	7 to 8	8	13.33
Total		60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.4 shows that there are 4 to 6 members in 41.67 percent of the borrower family. Likewise, there are 6 to 7 members is 33.33 percent and 7 to 8 is 13.33 percent then up to 3 are 11.66 percent borrower family.

4.3 Economic Status and Participation of Respondents in MFP

To find the economic status of targeted group in the study area, there are various indicators like main occupation, way of entrance, respondent's beliefs after involving in MFP, and purpose of joining which are as given below. When we talk about economic status of women we must understand that the biggest problem that women face today is that their work is not recognized at all. Women have always contributed to the society and the economy in the form of a helping hand in agriculture and food production in the developing countries and in the form of part time and temporary workers in developed countries. This is apart from their role as a homemaker which is not even valued economically.

To increase their economic opportunities, women need access to more and better jobs, a business climate that supports them in starting and doing business, a financial sector that gives them access to financial services tailored to their needs, and greater livelihood security in times of

food and fuel crises. This is especially true for women living in rural areas and vulnerable environments.

4.3.1 Main occupation of Respondents Participating in MFP

In the study area occupation denotes employment of the people in different sector for earning purpose. Women of the study area are demanded in different size of amount. We can research before and after participating in microfinance program.

Table 4.5: Main Occupation before and after participation in MFP

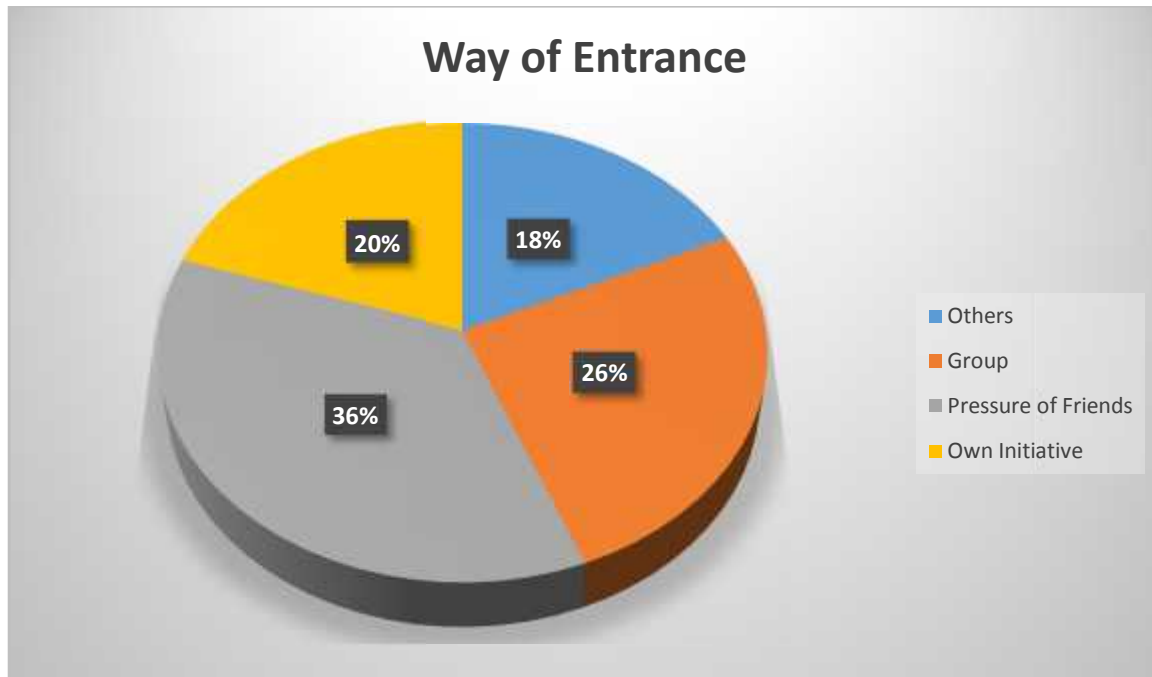
Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Occupation	Number of Borrowers	Percent	Occupation	Number of Borrowers	Percent
Agricultural/ Households	36	60	Agricultural/ Households	15	25
Vegetable	12	20	Vegetable	18	30
Business	6	10	Business	9	15
Buffalo	3	5	Buffalo	3	5
Goat	3	5	Goat	12	20
Poultry	0	0	Poultry	6	10
Total	60	100.00	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.5 shows that the share percent of agricultural/households sector in total was 60 percent before loan but after loan it has decreased and reduced into 25 percent. An agricultural activity includes all activities except cash crops. The share percentages of vegetable, small business, buffalo livestock, goat livestock, and sectors in total were 20, 10, 5, and 5 respectively before loan but after the loan those are increased and reached into 30, 15, 5, and 20 percent respectively. Poultry farm established by the 10 percent borrowers after the loan and poultry farm was nil before loan.

4.3.2 Way of Entrance in MFI

The membership in any social organization of the borrowers of the study area of the Resunga Municipality is presented in figure 4.3.



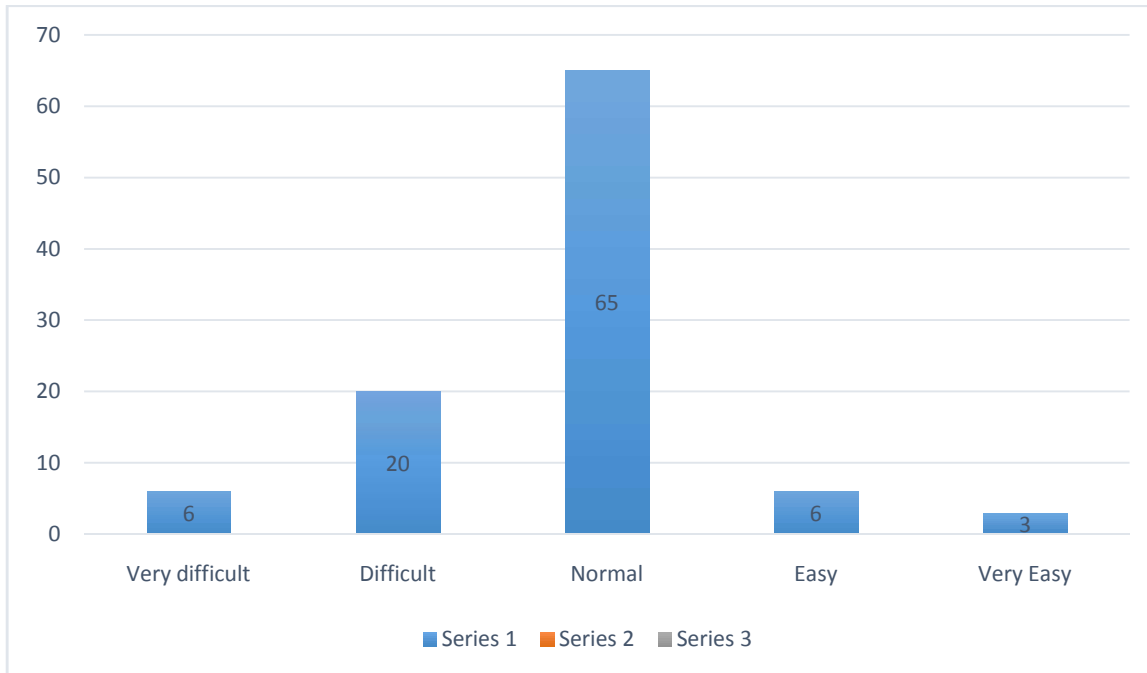
Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure 4.3 shows that 20 percent of the respondents involved in microfinance program through their own initiative, 36 percent of the respondent involved that their friend encouraged them to participate in the microfinance program.

