

Involvement of Women in Rural Drinking Water Supply System
[A Study of Water Supply System in Arba Village, Kaski]

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, Kirtipur Campus,
Tribhuvan University, for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts in Sociology**

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March, 2017

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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This thesis entitled “Involvement of Women in Rural Drinking Water Supply System” submitted to the department of Sociology, Kirtipur Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur by *Mrs. Pramila Ghimire* has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology by the undersigned member of the thesis committee.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Dr. Manahari Dhakal, owing to his excellent guidance and help to bring this thesis in this form.

I would like to thank Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey, the Head of the Central Department of Sociology, Kirtipur Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur as well as all of the faculty members for their help and kind regards.

I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Central Department of Sociology, Kirtipur Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, for providing the reference materials. I also appreciate and thank my friends and family members for their benevolent help and encouragement during the thesis work.

I would like to acknowledge the president of WUC of new RWSSP, Nar Bahadur Baral for providing the secondary data needed for this work. I would like to thank the whole WUC, Arba for providing information regarding the new RWSSP.

At last but not the least, I feel pride to give my thanks to all respondents, who gave me valuable information which helped me to complete this research work in due time.

ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled “Involvement of Women in Rural Drinking Water Supply System” was undertaken based on the study of new rural water supply and sanitation project in Arba village with an objectives of examining the effectiveness of current applicable laws, regulations and policies implemented to facilitate women’s participation in one hand and in the other hand to explore cultural barriers, socio economic limiting issues, challenges and obstacles to women’s participation in community development projects.

Both qualitative and quantitative data were obtained through primary and secondary sources applying census method for the surveyed population using interview, focus group discussion and observation as tools and techniques. Explorative and descriptive research designs are used and data is processed by spreadsheet computer program.

Even though several decades have passed with establishment of separate ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare, National Women’s Commission, different provisions made in the Civil Service Administrator Act, and ADB provisions for women’s participation in community development projects, the result is not that satisfactory as expected. Women’s are found just sought to fulfill 33% quota in different committees and women are often excluded. Women’s exclusion often stems from traditional and deeply rooted gender differences where women, compared to men are not given same right and opportunities. The cultural barriers and socio economic obstacles and challenges hinder female participation are still found.

However, in the new RWSSP, though need driven project, from preconception to construction, operation and management the women’s participation is found better. This participation is known to have reduced the time consumption, work overload and increased participation of women in social and development activities. Women’s committee formation, inclusion in water users’ committee, involvement in decision making, utilization of leisure time with income generating activities, health and sanitation, economic empowerment are some positive indicators for women’s involvement. Similarly, some more works for capacity improvement, training, education and motivation for skill development are still a need to transform the stage of increased involvement in development projects.

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
DWSS	Drinking Water Supply and Sewage
EFA	Education for All
FWLD	Forum for Women, Law and Development
GAD	Gender and Development
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GON	Government of Nepal
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
HFA	Health for All
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
JAKPAS	Janta Ko Khanepani tatha Sarsafai
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MHP	Micro Hydro Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
RWSSFDB	RWSS Fund Development Board
RWSSP	RWSS Project
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
VDC	Village Development Committee
WID	Women in Development
WUC	Water Users' Committee
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activity

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

As resolution passed by the General Assembly of United Nations on 28th July 2010, access to the safe drinking water is the “Right” of every citizen. The resolution statement was “Safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights” (United Nations, 2011). By the end of the UN water supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), the coverage substantially increased to 36% of the total population with 33% and 67% coverage in rural and urban areas respectively. The recent report produced by NMIIP, GWSS, 2009 indicates that national water coverage is to 80% (WaterAid, 2011).

The Dublin conference (1992) on water and environment came with a water declaration, commonly known as the Dublin Statement which has been a landmark in recent history of water resource management. The declaration sets out recommendations for action at local, national and international levels to reduce the scarcity, through the following four guiding principles (United Nations, 1992):

Principle 1: Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment

Principle 2: Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels

Principle 3: Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water

Principle 4: Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good

Nepal has abundant water resources. But the history of the supplied drinking water is not very old. The planned development of water supply and sanitation started since Fourth Plan (1970-1975) of

the country when the national coverage of the water supply system was only about 4%. An institution named “Department of Drinking Water Supply and Sewage” (DWSS) was established during that period. Peoples’ Drinking Water and Sanitation Program called “Janata ko Khanepani Tatha Sarsafai” (JAKPAS) was implemented with Japanese Grant Facility/WB support project (1993-96). The implementation of the plan caused a demand driven community led participatory approach in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) service delivery. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (RWSSFDB or simply called Fund Board) was established in 1996 under Development Board Act to implement this project. An IDA credit was availed to implement RWSS project (RWSSP, 1996-2004) mainly based on the experience of JAKPAS. 945 water supply schemes were completed, benefiting 600,000 people in 49 Districts of Nepal under RWSS. This huge success leads to extension of RWSS to RWSSP-II (2004-2009). This project initially targeted to benefit 800,000 people and the additional grant of \$27 Million grant has extended the target to benefit one Million people (World Bank, 2015)

National Water Supply Policy, 1997, Nepal was formulated with objectives of providing clean, safe and adequate quantity of water is the basic human right of every citizen and that it is the responsibility of the state to ensure its provision to all citizens, is committed for provision of adequate quantity of safe drinking water to the entire population at an affordable cost and in an equitable, efficient and sustainable manner (Bhattra, 1997). Nepal is pursuing two major targets in the water supply and sanitation sector. As per Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Target-7 set by the UN, by the year 2015, the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation should be reduced by half. The national target is to provide universal access to basic water and sanitation by 2017 BS.

Participation means putting the last first or commonly called as Bottom Up Approach. Participation is also partnership. The concept of partnership comes very close to the concept of empowerment. John M. Cohen and Norman T. Uphoff viewed participation with regard to development projects as “people’s involvement in decision making process, in implementing program, their sharing in the benefits of development programs” and their involvement in efforts to evaluate such program (John & Norman, 1980).

Water is crucial for sustainable development. However, limited access to clean and safe water associated with poor water supply, hygiene and sanitation at household level is widening the poverty gap, gender inequalities and the prevalence of water borne diseases, (GWA, 2006). The efficient participation tools that encourage female participation within the water management at all societal levels constitute a vital element for promoting sustainable and efficient water supply management and distribution. This is important in two aspects. Firstly, improving female involvement contributes to reduce gender inequalities in general as well as with regard to water management. Secondly, recognizing and addressing gender issues also results in improved female participation within water management, (Wallace & Coles, 2005) ,

A committee was formed in Arba village for rural water supply and sanitation with a purpose of making available safe drinking water supply for Arba village with water source located about 9 Km away from the main reservoir tank. It was formed on 2062 and the water source was registered. The facilitator NGO, Trinetra Samudayik Vikas Pratisthan, Nepal, the economic aid of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Board, Nepal along with the local committee participation, this project was completed before the deadline and now people are enjoying safe drinking water in Arba village.

Many developments have been accomplished with people's participation in the recent days. However, the role and participation of Nepalese women in local development have not been enough in the present context. The World Bank estimates that participation of women and men in public activities and decision making processes is greatly unequal. The women are not only sparsely represented at government level, but also at community and household level. Women are, particularly in rural areas, often completely excluded since political activities and decision making processes are considered male responsibilities.

In acknowledging the situation in Nepal and in understanding the importance of women involvement, the focus of this study is to investigate women's role and participation in rural drinking water supply system (RWSSP) of Arba village, Kaski.

1.2 Statement of the problem

In 1960s, the global trend was to encourage economic growth by enlarging gross national products, foreign trades, investment etc. This strategy aimed to increase individual dividends by increasing the size of economy. In actual term, however the result of economic growth went to higher hierarchy and the benefits were not “trickled down” to poor group. Instead it widened the disparity of income distribution and poverty among poorer groups. The “Failure of conventional Development Approach” has led the emergence of “Participatory Approach” (Magara & Saito, 2010).

The necessity of people’s participation was first felt when the Growth Model (Rostow, 1960) of development failed to bring in desired result. The Basic Need model (Farooq, 1988) of development adopted by the developing countries in the 1970s emphasized on the fulfillment of basic needs by diverting resources from the rich and urban sector to the poor and the rural sector. This approach practically faced resistance from both the urban and rural elites. Consequently, by the late 1970s, emphasis was imparted to “peoples’ participation” in planning and administration. The prime objective was to involve people in decision making process. During the same period, the idea of “decentralization” also attracted wide attention of the development experts as a strategy for ensuring peoples’ participation in development activities. Since 1970s, scholars, development practitioners, donors as well as governments particularly those in developing countries began to consider people’s participation through decentralization as a new strategy for development. In the new paradigm, decentralization is regarded as a means to achieve peoples’ participation in development. Consequently, decentralization emerged as a reform package and peoples’ participation through decentralization came to be regarded as one of its vital objectives (Ahmed, 1987).

Community based projects are the backbone of local development, in any developing country, like Nepal. The livelihood of the community is improved through the development projects. So, local development projects are conducted to improve the livelihood of the community. Effective management of development project depends primarily on proper project selection, project design, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The values, norms, beliefs and opinions of the local people which are affected directly or indirectly by development interventions should also be considered. Otherwise sustainability of development projects may be questionable.

The development at local level is effective with the participatory approach. So it is a good sign for policy makers as well as development practitioners. The community participation in Arba village is different in the sense that it is the tri-party development process of the government, NGO and the local community with a need based development model. This rural water supply system project was initiated by the local community from the grass root level using bottom up approach. Similarly, this project has enhanced the leadership and conflict management skills. This committee has fulfilled social responsibilities by conducting old age literacy program (Praud Shiksha), training for committee members, especially treasurer, for the roaming loan fund (Ghumti Rin Kosh Sanchalan) conduction. The “roaming fund” was specially conducted for the construction of sanitary-latrines for safe disposal of excreta. The women participation to all these affirmative developments was not so clear, so the researcher was interested for the study.

The millennium development goals (MDGs) contain the commitment that all countries ought to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment by 2015 (United Nations, 2010). Although the peoples’ participation in development project is a successful present trend, the role and participation of women is often undiscovered. Based on above unidentified problems, this thesis will mainly focus on the following research questions:

- i. What role do women play in rural community based water supply system?
- ii. How is gender perspective integrated in RWSSP?
- iii. What issues and challenges can be identified as obstacles to female participation in RWSSP?
- iv. How is female participation improved and enforced as per current law and what is the implementation part on RWSSP?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this thesis is to explore the women’s role and participation in community based participative development in rural water supply systems (RWSS) based on study of community based RWSSP. Apart from that, the specific objectives include:

- i. To examine the effectiveness of current applicable laws, regulations and policies implemented to facilitate women's involvement.
- ii. To explore cultural barriers, socio-economic limiting issues, challenges and obstacles to women's involvement.

1.4 Definition of Terminologies

1.4.1 Women's Role and Participation

The way the women of Arba village, Kaski involved in construction, management, operation and maintenance and sustainable development of "Water Supply under RWSSP".

1.4.2 Women's Empowerment

Empowerment is a process whereby women become able to organize themselves to increase their own self-reliance and decision making to assert their independent right to make choice and control resources which will assist in challenging and eliminating their own subordination. In this study, women's empowerment is sought as the role and participation in "Water Supply under RWSSP".

1.4.3 Gender Issues

Gender is socially constructed responsibilities assigned to men and women in a given society based upon their social/cultural structure. Gender is a dynamic concept. Gender roles for men and women vary greatly from one culture to another, and from one social group to another within the same culture. As culture is dynamic, and socio-economic conditions change over time, so gender patterns change with them independent of biology (Oakley, 1972). In this study the focus is on the study of gender issues of women in community development, decision making, decentralization and representation of women in the social construct of community based development of "Water Supply under RWSSP" in Arba village.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

Each and every study has some of its own kinds of limitations, shortcomings and drawbacks because of time, space and condition. The followings are the limitations of the study.

- a. The fixed sample size of household surveys is done for beneficiaries, and thus some sort of biases exists in selecting interviewee.
- b. First hand data is collected only via interviews because all participating women could not complete questionnaire.
- c. The findings and conclusions drawn from this study may not widely be generalized because this study is limited to only one project.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is an introductory part that describes about the general background objectives of the study. With related terminologies, it states the research problems with limitations of the study.

In the second chapter, theoretical overview with concept of participation in development process and gender relation issues development and empowerment is presented. The literature review of some related previous study has been presented. The conceptual framework for the study has been presented at last.

In the third chapter the methodology used for the study is presented. The purpose of selection of study site is justified. Research design, sampling, nature and sources of data, data collection techniques have been presented.

In chapter four available rules, regulations and policies on Women's Participation in global and local context are presented. Demography of respondents is given. Participation in water hygiene and sanitation, technological options, management and maintenance issues have been discussed with suitable data.

In chapter five, various women's roles barriers and challenges are presented with data. The data have been related to cultural barriers such as lack of education, lack overload of work, conservative thinking of society, leadership and ownership feeling and socio economic barriers such as participation in terms of decision making, health, motherhood, time allocation, economic issues.

Chapter six presents summary of data. In conclusion major findings of the study are discussed. The recommendations are discussed and summarized. Direction for further research is presented.

In annexes, questionnaire used for interview are listed.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Overview

2.1.1 Concept of Participation and People's Participation in Development

The participatory concept is gaining momentum in the process of human empowerment and development particularly in local society. Contemporary development scholars have been advocating the inclusion of people's participation in development projects as they believe the specified objectives of any project cannot be fully achieved unless people meaningfully participate in it (Guimaraes, 2009). The people's participation in development projects may help bring effective social change rather than impose an external culture on a society (Stone, 1989). Similarly referring to the experience of rural development programs, the community participation in the design and management of a project greatly enhances the likelihood of project's success due to improved goodness of fit and increased sustainability (Shrimpton, 1989).

