

# CHAPTER - I

## INTRODUCTION

In our society Men have always been regarded as the whole, controller and supervisor of all activities and also regarded as bread winner. Women are subjected to several boundaries and isolated from social activities. In the context, of Nepal due to conservative tradition, illiterate, poverty to serve her husband smoothly without any comment. Our social myth is the women are basically inferior and their labor and effort are less valuable than Men. There are many cultural restrictions to women (Singh, 1990).

In America and western countries women are free and equal to men. Their social status is very high and strong. In a under developed and developing countries like Nepal, socio-economic status of women is very low and they are treated as a second class citizen. Women account for 50% of total population of Nepal. Women represent approximately 45% of total labor force in the country and 40% of economically active population. Moreover about 91% of economically active women are involved in agriculture (CBS, 1991).

The socio-cultural ideological, political, and legal factor prevailing in the country have forced women to remain in a low status and seriously restricted their participation in a economic activity and in decision making (Adhikari, 1999). Nepalese women in general haven't been active participate in the overall development of grinding poverty, mass illiteracy, poor health and traditional conservative attitude towards them and lack of access to control over productive resource technology and informant.

Even in 21<sup>st</sup> century, women are heavily engaged in domestic chores along with the socio-economic activities. They have major role in household management and they have to do more than 50% of household work but have low decision making power. Women are not enjoying equal decision making power with their male counterpart. They are discriminated since their childhood. In childhood, they have to live under their parents, in adulthood they should follow their husband and in old age, they are under their children. They have no liberty to decide freely even their own.

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural areas where the choice for livelihood is limited to agriculture work on the farms which are owned in most cases either by father, husband, landlord or brothers. Most of female are economically dependent. They have to ask their male partner to spend their own income also. Very few women are economically independent and they have little bit higher decision making power. (NPC, Nepal 2004)

Socio-economic status of female affects the role of women in society, however they are capable and potential. Their capabilities and potentialities do not respect if they have low status. As females are less educated they have low decision making power. These women have higher education and sound economic background, have higher chance on decision making. Female are not considered to participate in decision making process in most of socio-economic religion and other activities. They are very few household which are headed by female. According to census 2001 only 17.18% household are headed by women.

The economic, demographic and social factors have the strong role in terms of decision making power. Women are not leading roles; they are considering as a second grade citizen and play subordinate role in the society. They are less comfortable in decision making field. They have low access to resource which makes them dependent and it affect their role in household as well as in society.

Very few women are involving in mainstream of development and very few women are in service sector. They have very few women in policy making levels. More than 70% females are involving in a agriculture sector. Only few percent female are in service sector. Recently, one women is nominated as a member of national planning commission (NPC,Nepal,2004).

It is essential for development that male and female should enjoy equal opportunities for decision making either in low lower or in higher level of policy making. Plan formulation and implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation sector. Unless women are not bringing into the mainstream of development will not be smothered.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

The socio-economic status of women's in Nepal generally low. Due to the poverty, gender bias distribution of power and resources in the family and society. Nature of women status visualized in terms of backwardness socio-cultural and tradition norms. Lack of health facilities, high burden of household and fieldwork less input even the important area of family decision making, low employment opportunities, wealth and legal right etc.

Unequal rank and power in decision making and benefit are legitimizing by traditional norms. Women suffer from discrepancy and have to face unequal social and economic condition. Their status in economic, social and legal aspect is much low in the society. Their low status is mainly because of their involvement in the economic activities. As they work mostly inside the house chore and confine themselves to such task as cooking, washing, taking care of children. Their contribution remains invisible. Women have less access to income; wealth and employment are the main cause to their low social status. Which affect directly in their decision making process. Decision making processes of rural and urban women vary. As we look into the rural areas, where choice of livelihood is limited to agricultural works on the farms. Which are owned in most cases either by their fate, husband, landlord or brother. Since the daughter of Nepal are deprived from inheritance of property right which is the means of owning land. In the rural area women have to work in men's land from dawn to dusk for supporting themselves and their family members. These clearly show how dependent they made their livelihood or in other words we can say that the right for survival for women is laid on heart of men. The problems faced by urban women are also encountering the different kinds of problem. Now a day, in urban area unwanted female fetuses are destroyed with the help of modern technology. Hence the discrimination of female starts from womb and continue to the tomb. The famous Nepali saying; let it be later but let it be son, still exist in our society.

Women's relatives' status varies from one ethnic group to another. The status of women in Tibet-Nepalese communities is generally better than of Pahari or Newari women. Women from low caste group also enjoyed relatively more autonomy and freedom than that of pahari and Newari women (acharaya, 1995). Urban women are

getting more opportunities in education, health as well as economic and political sphere. But the situation is different in different caste group. Nepal has tribal groups apart from its Hindu caste system. Brahmins and chettri rank top then other caste group. Women in each of these caste group varying position and power accorded to them by traditional culture and religious sanctions of the society. Women in high caste group Brahmins and chettri hold perhaps the most critical and miserable position, which is determined by the so called rites and ritual sanctioned from time to time (“women in Development”, Samira Luitel). The Brahmin and Chettri pattern of life style rules brought by Manu and his contemporaries made the life of women typically miserable. In these caste system women usually not authorized to take major decision and they are bound to obey the instruction of male members of family i.e. father, husband, son and even brother and nephew. In the traditional Hindu family hierarchy the male is accorded superiority over the female and the elder over the younger. According to custom, the eldest male has authority and control over all other members of the family. Among Tibet-Burma communities such as Sherpa and the Gurung women are accorded more decision making power. They have more access to resource and property and more likely to conduct business on their families behalf (UNICEF, 1996).

The senior female member played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources. Making crucial planting and harvesting decision and determining the expense and budget allocations. Yet women’s lives remain centered on their traditional role –like taking care of most household chores, fetching water and fodder and doing farm work. Females usually work harder and longer than the men do. The work load of women is very high as compared to men. The economic contribution of women is substantial but largely unnoticed because their traditional roles are taken for granted. In contrast, women from high class families had maids to take care of most of household chores and other menial work and thus work men and women in lower socio-economic group.

Therefore, the facts that women as the oppressed and suppressed lot still persist. This is reflected in almost all aspects of their power lives including their power of decision making in the household. Decision making is also important aspects which measure the relative status of household member. Although women

have access to decision making in less important matter, they still remain excluded from important decision making.

We have taken up this crucial issue in our area of study. Further, we would like to indicate that these women are capable of making effective an important household decision. If given that opportunity because they are undoubtedly the providers of the basic needs of household and therefore bear the closest association with it. If timely actions are not taken in these directions, women of the future generation might also suffer the same oppression of their predecessor. On the contrary, if women are endowed with the decision making power they deserve, a significant improvement in the household set up and subsequently in the society itself could be achieved. Therefore programmed and policies should be designed to reach this exploited class of the society to enable them, to come to the fore font with their productive power of effective decision making. The study attempts to answer the following research question pertinent to Brahmin and Chettri women.

- ) To find out the decision making role of Brahmin and Chettri women?
- ) To increase the role in decision making role.
- ) To make some recommendation to increase there role in decision making as well as other sector.
- ) To make them able to participate in decision making process of their household?

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

This study was mainly focus on socio-economic status of Brahmin and Chettri women. The specific objectives of the study are:

- a) To explore the role of women in household resources procurement and their use.
- b) To examine the role of women in pattern of labor utilization.
- c) To explore their role in property owning like buying and selling property.

## **1.4. Significant of the Study**

This study has attempt to reflect women's status in term of decision making, inside and the household. Further more this study will have the important to find out actual condition of women in the study area in term of socio-economic status and their decision making roles. Studies on women status indicate that daily work burden on women is more than 10 hours daily. Contribution to household economic by women amounts to as much as 50% .The fact clearly shows the important and potential of women in national development. There are sufficient scopes for enhancing the productive capacity of women through creation of new an intensification of existing productive activities in the rural area with maximum women participation. In order to encourage them in participate in the development programmed. The women need opportunities for uplift.

It has ever been common observation that the women have been assigned a subordinate status to men in our society. They are bound to perform household responsibilities. These are consequence of their position almost total exclusion from the structure of decision making and power within household.