4.3.3 Respondents Beliefs after Involving in MFP

Figure 4.4 presented the feeling of respondents about micro-finance program after participating in the group.

Figure No. 4.4: Respondents Feeling after Involved in MFP



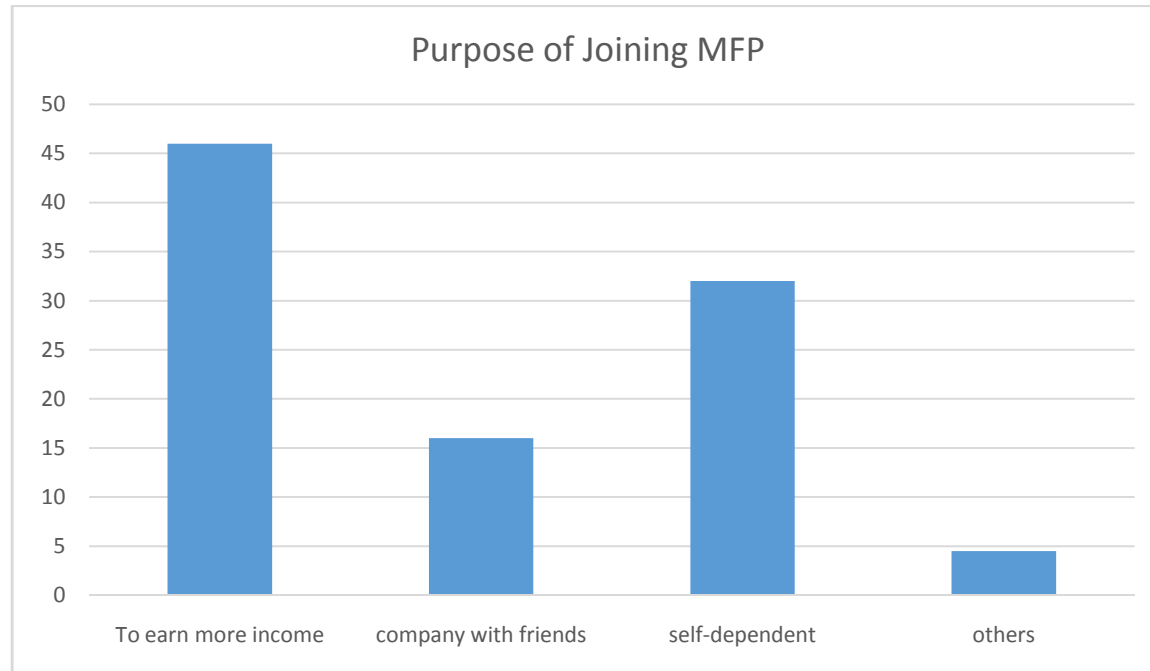
Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure 4.4 shows that over 20 percent of the total respondents expressed difficulties to take MFP services, while most of them (i.e. 65%) felt normal to service delivering system of MFP. Whereas 9 percent of the respondents took it easy. Overall, it indicates that the services provided by micro-finance program are normal.

4.3.4 Purpose of Joining MFP

In the 21st century, women enjoy more freedom and power than ever before. However, they are still disadvantaged when compared to men in virtually all aspects of life. Women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital, and decision-making powers in the political, social and business sectors. Women who involved in microfinance program they make family background good as well. Their purpose to join this program to make family status good and educated. In the research area I found that women who join in that program they give the child better education and women are more interest to have self-dependent. We can see it on figure below.

Figure No.4.5 Purpose of Joining MFP



Source: Field Survey, 2021

The respondents were provided an opportunity to express their views regarding the purpose of joining MF group. They were given four options: to earn more money, to have company with friends, to be self-dependent and others. Overall, 46 percent of women replied to earn more money and to improve family condition. Likewise 16 percent of members are joining Mf program to have company with friends and 32 percent of women want self-dependent because no need to ask for daily household activities with their husband. While 6 percent of borrowers expressed various purpose of joining the program.

4.4 Social Empowerment of Women from MF Program

Since the main component of the microfinance program is to provide credit loan for the women. Data analysis is related with social and economic empowerment of women and their living standards.

Social empowerment refers to the ability of women and girls to act individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude them and keep them in poverty. Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society. They may have the opportunity

to redefine gender roles or other such roles, which in turn may allow them more freedom to pursue desired goals. This includes empowering people with little resources through education, employment, health services, and giving them a sense of identity and community in which they can thrive and grow.

There are some indicators related to the social empowerment of women like change in social participation, attending meeting of SO, change self-confident level, decision-making role in household, schooling of children before and after, decision of family member treatment, decision on sale and buy livestock, agriculture activities decision, and buying goods.

4.4.1 Change in Social Participation

The member in any social organization of the respondent of the study area of the Resunga Municipality is presented in table 4.6

Table 4.6: Membership in Social Organization

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Number of SO	Number of Respondents	Percent	Number of SO	Number of Respondents	Percent
Non	40	66.67	Non	15	25.00
One	15	25.00	One	25	41.67
More than one	5	8.33	More than one	20	33.33
Total	60	100.00	Total	60	100.00

Source, Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.6 shows that 66.667 percent of respondents of the research area were not participating in any social organization before taking loans. After taking loan it has decreased only 25 percent borrowers of the study area are until not participating in any social organization. Only 25 percent of borrowers were taking membership in one social organization before loan but after taking loan 41.67 percent of women are involved in social organization. Only five percent of borrower

involved before joining this program but after that it was increased 33.33 percent of borrowers are involved in social program.

It shows that in this program shows that the members associating with social program has been significantly increased their participation in social organization.

a. Attending meeting of SO

Women in social organization has been increase like, Saathi is a non-governmental organization established in 1992 to address the different forms of violence and discrimination faced by Nepali women and girls. ... It has persistently continued its crusade for creating a safe and violence-free society where women and children can live with respect and dignity. It can be shows in the table 4.7 below,

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Meeting Attending in month	Number of Respondents	Percent	Meeting Attending in month	Number of Respondents	Percent
Not attending	36	60	Not attending	15	25
Two times	15	25	Two times	24	40
More than four	9	15	More than four	21	35
Total	60	100.00	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.7 shows that 60 percent of the borrowers of the study area were not attending meeting of any social organization before taking loan. After taking loan only 25 percent of respondents are participation. Likewise, two times 25 percent of borrowers were taking SO before loan but after loan 40 percent respondents are attending SO program. 15 percent borrowers are involved before taking loan but after that 35 percent are attending more than four times in SO program.

b. Change Self-confident level

Women who are initially shy and lacking in confidence in public slowly gain the confidence to express their opinions in public and may develop leadership qualities. The women increase their self-confident level after taking loan from the MFIs. It can be pretended in below table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Self-confident Level

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Self-confident	Number of Respondents	Percent	Self-confident	Number of Respondents	Percent
Ability to put Own interest to family	30	50	Ability to put own interest to family	12	20
Ability to put own say in the family	15	25	Ability to put own say in the family	24	40
Ability to put own say in community	15	25	Ability to put own say in community	24	40
Total	60	100.00	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In the above table shows the self-confident level of the women before and after taking the participation in microfinance program. There is similar change between them before and after that can be shows in the above figure.