In response to the perception that top down and supply-driven approaches are the causes of the problems, various participatory or bottom up approaches have been developed and applied worldwide. In rural development project, financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), the new participatory approaches include (ADB, 2004):

- a. Beneficiary consultation and participatory planning
- b. Community development support
- c. Engagement of non-government organizations (NGOs)
- d. Local Government Involvement
- e. Private Sector Participation

The active involvement of the local people in the planning and implementation of development projects can be defined as popular participation. For effective plan formulation, control of projects

and sharing benefits of development, participation is necessary. Four types of participation are defined by (Cohen & Uphoff, 1977) as stated below:

- a. Participation in decision making, in identifying, formulating alternatives, planning activities, allocating resources etc.;
- b. Participation in implementation, in carrying out activities, managing and operating programs, partaking of services;
- c. Participation in economic, social, cultural or other benefits individually or collectively; and
- d. Participating in evaluation of the activity and outcomes.

To analyze participation or participatory approaches from different perspectives many attempts have been made. Forms of participation can be different, as classified by (Pimbert & Pretty, 1995) as (1) Passive Participation (2) Participation in information giving (3) Participation by consultation (4) Participation by material incentives (5) Functional Participation (6) Interactive Participation (7) Self Mobilization.

The “Kerala Model of Development” (Veron, 2001) has won wide international attention for its achievements in regard to social development, to a certain extent, environmental sustainability. The old “Kerala Model”, preoccupied with redistributive policies, however failed to induce economic development. As a result, attention is now being given to a “New Kerala Model”. The new policy explicitly seeks reconciliation of social, productive and environmental objectives at the local level, and tries to develop synergies between civil society, local government bodies and the state government. The new Kerala Model thus holds important lessons for participatory, community based sustainable development in India and elsewhere.

2.1.2 Gender Relations Issues Development and Empowerment

Based on biological differences that are socially and culturally created, gender relation is a term used to describe the relations between men and women. Gender relation is revealed in a range of practices, ideas, representations including the provision of labor roles and resources between men and women.

The main issues include equality, participation, empowerment, economy, poverty, illiteracy, education etc.

The women's population is about fifty-one percent of the total population in Nepal. The male dominated family system, like other developing countries, provides very little scope for the female to assert their identity. They are marginalized from economic and social opportunities due to illiteracy, poverty and conservative social taboos. But things are changing slowly and steadily. Women in development have been accepted since the sixth plan as a national policy. After the restoration of multi-party system in 1990, policy makers are giving due importance to uplift the status of women. A separate ministry, to look after the welfare of the women, has been established. The Government of Nepal (GON) is making significant changes in its policies, plans and programs for gender equity, equality and empowerment of women. The government introduced Gender and Development approach in 1990 with the aim to enable men and women to participate equally in public and private life and realize their full potential in development. The 1990 constitution itself included some equality promoting measures along with barring any discrimination between the citizens on the basis of sex, caste, ethnicity and religion. Since then, women are lobbying for increasing women's access to political power and administrative decision making roles.

Before this, the government policy towards women was more protection and welfare oriented. The sixth plan (1980-1986), introducing Women in Development (WID) in its national development agenda had implemented various programs to integrate women in development as well as to fulfill practical needs of women.

The Eight Plan (1992-1997), introducing 'poverty alleviation' as one of its main objectives, for the first time mentioned *"the government is committed to equal and meaningful participation of women in development"*.

The Ninth Plan (1992-1997) specially adopted mainstreaming, elimination gender inequality and empowerment of women as one of its main strategies.

Following the Ninth Plan, the Tenth Plan (1997-2002) as a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) aimed to achieve the goal of poverty alleviation continuing its emphasis on mainstreaming, gender

equality and empowerment. Social Inclusion and targeted programs was one of the four major pillars of the Tenth Plan (PRSP). However instead of relying only on targeted programs, it had addressed the gender and caste related issues by taking actions to mainstream all the pillars of PRSP. The Plan recognized the role of local bodies, community organizations such NGOs in development and reflected the government's commitment to decentralization and functional devolution.

In this regard, the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD)/Tenth Plan had envisaged the following strategies to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women:

- i. Increase active participation of women representatives and community women in local level planning process.
- ii. Select program that will increase women's access to services and benefits
- iii. Create opportunities for women increasing their access to employment and assets through the integration of skill and capability development programs.
- iv. Increase women's awareness for the prevention and control of domestic violence.
- v. Independent monitoring evaluation of contribution made by the distribution of available resources to gender equality.

The Local Self Governance Act 2055 and its Regulations 2056, promulgated by the GON/MoLD, 1999 had made special provision of at least 20 percent representation of women in local government bodies. With Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 1999, Local bodies were given the responsibility of formulation, implementation and operation of the plans and programs for the development of infrastructure at the local level as per the needs and concerns of local people both men and women.

The GON, has ratified several national and international human rights related instruments and declarations (CEDAW 1991, BPFA 1995, EFA 2000, HFA200, MDGs 2000 and Paris Declarations 2005) to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women in different times. It has also prepared optional protocol for The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and National Plan of Actions to implement these instruments.

CEDAW adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. The convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men

through ensuring women's equal access to and equal opportunities in, political and public life including health, education and employment. The GON ratified CEDAW without reservation and has amended few discriminatory provisions of law by the Eleventh Amendments, to the country code of Nepal, 1963.

Since the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) 1995, GON has committed to address women's issues under 12 critical areas of concern. As per the BPFA, the GON has formulated National plans of Action 2000, to address women and poverty, economy, education, health, power, decision- making and violence against women.

In September 2000, 147 Heads of State and Government and 191 nations in total adopted the Millennium Development Goal, a declaration with a series of targets to be achieved by 2015. The declaration outlines peace, security and development concerns including environment, human rights and governance.

The GON has been launching a long term development program to improve access to and benefit from basic and primary education for children, especially girls and children from disadvantaged groups. The ultimate aim of EFA (Education for All) program is to achieve one of the major goals of MDGs.

Especially, after the World Women Conference held in Beijing in 1995, the question of women empowerment was brought into the limelight. The government committed itself to address women's issues under the 12 critical areas of concern. Several policies, institutional provisions and affirmative affections were made for the socio-economic and political advancement of women, which were mainly:

- i. Establishment of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (in 1995), women's division NPC and a National Women's Commission (although not an independent body)
- ii. Institution of Gender-focal point/Person in sectoral ministries and departments.
- iii. The Civil Service Administration Act-1998 had made several provisions for women, which are:
 - a. Age limit to enter in the Civil Service Examination is 40 for women and 35 for men

- b. The probation period for men year and for women it is six months.
- c. Women civil servants are eligible for promotion one year ahead of the scheduled time for promotion.
- d. Special coaching class for women candidates attending the PSC examination.
- iv. Engendering the National Census and collecting realistic statistics by engendering the process and methods of data collection (UNFPA, 2007)

2.2 Literature Review of Previous Study

Although, some anthropological studies about participative women in micro-hydro-project is discussed in literature of Resham Raj Sigdel in his work “*Peoples’ participation in Micro-Hydro Project*”. It explores the effectiveness of peoples’ participation, find the factors effecting in participation, and examine the changes of peoples’ skill and knowledge. An anthropological study of Putpute Khola MHP, Chisapani-9 Syangja, was done as case study to meet the aforementioned objectives. (Sigdel, 2003)

In his work entitled “Impacts of Drinking water Project on Rural Women: a Sociological appraisal of Pelakot- Udayachaur Drinking water Project, Pelakot , Syangja”, the explorer, Vim Prasad Neupane, identifies the women’s’ participation, change in working pattern, women empowerment after the project was launched. (Neupane, 2002)

One important example of a community based approach is South Africa’s National Water and Sanitation Program, the goal of which was to provide free basic water nationally. The government provides 100% of capital cost for water and sanitation, the responsibility and implementation being handed over to local governments. The program provided water infrastructure for 10 million additional people in 10 years (1994-2004). The local government had limited capacity to implement and finance the free basic water policy. (Lane, 2004)

Using survey data from Sri Lanka and India, Isham and Kahkonen found that well designed and well-constructed water services are two significant factors for effective community based approaches. The authors found that it is important to involve household members in the design process and in the final

decision about the type of system to build. Likewise, system works better if the household contribution to construction (for example, cash or labor) is monitored. Social capital was found to be associated with the above two factors. In communities, higher level of social capital (for example, with more active community groups), community members were more likely to engage in design as well as monitoring (Isham & Kahkonen, 2001).

Analyzing the performance of water systems in six countries (Benin, Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, Pakistan and Uganda), Katz and Sara (Katz & Sara, 1997) found that the community based approach significantly increased sustainability. The authors established a strong linkage between participation of the household members and sustainability of the project. The most important factors contributing to success can be summarized as information accessible to the households, capacity building at all levels, training in operation and maintenance, control over funds and good quality construction. The study also observed that the approach did not work consistently well among the communities. In some cases, the projects were “Supply Driven” (for example, not offering communities different options). In other cases, community representatives failed to consider the demands of the disadvantaged group.

Newman Et Al (Neuman, et al., 2002) reviewed 18 rural water projects in two regions in Bolivia and found that community level training (for example, on cleaning water tanks, repairing water tubes, and managing user fees) was critical for improving water quality. In a study of Zimbabwe, Cleaver (Cleaver, 1999) found that the empowerment and long term effectiveness of participation approaches was rather complex. He identified limitations of communities in mobilizing the necessary resource, either through collecting funds from community members or lobbying government officials. These problems prevailed even where communities were well motivated and organized.

Narayan (Narayan, 1995) analyzed lessons from 121 rural water supply projects funded by different agencies in 49 developing countries. This study identified the participation of local communities as an important factor for project effectiveness and community empowerment. As main problems, the study identified the reluctance of central governments to give up control and invest in the capacity of local organizations. It also noted the lack of women’s involvement.

Women are increasingly being recognized internationally as essential actors in successful water supply management. Despite this, women are, nevertheless still being excluded from water management activities which have proved to be frequently resulted in water project failure. Women's exclusion often stems from traditional and deeply rooted gender differences where women, compared to men, are not given the same right and opportunities. Therefore in particular foci in this study are cultural barriers and socio economic obstacles and challenges that may hinder female participation (Svahn, 2011).

It is clear that community involvement in the planning and implementation of development projects leads to the success of the projects and with women's participation it leads to further success reducing the gender inequality issue improving women's empowerment.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Site

Arba village, Kaski is chosen as the study site which is in the east of Mahendrapul, Pokhara city, at about 7 km distance. The source of water is located about 9 km distance from the main reservoir tank. The population under study is heterogeneous. It is one of the community based Rural Water Supply System completed before the deadline.

The role and participation of women in the project have been explored and the role of this project for women empowerment issues were investigated. So this location was chosen for the study.

3.2 Research Design

The study encompasses both exploratory as well as descriptive research design. The exploratory research design has been used to understand the roles and participation of women for community based RWSS project and the beneficiaries before and after the implementation. On the other side, the descriptive research design has been used to describe cultural barrier, socio-economic limitations, effectiveness, utilization, sharing and equitable distribution of water resources on rural water supply project of Arba village.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used. Primary data has been collected from direct field study like participative observation, interview with general and key informants and focus group discussion. The secondary data on the other hand has been collected via committee meeting minutes, published and unpublished articles, journals, research papers, literature review, governmental and nongovernmental organizations report.

3.4 Universe and Sample Size

In this study, the sample of the data has been taken from Arva village. The population to be studied has been first identified and a sampling frame developed. Universe population domain for study is considered from total 160 beneficiaries. Among them 80 female households were chosen for the study.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Total Beneficiaries (Universe)</u>	<u>Sample Population</u>
Kuithok	30	15
Swara	28	14
Sigdel Bari	47	23
Amalchaur	15	8
Upallogaun	40	20
Total	160	80

3.5 Data Collection Technique

3.5.1 Household Survey

From among sample space of nearly 160 households eighty households of the study site were sampled for survey as fixed sample. The female respondents were purposively chosen for interview. It helped rapport building among the women. Household survey was used in collecting, determining and changing the social cultural and economic status of women explore the barriers and challenges for women's participation in development projects.

3.5.2 Interview

In this study structure interview was directly administrated to the women water user's committee, women in the members of water supply and sanitation program according to their convenient time. Such interview schedule was used for collecting data and this was based on as per the objectives of the research study containing open and close ended questions. There were educated as well as

illiterate women, farmers, teachers, general members of water user's committee. Interview schedule was used for very personal history of the respondents that dealt with occupation of past and present; affecting factors for participation of women in RWSS. This method is conducted for collection of data about education status, income level, leadership, ownership feeling of women, provisions made in law for women's participation. To explore and validate the finding, key informants interview was done. Of the key informants, one was primary school teacher, one civil worker, one income generating women, treasurer of water user's committee, and vice-president of women's group. Because women are found to be dependent on questionnaire to be filled up by others, direct face to face interview was conducted in order to get real information.

3.5.3 Observation

For this study, observation method was used for direct collection of data from the field. In this study observation method is crucial for the immediate study of the events like participation in meeting, and decision making process. Women work load, formal education class, empowerment, management of tap, changing behavior of sanitation and health habit, the leisure time utilization of women. This method was very practical as well as effective also for the collection of primary data. The technological changes were brought by education, such as reading news in television, operating mobiles for communication and listening political and international news in FM stations. Goat farming, cow farming, poultry farming, growing vegetables, sewing skills were observed.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

Two focus group discussions, one among the sample sites, area and another out of sample site area were carried out among the women and elderly women above 60 years for the validity and the reliability of data. The main goal of a focus group was to gain insight and understanding by hearing from representatives from the target population. It was a kind of face to face interaction. The beneficiaries were invited to group discussion for unclear issues and correct data can be collected in group and there was less fear of nervousness. The focus group size was of 7 and 8 women in each group.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

This study was designed and modulated as a descriptive study as well as exploratory study based on qualitative and quantitative data originating from primary source. All the data and information were collected from interview, case study, and observation. Interview question were systematically arranged, summarized processed and presented in tabulation and visually form bar diagram, pie-chart. Data entry and analysis were carried out through spreadsheet program.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

The focus group discussion and key informants interview were pretested in non-sample area. Then the final schedule was prepared after making appropriate correction. Therefore, the collected data for this study were reliable and valid.