In this situation, such studies on women's socio-economic status are very important. Studies like this type may help to understand and access the real condition of women. This study aimed to provide the data on socio-economic status of Brahmin and Chettri women. The data thus generated may be helpful in drawing attention concerned in planning for the development of socio-economic infrastructure such as health education facilities in the area. It will also helpful as a guide for further research in similar context and finding of the study will be useful for planner and policy maker to improve the status of women in term of decision making within and outside the household chores.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1. Decision Making Role of Women**

This section deals with literature review regarding status of women and role of women in household decision making. Based on the review of available literature, a conceptual framework has been developed to see the women's decision making role in household level. Women have very low participation in decision making process. 70% of household related external decision are entirely made by male member of house (Acharaya, 1995). Subordinate and discrimination of women begin in the womb and continue in the tomb. The birth of baby boys brings prestige, identity, entity and dignity to a mother and the family in the Nepalese society. The parents also propagate the ideology of male superiority and female inferiority. The processes of indoctrination continue unless the girls internalize and behave in the same way. The girls are always with a notion of dependence and temporary membership in their parent's home and boys are brought up to accept and practice the ideology of male supremacy. ("why gender sensitive", Santa laxmi,1994). Women lag behind due to patriarchal system, female confine themselves to such tasks as cooking, washing, taking care of children should not be involved in traditional male activities. Such traditional male activity involves decision making. It has been understood to be mainly men's domain. While the contribution of women has simply gone unnoticed because societal norms define this activity as a male task.

Women oppressed and suppressed reflect all aspects of their lives including decision making in the household. Decision making is also an important aspect which measures the relative status of household members. Although they are still excluded from important decision making. Decision making process is also associated with family. "A decision making process follows 4 inter-related steps: participation, planning, decision making, implementation, evaluation. These steps also occur in the family but in their own way because of smallness and intimacy of group involved. In

the family, too the key step in participation is decision making itself, together with the planning process that precedes it”.

A major difference, which puts family decision making into an entirely different category from large assembly decision: the active presence of women. In large assemblies, none women take part. They left their male follow the job of participating in the public decision making process. But a family level woman is certainly presents. In families where the man has gone to other place, women herself is acknowledge acting head of the household and thus the decision-maker .In families where husband is present as the functioning head of household, he often initiates the decision making process. The woman will know what to do ,even though the patriarchal structure of the family and village society requires that she remain discreetly in the background when it is a question of family’s and husband public image (Pradhan, Ritu).

Almost half population of Nepal is consisted of female but this portion of population is in miserable condition society has minimal women access to resource, information and service both within and outside sphere. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role ,confined to the home and farm and their responsibility there due to their maternal function they are discouraged and prevented take part in public life(“Nepali women raising”, ktm Nepal, Subedi,1993) .Women’s economic dependence men , mainly stemming from fact that men on cash income ,contribution so their social status .The few women who earn sales are often held higher esteem than women who do not (Gurung,1999).

Nepal is a rigidly patriarchal society. This has directly impact in politics, which created a number of barrier in citizen’s right especially women right. They had limited access to markets, productive services, education, health and local government. When employed their wage normally were 25%less than those paid to men (acharaya,1995).In most of rural area, their employment outside the house generally was limited to planting, weeding and harvesting. In urban area they are employed in domestic and traditional jobs as well as in government sector mostly in low level position.

Decision making roles of women vary rural and urban. Although the problem faced by rural women as high degree. The women in urban area also have encounter



the different kinds of problems, but the majority of women live in rural areas and have to play multiple roles in the domestic sphere. They are household managers. Mothers and wives: in the community. They maintain social and cultural services predominately as a voluntary basis and in economy. If they are not formally as employment or entrepreneurs. They are active in family business and farms. But have low access to income, wealth and employment.

According to Acharaya a “confinement to the inside domestic sphere does reduce women’s status measured by her input into the most important category of decision while access to the outside increase it”. It is noticed that women who are only housewives have low power in decision making concerning the expenditure aspects. On the contrary working women seem to have more said in this matter; this may be because the housewives have less knowledge of existing market prices than the working women. Decision making is also influenced by ethnicity. We find variation in different communities. Women’s decision making power is relatively high in Rai, Gurung and Matwali communities than in Brahmin/Chhetri (Acharaya and Bennet, 1983). Women in high caste groups Brahmin/Chhetri hold perhaps the most critical and miserable position which is determined by the so-called rites and rituals sanctioned from time to time. The women from high caste groups have been victims of male suppression from time to time. The position of daughter and daughter-in-law is also different in family. Sister and daughter are always worshipped by parents and brother whereas daughter-in-law is also considered to be in the lowest position in the family. (Luitel, 1992)

Among Tibeto-Burman communities such as Sherpa and the Gurung, the kinship patterns are more flexible. In these societies women are accorded more decision making power, have more access to resources and property, and are more likely to conduct business on their families’ behalf (UNICEF, 1996).

Women’s public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system that confines them to subordinate positions. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women’s participation in public and also control in their private life. These factors have both shaped the cultural world view and governed individual self-image subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is

largely evidence by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese woman are involved in professional management and decision making position (Shtri shakti, 1995).

Acharaya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of major reason obstructing women from participation fully in economy development ,which result low decision making power in the woman's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. on other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human being, conception, delivery and upbringing of the child has made extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reason their status compared to male is very low. Even political, social, and cultural development follows economic development of a country. In this context, the committee constituted by united nation in the status of women trying to gain for equal rights for removal of gender inequalities in legal economic, social and educational matters.

Unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimating by traditional norms. Owing to this there is a belief that females should confine themselves to such task as cooking, washing, taking care of children and should not involved in traditional male activities (Ghimire, 1996). From this it is clear that women's primary roles as wife and mother require their attention 24 hours a day and thus, for working women, must be carried out simultaneously with the work role. Most men do not face such role conflict because society regards their family and personal roles as discretionary, meaning that they are subsidiary to and have to be fitted in with the primary work role. Thus, although men play important roles as husband and father, these generally do not interfere with their primary work roles as family breadwinner.

“Bound by tradition, many women expressed that they lack knowledge, skills and confidence to speak out or make decision” (Earth consult, 1995).from this study shows that there is little or no economic independence and awareness of their rights. So that women may be able to exercise rights. One such traditional male activity involve decision making. Decision making is understood to be mainly men's domain

and women's role or involvements have simply gone unnoticed because of the societal norms has defined this activity as a male task.

Women are more apt to say that their husband's make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husband or that have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approval or accepting their husband's decision without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly: simply because the express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision the idea that women express disagreement because they have "an increase sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinion."(Shtrii shakti,1995).

The statement that women thought they played a role in decision making process "they did not bother to register their disagreement, though they clearly felt it" Shtrii Shakti, 1995). This also implies that women are starting to comprehend how the decision making process works within their own household i.e they understand , at least in their one way .what initiation ,consultation having the final say and disagreeing mean as far as decision making concerned .

In addition to internalizing outside concepts of decision making i.e realizing that nodding approval dose not entail making a decision jointly (Neidell Shara G ,1991).This shows that attendance at meetings is only one indicator of women's informal participation in decision making. However, this does not tell us anything about the quality of their participation. It is important beginning because women are at least getting access to some information from attending the meetings. It is difficult to judge the extent to which women do speak or even if their voices are heard in these meeting without actually observing them. This represents a truer picture of life of Nepal, a life that is guided by the dominant, patriarchal, Hindu system.

The above cited studies are primarily studies. They explain the role of women in decision making in different sector, but do not provide in –depth analysis of women's fallback position, which lead her to decision making process. A perusal of the available literature also makes it clear that there is a persisting controversy regarding women's input in decision making process. After all are women involved in decision making process in household or not? If they are what type role they play.

How women's fallback position in the household helps her ability to physically survive inside and outside the household?

## **2.2. Conceptual Framework**

Base on the review of the available literature ,an attempt has made to develop a conceptual framework for the present study by identifying possible factor affecting the decision making power of Brahmin/ chhetri women. Framework includes religion, caste/ethnicity, economic status of households, women's education, women's occupation e.t.c. These have taken as independent variables which directly influence the dependent variables.

The review of some of relevant studies suggests some factors affect women's decision making power at household. These are cultural, social and economic factor which in turns affect the decision making power.

In view of the finding of the pat research studies as mentioned above as well as the religious, cultural and economic characteristics. a conceptual framework has been developed to see the level of decision making power of Brahmin/chhetri women. Envisage in the conceptual framework (fig 1).women's religion-cultural, socio-economic and demographic factor such as religion, caste/ethnicity, education, occupation, income, family size, family type, age and number of children affects the women's decision making role in their household management, family affairs and socio-cultural practices.



## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In this chapter, a brief discussion of the research methodology has been mentioned. Regarding appropriateness of the selection of the study area, research designed followed in this research, the sampling applied, tools of data collection, and modes of data analysis and limitation of the entire study used.

#### **3.1. Rationale of the Selection of Research Site**

The research was conducted out in Dhumbharahi (Akhandamarg). Dhumbharahi is located in ward no 4, of Kathmandu municipality. Firstly, the site selected because it is on my own locality. (Akhandamarg). Second reason to choose this was the fact that it is relatively small area belonging to some 75 household. The last reason for selection was presence of small area of Brahmin and Chettri with whom it would too easy to discuss about the research problem.