4.4.3 Change in Decision-Making role in household

The decision making role in the household on schooling of children's of the borrowers families of the research area of Resunga Municipality before and after taking involving in MPC is presented in table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Schooling of children before and after

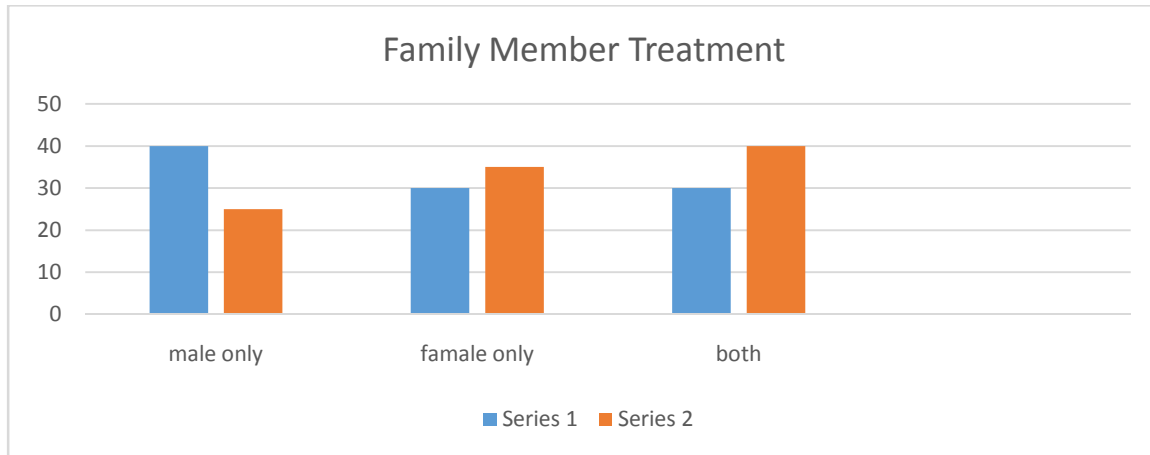
Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Schooling of children	Number of Respondents	Percent	Schooling of children	Number of Respondents	Percent
Male only	39	65	Male only	15	25
Female only	12	20	Female only	18	30
Both	9	15	Both	27	45
Total	60	100	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.9 shows that about 65 percent of borrowers family's male person of the study area had been making the decision about the schooling of the children before taking loans, but after taking it has been decreased and came down into 25 percent. 20 percent women take decision before and after 30 percent was increased schooling for their children. In the study are it found that 15 percent of respondents have both decision to schooling for their children before, and after it was increased by 45 percent shows in the study area.

a. Decisions on family member treatment

Women play a crucial role in the economic welfare of the family. ... Women are traditionally less involved in decision making at all levels. Their important role is not recognized and therefore, are hardly not accepted in decision-making. It can be shows in figure4.6 below,



Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure 4.6 shows about the 40 percent of the borrower's family's male person of the study had been making the decision about the family members treatment before loans, but after it was 25 percent it is little decrease. Likewise, 30 percent in both male and female are treatments before loan and after loan it was increased 35 and 40 percent respectively. It shows that after joining this program the borrower's family treatment condition was increased.

b. Decisions on Sale and buy livestock:

The decision making role about sale and buy of livestock of borrower's families of the study area of Resunga Municipality before and after taking loans is presented in figure 4.7.

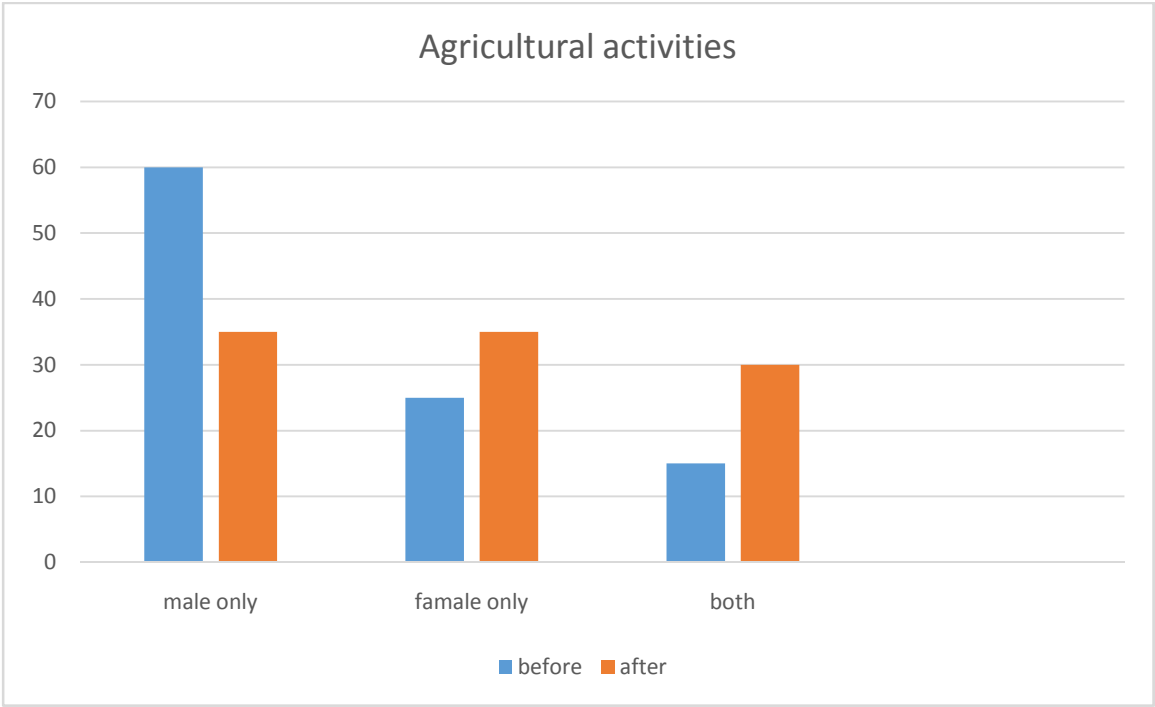


Source: Field Survey, 2021

Data on decision making role in household activities about sale and buy of livestock of borrowers show that the members associating with this programmer has significantly increased in their decision making role in household activities about that in the above figure.

c. Agriculture activities decision

The agriculture sector employs the largest number of women. Much of Nepal's agriculture, especially in the hills, depends on women but women still form less than 20 percent of the trainees in agricultural training programs. The decision making role about sale and boy of livestock of borrower’s families of the study area of Resunga Municipality before and after taking loans is presented in figure 4.8.



Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure 4.8 shows that about 60 percent of borrowers family’s male person of the study area had been making the decision about the agricultural activities before taking loans, but after taking it has been decreased and came down into 30 percent. 25 percent women take decision before and after 35 percent was increased in agriculture activities in the study area. In the study are it found that 15 percent of respondents have both decision to agriculture activities before, and after it was

increased by 30 percent shows in the study area. After joining in this program there is decision making both of them in house to buy or cultivate produced.

d. Buying Goods Decisions

The decision making role in the household on schooling of children's of the borrowers families of the research area of Resunga Municipality before and after taking involving in MPC is presented in table 4.10.

Table: 4.10. Decisions for Buying Goods

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Buying Goods Decisions	Number of Respondents	Percent	Buying Goods Decisions	Number of Respondents	Percent
Male only	30	50	Male only	12	20
Female only	18	30	Female only	21	35
Both	12	20	Both	27	45
Total	60	100.00	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.10 shows that about 50 percent of borrowers family's male person of the study area had been making the decision about the buying goods decisions before taking loans, but after taking it has been decreased and came down into 20 percent. 30 percent women take decision before and after 35 percent was increased buying goods. In the study are it found that 20 percent of respondents have both decision to household need or goods before, and after it was increased by 45 percent shows in the study area.

4.5 Economic Empowerment of women

Economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. For example, it enables households to make their own decisions around making investments in health

and education, and taking risks in order to increase their income. There is also some evidence that economic empowerment can strengthen vulnerable groups' participation in the decision-making.

When we talk about “economic empowerment of women” we must understand that the biggest problem that women face today is that their work is not recognized at all. Empowerment is then the process of obtaining these basic opportunities for marginalized people, either directly by those people, or through the help of non- marginalized others who share their own access to these opportunities. It also includes actively thwarting attempts to deny those opportunities. It also includes encouraging, and developing the skills for self-sufficiency, with a focus on eliminating the future need for charity or welfare in the individuals of the group.

Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps. The human development, economic and business gains from empowering women are substantial. Greater gender equality means a country is associated with better education and health, higher per capita income, faster and more inclusive economic growth, and greater international competitiveness.

There is a huge number of economically active women in Nepal who have no access to economic resources. Three quarters of the unpaid family labor force is comprised of women. A larger proportion of women (76 percent) than men (50 percent) are engaged in agricultural work, household based extended economic activities and household maintenance work. A lack of formal employment or alternative livelihood opportunities restrain women's participation in the country's economic growth, as well as discounting their contributions to it. Gender norms mean that women continue to undertake a disproportionate level of unpaid care tasks which in turn constrains their choice, including type and location, of paid work.

There are some indicators of economic empowerment of women like income before and after, change on control over income, and change in land ownership.

4.5.1 Income Before and After Loans

Women of the study area are demanded in different size of amount. It is usually difficult to table out individual household's income because the members of the household do not like to respond to this question for the fear of publicity of their economic status. It is difficult in a society like

ours where material wealth is used as a tool to place a family or an individual in the hierarchy of society. As a result, respondents give answers with caution. It considered are sales of crops and animal products. To know the change in income before and after the project intervention the personal questionnaire has been used.

Table 4.11: Income Before and After Loans

Before Borrowing		Income Group Per- Month	After Borrowing	
No. of the Borrowers	Percent		No. of the Borrowers	Percent
14	23.33	0-1500	-	-
30	50.00	1501-2500	12	20.00
9	15.00	2501-3500	32	53.33
7	11.67	3501-4500	10	16.67
-	-	Over 4501	6	10.00
60	100.00		60	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 4.11 illustrates the income effects after program intervention has been positive on the borrowers of the program in the study area. Table shows that before borrowing there is at least 24 percent of the borrowers who have income less or equal to Rs. 1500 but after program intervention it has reduced to 00 percent. Table further shows that before borrowing there are at least 50 percent of the borrowers who have income about 1501 to 2500 but after program intervention it has reduced to 20 percent. Likewise, table shows that before borrowing there is at least 15 percent of the borrowers who have income 2501 to 3500, and 11.67 percent of the borrowers who have income 3501 to 4500 but after program intervention those have increased to 53.33 percent and to 16.66 percent respectively. There was no one borrower intervention this frequency reaches to 10 percent.

4.5.2 Change on control over Income

We can describe about their income how they spend before and after participation in the program in the study area with the help of table in below.

Table 4.12 Control over Income

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Control over Income	Number of Respondents	Percent	Control over Income	Number of Respondents	Percent
Given to husband and other	34	56.67	Given to husband and other	12	20.00
Kept by self but ask when spending	18	30.00	Kept by self but ask when spending	28	46.67
Kept by self but spend as per own will	8	13.33	Kept by self but spend as per own will	20	33.33
Total	60	100	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.12 illustrates the control over income of the borrowers before and after taking loan from MFIs. 56.67 percent borrowers of the study area had been giving their income to their husband or other persons of the family before taking loan but after taking loan it has been decreased and reduced into 20 percent. According to the research 30 percent respondents of the study area had been keeping their income by self but asked to their husband or other persons of the family when they have to spent their income before taking loan but after loan it has increased and reached into 46.67 percent only 13.33percent borrowers of the study area had been keeping their income by

self and spend as their own interest before taking loans from MFIs. But after taking loans it has been reached into 33.33 percent.

4.5.3 Change on Land Ownership

In Nepal, only 19.7% of women own land. In 2015 the Government changed the law and today, there is a 25-50% discount on the registration fee when the land is registered under to women's name. After the new civil code in 2018 daughters are entitled to keep their share of their parent property after getting married.

Land rights equity is seen as an important tool for increasing empowerment and economic welfare for women in developing countries. Using the 2001 and 2011 Nepal Demographic and Health Surveys and relevant econometric techniques, we find that land ownership has a positive and significant impact on women's empowerment. Land ownership of the respondents of the study area of the Resuga Municipality before and after taking loan from MFIs is presented in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Land Ownership

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Land Size	Number of Borrowers	Percent	Land Size	Number of Borrowers	Percent
No Land	50	83.33	No Land	49	81.67
1>-2 Ropani	4	6.67	1>-2 Ropani	5	8.33
2>-3 Ropani	4	6.67	2>-3 Ropani	4	6.67
3>Ropani	2	3.33	3>Ropani	2	3.33
Total	60	100	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.13 illustrates that only 16.67 percent of the borrowers have their own land in her name. There is only there is only 3.33 percent change in land ownership of the respondents before loan. 83.33 percent women are still without their own land. Change in the land ownership is also not because of the loan, but because of the remittance from foreign. Data on land ownership shows that there is no effect of loan on land. It means that the land loan does not play any role in the field of land ownership.

4.6 Change in Living Standards

Living standards is the real level of consumption and economic welfare of a person or a population. It is generally measured by calculating the value of goods and services consumed over a period of time. Or it is a level of material comfort as measured by the goods, services, and luxuries available to an individual, group, or nation and there are some indicators of the living standards which are as follows like change in house structure, change in fuel for cooking, source of drinking water, communication and media, daily food intake, and consumption of cloths and duality.

Savings and credit as an initial inducement for group formation serves a useful purpose in bringing women together. It also could help women to raise household living standards to some extent and to meet emergency needs from group funds at reasonable interest rates. It empowers women to the extent that household members and the women themselves feel that they are contributing to the maintenance of the household. This recognition by themselves, their immediate family members, and the local community seem to be the most valued aspects of these small savings/credit and income-generation programs.