CHAPTER 4

WOMENS ROLES AND PARTICIPATION

4.1 Social History of the Project

Community is an area of social living marked by some degree of social coherence. A person can't exist in isolation. It is linked in many ways to different person who form a group for coexistence. The historical incidence of commencement of the WSS system in the area factors for a water supply system, role of users' committee members' interrelation between the water users committee and related organizations, role and responsibility of the water user group, importance of involving women in water user group, importance of implications of water involvement of women as motivators, criteria for the selection of women motivator and involvement of women as tap stand group leader is analyzed here.

The program of a community is always identified through the formation of group. In Arva village, some spring water sources like Bhirpani, Moharpani dries in winter and sources like Chitepani supply are inefficient. Dhuwakhola is loaded with people but it is away from village. The existing Alaichi Khola Water Supply was insufficient in winter and it was collected in reservoir tank and tap opened only two hours in morning and evening. More than ten households shared a single tap. Due to scarcity of water, the villagers often quarreled and it sometimes spoiled the social relationship. Due to unreliable water supply vegetables were not properly planted, farming was not also commercial. Even for drinking water, women had to walk almost an hour to reach the nearest water source. It was a time consuming for women to fetch only one pot (gagri) of water. They were very overloaded with both domestic and outside work. There was no time for women to spend time in recreation and income generation activities to support the whole family. As women are primarily responsible for water related activities and hence suffered the most. There were quarrels reaching group, cast and even religion sometimes. The existing water supply was insufficient to cater to the exponential need of water to whole community users. The rehabilitation of the existing water supply systems was felt essential to meet the current demand and expansion of RWSSP. On the other hand, integration of existing resources was for proper water distribution system was a must for managing the water

resource in a sustained way. This led people looking forward to waiting a new water supply and sanitation project in the area.

Previous experiences have demonstrated that the water supply project launched without people's participation were ineffective. Unless the people participated in the community development activities, there is no feeling of ownership. Feeling of ownership encouraged them to perform duty actively in all phases of the project cycle and period. The main function of the users' committee is to help the implementing authority of WSS system, to generate maximum people's participation and solve problems that arise during the implementation, post construction, operation and maintenance thereafter in a sustainable way. It is now well understood truth that without people's full participation no development projects success.

The community participation in Arva village is different in the sense that it is the tri-party development process of the government, NGO and the local community with a Need Based Development Model. This rural water supply system project was initiated by the local community from the grass- root level using bottom up approach.

4.2 Rules Regulation and Policies on Women's Participation

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has become a mainstream of the commitments to develop a consensus and implementation of strategies for elimination of all forms of discrimination existing throughout the world. Nepal signed the International law for Women in 1991 AD, only after ten years of its establishment of CEDAW in the UN convention in 1980s. Nepal ratified the CEDAW after 1990s political change to Multiparty Democracy from the former party less Panchayat System.

Women's participation is invaluable to the development process, several efforts are made and some are still underway to bring them into the mainstream of development process in Nepal. The first committee consisted of nine members including National Planning Commission Secretariat, Ministry of Law and Justice and nongovernmental organizations was formed under the chairmanship of Mr. Tirthaman Shakya, Secretary of the Ministry of Law and Justice to prepare a national report on

CEDAW. The committee prepared the report based on the guidelines of UN and the present status of women in different sectors of the development in the country. In the process of preparing this report, different ministries, NGOs concerned with Women and Development had made substantive contributions.

The declaration of 1975 as International Women's Year generated strong concern for issues and problems relating to women. Several organizations were established at both governmental and non-governmental levels. The establishment of Mothers' Club in 1976 and Women's Service Coordination committee in 1977 under Social Service National Coordination Council (Social Welfare Council) were important milestones in the advancement of women. These institutions are currently under the auspices of the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare. Many NGOs advocate gender equality and women's rights. Several INGOs have also started women related activities, particularly in the fields of education, health, and environment and income generation activities. Interventions are carried out under the broad area of women and development address issues involving the environment, education, health, hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, income generation and employment, trafficking, appropriate technology and other forms of community development. The ministry of Women and Social Welfare played a leading role in encouraging the equal division of property between sons and daughters, as per the provision of CEDAW.

Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) is an autonomous, non-profit, non- governmental organization established on May 29, 1995 to work for the protection, promotion and enjoyment human rights. In order to eliminate all forms of discrimination, FWLD uses law as an instrument to ensure the rights of women, children, minorities and all other marginalized groups.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal came into force on January 15, 2007. Article 4 of the Interim Constitution declares Nepal to be 'an independent, indivisible, sovereign, secular, inclusive and a fully democratic state.' Article 63(4) of the Interim Constitution states that the Constituent Assembly shall include representation of marginalized groups, including women, and that at least one third of the Assembly should comprise of women. Nepal has now been able to issue a new constitution of Nepal, 2072.

Constitution of Nepal 2072, has stated “Provision for women’s representation on the basis of geography, population and balance among states in filing the candidacy by the political parties for proportional electoral system through closed list, shall be made by the law”. At least one third women should be elected from every political party out of total seats won in the state assembly. Either Speaker or Deputy Speaker Should is women. In District Assembly committee should have at least three women and at least one from Dalit or Minority Group. Similarly, in the Village assembly in the committee of forty-five members, at least 18 should be women. In every ward level, there will be five members and out of which there should be two women. In army entry and other governmental positions, from the principle of inclusivity, there is proportional representation of women. There is high level Women Commission to formulate policies, fight for cases and report the government for the women.

4.2.1 Government’s Policies on Women

Nepal’s policy on women in its development endeavor initiated since its first Five Year Plan (1956-1961). Nevertheless, during that period the State Policy on women formulated with a “welfare approach” focusing on the reproductive role of women as mothers and home makers.

A shift in the focus on women occurred during mid and late 1970s with Nepal observing the international Women’s Year and participating in the First World Conference on Women in 1975; the subsequent study on the Status of Women in Nepal (1979). Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-1985) initiated the WID (Women in Development) policy assigning a separate chapter about the role of women in development which was followed by the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990) and the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997). Sixth plan adopted an “Efficiency Approach” to WID recognizing the productive role of women for the first time in Nepal’s planned development. The seventh plan adopted a “equal participatory approach along with the “Efficiency Approach” and the 8th plan adopted an “Equity” approach along with a realization of the need to mainstreaming women in development.

A paradigm shift occurred from WID to GAD (Gender and Development) in Nepal’s development policy during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002); which is given continuation in the 10th Five Year

Plan (2003-2008). These periodic plans have adopted the policy of “Gender Equality” and “Women’s Empowerment” by adopting the strategy of “Gender Mainstreaming”. (Bhadra & Shah, 2007)

Women’s participation in governance over the last 10 years remained limited except at the grassroots level. In 1999, a mere 5.8% of members of the House of Representatives were women. Women were better represented in local government institutions due to the provisions in the Local Self-Governance Act to reserve 20% of seats in the ward-level committees (for the period 1997–2002 when there were elected bodies). However, the act did not address issues of exclusion due to caste, ethnicity, or other factors. Only one woman representative was required in the executive bodies of the local governance structure, which was also inadequate. The major decisions regarding local development policy and budget allocation are made by district development committees (DDCs), where women’s representation was also very low (around 7%) during the same period. Caste and ethnicity also limit access to voice and representation in Nepal. Many women members of Parliament (1999) were from high-caste families or were close relative of the leaders.

Women’s representation in the civil service in 2000 was only 7.8% (with the majority in the non-gazetted category), although this increased to 12.7% by 2007. The 2007 amendment to the Civil Service Act should also have an impact. To increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of the civil service, it reserves 45% of vacant posts for excluded groups, with the following allocation: women 33%, ethnic groups 27%, Madhesis 22%, Dalits 9%, differently disabled 5%, and backward regions 4%.

More recently, the government has made several important commitments and efforts to increase and ensure the representation of women and excluded groups in government bodies. Comparing the Constituent Assembly with the 1999 Parliament, women’s representation increased from 6% to 33%, that of Dalits went from 0% to 8%, Madhesis from 5% to 23%, and Janajati from 25% to 35%. The adoption of a mixed electoral system has contributed to greater inclusion and representation based on caste, ethnicity, and geographic area, but there are still challenges due to the highly centralized political culture, the exclusive structure of political parties, and the surge of identity politics. It will also be important to ensure that women who are elected to the various political bodies are able to voice their agenda and that women from socially excluded groups and regions are effectively

represented in the political processes. The 2008 Local Governance and Community Development Program of the Ministry of Local Development is a national program that aims to contribute to good governance and inclusive community development. DDCs must allocate 15% of the total annual block grant for the benefit of women, and another 15% for disadvantaged groups. The block grants for VDCs also earmark a minimum of 15% for the benefit of women. (ADB, 2010)

The constitution of Nepal, 2072, has made following provisions for women.

Table 4-1: Provisions Made in Constitution of Nepal, 2072

Part	Title	Clause	Sub Clause	Provision Made
3	Fundamental Rights and Duties	38. Rights of Women	1	Every woman shall have equal lineage right without gender based discrimination.
			2	Every woman shall have the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health.
			3	No woman shall be subjected to physical, mental, sexual, psychological or other form of violence or exploitation on grounds of religion, social, cultural tradition, practice or on any other grounds. Such act shall be punishable by law, and the victim shall have the right to obtain compensation in accordance with law.
			4	Women shall have the right to participate in all bodies of the State on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion.
			5	Women shall have the right to obtain special opportunity in education, health, employment and social security, on the basis of positive discrimination.
			6	The spouse shall have the equal right to property and family affairs.

3	Fundamental Rights and Duties	42. Right to social Justice	1	The socially backward women, ... have the right to participate in the State bodies on the basis of inclusive principle.
3	Fundamental Rights and Duties	43. Right to Social Security		... helpless single women, ... shall have the right to social security, in accordance with law.
8	Federal Legislature Federal Legislature	84. Composition of House of Representatives	2	The Federal law shall provide that, in fielding candidacy by political parties for the election to the House of Representatives under the proportional electoral system, representation shall be ensured on the basis of a closed list also from women, ..., on the basis of population. In so fielding candidacy, regard shall also be had to geography and territorial balance.
			8	At least one third of the total number of members elected from each political party representing in the Federal Parliament must be women. If women are not so elected as to constitute one third of the elected members of any political party under sub-clause (a) of clause (1) and sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of Article 86, such political party must, in electing members under sub-clause (b) of clause (1), so elect that women members constitute at least one third of the total number of members elected to the Federal Parliament from that party.
8	Federal Legislature	86. Composition of National Assembly and term of office of its members	2	The National Assembly shall consist of fifty-nine members as follows: (a) fifty-six elected members consisting of at least three women, ... from each State by an electoral college composed of members of the State Assembly,

				<p>chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Village Bodies, and Mayors and Deputy-Mayors of the Municipalities, with different weight age of vote by members of the State Assembly, chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Village Bodies, and Mayors and Deputy-Mayors of the Municipalities, as provided for in the Federal law,</p> <p>(b) Three members consisting of at least one woman nominated by the President on recommendation of the Government of Nepal.</p>
8	Federal Legislature	91. Speaker and Deputy Speaker of House of Representatives	1, 2	The House of representatives shall within 15 days of commencement of first meeting elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker from among its members. Either Speaker or Deputy Speaker must be a Women.
14	State Legislature	176. Composition of State Assembly	6	<p>The Federal law shall provide that, in fielding candidacy by political parties for the election to the State Assembly under the proportional electoral system, representation shall be ensured on the basis of a closed list also from women, ... on the basis of population. In so fielding candidacy, regard shall also be had to geographical balance of the concerned State.</p> <p>One third women should be elected from every political party out of the total seats won in state assembly. If women do not get elected, every political party should elect members according to clause (b) of sub-article (1) , so that one third of the total members in the state assembly are women.</p>
			9	At least one third of the total number of members elected from each political party representing in the State

				Assembly must be women. If women are not so elected as to constitute one third of the elected members of any political party under subclause (a) of clause (1), such political party must, in electing members under subclause (b) of that clause, so elect that women members constitute at least one third of the total number of members elected to the State Assembly from that party.
14	State Legislature	182. Speaker and Deputy Speaker of State Assembly	1, 2	In The State assembly, within 15 days of commencement of first meeting, elect Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Either Speaker or Deputy Speaker must be a woman.
17	Local Executive	220. District Assembly and District Coordination Committee	3	The District Assembly shall elect the District Coordination Committee consisting of a maximum of nine Members including one Chief, one Deputy Chief, at least three women and at least one Dalit or minority. The District Coordination Committee shall discharge all functions required to be discharged by the District Assembly.
18	Local Legislature	222. Composition of Village Assembly	3	A Village Assembly to be formed under clause (1) shall have representation of at least two women from each ward.
27	Other Commissions	252. National Women Commission	1	There shall be a National Women Commission of Nepal, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members.
			2	The President shall, on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council, appoint the Chairperson and members of the National Women Commission.