The selection criteria happened to be worthwhile, since it turned out to be possible to carry out an in depth research by one person who had limited time and happy to have chosen this place. The reason for this is the fact that the researcher encountered an interesting people who were hospitable and patient while answering the questions, Who were frank in the discussions.

#### **3.2. Research Design**

A research design is general overview of a research study in process. Here in this research systematic organization and planning find out the views of the study objectives. The main objectives of this research is to explore the decision making process in a household and specially the women's participation in this process. In order to carry out the research properly a methodology has been developed, which will be presented below. The methodology relates to the site selection, the method of collecting information, the method of sampling respondent and the way of taking interviews. This study is both exploratory and descriptive study of a household. It explores the issues concerned with women's life in a household. It focus on the decision making process in a household.

The study has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter presents the introduction, statement of the problem, objective of the study, and significant of the study. The second chapter is related to Literature review and conceptual framework. Third chapter present about research methodology. Fourth chapter present background of the studies and fifth chapter is related to data analysis and presentation. Sixth chapter related about finding of the research and recommendation. In the sixth chapter there is some summary, conclusion and recommendation of the study.

This is not a complete study. This study is done by single person for the fulfillment of the master degree course. Without getting any resource this study is done. Very small area is cover. It is a study of an urban community. it will be different in the rural community. this study could open the avenue for the more study. The data which use in this study is only for supporting for the study. So we will get more information if we go for huge area and more samples.

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

This study is the result of literature survey on gender focusing mainly on women decision making and two weeks survey of Dhumbharahi. Data from both primary and secondary sources have been collected. Using an active fieldwork to obtain the primary source of information collected the data and information. The primary information thus found was substantiated through comparative analysis with secondary data and information available elsewhere such as previous literature, records, unpublished literature e.t.c. In this study we use two type of data the primary data is collect from field work and secondary data is collect from published and unpublished literature and Comparing the data and analysis on it.

### **3.4. The Universe and Sampling**

The universe of the present study comprised of all Brahmin and Chettri women residing in dhumbharahi of Kathmandu municipality. The whole population of Brahmin and Chettri in this locality is 75 household. 75 household were taken as the universe of the study. Out of the total 30 household were taken as a sample. This cover almost 40% of the total households. The household were taken on lottery method.

Nevertheless, the researcher had purposively visited all households to see their lifestyle, people's socio-economic activities. The criteria of their selection were from male headed household female headed household. The informant included both male and female members of a various household were selected to get the separate information regarding the women's decision making role in the household and off farm activities.

First, of all only the house of Brahmin and Chettri was selected as sample cluster and a sample of women was selected from the household in the selected area. Only ward no 4, was selected as a sample cluster. Ward no 4 was selected as a sample purposive (i.e.judgemental) basic. This ward was selected as a sample cluster because it consisted comparatively small number of household.

There are 75 Brahmin and Chettri household in Dhumbharahi of Kathmandu municipality .These 75 Brahmin and Chettri household were taken as the sample household of the study. From these household women involves in jobs, housewife, self business, off farm activities, agricultural were taken as the sample respondent of the study.

On the whole, the sampling design adopted for the present study was non-probability sampling design, which adopted a multistage sampling with non-random selection procedure in each stage.

### **3.5. Methods of Data Collection**

The overall purpose of this study is to describe the present condition of Brahmin and Chettri women (socially, culturally, economically). Because no single method is sufficient or effective enough to collect all the relevant data and information, various method were used and combined for data collection in this study. This chapter describes the rationale for the selection of the study area, research design, nature of data, data collection technique etc.

Primary and secondary data were utilized for this research. Primary data were collected during field visit through interview, participant observation and case studies. Secondary data were retrieved from document, relevant literature etc, as a whole, a combination of data collection instruments were used.

Quantitative and qualitative data were developed by anthropologist. These include direct/participant observation, personal and group interview, case studies and structured questionnaires. Both primary and secondary data will analysis on the finding and recommendation. Secondary data are collected from different publish and unpublished source.

### **3.5.1. Household Survey**

Household survey was done with the women in the selected household to get information, on socio-economic condition of the family as well as the community. This household survey was focus to cover the detail information on the different social aspects of the family, population, demography, age and sex composition, economic status of the family and women and so on.

### **3.5.2. Interview**

An interview questionnaire was structured so as to meet the purpose. The questionnaire was divided into 6 sections. The first section deal with the purpose of getting information about socio-economic status of the household .the second section deal dealt with the purpose of getting information about economic aspects of household. The third section is about decision making role in household management. The fourth section is about decision making role in family affairs. The fifth section is about decision making role in socio-cultural activities. The sixth section was designed to elicit the information about women's access/control/commanded over the economic resources of the household. The questionnaire was administered to interview the head of the sample households. It took 20-30 minutes to complete one interview.

### **3.5.3. Unstructured Interview or Observation:**

Besides collection data with the help of scheduled question became very much helpful to gather information. The discussion on unstructured question related with their dual work burden behavioral pattern within the family, empowerment of women etc. The data collected through the unstructured interview have been used to support the descriptions of the data from structured interview in the relevant place in the text.



At the time of data collection talking to them and discussion is very fruitful. They give me different idea and feelings to talking them. Reaching there house and observing their role is a kind of data collection for me. It is also help me to make conclusion of the research.

#### **3.5.4. Focus Group Discussion:**

Most of the women are not in group at that location. They didn't share there feeling each other. They have same type of feeling and thought but it is not come out. With the help of the focus group discussion they share there feeling and desire to others. At the time of discussion they find same type of other women and they started to talk about there weakness. One focus group discussion we found that most of the women can't make any decision without help of there husband or other male. Most of the women want to participate on politics and other social work but they have some kind of fear from male. Not only that lack of the education they don't want to talk and interact with other people. Some of the women are participated at their community meeting and celebration of festival along with there husband. By this we can say they are interested to participate such kind of programmes. Group formation and involve them to the social work is the important for there participation of social activates.

#### **3.6. Analysis and Presentation of Data:**

All the data are presented by table and analyze it. Qualitative information within the focus group discussion also analyze during the presentation. The presentation will be qualitative and quantitative.

#### **3.7. Limitation of the Study:**

As we no study is freed from short coming and also from limitations, this study may not be an exceptional. It is quite difficult to cover all Brahmin and Chettri community or even Brahmin and Chettri family in the valley. So the first limitation is demarcated by the selection of certain area with small group. So this may not be generalized to all the Brahmin and Chettri family in the valley.

This study is completed in a small scale with limitation of time and finance due to student. Furthermore, the study is going to conduct for master degree so researcher felt many difficulties in the field as well as in methodology and presenting the findings. The analysis and presentation of findings may be weak. However, the efforts have made to elicit the collecting data and analysis to fulfill the purpose of study as much as possible. Moreover, this may not represent to Brahmin and Chettri women's status all over the country.



## CHAPTER IV

### GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE STUDY AREA

#### 4.1. Selection of the Research Site.

The research site ward no 4, Dhumbharahi (Akhanda marg) of Kathmandu municipality is on of the accessible site for research. Nearby the Chakrapath that location is easy to go by public transport. About 10 to 20 minutes walk from bus stop we can reach research site. Most of the migrated people live there and they are easy to interview. About one hundred and ten household are living there. Which cover six hundred populations. Out of this 75 household constitute by Brahmin and Chettri. The total population of the community is two hundred and eighty. Out of which male is one hundred and twenty five and females are one hundred and fifty five. The age and sex composition is as follow at the research site.

Table no. 1. Age and sex composition of the population.

Age group	Sex					
	Male	%	female	%	Total	%
0-5	6	2	21	8	27	10
6-15	24	9	30	11	54	19
16-25	29	10	35	13	64	23
26-45	39	14	36	13	75	27
45above	27	10	32	11	59	21
Total	125	45	154	55	279	100

The largest age category in community was the 26-45 years age group, followed by the 16-25 years age group according to the table 1.

### **4.1.1. Caste and language:**

Caste and ethnicity and language grouping in Nepal make up a complicated web of social structure each with numerous sub-classes which are linked or forcibly isolated by the social and cultural rules imposed under each category. The implication of all rules and social obligation are multifaceted. The areas are homogenous. 100% of the population is from Brahmin and Chettri caste. The major language used is Nepali as a mother tongue. However, Nepali is understood and spoken, as it is the national languages.

## **4.2. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

There is different character in the society. Different age group, different economic status, different schooling and different thought will found on that community. As others community most of the middle class people lived on that community. Some of the character sticks is same because of middle class.

### **4.2.1. Literacy:**

Literacy rate is not very high in this urban community. Only 46% of them are literate.

### **4.2.2. Education:**

Despite the short history of formal schooling in Nepal, education is now largely associated with formal learning through schools, colleges and universities. Non-formal education (such as community or job-based learning) has lesser, though growing, recognition.