4.6.1 Change in House Structure

The traditional Nepali house design consists of thick stone walls, a thatched roof made of either hay, stone, or tin, and a paste of manure and clay (kamero) for the painting. They also have wooden pillars. Home structure is also a indicator of living standard. It can be present in the table below.

Table 4.14: House Structure

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Type of House	Number of Borrowers	Percent	Type of House	Number of Borrowers	Percent
Stone, Mud and Straw	7	11.67	Stone, mud and straw	2	3.33
Stone, mud and stone	18	30.00	Stone, mud and stone	30	30.00
Stone, mud and tin	35	58.33	Stone, mud and tin	40	66.67
Total		100	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In this table shows that the control over income of the borrowers before and after taking loan form MFIS. Data on house structure of respondents shows that the members associating with this program have not significantly but moderately able to made better house structure then before taking participation in micro credit program.

In the study area shows that the province five government also provided tin without any cost so that in this area almost people have stone, mud and tin house. It is good to see that.

4.6.2 Change in Fuel for Cooking

For this it can be similar change in the study area for using of fuel for cooking. It does not matter about joining the MFIs only few people used bio-Gas for cooking tea only. Almost every people in the study area they used wood for their daily activities. The most pressing energy sector issues for women include access to various kinds of energy including fuel wood for cooking. Community forestry projects have generated much interest among women in last few years and should be further expanded. The bio-gas ovens distributed widely have made women's lives much easier and women appreciate them. In Nepal, ADB's energy sector lending in the near future appears likely to focus on medium-sized hydro-electric power stations. A major social

problem with such projects could be the involuntary resettlement of the people in the project areas.

4.6.3 Change in Source of Drinking Water

Table 4.15 shows source of drinking water that used by the borrowers of the study area of the Resunga Municipality of Gulmi District before and after taking loan from microfinance. In the study area the government itself provide the drinking water for the people. There are lots of change in the study area. We can shows in table below.

Before Borrowing			After Borrowing		
Source of Water	Number of Borrowers	Percent	Source of Water	Number of Borrowers	Percent
Local tap	28	46.67	Local tap	24	40.00
Own tap	14	23.33	Own tap	20	33.33
River or stream	12	20.00	River or Stream	6	10.00
Tap from Gov/NGOs	6	10.00	Tap from Gov/ NGOs	10	16.67
Total	60	100	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

This table shows that 46.67 percent borrowers of the study area had been using local tap before taking loan. But after the participation in MPC, 40 percent respondents have been using local tap. 23.33 percent of respondents of the study area had been using their own tap before taking loan. But after the participation in MFP 33.33 percent respondents have been using their own tap. 20 percent of respondents are bring water from river before MPC after joining MFP then it decrease 10 percent. 10 percent of people had been using those tap which was made by government or NGOs before taking loans, but after taking loans there is a little change in it, 16.67 percent of the borrowers of the study area have been using those taps which was made by Government/ NGOs.

4.6.5 Having Communication and Media

Most widely used means of communication in Nepal are radio, telephone, television, mobile, newspaper, etc. Communication in Nepal has developed in the recent years. Few people could afford radio and telephone. Gorkha patra, the first newspaper of Nepal was published during that time. The data on communication and media shows that there is a little increasing numbers of borrowers after the participation in micro finance program. Due to the foreign employment in the rural area almost every person have their own phone. There is vast different between the five six years.

Table 4.16: About communication and media

S.N.	Communication media	Before	After
1	Radio	10.00	11.67
2	T.V.	20.00	21.67
3	Mobile	35.00	38.33
4	Radio + Mobile	15.00	16.67
5	Radio + Mobile	6.67	6.67
6	T.V. + Mobile	13.33	5.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.16 shows the having means of communication and media of the borrowers families. In the above table shows the information about the before and after joining of MFPS. Since, the today words are using internet in everywhere in the worlds so that now every respondents have their own phone. In the above figure more of the respondents use mobile for the communication with their family and friends. Due to the above table I think it does not need to be describe.

4.6.6. Daily Food Intake

This is the main healthy daily produced for us. So we use quality food for our health activates. The increase of quality and consumption of different food which is used by the borrower's families after the participation on microfinance program in the study area of Resunga Municipality of Gulmi District.

4.17: Food items Intake in Regular Time Schedule

S.N.	Food items	No increase	Increase
1	Milk	55.56	44.44
2	Fruits	44.44	55.56
3	Meat	60.00	40.00
4	Egg	60.00	40.00
5	Vegetables	40.00	60.00
6	Balance Food	33.33	66.67

Source: Field Survey,2021

There is significant increase in quality of foods items in regular time schedule in milk, fruits, meat, egg, vegetables and balance like 55.56, 44.44, 60, 60, 40 and 33.33 before the micro finance program. After taking the participation there is 44.44, 55.56. 40, 40, 60 and 66.67.it shows that there is significantly different between the daily food intakes of the research area. Their daily food was increased after joining the program and then they used quality food as well.

4.6.7 Consumption of Cloths and Duality

In the last few years, Nepal's fashion industry has grown exponentially. There are more local fashion brands, retail clothing stores, and fashion boutiques than ever before. This growth has also given rise to the culture of celebrating the works of fashion designers, photographers, and makeup artists. Impact of micro-credit program in Resunga Municipality on consumption scenario is presented in Table 4.18.

Table: 4.18 Cloths and Duality

S.N.	Consumption of Cloths and Duality	Before	After
1	Cloths	40	60
2	Ornaments	15	85
3	Cosmetic goods	30	70

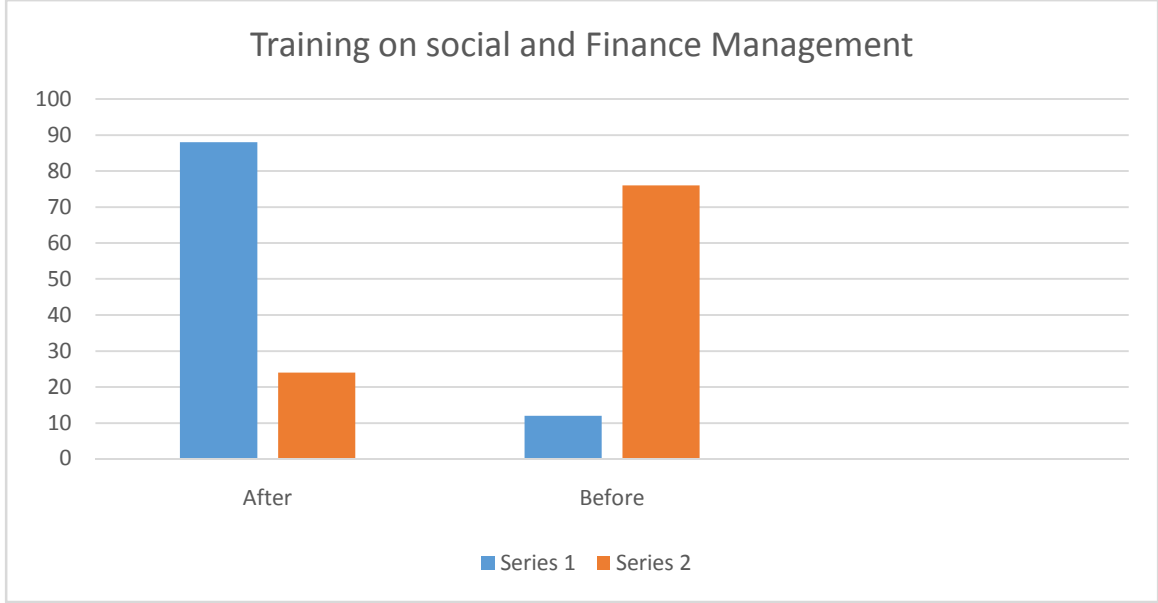
Source: Field Survey, 2021

The above Table shows the consumption scenario on different goods that there is significant increase in the quality and consumption of goods. This means that the impact of micro finance programmer in Resunga Municipality on consumption scenario is positive. Though it is positive, this can sometimes be a misleading indicator of economic welfare. It does not take into account either peculiarities of prices, black market and non-monetary economic activities, or factors such as the quality of a person’s living and working environment.