3	The term of office of the Chairperson and members of the National Women Commission shall be six years from the date of appointment.
4.	<p>The office of the Chairperson or member of the National Women Commission shall be vacant in any of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(a) if he or she tenders resignation in writing to the President,</p> <p>(b) if he or she attains the age of sixty-five years,</p> <p>(c) if a motion of impeachment is passed against him or her under Article 101,</p> <p>(d) if he or she is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council on grounds of his or her inability to hold office and discharge the functions due to physical or mental illness,</p> <p>(e) if he or she dies.</p>
5.	<p>The Chairperson and members appointed under clause (2) shall not be eligible for reappointment.</p> <p>Provided that a member may be appointed to the office of Chairperson, and when a member is so appointed as the Chairperson, his or her term of office shall be so computed as to include his or her term as the member.</p>
6	A person shall be eligible to be appointed as the Chairperson or a member of the National Women

			<p>Commission if he or she possesses the following qualification:</p> <p>(a) being a woman having rendered outstanding contribution, for at least ten years, to the field of rights and interests of women or gender justice or women development or human rights and law,</p> <p>(b) in the case of the Chairperson, holding a bachelor's degree from a recognized university,</p> <p>(c) having attained the age of forty-five years,</p> <p>(d) not being a member of any political party at the time of appointment, and</p> <p>(e) being of high moral character.</p>
		7	<p>The remuneration and conditions of service of the Chairperson and members of the National Women Commission shall be as provided for in the Federal law, and their remuneration and conditions of service shall not, so long as they hold office, be altered to their disadvantage.</p> <p>Provided that this provision shall not apply in cases where a state of emergency is declared because of extreme economic disarrays.</p>
		8	<p>A person once appointed as the Chairperson or a member of the National Women Commission shall not be eligible for appointment in other government service.</p> <p>Provided that nothing in this clause shall be deemed to be a bar to the appointment to any political position or to any position which has the responsibility of making</p>

				investigations, inquiries or findings on any subject, or to any position which has the responsibility of submitting advice, opinion or recommendation after carrying out a study or research on any subject.
27	Other Commissi ons	253. Functions, duties and powers of National Women Commission	1	<p>The functions, duties and powers of the National Women Commission shall be as follows:</p> <p>(a) to formulate policies and programs concerning the rights and interests of the women and submit them to the Government of Nepal for implementation.</p> <p>(b) to monitor as to whether laws concerning the rights and interests of the women and obligations under the international treaties to which Nepal is a party have been implemented, and make suggestions, accompanied by the measures for their effective compliance and implementation to the Government of Nepal,</p> <p>(c) in order to have the women included in the mainstream of national development and ensure proportional participation in all organs of the State, to assess, monitor and evaluate the existing policies and programs, and make recommendation to the Government of Nepal for their effective implementation,</p> <p>(d) to carry out study and research work on the legal provisions relating to gender equality, empowerment of women and women, make recommendations to the concerned bodies on reforms to be made on such laws, and monitor the same.</p> <p>(e) to make suggestions to the Government of Nepal about the preparation of reports to be submitted by Nepal in accordance with the provisions contained in the</p>

				international treaties or agreements concerning women's rights, to which Nepal is a party, (f) if it is necessary to file cases against any persons or bodies on matters of violence against women or being subjected to social ill-practices or infringement of or deprivation of enjoyment of women's rights, to make recommendations to the concerned bodies to file such cases in courts in accordance with the law.
			2	The National Women Commission may so delegate any of its functions, duties and powers to the Chairperson of the Commission, any of its members or any employee of the Government of Nepal as to be exercised and complied with subject to the specified conditions.
			3	Other functions, duties and powers and other relevant matters of the National Women Commission shall be as provided for in the Federal law
28	Provisions Relating to National Security	267. Provisions relating to Nepal Army	3	Entry of women, ... into the Nepal Army shall, on the basis of principles of equality and inclusion, be ensured by the Federal law.
32	Miscellaneous	281. Appraisal and review of special rights		The Government of Nepal shall make appraisal and review of the implementation of special rights of the women and Dalit community and impacts thereof, on the basis of human development index, concurrently with a national census to be held in every ten years.

The Ministry of Local Development has now a gender equality and social inclusion policy that guides all programs and projects under the ministry; but no instructions have been issued on the allocation

of the budget amongst these groups. Ward- and village-level planning committees (integrated planning committees) will be established with representation from women's, Dalit, and Janajati (Indigenous) organizations; NGOs; school management committee; social organizations; political parties; and line agencies, of which 33% must be women.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities has a significant impact on social and human development and poverty reduction. It is now recognized that the sector cannot be approached from a technical perspective alone, but requires an approach that considers the ways in which gender roles and relations influence access to resources and participation in decision making. In Nepal and most other developing countries, women are the main users and providers of domestic water. Women spend up to several hours a day to collect water. Girls also contribute, which has a negative impact on their education opportunities. However, the rights and access of women to water resources is defined by tradition, social relations, culture and customs, and legal frameworks. In addition to gender relations, other social factors such as caste, ethnicity, economic status, and disability influence an individual's access, control, and use of water. The concept of purity and pollution in the Hindu religion and ideology determine, along with caste based hierarchies, the rights and access of women and certain other groups to water. The sector has recognized the importance of considering gender relations in the provision and use of water, and policies and program interventions exist to address this. It is only more recently that other social issues are being addressed in the sector, particularly at the program level. Data on water and sanitation vary, but a national survey found that 82.5% of the population has access to an improved source of drinking water and 24.5% has access to improved sanitation facilities. Following are the major policies that shape the sector:

1. Nepal Water Supply Corporation Act 1989 (2046 BS)

This Act establishes the NWSC as a public corporation responsible for providing clean drinking water and sewage services to the urban public. The scope of work of the Corporation has been determined by HMG by notification in the Gazette. This act establishes the right of people to drinking water and sanitation. Drinking water is also touched on by other legislation not necessarily specifically enacted for that purpose.

2. The Water Resources Act (1992)

Together with the 1993 Water Resources Regulation, the Water Resources Act is the umbrella act governing water resource management. This act governs not only drinking water, but other uses of water and overall water resource management in Nepal. This Act gives priority to the right to use water for drinking purposes over any other domestic or commercial use. There are two regulations under the act, for drinking water purposes the Water Resource Regulation 1993(2050 BS) and the Drinking Water Regulation 1998(2050 BS).

The water Resource Regulation 1993 (2050 BS) is an umbrella regulation covering all uses of water and providing procedural mechanisms for the implementation of the Water Resource Act 1992 (2040 BS). The Regulation covers the formation of Water User Associations and District Water Resource Committees, licensing provides a dispute settlement mechanism in relation to land acquisition and compensation and provides some forms in the schedules to the Regulations for certain administrative procedures. The Drinking Water Regulation 1998 (2055 BS) specifically deals with drinking water and sanitation as it affects drinking water. Five among other things, this Regulation regulates DWUAs, the quality of drinking water and drinking water suppliers. However, it does not refer to gender and social inclusion issues and is based on the assumption that all people will receive access to and benefit equally from water and sanitation services.

3. The Local Self Governance Act 1999 (2055 BS)

The Local Self Governance Act 1999 (2055 BS), which primarily deals with the decentralization of government, also gives local bodies some responsibility in relation to the utilization, conservation and management of water resources and the maintenance of sanitation facilities and waste management. The Act and its regulations make local bodies (Village Development Committees, District Development Committees and Municipalities) responsible for delivering certain services in relation to drinking water and sanitation. The Act also gives local bodies the power to make policies and implement programs in relation to drinking water and sanitation and to raise revenue via local taxation, fees and other means.

4. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Policy and Strategy (2004)

This policy and strategy defines community-based, participatory processes, pro-poor focus, gender dimensions, and service levels. It prioritizes access to drinking water and sanitation to backward people and ethnic groups, although it does not define these groups more specifically. It has provisions for 33% representation of women on the user committees and proportionate representation of caste and disadvantaged ethnic groups. However, several sector programs and organizations go beyond the national policy and stipulate 50% female membership of the user committees. Access to services and participation of disadvantaged groups are identified as indicators of progress for monitoring and evaluation. The policy also promotes a pro-poor approach by stipulating a 10% non-cash community contribution instead of 20% by the poor households, which are defined as households headed by females, households with no adult members, and households with disabled members. The policy has a zero subsidy approach to sanitation, although most other sector agencies are applying various subsidy models, with the exception of the community led total sanitation approach.

5. The Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy (2009)

The 2009 amendment of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy is a leap forward as social inclusion is embedded in the policy as one of its six core principles. It aims to ensure that access to services by the poor and disadvantaged groups is met and that these groups, especially women, are involved in all decision making that affects their needs and interests. Social inclusion strategies include cross-subsidies, flexible tariff payment options, service access for squatter settlements, and representation on water user committees by women, the poor, and marginalized groups.

The Local Self-Governance Act 2004 defines the district development committee (DDC) as the level at which all planning and monitoring of rural water supply and sanitation takes place. The act's provisions and regulations have created a positive policy environment for people's participation in local governance. The Three-Year Interim Plan also calls for "proportional representation of women in the decision-making (leadership) level of the users' committees" and states that "priority will be

accorded to ensure regional balance along with the inclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged groups” with regard to access to water and sanitation schemes

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Works has the overall responsibility for the urban and rural water supply and the sanitation sector. The ministry’s Department of Water Supply and Sanitation is the lead agency for planning and coordination, developing technical standards, and managing design and construction activities for both urban and rural parts of the sector. The Ministry of Local Development is responsible for small village water and sanitation schemes (for villages with populations under 1,000) through the Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads and its district technical offices and village development committees.

The presence of gender focal points and social development units within the government agencies in the sector, gender and social inclusion issues remain limited to scheme level activities that include reservations for women on user committees and subsidies to support poorer households. Gender mainstreaming and a socially inclusive approach are still not fully understood and greater sensitization and capacity building on these issues is needed. There is also a visible lack of female professionals in the sector. Greater investment on human resource development of women through scholarships, training, etc., could fill this gap. The government’s reservation policy in the civil service could also be a driver for increasing opportunities for women in this sector. The sector stakeholder group is meant to ensure coordination of sector reform and interventions and the exchange of information and progress. However, there is no clear and effective leadership in the sector from either the government or donors and each agency is focused on its own projects and areas with limited collaboration. At the same time, significant changes have taken place in the sector that have improved the participation of communities, particularly of women, in the planning, design, implementation, and management of schemes. Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) strategies have been adopted based on sharing of best practices, but there is insufficient sharing on how to improve GESI practices. Harmonization of working approaches in this area would be beneficial for the sector as a whole, and the sector stakeholder group is appropriately placed to play a lead role in this effort.

The Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal is an apex body for water and sanitation user groups. One of its core values is inclusion, and this is reflected through representation

of women and people from remote areas and excluded groups in its organizational structure. Its Citizens' Action Program and other activities aim to support meaningful participation in decision making processes by all, including marginalized groups, and the empowerment of user groups focusing on women. The federation can play an important role in enhancing accountability and responsiveness among user groups and service providers and in strengthening the voice and agency of those groups. The rural water supply and sanitation sector has many agencies implementing their own modalities and processes; however, in general, they follow a demand-based participatory approach. Apart from minor differences in selection process and cost recovery strategies, the general modality being applied promotes a community based approach that requires the participation and contribution of community members in the planning, construction, and management phase of the projects. Sector agencies have adopted several strategies to promote inclusion of women, the poor and disadvantaged groups which generally include reservations for women on user committees and key decision-making posts, and proportionate reservation for other disadvantaged groups; subsidies for latrine construction and transport costs for non-local material; paid work opportunities for poor households; and technical training opportunities for women. Some projects include livelihood and savings and credit activities targeting women and poor households.

These government policies for the rural and urban water supply and sanitation sectors include measures that have increased access by women to community development processes and project benefits and have enhanced their participation in community user groups and committees. Factors that continue to constrain their ability to participate on the basis of full equality with men include illiteracy, low self-confidence, housework demands, low economic status, socio cultural norms, and the perceived costs and benefits of participation. Gender training packages that are usually delivered to communities and project staff are not sufficient in challenging and transforming the gender roles of men and women. Similarly, social identity based on caste, ethnicity, and economic status also limits certain groups from exercising their voice and agency in development initiatives. Due to caste discrimination and prescribed social norms, even when Dalit men and women are on user committees they cannot always speak up and they feel less inclined to attend meetings. Although Dalits have access to drinking water facilities, their access can be restricted especially in mixed settlements, as they are made to stay at a distance or wait until the non-Dalits finish fetching water. Time poverty

limits the opportunities for poorer households to engage in project activities. Cost-sharing modalities and user group fees may also limit the ability of the poor to pay the operation and maintenance costs and join savings and credit groups.

At the project level, data is disaggregated by sex, caste, and ethnicity. However, efforts at monitoring the sector remain limited to the end users at the local level in terms of access to facilities and participation of women and disadvantaged groups at various stages of the project cycle. Process, impact, and outcome monitoring are therefore important. There is a dearth of evidence of the long-term impact of water availability on the lives of women and the poorest. Issues such as the impact and benefits of health initiatives and income-generating activities, the ability to apply training received, and the sustainability of user groups require further support. The Ministry of Physical Planning and Works has recently established a monitoring and evaluation unit for the rural water and sanitation sector, which could contribute to increased capacity for monitoring and assessing performance, particularly if relevant GESI indicators are developed for the monitoring framework.

4.2.2 Policies Related to Social Justice and Inclusion

It is stated in clause 42 in constitution of Nepal 2072, that socially backward women or citizens of backward regions shall have the right of participation in structure of state and public service on the basis of inclusive principles. Clause 51 of the constitution specifies the policies of the state. Policy j of clause 51 specifies following provisions related to social justice and inclusion related to women:

- a) to keep on making appropriate arrangements for the livelihoods of the helpless single women, while according priority to them in employment on the basis of skills, competency and qualification,
- b) to make self-dependent the women who are vulnerable, subjected to social and family exclusion and victims of violence self-reliant by making their rehabilitation, protection and empowerment,
- c) to ensure enjoyment of requisite services and facilities at the reproductive stage,
- d) to accord priority to the indigent within all sexes, regions and communities in the provision of social security and social justice,

4.3 Demographic Study of Respondents

All respondents were Hindu women by religion. The respondent were Brahmins, Chhetris and Dalit women.

Table 4-2: Age of Respondents

Age (Years)	Numbers	Percentage
Under 30	3	3.75 %
30-40	7	8.75 %
40-50	38	47.5 %
Above 50	32	40 %
Total	80	100 %

Very low (3.75%) women were under 30 years and few (8.75%) in 30-40 years' group, major (47.5%) were 40-50 years and rest (40%) above 50 years. It shows the migrating trend of newly married couples to cities for education of their children and employment opportunities and the village is left for middle and old aged respondents.