The literate rate is low and the women suffer the most. As Brahmin and Chettri comprises the literate from this caste is higher than other caste. Since, the relative structure of the economy is related with attitude towards female education, the more the economy is oriented of female for education because there also less need for the females to come into contact with the outside world (Acharaya, Bennet, 1981).

### **4.2.3. Employment and occupation:**

Occupational trends shows that, in this urban area, the majority of people are employed as formal workers (that is, those people working in the private sectors or a governmental office).

The employment in this urban area is 8%, past study shows that major occupation of the community is agriculture. But since the agricultural is decreasing people have to involve in different alternative of other activities. Most employed people are followed by small family business operators and formal workers.



## CHAPTER V

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

#### 5.1. Socio-Economic Status of Brahmin and Chettri Women

This chapter presents the discussion of the finding of this study in seven different chapters. The first parts deals with social aspects of the respondent's women. The second one deal with economic status, third with distribution of work and decision making process. The fourth will health and nutrition, fifth will the involvement in social organization and the last will political aspects.

##### 5.1.1. Population:

As mentioned above this part deals with the social aspects of the respondents, such as age, education, marital status, religion, fertility, family size, which are presented in the following paragraph, table present the social aspects the study area.

##### 5.1.2. Age wise Composition of the Respondent:

Age is an important demographic characteristic; age makes difference in working hour, type of work and involvement in the decision making process. In this study the age of the respondent range above 25.the following table shows age wise composition of the women.

Table no. 2, Distribution of respondent by age

S.N	Age group	No	Percentage
1	25-30	5	16%
2	31-35	4	14%
3	36-40	6	20%
4	40+	15	50%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Table shows that there are different age groups. 50% of the population is above 40. This reflects the Nepali society. Most of the youth are out of the country for work.

### 5.1.3 Family Type:

Structure of the family plays an important role in the women's socio-economic status. There are mainly two types of families in the study area. Therefore respondent families were dichotomize in two categories viz-joint and nuclear.

In joint family women's economic condition is found much poorer than nuclear family. However workload of the women in joint family is less than that of nuclear family. The following table shows the family type of the respondent.

Table no. 3. Family type of respondent

S.NO	Family size	No	Percentage
1	Nuclear	25	83%
2	Joint	5	17%
	total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that most of families are nuclear family.83% of them are nuclear. Even joint family is popular in Brahmin and Chettri have changed to the nuclear family. Since the agriculture land is decreasing the men of the family have to engaged in different individual occupation. They do not have to work jointly to leads to the nuclear family.

### 5.1.4. Family Size:

Size of family determines the workload and time spent by housewife in household and other chores. Large size of the family is one of the characteristics of underdeveloped society. Size of the family is divided into two categories in the following table.

Table no. 4. Family Size of the respondent

S. No.	Family size	No	Percentage
1	1 to 5	21	70%
2	6 to 10	9	30%
3	10+	-	-
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Survey shows that most of the family size is 5 persons. This proves that women have full responsibility to care her family but her work burden will be minimized due to the small family size. This will give an opportunity to the women to involve in different activities to improve her status.

#### **5.1.5. Marital Status:**

The study was done mainly with the women above 25 years old. Marital status makes a big difference in the status of women. Marriages change the role and responsibilities of a woman. The increases the duties and workload of the women. Here the following table shows the marital status of respondent.

Table no. 5, Marital status of the respondent

S.NO	Description	NO	Percentage
1	Married	28	93%
2	Widow	2	7%
3	Single	-	-
	total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011



The above table shows that majority of the respondent i.e.93% are married. And 7% are widow. And there was not the case of divorce and separated.

The study shows that all of the women married at early age. Early marriage is one of the important characteristics of Nepalese women. Because of tradition of early marriage, most of them married before 20 years old. The following table shows the age of marriage of respondent.

### 5.1.6. Age of Marriage:

The main Age of marriage is major different for the women. In this study we try to find out the average age of the marriage in the urban aria. There is a question for the age of marriage

Table no.6, Age at marriage of the respondent

S. No	Age	No	Percentage
1	15-20	25	83%
2	21-25	4	14%
3	Below 15	1	3%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that 83% of women got married in between 15-20 years.14% of them got married at the age of 21-25.But 3% of them got marriage before 15 years old. Hence this shows that women in this community got marriage at early age. But their views were change towards the age of marriage. The following table shows preferable age of marriage by the respondent.

### 5.1.7. Preferred Age of Marriage by Respondent:

On this study we try to find out the preferred age of the marriage of the respondent.

Table no.7 Age preferred for marriage by the respondent

S. No.	Age	No.	Percentage
1	15-20	10	33%
2	21-25	18	60%
3	26 above	2	7%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

However, their view towards the age of marriage has been changed. The above 60% of them said that the girl should marriage at the age of 21-25 and 33% of them said it should be 15-20 years. The reason for this is they think that marriage of daughter is one of the big responsibilities of parents. So they want to fulfill it as soon as possible. Furthermore, they want to see their grand children soon. And 7% of them said above 26 years. This shows that their view changes even they have early marriage. They viewed that a girl should be able to self-reliant and independent and able to know the situation and cope with many social factors before getting married. So by the age of 25 they may somehow know the situation.

### **5.1.8. Education:**

Education is the strongest variable affection the status of the women. Education provides some of the basic skills and confidence to taking control of their lives. But majority of the population of Nepal are illiterate. Women literacy in Nepal is very low in Nepal. Here, illiterate define the women who can no read and write, literate indicates those women who can simply read and write, the women who joined the school but did not complete SLC fall the category of below SLC and the women who joined campus fall under campus level.

Table no. 8. Educational status of respondent

S.NO	Status	No	Percentage
1	Illiterate	22	73%
2	Literate	3	10%
3	Below SLC	3	10%
4	SLC	1	3%
5	Higher Edu.	1	3%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that out of the total 73% of respondent are illiterate. Only 27% of them are literate. Here the literate means the women who can simply able to read and write. 10% are below SLC and 3% completed SLC. Only 3% have studies up to campus. None of them are in the higher studies.

This shows that the Brahmin and Chettri women in this area are more illiterate. Thus the education status of women is very low. As compared with the literacy rate of women in Kathmandu, which are 67% and that of Brahmin and Chettri is 65.2% the literacy rate of respondent in this community is very low. Since most of the women got married in their early age and they have to devote most of the time in household works.

Without education women can't play decisive role in decision making. Education is power. Educated people can analyze the things and decide on best options. Lack of education we can't change the role of the women in the society. We need to make them educated. During the focus group discussion most of the women get marriage in early age. They are devoted to the family. Because of our social structure no one wants to send their girl to school. The thought that girls are going others home and they don't need to read and write. Our social structure makes them not send to girl school. Only boys need to send school and make them literate. Now time is change and they thought we need to send out kids to school.

### **5.1.9. Health and Nutrition:**

Health has a direct relationship with the equality in life, as it is a major determination of national welfare. The health status of a society is the outcome of interaction of complex of biological, social and environmental factors. Among these factors economic condition, educational levels, socio-cultural structure and status are pertinent especially in the case of women availability of proper housing nutrition, environmental sanitation and availability of health infrastructure and health care facilities.

### **5.1.10. Consumption of Diet Per Day:**

Food is the most important basic needs on which all living beings exist. Frequency of food taking differs according to economic status of family, here the following table shows the consumption of diet per day.

Table no. 9 Consumption of diet per day by respondent

S. No	Frequency	No	Percentage
1	3 Times	28	93%
2	4 Times	2	7%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Study shows the majority of the family takes food three times a day. Very few people take it four times. The usual launch and dinner (morning and evening food) mainly comprises pulses, rice and vegetable. Sometimes they added with varieties of vegetables and meat. The daytime food (khaja) mainly comprises bread and flattened rice with some vegetables.

### **5.1.11. Illness and Treatment**

Support of family is very important in illness and treatment. In this study it is focused whom do the respondent tell the first when they get ill.

Table no. 10. Priority of the respondent to tell about illness

S. No.	Person to tell	No.	Percentage
1	Mother	1	3%
2	Husband	21	70%
3	Son	5	17%
4	Daughter	3	10%
	total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Most of the women give priority to their husband to discuss about illness. The second priority is going their son. Daughters are on less priority.

### 5.1.12. Treatment

The study was done to know the place for treatment of the respondent. The treatment is directly linked with the economic condition of the family. Moreover, it plays directly with the health. So this is the factor, which affects with the status of the women. The following table shows the place for treatment of women.

Table no. 11 Places for treatment

S. No	Places	No	Percentage
1	Health post	4	13%
2	Hospital	3	10%
3	Medical shop	23	77%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Study shows that most of the respondent goes to the medical shops for treatment. That community is very close to hospital but they prefer to go to medical. This indicate that even in the urban areas or the even the hospital are in easy access respondent prefer to go to the medical shop as they are next to the community and less time consuming.