4.7. Training

Public Finance Management Training Center is established under the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, with the objective of conducting training to make the employees working in the field of public finance efficient and competent, conducting interactions, seminars and workshops on current issues related to public finance and conducting studies and research in the field of public finance. Under this heading we have taken different kinds training and effectiveness of training provided by MFIs for the team building in the study area. Under this heading we have taken different kinds training and effectiveness of training provided by MFIs for the team building in the study area.

Table 4.9 Training on Social and Finance Management



Source: Field Survey, 2021

The figure no. 4.9 presented indicates that 88 percent of respondents have improved their social awareness and financial management after joining the group under MF program. Before participation in MF program, 76 percent of the total respondents did not have any idea of social awareness and financial management skills. Only 24 percent of the respondents were capable and developed their skill to others in the groups or masses. But now still 12 percent of the total borrowers are lack of social awareness and financial management skills.

4.7.1 Effectiveness of Training Provided by MFIs

This can be describe with the help of give pie charts.

Figure: 4.10 Effectiveness of Training



Source: Field Survey, 2021

Figure 4.10 shows that training of MF groups are very useful in Resunga Municipality. 46 percent of the total respondents surveyed had found that training which providing by MFIs have been very helpful for respondents, 36 percent of borrowers though trainings are only helpful. 18 percent of total respondents are not decided about training.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the study presents whole summary of the study, conclusion and recommendations for further improvements.

5.1 Summary of Finding

The study on participation of women in microfinance program was carried out in working area of MFI. The women development is related to long term changes in the society which is associated with the growth and expansion of material and social welfare of women. Thus women development is a relative concept which has to be measured with the relative growth in material welfare and change in the women's social, economical, political, legal, educational and cultural structure of the society. In broad view women development includes humanitarian, physical and intellectual satisfaction. The main purpose of women development is to increase to the women participation on income generating activities and other political, legal, social, and organization aspect.

Microfinance was started in Nepal with the establishment of Regional Rural Development Banks (RRDBs) in the government sector since 1992. Besides this the open and private sector- led growth strategy since 1990, a few microfinance development banks were established as replications of Grameen model, Bangladesh. Following these, several saving and credit cooperatives and financial intermediately NGOs like (FINGOs) are providing microfinance services in various parts of the country including three apex lending, agencies, viz rural microfinance development center (RMDC), Rural Self-Reliance Fund (RSRFs) and Sana Kisan Bikas Bank (SKKB) established under the different acts.

The institutions involved in micro credit incorporate both national as well as international institutions. International institutions includes bilateral and multilateral agencies and international non-government organizations (INGOs) supporting directly or indirectly for expansion of microfinance activities in Nepal. The national institutions include banks, non-government organizations (NGOs) and cooperative registered within the existing regulatory framework of the country.

On the one hand, there are Agricultural Development Bank (ADB/N), Commercial Banks (CB), Development Banks (DB), and Regional Rural Development Banks (RRDBs) are the formal institutions. On the other hand, finance companies, saving and credit cooperative, FINGOs and social and financial intermediately, NGOs are semi -formal financial institutions operating in Nepal. In the contrast of Nepal the central bank takes the responsibility of keeping records of credit and reimbursement to the participating bands. It also provides re-finance facilities to the ADB/N and RRDBs and also executes donor- funded microfinance programs though the participating organizations.

So interpreting this fact, the researcher has selected social nexus between participation and economic status of women in micro-finance program in Resunga Municipality of Gulmi district as a topic of the study area. The objectives of the study is to find out the economic status of women, social empowerment of the women in Resunga Municipality and to examine the effect of micro finance program on living standard of women in Resunga Municipality.

Swabalamban Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (SWBBL) is a microfinance financial institution. With mission of delivering sustainable microfinance services at the doorstep of the deprived sector target societies; SWBBL, was registered with the company Registrar's Office as a limited, company under the companies Act, 2053 on October 5 2001 (Ashwin 19, 2058) and obtained license from Nepal Rastra Bank-the Central Bank of Nepal on January 3, 2002 to operate the financial activities under Development Bank Act, 2052.

Microfinance originally evolved as 'microcredit' to targeted people has changed a lot over the years. Microfinance, started through an NGO and cooperatives as a movement to cater financial services to the poor, is now recognized as a tool to enhance financial inclusion, women empowerment and promoting self-employment thereby helping to alleviate poverty. SWBBL is a national level microfinance institution promoted with initiatives of Center for Self-help Development (CSD) along with CBs Himalayan Bank Ltd, Nepal Investment Bank Ltd, Nabil Bank Ltd, and individual promoters committed toward poverty alleviation.

SWBBL is serving the deprived and socio-economically marginalized communities in all 7 provinces in the country from the Himalayan region to plane Terai region. It provides financial services namely microcredit, saving, micro-insurance/ security service, remit service, and social mobilization as well. SWBBL is expanding its outreach to serve the un-served and under-served

population. It is aware of client protection, social performance, and sustainability issues. It continuously revisits and refines its products, services, delivery models and channels so as to address clients' needs and preferences.

This is the details of SWBBL microfinance in the month of Ashoj 2078 in the below:

	Amount in NPR
1. Total Loan Distributed	138,803,673
2. Loan Outstanding	18,999,635
3. Savings	10,935,785
4. No. of Active Clients	253277
5. No. of Borrowers	157091
6. No. of Centers	13592
7. No. of staff	723
8. No. of Female Staff	126
9. No. of Branch Offices	145
10. Working Districts	61
11. No. of Area Offices	9

The data is collected in Swabalamban Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd, Tamghas Branch. SWBBL was establish in 2065 shawran 1. The total number of staff was six, out of them only one female staff was there. The manager of this microfinance is shiva Raj bista, they provided all of the information about the microfinance active member, loan, interest rate, ect. There are 2500 member committee, only 121 female members are involved in the microfinance. The main target is to provide loan to the women in the rural area. The data can be shows from month of bhadra, ashoj and kartik 2078.

-) They provided loan to the poor or medium women oneto five lakhs without collator 14 percent interest rate and 5-15 lakhs loan provided with collator with 12-15 percent interest rate with adding 2 percent service charge.
-) Around twelve corers investment in business, agriculture, farm, hotel, etc, and ten corers 67 lakhs saving, and 12 corers fund as well.