Table 4-3: Educational Level of Respondents

Educational Level	Numbers	Percentage
Primary	16	20 %
Secondary	24	30 %
Plus Two or More	8	10 %
Informal	32	40 %
Total	80	100 %

Major number of respondents (40%) had informal education (such as proud Shikshya, elder education, preliminary and self-study). Respondents had primary education (20%), secondary education (30%) and Higher education (10%). It can be inferred that education to women was of secondary importance in their time and most were deprived of education as per the concept that education to women was nothing but expenditure only because she was married to another family. It can also be inferred that the "Proud Shiksha" conducted by new project had an important effect in

their education as they can now sign, read newspapers and bulletins, scrolling news in TV and shows. The concept of education to girls is now established a basic requirement, but still less interest is given for higher education to girls.

Table 4-4: Major occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Numbers	Percentage
Agriculture	59	73.75 %
Civil Service	4	5 %
Business	12	15 %
Teaching	5	6.25 %
Total	80	100 %

Agriculture was found to be the main occupation (73.75%), Business in the second (15%), Teaching in the third (6.25 %) Civil Service, the least (5%). It was because of lower or no education; majority had no option other than traditional agriculture. After only law enforced the women quota, the women started teaching and civil services. For other women it was compulsory to stay within household works boundary only. Because of culture barriers imposed on them, they were not given permission for teaching, civil service and other employment positions.

Table 4-5: Income Level of Respondents

Income Level (monthly Rs)	Numbers	Percentage
Less than Rs 6000	16	20 %
Rs 6000-Rs 8000	16	20 %
Rs 8000-Rs10000	32	40 %
Above Rs 10000	16	20 %
Total	80	100 %

Of the total, 20% had very low income (less than Rs 6000), 20% had low income (Rs 6000 to Rs 8000), 40% middle (Rs 8000 to Rs 10000), 20% high (above Rs 10000) per month. Those families with low income have sent their young manpower abroad and condition is a bit improved due to remittance. Some have started new agriculture methods for cash crops and vegetables; some have

shown interest in farming and animal husbandry and other towards poultry. However, some reservations were made by respondents to provide actual data in fear that they need to pay tax if they presented actual income.

Table 4-6: Main Bread Winner of Respondents

Main Bread Winner	Numbers	Percentage
Husband	27	33.75 %
Wife	19	23.75 %
Both	13	16.25 %
Other	21	26.25 %
Total	80	100

On an average, there were five adults and three children in the household. The main bread winners were husbands only (33.75%) wife only (23.75%), both husband and wife (16.25%) and others (26.25%). Because the family expenditure is increasing and there is inflation in money, there is increasing concern for generating income by both. Still patriarchal impression of generating money by husband is prevalent. Single and unmarried women had no option, however.

Table 4-7: Household Expenditure Controller of Respondents

Household Expenditure Controller	Numbers	Percentage
Husband	24	30 %
Wife	41	51.25 %
Daughter in Law	13	16.25 %
Daughter	2	2.5 %
Total	80	100 %

Women are found to be main expenditure controller (51.25%), then Husband (30%), Daughter in law (16.25%) and Daughter (2.5%). It was because female have the capability to divide money to different categories as per the family priority where as men are not. It is because female have more responsibilities towards children and old, men do not bother about the limited money they earn.

4.4 Water Use Demand and Hygiene

Respondents reported that they used traditional Dhara (spring tap) and Pandhera (spring well) such as “Dhuwakhola”, “Bhirpani”, “Chitepani”, “Moharpani” resources before any RWSSP.

Water Sources Information	Bhirpani	Chitepani	Moharpani	Dhuwakhola
Water Resource type	Dhara	Shallow Well	Shallow Well	Dhara
Reliability/Availability	Spring	All Season	Seasonal	All Seasonal
Reliability	Not Reliable	Reliable	Not Reliable	Reliable
Sufficiency	Insufficient	Insufficient	Insufficient	Sufficient
Purposes	All Purpose	All Purpose	All Purpose	All Purpose

They had to walk on average from 20 minutes to 45 minutes for fetching water from the sources. Although Dhuwakhola is all season water resource, Bhirpani, Moharpani completely dried in the winter time. Chitepani, though all seasonal, had less supply in the winter and dry season. The water was however free. The average water use was about 120 liters per day. Of the total 80% women, 10% men and 10% were children to fetch water for daily purposes. Due to crowd, for each turn, people had to wait longer 12.25 minutes on average.

All resources were used for bathing, washing and drinking. It took whole morning to fetch few “Gagris” (water pot) of water from the source and it was laborious for women. Sometime the drinking water was turbid and often mixed with soap water during bathing and washing clothes. Often women quarreled among themselves and the dispute was deep rooted. The Dalits were treated another way, mostly waiting longer time than other caste women. There was open bathing and especially the sanitation condition for menstruated women was even critical to see. The winter season had striking water shortage, and the time was longer.

There was on average 120 liters of water needed for an average family. The water use however was free. After “Alainche Khanipani Yojana” in Panchayat System, the condition was however improved. It was tap water for drinking and the distance, queue and time to fetch water reduced considerably to

15 minutes. The yearly cost for water use was Rs 360. Some money was given to Pale (Watchman) of the system as salary. Some reservoirs were built, water users' committee was founded and it often had meetings regarding operation and maintenance of the system. The tap water reached community with an average of single tap for around 15 Households. It also suffered deficiency in supply in dry season and maintenance was not in time.

After implementing new RWSS project, tap reached every home. The supply is sufficient for whole seasons. The source is also reliable as it has hired manpower for the maintenance of the water supply system. The operational cost however is the same as Rs 360 per year for a single household. The daily water consumption for average family increased from 200 to 300 liters per day. No water fetching time is required and no time wasted for queue. There is no quarrel among water users as before. Some youths are engaged in agriculture due to irrigation facility. Women have now time to participate in meetings and participate in community development, education and revenue generation occupation. Children have now more time to study in the morning time and seen busy preparing homework for their school.

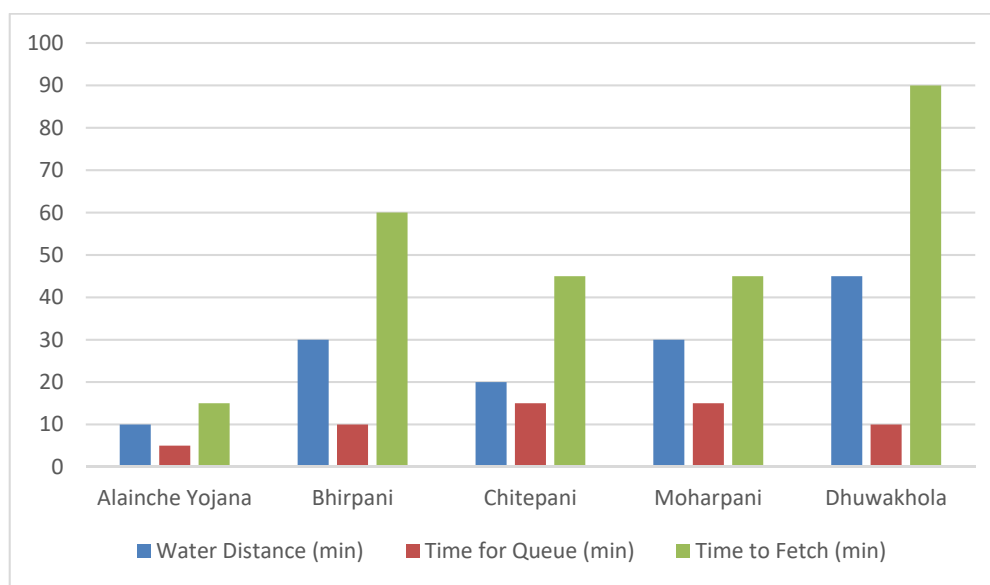


Figure 4-1: Average Time (Min) to Reach Water Source, Wait in Queue and Fetch Water in Traditional Water Sources

4.5 Water Hygiene and Sanitation

Women have carried out primary responsibility of feeding the family and cleaning the whole family since ages in our patriarchal family structure. Starting from cooking food, cleaning utensils, washing clothes, cleaning water sources and reservoirs, cleaning household to cleaning the latrines they are the dominant player for the health of whole family and community.

Earlier women had less information about health related issues. It is mainly due to two reasons, one lack of health education and the other due to lack of sufficient water. Due to advancement in information and communication, radio, TV, Magazines, the conscious level of women has increased tremendously. Similarly, the tap being available to each household, water supply has improved a lot.

Due to increased awareness, drinking water prepared by boiling (10% to 70%), chemical treatment such as chlorination (0% to 5%), filtering only (10% to 40%), and Direct Drinking (50% to 10%) with no knowledge of Sunlight Method of preparing drinking water before and after new RWSSP implementation has changed.

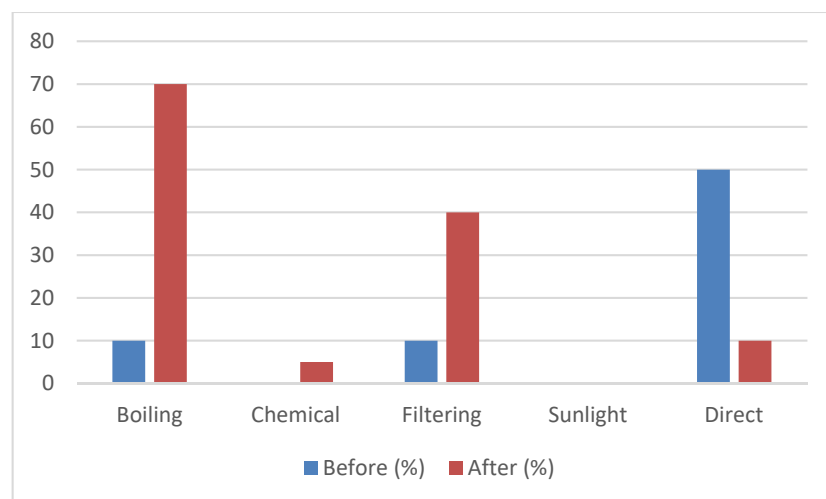


Figure 4-2: Drinking Water Preparations Before and After New RWSSP

Women have come along a long way to change defecation habit. The percentage of people using open defecation has reduced (40 %to 10%), temporary latrines decreased (30% to 20%), permanent latrines increased (20% to 30%) and sanitary latrines increased from (10% to 40%).

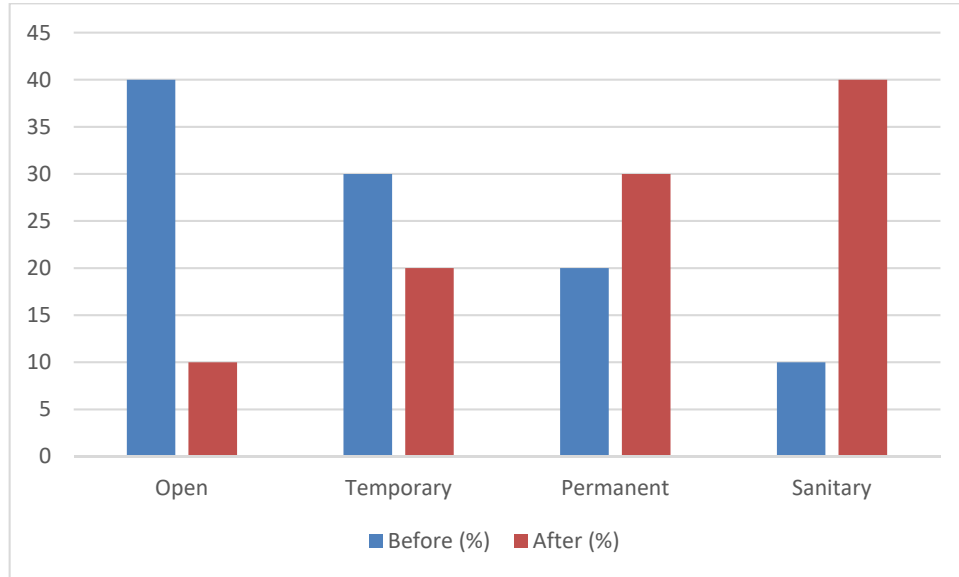


Figure 4-3: Defecation Habit Before and After New RWSSP

There is considerable change in hand washing behavior and now much conscious that hand should be washed with soap water before meal and after defecation. Kaski district is first district declared as ODF (Open Defecation Free).

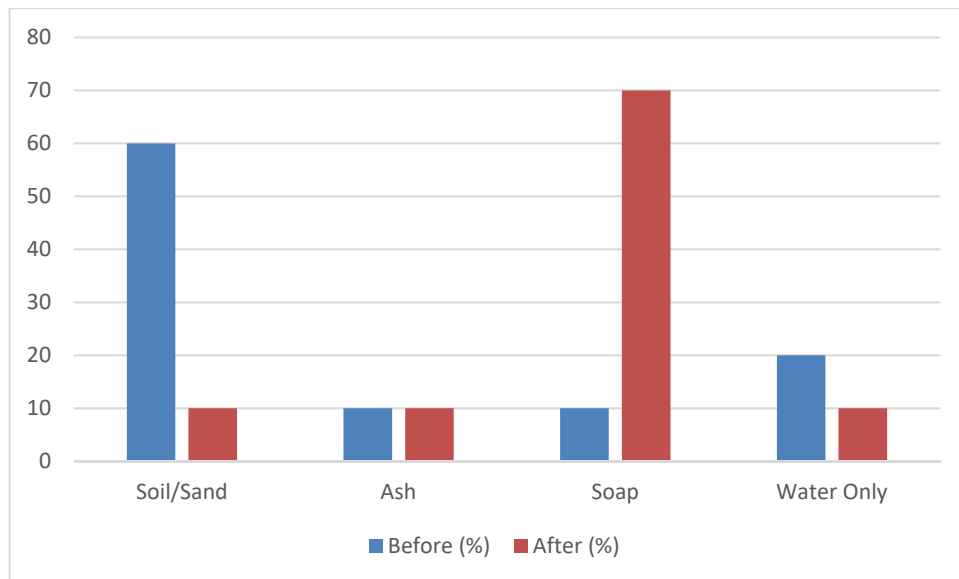


Figure 4-4: Handwashing Habit Before and After New RWSSP

4.6 Technological Option

4.6.1 Preconstruction Phase

Community members initiated the construction of new RWSSP project with the leadership of dynamic retired ex-army man. The people, each household contributed in terms of money as well as labor. The Dalits and economically low profile people contributed in terms of labor only they were provided with community taps such as Thapako Chautara Tap (16 households share) and Uppla Gaon Tap (9 households share).