If they go to the hospital they need to wait a long hours. Besides, the result indicates that the respondents are not much conscious of their health. They do not bother on the through or detail checks ups.

### 5.1.13. Care in the Illness

Families' care and support is also important during the illness. Support from husband and family members also effect on the status of women. Hence the study was focused on this matter too. The following table shows the person whom they take for treatment.

Table no. 12 Person accompany the respondent while illness

S. No	Person	No	Percentage
1	Husband	8	28%
2	Son	6	20%
3	Daughter	12	42%
4	Daughter-in-law	1	2%
5	Friends	2	7%
6	Self	1	2%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

In this study the above table shows that 42% of the respondents go for treatment with their daughter and 28% of them with their husband. The third priority i.e. 20% is taken by son, 7% of them go with their friends and 2% of each goes with their daughter-in-law and by themselves. None of them go with their mother-in-law.

Table no. 13 Caretaker of the respondent in illness

S. No.	Person	No	Percentage
1	Husband	13	43%
2	Son	5	17%
3	Daughter	9	30%
4	Daughter-in-law	2	8%
5	Mother-in-law	0	0%
6	Friends	1	2%
	Total	30	100%

The above table shows the higher percentage of them i.e. 43% of them are take care by their husband,30% of them by their daughter,17% by son,8% by daughter-in- law, and 2% by friends, none f them are cared by mother-in-law. The reason for this the nuclear family. Thus this indicates that husbands are more supportive to the women. They take care of the health of their wives.

#### 5.1.14. Use of Contraceptives

Fertility is one of the most important factors, which effect women health status and socio-economic status. Knowledge and practice of contraceptives is important phenomena in the family planning program me because without the knowledge of contraceptives, there is no question of use.

Table no. 14 Use of contraceptives

S. No	Headings	No	Percentage
1	Yes	19	63%
2	No	11	37%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

The study shows that 63% of women use contraceptives.37% of them do not use contraceptives.

This seems that women as well as the men are more aware in using contraceptives and health situation of the family. They are more conscious o the family planning. Both the husband and wife have equal participation on this matter and husbands are more supportive to them. The awareness in family planning data of is 90.6%. As compared to this the awareness rate among the respondent is low. This shows because 50% of respondent are above 40years old. So they are quite less aware in this matter but the new generations are more aware in this matter.

### 5.1.15. Distribution of Work

Women have to involve in the household activities as well as other activities. Even in the normal days they have to look after all household activities and some agricultural works.

Table no.15 Workload on a day by the respondent

S. No	Working hours	No	percentage
1	4 hours	2	7%
2	6 hours	2	7%
3	8 hours	9	29%
4	10 hours	15	50%
5	More than that	2	7%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

This above table shows that 50% of women have to work for 10 hours a day, which means they have very less time to, spent in other activities besides household and agricultural activities. Less leisure time affect in their exposure.



Table no.16 Free hours on a day of respondent

S. No	Hours	No	Percentage
1	2 hours	14	47%
2	3 hours	9	30%
3	4 hours	2	7%
4	5 hours	3	10%
5	6 hours	2	7%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that 47% of the women have only 2 hours of free time, 30% of them have 3 hours and 10% have 4 hours. Thus this indicates that women are mostly busy in household chores and other agricultural activities. Thus, they have high contribution in household and agricultural activities. They have very less time to spend in other productive activities or other learning opportunities. The following

Table no.17 Way to spend free hours

S. No	Heading	No	Percentage
1	Watch TV	6	20%
2	Gossip with friend	9	30%
3	Rest	11	37%
4	Others	4	13%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

Here the table shows that 37% of women spend their free on resting , 30% by gossiping with their friends and 20% by watching TV, 13% but doing other activities.

### 5.1.16. Support of the Husband

In Nepalese society there are clear division of work between men and women and children. In general there exists prevalent patriarchal in the society where women have take care of the entire house hold chores. Women are also equally involved in the agriculture together with their male counterparts. Male members of the family also help to perform some particular types of household work.

Support of husband plays a vital role in the status of women. Women can change her status by the support of husband and other male members of the family. The following table shows the support of their husband in household works.

Table no. 18 Support of husband to the respondent

S. No	Heading	No	Percentage
1	Cooking food, clean house, pay water &Electricity bill, Go for shopping	21	70%
2	Fetch water, washing	4	13%
3	Care children, prepare children for school	5	17%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Here the above table shows that 70% of the husbands support in cooking food, clean house pay water and electricity Bill, Go for shopping .The second categories for support is Care Children ,Prepare children for school which have 17%, the third category is fetching water and and washing only with 13%.

This shows that most of respondent get much support from their men counterparts or the men members of the family. The support from the husband has increased as compared to the previous situation. Now even the men become more aware to upgrade the situation of women and to support in their work. They also realize the contribution of women in the family.

## 5.2. Decision Making Process

### 5.2.1. Decision by Women

Involvement in family decision making process indicates one's higher in Nepal, especially in the higher caste Hindus families. But it is only in the theory or it can be said that it is true so some extent when they are in the status of daughter. When they enter in the status role of daughter-in-law, their status is very low. In their role of daughter if daughter-in-law, women are not accepted a decision maker. When particularly at their old age, performing mother or mother-in-law, she can take part in decision making processes. Except for a few percentage most of the women have no authority on economic decision making.

Women have been assigned a subordinate status to men in our society. They are not allowed to act as a decision- maker in the family. The role of women in the household decision making and allocation of household resources depends upon a number of factors these include type composition of household and women's decision is limited only on the certain part.

Table no.19, Decision made by women by themselves

S. No.	works	No.	Percentage
1	Agricultural works	10	33%
2	Buy utensils/daily necessities	8	26%
3	Select school for children	1	3%
4	Buy clothes	4	13%
5	Repairmen of house	1	3%
6	Saving	7	23%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Here the above table shows 33% of women make decision on the agriculture work but this do not relate to the sell of agriculture products.26% of them make decision on buying utensils and daily necessities, 23% of them decide for saving money, 13% on buying clothes and 3% on repairing the house and only 3% in selecting the school for the children.

This shows that women make decision only on the household matters. They have only less opportunity in huge decision like repairing the house. They have no decision on the financial or the economic matter of the house. They regarded that those matter are responsible to the men. But women are more ahead on saving the money for they are more conscious on the future of the children and family as well. Besides, they are more bounded by the tradition and culture so they usually save for the rituals and celebrations and some religious works.

Supportive attitude of husband or the other family members is very important while making decision by the women. If the family members are more supportive to them they can easily take a role of decision-making. Thus, it is important that whom do they discuss while making decision. There is again the question if they discuss with their daughter or daughter-in-law. While discussing on this matter the respondent are asked to mention two persons whom they give priority to discuss when they make decision.

Table no.20, Person to discuss by the respondent before decision

S. No	Person	No.	Percentage
1	Husband	13	43%
2	Son	5	17%
3	Daughter	6	20%
4	Daughter-in-law	2	7%
5	Mother-in-law	1	3%
6	Father-in-law	1	3%
7	Friends	2	7%
	Total	30	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Here the table shows that 43% of women discuss with their husband on different matter to make final decision 17% of them give priority to their son.,20% to daughter,7% each to daughter and friends. And least priority to their mother-in-law and father-in-law,3% in each category.

Thus, this shows even the women give less priority to daughter and daughter-in-law. Their first priority goes to men members of the family. So this indicates the existence of patriarchal or the male dominant culture in the community.

### **5.2.2. Access and Control on Decision Making Process**

As the results of above study shows that the men members of the family make major decision and some of the decisions are just upon the women or it can be said that there is control upon off on some of the decision on the daily activities. But even the decision are made by the men member of the family they are the women who have to participate more on the to perform the decided works. Along with this children in the family also have role in decision and participation on some of the activities of the family.

Thus a study was made to bring out the access on the work and control upon decision making processes.

The access and control matrix on the decision making and participation on work on the following table show that, men have higher percentage on decision making on most of the activities as compared to the women. Women have higher percentage of decision making only on some of the activities like buy utensils (77%),buying clothes(63%),religious work(73%),agricultural work(53%),monthly saving(53%) and utilization of saving(53%).

However, women have higher percentage in participation of work in all of the activities except paying school fees, repairing house and buying seeds, sell agricultural products and utilization alcohols. Thus this indicates that men have higher percentage of participation mainly on the economic or financial matters.

In total men have 50% of control on the decision making process while 36%on the participation of work. In case of women, they have 46% control upon decision

making process while 47% on the participation of work. So the case of the children is 5% control on the decision making process and 17% participation on the work.

Even it seems that the men have dominant role or the higher percentage of control upon the decision making process on comparison, the difference on two are not much. While studying percentage of the both men and women in all of the activities the difference is not much except on the utilization of alcohol. This indicate that men give opportunity to the women to participate in the decision making process. Besides, Women are also more confident to put views and contribute to make decisions.