-) They give vehicle to the hotel business person in low interest rate, there are 45 percent Brahmin and chhettri, 40 percent dalits, and 15 percent janajati involved in microfinance.

Finding are as followers:

-) There are significantly increased on women participation in social organization, on self confidence level, on meeting attending, vital position hold in social organization, and positive thinking towards them from society after intervention of program.
-) There are positive impact on gender discrimination in household sector for child care, food sector, cleaning house, washing clothes, feeding cattle and soon.
-) There is change in household sector because microfinance provided loan to the women, there are lots of change in education, social and economical sector.
-) There is significant change in income sources and occupation.
-) There is significance increase in decision making role in household sector for education for children, sale and buy of livestock, agricultural sector, and buying goods and services on the respondents of the program of study area.
-) There are vast different between participation before and after joining the program like in nutritious food, social program, saving activities, health care sector also increased after involved in micro finance program.
-) The impact on living standards on borrowers is also found positive. The study area found that there is make better house structure, toilet, quality in food consumption like vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, cloths, and cosmetic good after the involved of the program.
-) But there is no change in land ownership after and before program. The income of the borrowers are also found positive.
-) It has positive impact on empowering women giving the training of knowledge gathering on social awareness and skill about the financial management after participation in microfinance program.

5.2 Conclusion

Micro finance program is being one of the popular programs to address for poor people's issues in the Nepal, it has a powerful impact on women's economic and social

empowerment and living standard of women. Since micro-credit institutions which are established in Resunga Municipality is not always empowering for all women and not able to positive impact on living standards of women, but also in social sector improved. Some women do experience of good degree then they have a better living standard as a result.

Those women who has not accessed formal sector credit and organized in society microfinance program might be addressed their problems. Within the microfinance program various activities have been done to empower the people and uplift their socio-economic and improve their family condition and environment. Microfinance program highly support to that women and family whose life standard is very low and per-capita income is vulnerable.

The challenges faced by the institutions vary depending upon the type of financial institution as banks, finance companies, NGOs, INGOs, co-operative societies and self-help group that are participating in this program with different functional strategies. The strategic challenges are related with planning, controlling mechanism and external policy environment. Unclear vision and mission statement, lack of commitment, multiple regulatory framework and policy inconsistencies constrain the sustainable growth of micro-finance institutions in the country. Inadequacy of resource and lack of linkage mechanism between informal and formal financial sector, duplication of activities, widening intense competition in urban and semi-urban areas, inadequate attention towards the loan delinquency management and control to poor human resources development efforts are perceived as the operational challenges.

In our cases, access to credit may be the only input needed to start women on the road to empowerment and living standard. But power is deeply rooted in our social systems and values. All aspects of our lives from our family to our communities, personal dreams and aspirations to our economic opportunities. It is unlikely that any one intervention such as the provision of credit or the provision of training will completely alter power and gender

relations. Women often value the non-economic benefits of a group-lending program as much as or more than the credit.

Participation in the microfinance program has empowered women in varying degree. It has offered opportunities for poor women to come out of their household confines, to organize themselves in group and work in productive and social activities. The program with its focus on group activities and income generation has helped to enhance the self-confidence and increased right to spend, thus increasing the access to resources.

After taking participation on microfinance program some of the most valued benefits that get women include increased on women participation in social organization, raised household decision-making power, decrease discrimination within family as well as society, increased respect and prestige from both male and female relatives and community members, able to generate income and able to uplift living standards of their families.

Women's mobility has increased due to their participation in monthly meetings, trainings, meeting with outsider and exposure visits. They did not hesitate to meet outsiders, unlike in the past they had not joined the MF program. Training for improving farming technique and micro enterprises has helped members to shift from the traditional agriculture to cash production, which yields higher returns.

5.3 Recommendation

Moving towards women participation, requires a new way of thinking in which the women and men give way to a new philosophy that regards all people as essential against of change. With equity and equality, women and men together can participation in building more just, secured and sustainable societies. To end thus some recommending for the way forward are as follows.

-) The most important step is that the current strategy of solely providing loan has to be modified. A package program of training course related to skill development activities,

ingeneration and business promotion and educating women should supplement loans, agriculture extension. Such training will educate and train the poor and uneducated respondents, allowing them to make safer and more profitable investment.

-) The government should promote the microfinance program by upgrading technical skills, reenergizing the sector and reforming state-owned provides. The government should also articulate vision for the sector with a real map on how to improve access to financial service for low-income households and identify that the shaft in the sector is a priority.
-) Rural financial program makes women active and emotional but lack of skill and knowledge of economically productive activities pulled back their enthusiasm. Training from non-formal education to market led economic activities be imparted in order to boost of their economic. Productive ability, market potentiality, identification of native talent and transfer of skills and capability.
-) Microfinance target young women right after their marriage, extended repayment period, lower interest rate, other extra facilities should be provided as incentives to those women so that they can be independent right from beginning of their relationship with their husbands and in-laws.
-) Women can cooperate and work towards a common goal instead of competing each other. A group of women is more powerful than single women. Group lending also allows women to solve problems in their business much better.
-) There is high cost in agricultural based activities it should be need to shift the program from agriculture based to small industries and business promoted activities.
-) Training and technical assistance must be designed properly through systematic training need analysis does not necessarily improve the performance of MFIs.
-) Group saving are great important in rural economy. So that some of the saving are scheme, but it is not sufficient there is needed to adopt incremental approach.
-) MFIs should develop practical and varied training courses related to skill development, entrepreneurship development, income generating and business promotion as per the need of particular community.
-) Interest rate must be decreased and loan amount must be increased.
-) Those communities who are especially socially backward community's women. Lower caste women are better enforcing to involve under this program. It means not of boycotting of other community group of women.

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Annex: 1

List of Respondents

S.N.	Name of Respondents	Income per months		Loan Amounts	Income Generated by Loan	Saving Per Month	Per		
		Before	After						
1	Madhu magar	4000	5000	15000	1600	100			
2	Sita pun magar	2000	4500	15000	1650	80			
3	Sila kami	2500	3200	10000	1150	200			
4	Nirmila pandey	2500	3000	30000	3000	100			
5	Tika rana magar	2500	4000	15000	1600	250			
6	Laxmi kami	1500	3000	20000	2200	75			
7	Puspa bista	2000	4000	15000	1600	100			
8	Nainakali kami	2500	3500	15000	1600	120			
9	Mangali nepali	1500	2000	30000	3400	150			
10	Dilmaya khadka	3000	4000	15000	1700	140			
11	Rita newar	4000	5500	30000	3150	200			
12	Goma b.k	1500	2000	15000	1200	100			
13	Nira Bhandari	1500	2500	10000	1300	75			
14	Muna magar	2500	3000	25000	2900	100			
15	Hima Shrestha	2500	3200	15000	1600	150			
16	Pabitra basnet	4000	4500	20000	2250	100			
17	Bhawana Pradhan	2500	3000	15000	1700	125			