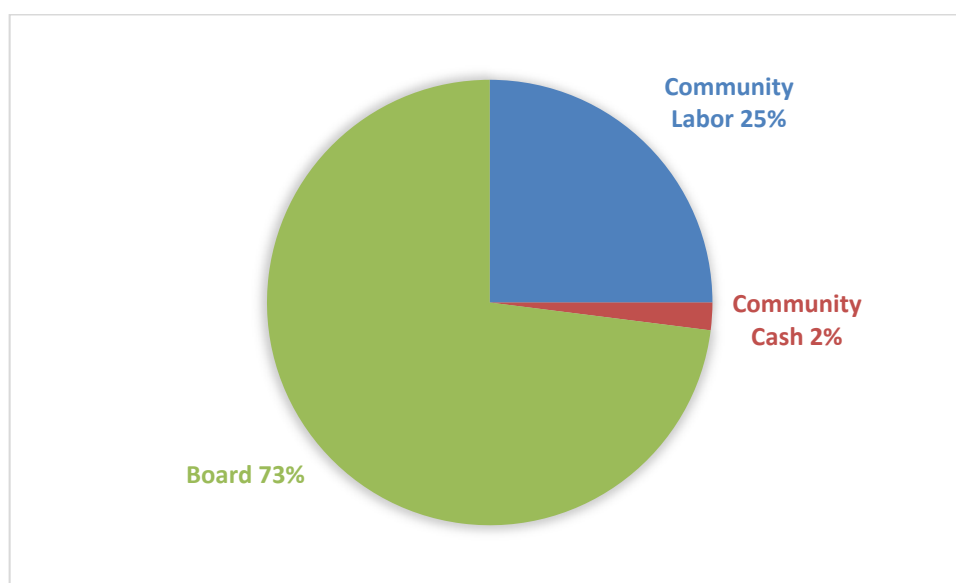


Figure 4-5: Total Estimated Cost Distribution of New RWSSP

The logistic support and funding was from Trinetra Foundation, an NGO working in RWSSP and VDC provided NRS 100000 for the project. The estimated financial cost of the proposal for the project was NRs 39, 93,661.10 for 199 households with total design population of 1669 people and present population 1132. The community participated for 27% cost (2%cash, 25% labor) and rest borne by the RWSSPFB (73%).

4.6.2 Construction Phase

The proposal was approved on 2065 BS. The tri-party agreement was signed on same year among facilitating NGO Trinetra Foundation, Water Users Committee, and RWSSPFB with an aim to complete the work within 2066-10-27. The work was completed within time.

In the contract, it was mentioned that the local WUC would take whole responsibility of collection of construction materials, purchase and transportation, human resource management and maintain quality of construction work. The construction work was completed in two stages. It was also responsible to maintain an account for expenditure and acquired fund for economic transparency. It had to monitor investment and progress with a periodic report in case any unusual situation happened to impede the speed and quality of work.

Similarly, the facilitating NGO had responsibility to facilitate the WUC. It had to provide vision, contract, project implementation proposal and accomplishment of responsibilities as per the contract. It had to assist providing skilled manpower and technicians with fixed responsibilities until the project is completed. It had to maintain the quality of construction work, maintain transparent accounting, Investment and performance supervision.

Table 4-8: Activities of New RWSSP for Women's Participation and Empowerment

SN	Activity	Objective	Method
1	Sanitation Revolving Fund mobilization	Construction of Latrines and Sanitation Hygiene	Committee formation
2	Establsihing "Ama tatha Bachha Dhara Samuha "	Cleaning community water sources Community Tap Protection	Discussion , Meeting and Interaction
3	Water Users Committee Training	To develop Leadership and Management skill To provide Detail information about the project	Conduct Training Class
4	Training for WUC Treasurer	To acquire skills for basic accounting	Conduct Training Class
5	Informal Education Facilitator Selection	To select capable Facilitator	Discussion, Meeting and Interaction
6	Registration of WUC	To provide Legal Validity	Register in DDC

7	Proud Shikshya Sanchalan	To make woman literate	Conduct informal classes for elder women
8	School Cleanliness awareness Campaign for students and teachers	To improve the cleanliness of community by school students	Training
9	Women's Group Formation	To improve the revenue generating capacity of women	Discussion and Meeting
10	Cash Contribution Collection	To collect 25% cash investment To raise fund for operation and maintenance	Home To Home Reaching

From observation and focus group discussion, it was found that women were involved from the beginning. Dreaming the situation of tap to every household, physically women were directly involved in excavation work of laying out the water pipes, carried head load of construction materials to the construction site. Four women participated in the committee from the post of treasurer to members. Similarly, women's group called "Aama taha Bachat Dhara Samuha" was formed to include 85 women. Starting capital investment of Rs 10,000 was a fund to increase saving habit and to involve in revenue generation activities. Similarly, women were involved in sanitation program and construction of latrines for 26 households. Women actively participated in mass awareness program for sanitation. Investigation and Evaluation committee had also a woman representation. The meeting was conducted on 4th of every month.

4.6.3 Operation Phase

The project was completed within the estimated time frame. In the first attempt, the water was distributed as 18 community taps. But later with the vision of tap to every home, the project completed with 185 households with home taps and with 3 community taps. Voluntary Maintenance Worker was chosen for the operation and maintenance as well as to regulate water supply. Every home has metered tap so that they pay minimal charge of Rs 360 per year for 30 units per month. For greater water consumption, additional Rs 10 per unit is added. For supply maintenance, "Heralo" (watch man and support person) was hired with Rs 2500 per month.

The water source is available for all the season. In case of some maintenance issues, people carry water from the traditional water resources. The water quality is also moderately hygienic. People often filter and boil the water to prepare for drinking. Average household uses about 200 liters of water daily. Minimum time, 3-4 hours daily was saved after implementing this project. The labor is considerably reduced. Most women utilized the saved time and labor to watch TV (18.75%), income generating activities (37.25%), Study (12.50%), Recreational Job (31.25%).

4.7 Management and Maintenance

Water user's committee is responsible for the management and repairs in case any breakdown occurs in the metered water supply. Fund collected from every household from water consumed is deposited in the bank. If necessary, the consumer households help recover the disasters like landslides. Women do not participate in cleaning the main reservoirs but they all are involved in local reservoirs and taps in their household. Water users' committee voluntarily works for local repairs of taps and reservoirs and there is strict rule that the household repair should be done under the direct supervision of the WUC. Maintenance cost is free however carelessness charging is Rs 500 for every time except for the material cost.

Women are involved in local management only not outdoor maintenance of the source. What husbands or men think about women is that they are naturally physically stronger than the female to get involved in management and maintenance. Another most common conception is that if female participated in the management and maintenance, men have to give time to scheduled duties like cooking, feeding cattle and doing households which are much more tedious for them. Attending meetings is compulsory for single women, but the number of women participants is increasing due to increased leisure obtained than before. It is known from WUC presidents annual report speech that the charging policy is very low to maintain two hired labor minimum Rs 1, 20,000 per year and from simple calculation the minimum amount collected from charging policy is around Rs 57,600. So it is required to charge higher from Rs 360 to around Rs 800 per year so that it will be sufficient to hire them and some fund will be collected for the material purchase for repair. People don't feel easy to go for maintenance easily so that the hired labor can be used for frequent repair problems. Only the

president of WUC is taking responsibility as a volunteer for the new connection as well as in maintenance and repair. However, it is a challenge. It is a well-established saying that people can't volunteer with an empty stomach. A maintenance committee is required with a team of paid workers with basic training regarding repair and the cost should be taken as some charge tariffs. Single women, landless and construction labor women should be given priority for the training so that they will get motivated to work in maintenance and there will be employment opportunity also. The water sources could be further managed for increased demand due to population growth.

CHAPTER 5

ROLES BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

Nepalese society is still patriarchal and the concept of gender equality and rights for men and women is developing to some extent. However, it definitely takes some more generation to transform the traditional society. The role women play in the family as a wife, a mother, a sister in law, is always very important for the whole family. It is rightly said for women as “Grihalaxmi” meaning Goddess in home. Home becomes heaven if women is educated, laborious, utilized her leisure with creativity and she gets support from men. She becomes a leader when allowed to participate in meetings and nurture the whole society and society becomes more cultured and less corrupt. So a daughter from a cultured family and society is called “kul ko chhori, mul ko pani” meaning, daughter of good family and water of natural spring are best, is what always desirable for beginning a new home.

Because of law for women representation, there should be at least 33% representation of women for every committee. Similarly, the seats are reserved for women to fight the public service commission. Separate women’s group is being formed with the right to settle dispute in the community and demonstrate power of women is always better illustrated with union rather than individual. Such committees work under National Women’s commission. As such in political parties and leadership, women are allowed with some proportional representation. However, there still exist some barrier such as cultural barriers, socio economic barriers, challenges and obstacles.

5.1 Cultural Barriers

Culture is manmade environment since ages. It means the behavioral practiced from ages with some little modifications with time in the society with a sense of ownership and pride. Because of norms and rules as a part of culture developed in a society, there are both bright and dark sides.

5.1.1 Lack of Education

Lack of education is one of the most widely talked cultural barriers to prevent participation of women in community development projects. Because of this, women are unknown about any subject matter their development and right of information as well as putting their view in the subject matter. They will be indifferent to leadership and fight for the right deeds.

All respondents were chosen female. The ratio was maintained such that we can emphasize women's role barriers and challenges at the same time making some comparison to male counterparts. From the education status, we see that most female respondents had informal education (40%), class 6 to SLC (30%), primary (20%) and above 10+2 (10%). Since most of the respondents were found aged 40-50 years, we can infer that this education status is the reflection of few decades ahead where women had hardly any opportunity to study than the males. It was because the society had impression that there is no benefit of providing higher education to the original family from a girl who is getting married to another family.

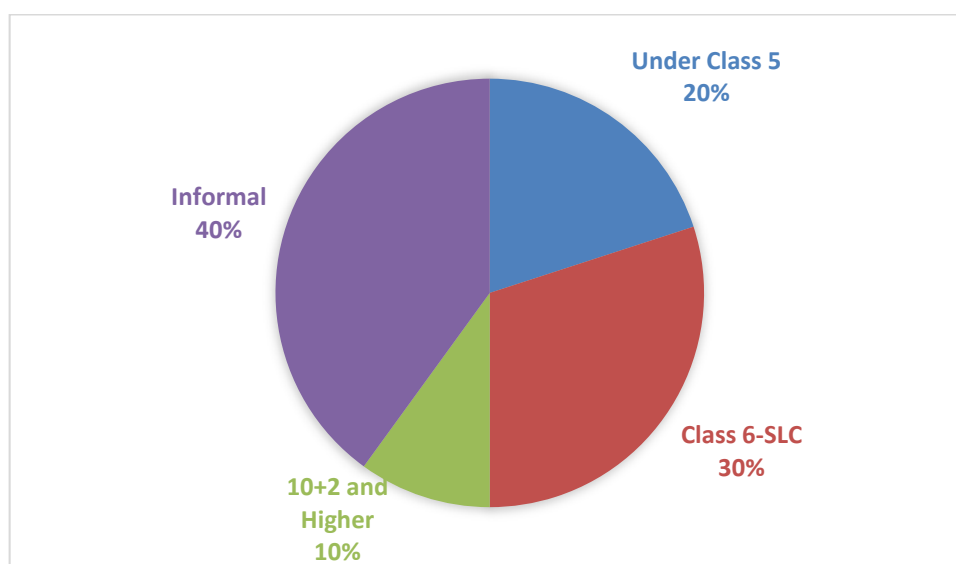


Figure 5-1: Education Status of Respondents

Most women attended “Proud Shikshya” after their marriage. Most girls were married young during their secondary level education and very few had time for their SLC and higher education. Lack of

education, therefore was a major barrier however, most women have participated in this RWSS project.

5.1.2 Overload of Work

Because of unpaid work from morning to night, different obligations of different roles such as wife, mother, and daughter in law women have high overload of work. Physically women have more working hours than male and are psychologically tortured with sense of ownership to perform every task properly, timely and effectively. Majority of respondents (40%) overloaded with work. Similarly, most women worked long hours (35%), minimum women worked around 8 hours (25%) when compared with women only. Due to overwork, they are always busy, physically and mentally tired. In this condition, no one can actively participate in community development activities booming their leadership caliber. In spite of this barrier, women have fairly good participation role in this RWSSP from WUC to attending meetings and operation and maintenance of the project.

Table 5-1: Working Hours of Respondents

Working hours	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 8 Hours	20	25%
8 Hours-12 Hours	28	35%
12 Hours-16 Hours	32	40%
Total	80	100%

5.1.3 Conservative Thinking of Male Dominated Society

Because men think they are the main bread winners, they are stronger than female they often call “pothi baseko ramro hudaina” meaning, crowing hen is not good i.e. women coming forward is not good, whenever women want to know lead or express their view regarding certain common issues. Men’s are conservative to assign duties and responsibilities to women as well because they doubt the capability of women than to provide opportunity to them. Women are thought to have assigned the sole responsibility of growing children and feeding the whole family. Even if women are

unemployed, they have no leisure time due to household works. In one way we can thought of women having unpaid job. If she is employed, her household work is still the same and her job doubles her volume of work.

In this new RWSSP, major respondents (50%) said that they get support from men and family for outside home activities, 18.75% women argue that they get support not always, and 31.25% women respondents say they never get support.