Even the literacy rate of the women seemed low; gender consciousness and awareness on the contribution of women in the family or in the society seem to be increasing to the different information through media and participation of women, men and children in social organization and community development activities.

#### **5.2.4. Involvement in Social Organization**

Involvement of women in social organization is also important to change the status to women. Involvement in *such types* of organization helped them to expose to different social aspects, different organizations and people as well. Thus help to generate more information. Information may be help to change economic condition, education level, and socio-cultural structures. Thus, this has direct relation with the status of women.

The following tables shows the involvement of women in saving and credit group in the community. The community has one women saving and credit group.

Table No. 21 Involvement of respondent in social organizations

S. No	organization	No	Percentage
1.	Women Group	21	70%
2.	None	9	30%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that 70% of women in the community involved in women group. 30% of the women do not involve in any kind of organizations. 10% of women have advisory decision making role in the group where as other have of participation. 30% does not have any role in the group, as they are not involved in the group. Never the less, women have different role in the group they gain lots of things from the group.

Involvement in the group help them to enhance their capacity and get opportunity to expose so that they learn many things and get more information that are use to change their life. They remarked that they gain more confidences and are able to put their views to all. This affects the status in the family. As they are becoming more informative and learn many things the family members listen to their voices and become more supportive.

### **Briefs on Women saving and credit group**

The women saving and credit group in this community was established in 2054 B.S with the facilitation of a Non Governmental organization-society for urban poor (SOUP).Initially, it was formed with 50 women and now there are 75 women members in this group.

Women save Rs 200 per months as the regular saving. There total saving now is Rs 602500. Out of this saving money women can borrow the money when they need. They have president, secretary and treasurer among the group members. They set the rules and regulations by themselves suitable for them. They can borrow the money when they need at very low interest rate. The total loan flow of this year is Rs 425000. The loan is taken for repairing house, upgrading income generation i.e. agriculture and education of children. Besides, they sometime take loan for buying jewelries and also for treatment. Beside, saving and credit the women have regular monthly meeting where they discuss about their problems and solutions. Moreover, they participate in different trainings and exposure visits, which enhance their capacity and built confidence on them. This helped them to learn many new things on different issues like health, sanitation and others.

### 5.2.3. Involvement in Politics:

Political awareness and empowerment is one of the major factors to change the status of women. In our society only new people keep interest in the political affairs and do not want to bother on that. More than those women keep less interest. One of the cause is that they are busier in their household activities do not have much time to pay interest in the political affairs. In this section it attempts to knowledge they have in politics as they say they are not interested in the issue. The following tables shows their interest and awareness in political matters.

Table no.22 Awareness of respondent on establishment of democracy

S. No	Year	No.	Percentage
1.	Don't know	22	73%
2.	2007 B.S	4	13%
3	2046B.S	3	10%
4.	Others	1	3%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

The large population of women do not know about the establishment of democracy. This indicates that they have less concern in the political matter.

Table no.23 Interest of respondent in politics

S. No	Interest	No	Percentage
1	Yes	5	17%
2	Don't know	17	57%
3	We do not need it	8	27%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey2011



The above table shows that 27% of women said that they do not need to pay interest in politics. Only 17% said they need and 57% said that they do not know. Since they have less concern in the political matter, they don't see any importance to involve in the politics. The following tables shows their awareness in election matter.

Table no.24, Awareness of respondent in Parliament election

S. No	Year	No	Percentage
1	1 years	1	3%
2	3 years	2	7%
3	5 years	13	43%
4	Don't know	14	47%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

The above table shows that 47% do not know when the election of parliament held. 43% of them said that it is on 5 years .But 7% said 3years and 3% said in one year. So this means only 43% of them know the right answer. Thus they have very few knowledge in politics and less interest on this.

Table no.25, Awareness of respondent in Local Election

S. No.	Year	No.	Percentage
1	3 Years	1	3%
2	5years	11	37%
3	Don't know	18	60%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

The above table shows their awareness in local election. This is very much concerned in the local community. However, 60% of women said that they do not know the duration of local election. 37% said that it is on 5 years and 3% said that it's on one year. So all the table shows that women have very few knowledge on political affair of the country as well as the local communities. It seems that they pay only less interest on this matter and they do not want to go through it. The following table shows their views towards the women candidates.

Table no.26, Views of respondent on necessity of women candidate

S. No	Description	No.	Percentage
1	Necessary	20	67%
2	Not necessary	10	33%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

However, the above shows that Women are more aware on having women candidate in the election. 67% of them said women candidate is very necessary since only the women know the problem and representative of women can put voices or lunch the programmed on the women rights and problem.

Hence the study shows that the women in Dhumbharai are less aware on the political information but they are much aware on the necessity of women representative to advocate on the women issues. Since they think that only women can put forward the women's problem and issues. This awareness may be due to their involvement in women saving and credit group.

### **5.3. Economic Aspect**

In this part economic aspect of respondent is studied. It includes the occupation of respondent, possession of, source of income. Moreover, this also deals with the role of women in the economic activities of women in the family.

### 5.3.1. Major Occupation

Occupation is one of the key factor indicators in determining the socio economic status of women. In Nepalese society the main occupation of women is household activities. But their contribution is not confined within household activities alone; they perform agricultural work equal to their male counterparts.

Women are mainly confined in the four wall of the house and most of their time is spend in the household activities. Even they have to spend more time in different activities their works are not counted in the economic level. Their works are not regarded as the productive one. The occupation of women also plays a vital role in the status of women.

Table no.26, Occupation of respondent

S. No.	Occupation	No.	Percentage
1	Agriculture	25	84%
2	Office	1	3%
3	Labor	2	7%
4	Business	1	3%
5	Shop	1	3%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

The above table shows that 84% of the respondents are involving in agriculture. Besides their works in the households they are involving in the agricultural works.7%of them are labors. 3% of them are office holders.3% is in Business and 3% run small shops.

Thus, this indicate only few percentage of women are involving in the income generating or economic activities. Higher percentages of women have no direct link

with the income generating aspect of the family; even they have much indirect support to their husband or family.

### 5.3.2. Main Source of Family Income

As traditionally Brahmin and Chettri belongs to the agriculture, the main source of earnings for their livelihood is from agriculture. Even the agriculture is the main source of income they do not have sufficient production in comparison to the manpower involved in this occupation and cost of land is increased so people are engaged in non agriculture occupation. There are also other sources to earn livelihood. Hence while studying this area the source of family income is mainly divided into five categories.

Table No.27, Source of income of the respondent's Family

S .No.	Source	No.	Percentage
1	Agriculture	13	43%
2	Office	7	23%
3	Labor	1	3%
4	Business	2	7%
5	Others	7	23%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

The above table shows the main source of income of the family of respondent. This shows 43% of them have agricultural as major source of income, 23% have office as income source (service in different Government and Private Organizations) 7% are in business 3% are labors (carpenters, mesons, and other laborious works) and 23% are in other temporary works. As 83% of the women are involved in agriculture works besides household activities and agriculture is the major source of income in majority of the family the women have high contribution in economic status of the family.

### 5.3.3. Monthly Income

The monthly income of the family is also one of the variables to indicate the status of women. The status of women may change in high-income level family in terms of facilities they use.

Table No. 28, Monthly income of family of respondent

S. No.	Monthly Income	No.	Percentage
1	Rs. 500-2000	4	13%
2	Rs. 2001-4000	17	57%
3	Rs. 4001+	9	30%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey 2011

Here the table shows that 57% of the household have the income level of Rs2001-4000. 30% have above 4001 and 13% of them have 500-2000. This shows that the respondents are of the average income level.

Thus, it can be said that in the average family, women's contribution is very high in terms of agriculture work. However, their contribution is not counted in monetary matter or productive way.

### 5.3.4. Access upon Expenditure

Women have limited choices to spend the income. Most of women do not spend her income the productive activity. Some women have less control upon her income too.

Table No.29, Expenditure of respondent's income

S. No.	Heading	No.	Percentage
1	To buy accessories for self	11	37%
2	Pay School Fee for Children	7	23%
3	Investment	2	7%
4	Buy Jewelries	4	13%
5	House hold expenses	6	20%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

Here the study shows that 37% of the women spend her income to buy accessories for herself. 23% of them spend on paying school fees for the children 20% of spend on household expenses. 13% to buy jewelries and only 7% of them spend on investment in agricultural works or the business of their husband. This indicates that mostly women spend on the unproductive activity rather than productive one.

#### **Decision made by respondents on making expenditure**

The status of women can change by her control on economic activities of the family. Her decision on spending the money or the income is also important to determine her status in the family.