18	Kalpana pandey	3000	3500	20000	2200	140		
19	Asmita sapkota	4000	5000	30000	3300	80		
20	Kumara basnet	5000	8000	35000	3600	100		
21	Kamala Shrestha	2000	3000	15000	1250	150		
22	Nita Shrestha	1500	2000	10000	1200	100		
23	Sangita poudel	1000	2000	10000	1000	100		
24	Harikala basnet	1500	2500	15000	1500	100		
25	Ganga basnet	2500	3000	15000	1500	100		
26	Shilabasnet	2000	2800	10000	1000	100		
27	Shardha pokhrel	2500	3500	20000	2100	200		
28	Menuka kami	2500	3000	20000	2400	200		
29	Sarala magar	1000	2000	15000	1700	200		
30	NumaG.c	1500	2200	15000	1600	200		
31	Puspa thapa	3000	6000	20000	2300	200		
32	Bipana magar	3000	4000	25000	2800	50		
33	Susila b.k	3000	4500	30000	3200	50		
34	Susma poudel	2000	3500	15000	1500	50		
35	Shanti pokhrel	2000	2500	17000	1800	50		
36	Sunita Bhandari	1500	2000	18000	2000	50		
37	Devekala Bhandari	1000	1500	10000	1300	100		
38	Tulsa khadka	1000	2500	21000	2300	150		
39	Sarmila kandel	1000	2000	22000	2200	150		

40	Tulsi sharma	2500	4000	27000	2700	150		
41	Sita chhettri	2500	3500	15000	1250	150		
42	Sarala gurung	4000	5000	20000	2100	150		
43	Muna chettri	3000	4000	15000	1100	200		
44	Radhika khalal	1500	2000	20000	2150	200		
45	Kamala basnet	1500	2500	20000	2200	175		
46	Kalpna gurung	2000	3500	20000	2500	175		
47	Sita pun magar	2000	4000	20000	2400	175		
48	Umkala gharti m	2500	4000	15000	1500	100		
49	Meena bista	3500	4000	15000	1400	100		
50	Sapana karki	3500	4500	10000	1200	100		
51	Lalita gurung	1500	2500	10000	1000	75		
52	Punam basnet	2000	3000	25000	2400	100		
53	Madhu Pradhan	4000	5000	25000	2500	200		
54	Shove gyawali	4000	6000	15000	1500	300		
55	Magali kami	3000	4000	10000	1200	150		
56	Soma basnet	2000	3000	20000	2200	150		
57	Shakti gurung	3500	5500	20000	2000	150		
58	Manu gurung	2500	4000	20000	2100	150		
59	Radha magar	2000	4000	20000	2200	150		
60	Lila basnet`	2500	4000	20000	2300	150		

Annex-1
QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Personal information

- i. Name of Respondent
Municipality: Resunga Tamghas Phone:
- ii. Caste/ ethnic group
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. Brahamn () | b. Gurung () |
| c. Chhetri () | d. Newar () |
| e. Magar () | f. Dalits () |
| g. Gurung () | |
- iii. Age
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| a. 20-30 () | b. 30-40 () |
| c. 40-50 () | d. 50-60 () |
| e. 60 and above () | |
- iv. Marital Status
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. Single () | b. Married () |
| c. Widow () | d. Divorced () |
- v. Education Level
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Illiterate () | b. Literate () |
| c. Primary () | d. lower Secondary () |
| e. Secondary () | f. Higher education () |

2. Economic Status and Participation of Respondents in MFP

- i. Main occupation
- Before: Participating in MFP
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| a. Agriculture () | b. Vegetable () |
| c. Business () | d. Buffalo () |
| e. Poultry () | f. Goat () |
- After: Participated in MFP
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| a. Agriculture () | b. Vegetable () |
| c. Business () | d. Buffalo () |
| e. Poultry () | f. Goat () |

- ii. How to entrance in this program?
Others () Group ()
Pressure of friends () Own Initiative ()
- iii. How did you feel to entered in the group?
Very difficult () Difficult ()
Normal () Easy ()
Very easy ()
- iv. Why did you join this program?
To earn more income and to improve family condition()
To have company with friends ()
To be self-dependent ()
Other Specify ()

3. Social empowerment of women from MF program

- i. Is there any change in social participation?
Yes () No ()
If yes,
a. Membership of social organization
Before () how much After () how much
b. Attending meeting of social organization
Before () how many After () how many
- ii. Is there any change in self confidence level?
Yes () No ()
If yes then,
a. Ability to put own interest to family
Before () After ()
b. Ability to put own say in social discuss
Before () After ()
- iii. Is there any change in decision making role in household activities?
Yes () No ()
If yes, then
a. Schooling of children
Male only: Before () After ()
Female only: Before () After ()
Both Before () After ()

- b. Family member treatment:
- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Male only: | Before () | After () |
| Female only: | Before () | After () |
| Both | Before () | After () |
- c. Sale and buy of livestock:
- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Male only: | Before () | After () |
| Female only: | Before () | After () |
| Both | Before () | After () |
- d. Agricultural activities decision
- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Male only: | Before () | After () |
| Female only: | Before () | After () |
| Both | Before () | After () |
- e. Buying goods decision
- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Male only: | Before () | After () |
| Female only: | Before () | After () |
| Both | Before () | After () |

4. Economic Empower of women from MF program

- i. Average monthly income before and after joining the programs (in rupees)
- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Before () | After () |
|------------|-----------|
- ii. Is there any change in control over income?
- | | |
|---------|--------|
| Yes () | No () |
|---------|--------|
- If yes, then
- | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| a. Give to husband or other: | Before() | After () |
| b. Kept by self but ask while spending | Before() | After() |
| c. Kept by self and spend as per own will | Before() | After() |
- iii. Do you have any land in your name?
- | | |
|---------|--------|
| Yes () | No () |
|---------|--------|
- iv. Is there any change in your land ownership?
- | | |
|---------|--------|
| Yes () | No () |
|---------|--------|
- If yes, then: Before how much () After how much ()

5. Status of living standard

- i. Is there any change in your house after joining this program?
- | | |
|---------|--------|
| Yes () | No () |
|---------|--------|
- If yes, then what types of house is,
Before: made with stone, mud and straw

Made with stone, mud and stone
Made with stone, mud and tin

After: made with stone, mud and straw
Made with stone, mud and stone
Made with stone, mud and tin

- ii. Is there only change in the use of fuel for cooking after joining this program?
Yes () No ()
If yes then,
Before: Firewood () Kerosene () biogas () others ()
After: Firewood () Kerosene () biogas () others ()
- iii. Is there any change in source of drinking water used by your family after joining this program?
Yes () No ()
Before: local toilet () Flush Toilet () Not Toilet ()
After: local toilet () Flush Toilet () Not Toilet ()
- iv. Is there any increase in quality and consumption of foods after joining this program?
Yes () No ()
- v. Is there any change in source of drinking water used by your family after joining this program?
Yes () No ()
If yes, then
Before: local tap () own tap ()
River () made by Gov/NGO ()
After: local tap () own tap ()
River () made by Gov/NGO ()
- vi. Is there any change in having communication media after joining this program?
Yes () No ()
If yes, then
Before: Radio () Television ()
Mobile () others ()
After: Radio () Television ()
Mobile () others ()
- vii. Is there any increase in the quality and use of cloths that your family wears?
Yes () No ()