For inside home support, 55% say that their family support in their internal works, 25% get their support occasionally and 20% never get support in internal works. That means the society is still conservative to believe women's capacity and fear to allow them participate and lead in community activities. It is impossible for women alone to show her potential without their family support.

Table 5-2: Man Support and Participation of Women

Outside Home Activity Support from Men	Numbers (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes, Often Men support	40	50 %
Yes, Sometimes	15	18.75 %
Not at all	25	31.25 %
Total	80	100 %
Inside home Support from Family	Numbers (n)	Percentage (%)
Family support	44	55 %
Do not support	20	25 %
Not at all	16	20 %
Total	80	100 %

5.1.4 Leadership and Ownership Feeling of Women

By leadership we mean the quality to organize, make a common mass vision and make other follow to support the vision. Ownership feeling means awareness and attachment to any activity from beginning to end of any activity, project or development work. Lack of time for women to serve as

a community worker or volunteer for a long time makes her indifferent to changing concepts. She therefore may not have ownership feeling for any community development projects.

Due to their own requirement of water, women participated in WUC. After the new RWSS project was completed, women got time to get organized, put their views and participate in the meetings of community development projects such as water and sanitation programs. From literate women showing her capability in “Anugaman Mulyankan Samity” to “Mahila Samity”, women have demonstrated their leadership skills. Due to ownership feeling, women actively participated in fundraising function for new RWSSP, carried head loads and helped laying out pipes, came to represent in water user’s committee. 50% of respondents say that women require leading type participation, 30% said only participation and even 20% said that participation of women is not needed at all. This implies that still there are some conservative roots and lack of faith for women in terms of their leadership and ownership feeling towards community development activities, politics and every other sectors.

Table 5-3: Type of Women Participation Deserved by Respondents

Participation of Women	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Leading Participation	40	50%
Participation Only	24	30%
Not at all	16	20%
Total	80	100%

5.2 Socio Economic Barriers

5.2.1 Participation in Decision Making Process

Meeting is a process of sitting together to discuss and make a rationale decision about any situation, activity or issue with of interest. It is a usual practice to invite the concerned parties or stakeholders related with an issue via letters, phone calls or any other communication means. Decision making is the activities or way out to solve the particular subject matter upon which a meeting is called for.

Long ago, women were not considered to show interest towards meeting and major decisions. With the WID and GAD, the concept that women have equal right and need an involvement in community development process came into existence.

In this RWSSP 100% said that they were officially called upon by the committee via sending letter. 50% respondents said that they arrive on time, stay whole time and sign the minute, while 25% replied that they arrive late but stay whole time to sign the minute at the end. 13.75% respondents reported that they arrive on time but left early with consent of any decision made would be acceptable and sign the minute in priory. 11.25 % respondents indicated that they don't take part and participate in the meetings as they have no interest to overload with added responsibilities.

Table 5-4: Participation in Meeting

Participation in Meeting	Number of Respondents	Percentage
On time, whole time, sign	40	50 %
Arrive late, whole time, sign	20	25 %
Always on time, leave early, sign	11	13.75 %
Rarely Participate	9	11.25 %
Total	80	100%

Replying the question how they participate in the meeting, major number (57.5%) respondents said that they listen, put view, discuss the agenda and then sign the minute. A large portion (36.25%) replied that they listen but don't argue much and sign the minute. Rest (6.25%) appear indifferent to meeting agenda and never sign the minute.

Table 5-5: Way to Participation in Meetings

Interaction in Meeting	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Listen, don't argue, sign	29	36.25
Listen, Put view, Discuss & Sign	46	57.5%
Rarely argue and Never sign	5	6.25%
Total	80	100%

In this RWSSP, larger portion (78.75%) respondents guaranteed that the committee decisions are made via rule of majority. Some (15%) complain the decisions are affected by the key players in the committee and rest (6.25%) even blamed that the decisions are guided by outsiders' interest.

Table 5-6: Decision Making Process in Meetings

How Decision is made	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Majority	63	78.75%
Committee dominance	12	15%
Other : (Men)Decide	5	6.25%
Total	80	100%

Majority of participants (60%) knew the information about the decision from the home participants and rest (40%) knew from other community members in the society. Although notice board is an easy means of obtaining information, due to no fixed office room for the project meeting, there is no notice board to dissipate the information.

Table 5-7: Information Sharing of Decisions made in Meetings

Information about Decisions of meeting	Number of Respondents	Percent
Home participants	48	60%
Community members	32	40%
Total	80	100%

Although “katuwal” were messenger few years ago to call for meetings, nowadays local FM are available. However, due to cost restraints, local FM are not used.

Table 5-8: Satisfaction with Decision Made in Meetings

Satisfaction with Decision in Meeting	Number of Respondents	Percent
Always Satisfied	56	70%
Often Satisfied	16	20%
Never Satisfied	8	10%
Total	80	100%

Often the meeting decisions are made from majority agenda by agenda. Most (70%) respondents are always satisfied with the decisions made in meeting because they have faith that every decision is made with the sufficient discussion in the subject matter. The other group (20%) is however satisfied although some decisions might not in favor of their group. But the rest (10%) are never satisfied with the decisions made in the meeting. They form such a group that they don't take responsibility as well as don't actively take part in meeting. Always they think that the decision is biased.

From direct observation, simple meeting consisted of step 1 to Step 4 are followed. For annual meeting step 5 through 7 are added.

1. Formal letter was sent for every major agenda and oral information was spread in minor cases. Also there were regular meetings conducted every last day of month for which no information was required
2. By convention, two third of the majority was compulsory to start meeting to sign minute
3. Discussions on minute agenda by agenda
4. Signing on the minute
5. Formal inauguration of the program had begun then
 - a. "Asan Grahan" for president, invitees and VIP Guests
 - b. National Song sung
 - c. "Maun Dharan" for known unknown martyrs
 - d. Speech from Guests
 - e. Economic report presented by the treasurer
 - f. Closing speech by President
6. Tea program
7. End of meeting

5.2.2 Health

It is well said that health is wealth. From focused group discussion respondents informed that due to improved sanitation habit and proper cleanliness due to availability of water. The bathing and washing habit have changed. People drink water preferably by boiling, filtering or chemical treatment. People now suffer from water borne disease less than one time per year. Similarly, the backache problem is reduced for water carrying people.

5.2.3 Motherhood

From group discussion, the pregnant women need not go far to fetch water. They get hygienically prepared food and water. They have got rest time and proper sleep time. The menstruated women need not go to traditional sources, which is good for their physical and psychological fear of getting mal-behavior. Similarly, the washing, cleaning habit has improved considerably. Women have rest and sleep time sufficient for health. Due to improved food habit, the children have now less suffered from disease and have time to read and write in the morning. Due to increased awareness, they give birth generally in hospitals.

5.2.4 Time Allocation

From group discussion with key informants, it was known that all women respondents' usual work as cooking, feeding, cleaning and field works by default. Most women work more than twelve hours per day. Before this new RWSSP, they used to spend four hours daily on average for water fetching. Now the condition has improved. In the free time in morning, women attend meetings more than earlier. They have now better sleep and rest time and in the evening they manage some time to watch serials, documentary and news in television. Some women taking "Proud shikshya" in evening time, can sign rather than fingerprinting, read some brochures, news and scrolling messages in television and note down some family accounting notes. They are managing their time in community health campaigns and social awareness programs such as to celebrate women's day, Independence Day, Mahashivaratri and other cultural events. Most of energetic women have spent their time in revenue generation agro-based production and selling them in nearby market. Watching

TV (18.75%), recreational jobs (31.25%), study (10%) and income generation activities (37.5%) are the main activities for utilizing the leisure time as per the information provided by the general and key respondents.

Table 5-9: Leisure Time Utilization of Respondents

Leisure time Utilization	Number	Percent
Watching TV	15	18.75%
Recreational Job	25	31.25%
Study	10	12.50%
Income Generation Activities	30	37.50%
Total	80	100%

5.2.5 Economic Issues

The WUC, of new RWSSP has have decided open tap for three places. It was because the Dalits could not come into household criterion for paying around Rs 10,000 cash criterion. However, they have donated labor worth Rs 15000 (Rs 500/day *30 days). One tap is shared by 16 households, other two 9 households each and do not pay the annual cost. The revolving sanitation fund distributed Rs 10,000 each for construction of sanitary latrines as loan for 26 households. But those households with poor economic condition were given grant. The water charging tariff Rs 30/month is fixed based on households with low economic profiles. However, for management purpose, the price has to be threefold to keep watchman/maintenance man popularly called as “Pale” and hiring technical person in case of water supply breakage. So the project could not provide some single women and low profile person free water.

5.2.6 Obstacles and Challenges for Female Participation

The traditional norms and practices constitute a major constraint to female participation in RWSSP. Furthermore, Lack of education and low educational level of women are identified as the main obstacle hindering women’s involvement. Women have overload of household works which male think female have to do them all makes time allocation difficult for community development process.

Though in the decision making process women are involved, their interest and decisions are not considered fully because women are thought to have less decisive capability than males. Similarly, the mental, physical and psychological taboo that females are weak spread in society is the main reason why female become indifferent to the development works in society. Because of conservative patriarchal Nepalese society, men fear that women would go beyond their control if allowed for leadership and participation and capacity building activities. Also because girls are married to another family, society considers providing education to them is in vain.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

The people's participation in development projects may help bring effective social change rather than imposed an external culture on a society. According to ADB, the new participatory approach includes beneficiary consultation and participatory planning, community development support, engagement of NGOs, Local Government Involvement and Private Sector Participation. Thus popular participation can be defined as the active involvement of the local people in the planning and implementation of development projects. For effective plan formulation control of projects and sharing of benefits of development, participation is necessary. The participation can be in decision making, formulating alternatives, planning activities, allocating resources, participation in implementation, carrying out activities, managing and operating programs, participation in evaluation of activities and outcomes, participation in economic, social, cultural or other benefits individually or collectively.

According to MoLD, Tenth Plan, for gender equality and women empowerment of women, an increased active participation of women representatives and community women in local level planning process. The increased women's access to services and benefits, increased opportunities for women employment, integration of skills and capability development programs is a must. Similarly, increased awareness for the prevention and control of domestic violence, independent monitoring evaluation of contribution made by the distribution of available resources to gender equality. With Local Self Governance Act 1999, local bodies were given the responsibility of formulation, implementation and operation of plans and programs for the development of infrastructure at the local level as per the needs and concerns of local people both men and women. The GON has ratified several national and international human rights related instruments and declarations (CEDAW 1991, BPFA 1995, EFA 2000, HFA2000, MDGs 2000 and Paris Declarations 2005) to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women in different times. CEDAW 1979, adopted by UN General Assembly, is often considered international bill of women rights which is accepted by including

provisions of law by the Eleventh Amendments to the country code of Nepal 1963. Similarly, the Beijing convention women empowerment issues were put into light. Several policies, institutional provisions and affirmative actions were made for the socio-economic and political advancement of women such as establishing Ministry of Women (1995), National Women's Commission, Gender focal person in Sectorial ministries, and Civil Service Administration Act-1998.

As per National Water Supply Policy 1997, getting clean, safe and adequate quantity of water is the basic human right of every citizen and it is the responsibility of state. As per MDG, target 7, set by UN, by the year 2015, the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation should be reduced by half. Similarly, the national target is to provide universal access to basic water and sanitation by 2017. The newly formulated constitution of Nepal 2072 BS has stated "provision for women on the basis of geography, population and balance among states in filing the candidacy by the political parties for proportional electoral system through closed list, shall be made by law. At least one third women should be elected from every political party out of total seats won in the state assembly. Either Deputy or Speaker should be women. District Assembly committee should have at least three women and at least one from Dalit or Minority Group. Similarly, in village assembly out of 45 members at least 18 should be female. In army and other governmental institutions from the principle inclusivity, there is proportional representation of women. There is high level Women Commission to formulate policies, fight for cases and report the government for the women.

The participatory development at local level has been increasing concern for policy maker as well as development practitioners. The community participation in Arva village is different in the sense that it is the tri-party development process of the government, NGO and the local community with a Need Based Development Model. This rural water supply system project was initiated by the local community from the grass root level using bottom up approach.

The study area and sample has been taken by applying the purposive sampling method. The present study has been based mainly on descriptive and exploratory research design. Both primary and secondary data has been collected qualitatively and quantitatively. Main priority has been given to primary data. Different data collection techniques like interview with general and key informants,

observation and focus group discussion are applied for the generation of data among 160 numbers of universe, 80 numbers of respondents were taken as sample.

The women participation to these entire affirmative was found to be exciting in this RWSSP. It was in active participation of women to search alternatives to traditional water resources that this RWSSP was sought for. Women's committee was formed and then built up pressure to form Water Users' Committee. In WUC, there was 33% representation of women in vital positions such treasurer and members. The informal education program was launched where illiterate women knew to sign, read brochures, scrolling message in TV and learned to give speech in mass. They learnt some more rights of women and more roles to play for sanitation and hygiene. From carrying pebbles, sand and construction material to the site to laying out pipes for water supply, women participation was considerably more than males. The way they present in the monthly meetings, put their views and agree on majority is extraordinary. Some women have worked as health volunteer popularly called as "Swasthya Swoyam Sewika" have given basic information and medicine and training for pregnant women reducing the fatality rate of women and children. Some women have been working in farms, some in community development works and other in income generation activities. Some women have reached important position in governmental jobs some are pushing their mates to actively take part in social activities. They have worked a lot to utilize sanitation revolving fund to make sanitary latrines and cleaning water resources and changed the sanitation of state of home, society and village as a whole. Some have contributed transferring knowledge to school children as a school teacher. From the position of labor to the position of treasurer, they have contributed well to the construction, operation and maintenance and management of this new RWSSP.