The table shows that 37% of the respondents take decision by their own to buy accessories for self. 27% to buy jewelries, 17% on household expenses 13% to pay children's school fees, 17% on investment and 0% on the husbands business.

Thus, by both of the above table it indicates that women have less control upon the expenditure even they have high contribution in maintaining economic level of the family. They have very less control on investment and no control in productive matter.

### 5.3.5. Land Ownership

The ownership on the property also helps to change the status of women in the family as well as community. But in our society most of the ownership of the property is hold by men. So they are regarded as the dominant figure in the family.

Table no.31, Distribution of respondent by land ownership

S .No.	Headings	No.	Percentage
1	Yes	12	40%
2	No	18	60%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that 40% of respondent women have their ownership on the land. The family members and husbands showed a very positive and supportive role in giving the owner to the women. 60% of the women do not have owner on the land .This data indicates the men in the community are somehow supportive to the women some extent.

### 5.3.6. Saving

Saving of money is one of the indicators of well off families. Saving of the women also one of the strong aspects to change the status of women.

Table no.32, Capability of saving of respondent

S. No	Monthly saving in Rs	No.	Percentage
1	Up-to 200	25	83%
2	Above 200	5	17%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The study shows 83% of the women can save up to Rs.200 per month and 17% of them can save more than Rs.200.

Table no.33, Places for saving by respondent

S. No	Places	No.	Percentage
1	House	5	17%
2	Women saving group	20	68%
3	Bank	5	17%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that 68% of the respondent save their money in women group in the community .The reason is this is easy access to them and they do not have to spend their to go to bank. Moreover, they can save even a small amount, which cannot be done in bank. Thus, only 5% of them save in bank and 5% in their house. This indicates that women have less access to bank and other financial organizations. Only the women group in the community makes easy access to save a little.

### **5.3.7. Access of Loan and Support of Husband**

The above Table indicates that women somehow attempt to save some portion of income. Besides, access in loan is also important to know the status of women. So the study was made to know their access upon the loan.

Table no.34, Access of loan of respondent

S.NO	Description	No.	Percentage
1	Yes	11	37%
2	No	19	63%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field survey 2011



37% of the women have taken the loan for their household expenses, repairing of house, treatment and education of the children. But 63% of them have not taken the loan. Because, they are quite afraid of repaying the loan. This indicates that even women attempt to save some amount, it is not sufficient for them to fulfill the basic needs also for instance treatment, education of children and other daily necessities. Since 37% of them take loan a study was made to know the sources of these respondents who take the loan.

Table no.35, Sources of taking loan by respondent

S.NO	Description	No.	Percentage
1	House	2	18%
2	Saving group	6	55%
3	Others	3	27%
	Total	11	100%

Source: Field survey 2011

The above table shows that 55% of the loaners take the loan from the women group. The group money is the saving of their own money and has easy process and rules. 18% of them take from different individual and 27% from other sources. All of the loaners or 100% of them discuss or take suggestions with their husband to take loan or to do the major decision. Furthermore, husbands and male counterparts of the family found very much supportive to them in repayment of loan. This shows that women group in the community made them very easy access in saving and credits. As respondent have less access to outside financial organization, organizing a group gave them a good opportunity to make decision and control upon the saving and credits.



## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY AND MAJOR FINDINGS

#### 6.1. Summary.

With this study we get very interesting information on the status of women in urban area also. Early age marriage, lack of education, busy on domestic work is become a part of life of Nepalese women. They are excluded on role of decision making process. They don't have control on state mechanism. They don't have access and control over the resource. Challenges to cope the barriers of cultural values and practices that are firmly entrenched in systems and structures of society. Rampant poverty, illiteracy, ill health, gender, caste discrimination, political conflict and religious fundamentalism are the major problem women face today. Violence against women are still exist and families regard female members as weak and in need of protection throughout their lives and women who interact outside prescribed relations are viewed with suspicion of contempt, thus the challenges to overcome such concept.

In Nepali society, women have not achieved equality with men. There are many countries where women are second-class citizens like Nepal. No matter how talented they are, they never get a chance to develop. A lot of countries are there where women are treated as subordinate and second class citizen, though the equal rights are preserved in the constitution.

Study shows that participation on decision making is very low and women are illiterate. Due to lack of education, awareness and access to quality education, women are superstitious beliefs, there is gender discrimination, and political leaders have decreased political vision. The socio-economic status of women in Nepal is very poor. The women are being discriminated in every aspect of the society. These and so many other factors have contributed to turn Nepal a lower human development state.

A women's life is strongly influenced by her father, husband and son. Such patriarchal practices are further reinforced by the legal system. Marriage has a great importance for women' life. The event of marriage determines the way of her life. The early marriage generally depreciates the women's life.

Women's relative status, however, varied from one ethnic group to another. The economic contribution of women is substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken as for granted. Empirical data have proved that situation of Nepalese women is too severe to compare with men. Woman's situation is very poor in health, education, participation, income generation, self-confidence, decision-making, access to policymaking, and human rights.

The health status of Nepal's women is one of the lowest in the country.

The life expectancy for women is lower than men. One fifth of women get married in the early age of 15-19. As a result of their premature pregnancy the deaths of women have been occurring in a very high. High birth rates, low life expectancy, high infant and maternal mortality rates and high death rate indicate the poor health status of women.

With this study we can say that democratic institutions evolve with vision, hard work and foresight of wise leaders – and leadership is not created overnight. People brought in for emotional reasons interrupt and halt the democratic process, and at times have easily undermined democratic institutions. The quest, and consequent, lust for power is not leadership indeed. Corruption and insatiable ambition are the hallmark of many a leader in region and even women leaders could not free from it. Thus, women leaders need to change this record of political playing and they have to be more visionary by being involved in political participation and lobbying for maximum participation of women in politics. A lot of women leaders have such capabilities and they are waiting for the opportunity indeed. There are many women leaders who are talented and politically gifted to enter into the political arena but an encouraging environment should be created. Lack of proper life skill training for women's empowerment and awareness is required unless the women are educated they cannot come forward so informal education needs to be focused. The women need to know about their rights and more work needs to be made on it.

The major issue of women, we have to consider is women are affected differently in war, violent conflict and any human rights violation cases. There is always the cost the women pay is very high in comparison to men in any situation. However, the contribution of women always neglected. The issue of women not addressed in the conflict transformation process. There is a need of women's struggle to break the

patriarchal thought, and increase the women's share in governance and political leadership. Access to the education, leadership and resource can change the situation of the women. The concept on women as weaker-sex and subordinate to the man can be changed through the involvement of women in decision making level at politics, and working level. Participation of all sector can make change the society. Socially and economically men are always considered as superior to women, breadwinner, head of the family and the care taker and this is major cause for the low participation of women in different sector of state. To change the status of women in Nepal socio-cultural change is required which takes a lot of time.

- ) The problems women face in Nepal are similar to those faced by other women around the world.
- ) Sometimes boy children in Nepal get fed better than girl children, because boys are preferred over girls.
- ) Many women feel trapped, they are unable to go to school and must do what their husbands and his relatives say.
- ) Providing women with an education, job training and basic services to ease household responsibilities are ways to empower women.
- ) In Nepal and many other parts of the world, gender discrimination favors men. Women are disadvantaged politically, legally, socially and economically.
- ) The Constitution of Nepal says that women are considered equal to men and should receive equal pay for equal work and that the laws of the nation should be applied equally to both men and women.
- ) The Nepali government has signed the United Nations Declaration against Discrimination of Women and therefore has agreed to allow women, on equal terms with men, to vote in all elections, be allowed and encouraged to hold public office, work in all levels of government, and participate in nongovernmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

- ) Although the government has taken action to improve the lives of women in the country, change takes time and we, the people of Nepal, must also take action to improve our lives and the lives of women.
- ) The percentage of women who are learning to read and write is increasing in Nepal.
- ) Thousands of girls around Nepal are taken from their villages and sold into forced labor as prostitutes and domestic workers, as well as forced into arranged marriages.
- ) It is illegal and punishable by law to sell girls into forced labor.
- ) Although women have had the legal right to vote since the first Constitution was written in Nepal, women are disadvantaged in their ability to practice this right. Some disadvantages include: not having enough time away from their household chores to learn about political activities, not leaving their villages to acquire political information and not being able to read some literature produced by political parties.
- ) Women political leaders, more than men leaders, tend to promote policies and practices that improve other women's lives and the lives of children.
- ) The government alone cannot change the country, we as citizens of the country need to act to improve our lives.
- ) There are already many women in Nepal who work alone or in groups to improve the lives of women.
- ) A number of nongovernmental organizations within Nepal are also working to protect girls from being sold into prostitution. The NGOs also help to encourage girl children to go to school, improve the laws to increase women's rights, encourage women to get involved in politics and provide women with micro-credit to start their own businesses.