6.2 Conclusions

From this study it is seen that the sustainable development projects such as RWSSP were effective with women's participation. Participation must take place in all stages of implementation of water scheme from the initiation, planning stage, implementation, operation and maintenance to management and monitoring. The study shows that educated women tend to encourage all their children to educate boys as well as girls. Thus increasingly improving the education for women will

likely accelerate the processes improving women education level and further decrease illiteracy. The quota system needs further attention to guarantee women's active participation in the water management. This may be achieved through capacity building, strengthening women's role and confidence building. The practical implementation of measures to increase women's participation in the water management is currently insufficient; this is mainly a result of cultural barriers alongside adequate policy formation, lack of legal enforcement, and inadequate financial and human resources. There is a need for development training and information to reach their awareness of the concept of gender. There are few active laws regulating, directing, empowering, allowing or prohibiting women's participation in the water management.

The major findings of this study are:

1. Effectiveness of Provisions Made for Women's Participation

Even though several decades have passed with establishment of separate ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare, National Women's Commission, different provisions made in the Civil Service Administrator Act, and ADB provisions for women's participation in community development projects, the result is not that satisfactory as expected. Women are found just sought to fulfill 33% quota in different committees and women are often excluded. Women's exclusion often stems from traditional and deeply rooted gender differences where women, compared to men are not given same right and opportunities.

Women's Participation in WUC is found to be as per quota (33%) provided in law for community development projects as RWSSP. However, in this new RWSSP, though need driven project, from preconception to construction, operation and management the women's participation is found better. This participation is known to have reduced the time consumption, work overload and increased participation of women in social and development activities. Women's committee formation, inclusion in water users' committee, involvement in decision making, utilization of leisure time with income generating activities, health and sanitation, economic empowerment are some positive indicators for women's involvement. Similarly, some more works for capacity improvement,

training, education and motivation for skill development are still a need to transform the stage of increased involvement in development projects.

The women's participation could be substantially increased to a greater level if mass awareness and information flow channel is updated properly via social media such as radio, television and magazine. Providing higher education for women can increase the right awareness, capacity building and ownership feeling for the community development projects.

2. Major Obstacles, Barriers and Challenges for Women's Participation

Cultural barriers such as lack of education, overload of work, conservative thinking of men dominated society, lack of leadership and ownership feeling of women are verified to be the main obstacles for women's participation. Socio-economic barriers such as involvement in decision making process, health, motherhood, time allocation, and financial issues are equally weighted barriers for women participation.

In this new RWSSP, the cultural barriers and socio economic obstacles and challenges hinder female participation are still found. In spite of all these constraints are persistent, some women have dared to cross the limit due to high will power, morale, dedication and proper family support. However, these are found to be exceptional cases only. Others are found to be easily hindered by the cultural, socio economic barriers to participate in the development projects.

6.3 Recommendations

Following are the recommendations derived from this study.

- Firstly, it is required that the activities to reduce gender weakness feeling of women should be conducted as mass awareness campaign from governmental level rather than just formulation of policies provisions in paper. Almost 95% of respondents had no idea about the provisions made in law for the participation in development projects.

- Secondly, for capacity building, proper training and technical support at all level and for all groups engaged in water project implementation and management should be given priority. Water attendants should be given basic technical training which serves a purpose for minor repairs in case of system breakdown.
- Proper approach to information update, technology transfer and timely trainings are required from community and local government level.
- Education has power to change the society. Women need whole family support to actively participate in leadership, capacity building, and empowerment activities in an affirmative way as collective effort to meet the goal of community participation.

6.4 Directions for Further Research

In this thesis, the sample is taken to be half the households. The readers can improve the sample size. The interview is taken one man per household basis and the number can be increased to include more members within single households.

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ANNEXES

Annex-1: Questionnaire for General Respondents

Interview Questions for General Users

Section 1: Respondents background

Personal Information

Name:

Age:

Address:

Sex:

☐ Male

☐ Female

Religion:

☐ Hindu

☐ Christian

☐ Buddhist

☐ Other

Socio Economic Status

Education Status

☐ Primary

☐ Secondary

☐ Plus Two or More

☐ Informal

Occupation

☐ Agriculture

☐ Civil Service

☐ Business

☐ Teaching

☐ Others

Income Level (Monthly in Rs)

☐ Below Rs 4000

☐ Rs 4000 – Rs 6000

☐ Rs 8000 –Rs 10000

☐ Above Rs 10000

Family Information

1. How are you related to the household owner? please tick the appropriate box

☐ Household head

☐ Spouse

☐ Child

☐ Others (specify)

2. How many people live in your household? Please specify number of

a) Adults (above 18years old)

b) Children (below 18years old)

3. Who is the main bread winner for your household? Please specify

☐ Husband

☐ Wife

☐ Both

☐ Other, specify

4. Who controls your household expenditure?

☐ Husband

☐ Wife

☐ Both

Section 2: Water Use and Demand and Hygiene

5. Comparing Before and After.

SN Characteristics Description

Before the Project

After the Project

1. Water Source (Shallow Well, Rainwater, Khola , Tap)

.....

.....

2. Water Source Distance (Km)

.....

.....

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------|-------|
| 3. | Time for fetching water (Hours) | ..... | ..... |
| 4. | Cost for water (In Rupees Yearly) | ..... | ..... |
| 5. | Daily water use (in liters) | ..... | ..... |
| 6. | Who mainly fetches water (Wife ,
Husband, Children, Other) | | |
| 7. | Time spent in Queue (If yes, specify in
minutes) | | |
6. With and Without Women's Participation
- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| SN | Characteristics Description | Before Involvement | After Involvement |
| 1. | Daily water use (in Liters) | ..... | ..... |
| 2. | Who mainly fetches water (Wife ,
Husband, Children, Other) | | |
| 3. | Time spent in Queue (If yes, specify in
minutes) | | |
| 4. | Toilet Use habit (Temporary, Permanent
Sanitary) | | |
| 5. | Material for Hand washing after
Toilet (Soil, Sand, Soap, Ash, Water
Only) | | |
| 6. | Method of preparing of Drinking Water
(Boiling, Chemical Treatment, Filtering,
Sunlight) | | |
| 7. | Frequency of Water Borne Disease
(Low, Moderate, High) | | |
7. How much water (in liters) do you use in your household on the following activities?
- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Activity | liter/day | liter/month |
| Drinking | ..... | ..... |
| Cooking | ..... | ..... |
| Washing | | |
| Cleaning including | | |
| Personal Hygiene | ..... | ..... |
| Other | ..... | ..... |
8. Which of the following do you take into consideration when collecting water for your household? Please rate on a scale of 1- Not much, 2- Quite much, 3- Very much
- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| SN | Characteristics Description | 1-Not Much | 2-Quite Much | 3-Very Much |
| 1 | Easy Access | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 2 | Good Water Quality | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 3 | Seasonal Reliability | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 4 | Cost | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 5 | Proper Management | ..... | ..... | ..... |

Section 3: Water Hygiene and Sanitation

9. How do you prepare drinking water?

☐ Boiling ☐ Chemical Treatment ☐ Filtering ☐ Sunlight

10. How often do you clean the water source?
☐ Weekly ☐ monthly ☐ Yearly ☐ Never
11. What Type of Toilet did you have before new RWSSP?
☐ Open ☐ Temporary ☐ Permanent
☐ Sanitary Latrine
12. What type of cleaning material do you use for hand washing?
☐ Fire-ashes ☐ Sand or Soil ☐ Soap ☐ Water Only
13. How often you go to hospital to treat water borne diseases?
☐ As always ☐ less frequently than before ☐ more frequently than before

Section 4: Technological options

14. a) Did you make any contributions towards the construction e.g. in terms of money, labor?
☐ Yes ☐ No
b) If yes, how much did you contribute to cover the construction costs?
15. a) Do you share the source with other households?
☐ Yes ☐ No.
b) If yes, how many households?
16. Do you use any particular treatment for your drinking water?
☐ Boiling ☐ Use of ceramic filters ☐ Chlorination
☐ Solar disinfection ☐ Others
17. a) Is there any time saved after the implementation of new RWSSP?
☐ Yes ☐ No
b) If yes, how much time is saved (in Hours)?
c) How the saved time is utilized now?
☐ Career Building ☐ Literacy Class ☐ Income Generating Activities
☐ Resting

Section 5: Management and Maintenance

18. Who is responsible for the management of the source e.g. cleaning and repairs in case of any breakdown?
☐ Household owner ☐ Volunteer ☐ Community
☐ Hired Maintenance Team
☐ Other please specify
19. a) Are women involved in the management team?
☐ Yes ☐ No
b) If yes, what roles do they play in the management and maintenance of the source?
.....
c) Is there any difference in terms of improvements recognized by involving women in the management and maintenance of the source? If yes, please specify
.....
d) How do the men and or husbands feel about having women in the maintenance of the water source?
.....
20. a) How do you address the maintenance costs?
.....
b) If shared with other people, do they contribute towards the maintenance costs?
.....
c) If yes, please specify what way and how much

-
21. Are there any challenges you have faced with the maintenance of the water source?
If yes, please specify
-

Section 6: Women's Roles, Barriers and Challenges

22. What type of work you do?
☐ Household only ☐ Governmental Job ☐ Business ☐ Industry
☐ Others.....
23. How many hours do you work in a day?
☐ 8 Hours ☐ 8-12 Hours ☐ 12-18 Hours ☐ No work
24. How do you utilize your leisure time?
☐ Watching TV ☐ Recreational Job ☐ Study ☐ Income generating work
25. Do you attend informal education program in the community?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 if yes, what change have you experienced after the informal education?

26. Do the men allow you to participate in outside home activities such as meeting, job, work etc?
☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not at all
27. Do family member support in your work?
☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not at all
28. What type of participation is needed for women in community development projects?
☐ Participation Only ☐ Leading participation ☐ not necessary at all
29. Do you know how much women's participation is compulsory in development project by law?
☐ Yes ☐ No
30. What do you know about women empowerment law, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy?
 List them

31. How do you participate in the meeting?
☐ Always arrive on time, stay whole time and then sign on the minute
☐ Always arrive late, stay whole time and then sign on the minute Always
☐ arrive on time, leave early after signing on minute
☐ Rarely participate in the meetings
32. How do you interact in the meetings?
☐ Listen, do not argue and sign on the minute
☐ Listen, put forward your view, discuss and then sign on the minute
☐ Rarely argue on the minute and never sign
33. How decision is made in the meeting?
☐ Unanimously ☐ Majority ☐ Committee Dominance ☐ Others
34. How do you know the decision of the meeting?
☐ From your home participants ☐ From Notice Board ☐ From other community members
☐ Others (Specify)
35. How often do you satisfy with the decision?
☐ Always ☐ Often ☐ Never

Annex-2: Questionnaire for Key Informants

Interview Questions for the Key Informants [committee members]

Introduction

This research is being carried out on women's participation on Rural Drinking Water Supply System. The aim is to assess the effectiveness of current applicable laws, regulations and policies implemented to facilitate women's participation and explore cultural barriers, socio economic limiting issues, challenges and obstacles to women's participation in rural households. Your kind cooperation, response and time are highly appreciated.

Section 1: Respondents identification

Institution
Name of respondent
Sex
Age
Date of interview

Section 2: Water use and techniques

1. Is the water available enough to meet the demand for your purpose?
☐ Sufficient ☐ Moderate ☐ Insufficient
2. Which of the following water facilities are used by the households or communities in the area?
☐ Kuwa ☐ Pandhera ☐ Dhara
☐ Khola ☐ Rain Water
3. How is the coverage in terms of facilities? Please rate on a scale of;
☐ Very bad ☐ Appropriate ☐ Very good
4. Approximately how many households share the same water supply facility? Please give number
.....
5. Who is responsible for the construction of the facilities?
☐ Government ☐ NGOs/CBOs ☐ Private individuals
☐ Others please specify
6. What type of facilities do you advocate for and feel should be developed and why?
.....
7. How do you feel about self-supply or private investment in water supply construction and management?
.....

Section 3: Management and maintenance

8. Who is responsible for the management of the source e.g. cleaning and repairs in case of any breakdown?
☐ Men ☐ Women ☐ Community
☐ Other please specify
9. Who are the main decision makers when it comes to operation and maintenance of the water -facilities?
☐ Men ☐ women
10. a) Are women involved in the management team?
☐ Yes ☐ No
b) If yes what roles do they play in the management and maintenance of the source?
☐ Active ☐ Moderate ☐ Low
c) What are the functions of women in management team?
.....
11. How do you feel about involving women in water management?
.....

12. Is there any difference in terms of improvements recognized by involving women in the management and maintenance of the source?
If yes, please specify
13. a) How is the maintenance costs addressed?
b) Do the communities contribute towards the maintenance costs? If yes, please specify what way and how much
.....
14. How do you operate the fund?
.....
15. Are there any challenges you have faced with the maintenance of the water sources?
If yes, please specify
.....
16. In your opinion what do you feel is lacking and needs to be improved in the management of the water source?
.....

Section 4: Policies and strategies and Practice

17. How do you participate in the meeting?
☐ Always arrive on time, stay whole time and then sign on the minute
☐ Always arrive late, stay whole time and then sign on the minute
☐ Always arrive on time, leave early after signing on minute
☐ Rarely participate in the meetings
18. How do you interact in the meetings?
☐ Listen, do not argue and sign on the minute
☐ Listen, put forward your view, discuss and then sign on the minute
☐ Rarely argue on the minute and never sign
19. How decision is made in the meeting?
☐ Unanimously ☐ Majority ☐ Committee Dominance ☐ Others
20. How do you know the decision of the meeting?
☐ From your home participants ☐ From Notice Board ☐ From other community members
☐ Others (Specify)
21. How often do you satisfy with the decision?
☐ Always ☐ Often ☐ Never
22. How the meeting is organized?

23. What support do you provide and what criteria are used for allocating the support?

24. Are there any existing policies and strategies adequate enough for the involvement of women in the decision making and management of the water resources?

25. Which management strategies do you think are necessary to improve water supply and women's involvement in water management in the area?

26. In your own opinion what do you think should be taken into consideration when analyzing the impact of domestic rural water supply on women and sustainability?

[Thanking you so much for your time and ideas]