## 6.2. Conclusion

The government of Nepal can and has to taken action to improve the role women play in the social, political and economic life of the country. The government has already drafted a Constitution and other bills that give women equal legal status to men. The government has signed international agreements promising to implement policies that help women. Unfortunately, the government can't change anything alone it does not have the resources or ability to do so. We, as citizens of our country, can take an active role in improving women's lives. Already, women throughout Nepal have shown remarkable bravery and amazing capacity to identify problems in their communities and work towards solving these problems.

We see women local government officials meeting with individuals from all the households in their constituencies to identify the needs of their community members. This type of activity can help officials make better decisions about the right policies to implement in their villages.

Some women have even compiled the data they collected from the households and presented their findings to VDC officials.

Other women representatives began participating in Ward Committee and Village Council meetings and taking part in the discussions. At the meetings, some women demanded that more literacy programs for women be conducted in their villages and that the budget allocation process be more transparent.

Other women representatives involve themselves in community development projects by helping to plan the time line of the projects, supervising the implementation of the projects (by visiting the sites and talking to the people involved) and evaluating the projects' effectiveness. The projects women representatives have involved themselves in include water supply, road construction, child/adult literacy, school construction and electricity projects.

In addition to these achievements, other women are beginning to work in groups to share ideas with each other and pressure others to respond to community demands.

Gender inequality constrains women's access to skilled health care in Nepal. Interventions to improve communication and strengthen women's influence deserve continued support. The strong association of women's education with health care use highlights the need for efforts to increase girls' schooling and alter perceptions of the value of skilled maternal health care.

Studies shows that if women were more involved in household decision making and had more control over financial resources, they would be more likely to use health services and, hence, to have better health outcomes. However, results from this study reveal a more complex picture, showing diverse relationships between the outcomes of interest and the four indicators of women's household position. Our findings help identify both the changes in women's position needed to improve health care use and the usefulness of various empirical measures of their position. These results also identify the most important current barriers to the uptake of maternal health care services in Nepal.

The gender relations in any particular setting will affect these factors. Other elements, largely unrelated to gender relations, may also exert a critical influence on demand and the ability to act. Furthermore, increases in the uptake of reproductive health services may occur in the absence of any significant change in women's position.

In our study, women's employment is very low. So they don't have any control over the earnings. We expected that working women with influence over earnings would have greater influence over their health care than would non workers. They would also be exposed to knowledge and attitudes about modern health care at their workplaces, thus leading to higher use of skilled services via both increased demand and an increased ability to act on that demand.

The very strong relationship between women's education and there role on decision making process. Illiterate people has very few role on decision making process. Most of the women are illiterate and they don't have access on the decision making process. Education may impart feelings of self-worth and self-confidence, which some have argued are more important in bringing about changes in different type of behavior and exposure.

Study shows that decisions about the management of pregnancy and childbirth traditionally come under the authority of older women, especially the mother-in-law. Decision about marriage comes from parents.

The process of globalization has direct and indirect effects on the empowerment of women. Benefits have included increased opportunities for off-farm activities, including wage employment in non-agricultural sectors, and enhanced opportunities for participation in local decision-making and networking, including through information and communication technologies. Social protection and the privatization of productive assets, such as land and public goods, can exacerbate the socio-economic marginalization of women. Rural women also experience the effects of unequal household divisions of labour, lack of access to education and health services and discriminatory.

The situation women should be given explicit attention from the government. Governments, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders should support legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen the positive effects of globalization on the empowerment of women. Such legislation, policies and programmes must build on the framework provided by the Beijing Platform for Action and its follow-up, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular its article 14.

- (a) Ensuring attention to women's needs and contributions, including through enhanced consultation, and their full participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies and programmes and poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers based on the Millennium Development Goals.
- (b) Promoting and protecting women's equal rights to property and inheritance through legislation, promotion of legal literacy and legal assistance to rural women, awareness-raising campaigns and training of government officials.
- (c) Ensuring the full integration of women's perspectives in all strategies for combating HIV/AIDS and giving priority to multi-dimensional strategies directly addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural women.



- (d) Promoting women's participation in decision-making, including through affirmative action, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting women's rights.
- (e) Promoting gender-sensitive budget initiatives at the national and local levels that support the allocation of resources for the benefit of women.
- (f) Improving availability, access to and use of critical infrastructure, such as energy and transport, and public goods such as water and communal resources, as well as access to reproductive health services.
- (g) Supporting formal and non-formal education and training to build the capabilities of girls and women in rural areas and eliminate gender stereotyping.
- (h) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities.
- (i) Supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources.
- (j) Increasing capacity for gender analysis, including through training programmes and development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, to ensure the full integration of women's perspectives in policies and programmes for rural development, as well as in conflict prevention and humanitarian, peace building and post-conflict rehabilitation and recovery activities.
- (k) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including through intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on women that will inform policy and programme decisions.



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## Annex 1

### Questions for Research.

#### General Information

1. Your age?
  - a) 25 to 30
  - b) 31 to 35
  - C) 36 to 40
  - d) 40+
2. Family type
  - a) Nuclear
  - b) Joint
3. Family Size
  - a) 1 to 5
  - b) 6 to 10
  - C) 10+
4. Your marital status?
  - A) Married
  - B) Widow
  - C) Single
5. Age of marriage?
  - A) Below 15 years.
  - B) 15 to 20 years
  - C) 21 to 25 years.
6. Your preferred age for marriage?
  - A) 15 to 20 years.
  - B) 21 to 25 years
  - C) above 26 years.
7. Your education level?
  - A) Illiterate.
  - B) Literate
  - C) Below SLC
  - D) SLC
  - E) Higher education

#### Health and Nutrition

8. Your consumption of meal per day?
  - A) 3 times a day
  - B) 4 times a day
9. At the time of illness, who will be the first person you tell about your illness?
  - A) Mother
  - B) Husband
  - C) Son
  - D) Daughter
10. Where do you go for treatment?
  - A) Health Post
  - B) Hospital
  - C) Medical
11. Who will you take with you for treatment?
  - A) Husband
  - B) Son
  - C) Daughter
  - E) Daughter-in-Law
  - F) Friends
  - G) Self

12. Who will be your caretaker when you are ill?
- A) A) Husband      B) Son      C) Daughter      E) Daughter-in-Law  
F) Mother-in Law      G) Friends

13. Do you use contraceptives?
- A) Yes      B) No

**Distribution of Work**

14. Your working hours in a day?
- A) 4 hours.      B) 6 hours.      C) 8 hours.      D) 10 hours.      E) More than 10 hours.
15. Your free time in a day?
- A) 2 hours.      B) 3 hours.      C) 4 hours.      D) 5 hours.      F) 6 hours.
16. What will you do in your free time?
- A) Watch TV      B) Gossip with friend.      C) Rest      D) Others.
17. Which work dose your husband share with you?
- A) Cooking food, clean house, Paying water and electricity bill and go for shopping  
B) Fetching water, washing.  
C) Caring children, preparing children for school.

**Decision Making Process.**

18. Which decision do you make at your home?
- A) Agricultural works.  
B) Buy utensils/daily necessities.  
C) Selection of school for children.  
D) Buy clothes.  
E) House repair.  
F) Saving.
19. Who do you consult with you before making any decision?

A) Husband. B) Son. C) Daughter. E) Daughter-in-Law. F) Mother-in-Law. G) Father-in-Law. H) Friends.

20. Are you involved in any social organizations?

A) Women Group B) None C) Others (mention)

21. Do you know about Nepal's democratic movement?

A) Don't know. B) 2007 B.S. C) 2046 B.S. D) Others.

22. Are you interested in politics?

A) Yes B) Don't know. C) We do not need it.

23. Do you know when will the parliament election be held?

A) Every year. B) Every 3 years. C) Every 5 years. D) Don't know.

24. Do you know when will the local election be held?

A) Every 3 years. B) Every 5 years. C) Don't know.

25. Are the women candidate's necessary for the elections?

A) Necessary. B) Not necessary.

### **Economic Aspect**

26. What is your occupation?

A) Agriculture. B) Office. D) Labor E) Business F) Shop

27. What is the main income source for your family?

A) Agriculture. B) Office. D) Labor E) Business F) Others.

28. Your family's monthly income?

A) Rs. 500 to 2000 B) Rs. 2001 to 4000 C) Rs. 4000+

29. How to spend you income?

A) To buy accessories for self.

B) Pay school fee for children.

C) Investment.

D) Buy Jewelries.

E) House hold expenses.

30. Do you have land on your name?

A) Yes.      B) No.

31. How much do you save every month?

A) Up to 200      B) Above 200

32. Where do you save it?

A) House      B) Women saving group      C) Bank

33. Do you have access to loan?

A) Yes      B) No

34. Where can you get the loan from when you need it?

A) House      B) saving group      C) Others