

# CHAPTER-I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Women constitute half of the population of the world; hence their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential to speed up the development process. The slogan of development remains in paper only unless women participate equally in sharing the achievements of the developments.

In the development of a nation the women play vital role, however, in male-dominated country like ours, female are considered of low standard and of less value. But in recent years, people have started realizing the importance of women's participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio-economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Now, men and women have equally started participating on development activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger" (Bhusal, 2004). This mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic change in the socio-economic status of a nation.

Being an agricultural country, Nepal has more than half of the total population of Nepal is engaged in agriculture. Every aspects of life are directly influenced by agriculture and illiteracy. Furthermore, the society is male-oriented. According to the statistical data of the CBS 2011, the total population of the country is 2,64,54,904 in which the male occupies 48.49 percent and female 51.50 percent. The total literacy rate is 65.9 percent in which, the male literacy rate is 75.1 percent and female literacy rate is 57.4 percent. The status of Nepalese women has been deeply affected by various religious and traditional ill customs. Social norms and ill practices have seriously affected the role and status of Nepali women. According to Nepali belief, birth of girl is the birth of bad luck. If a boy is born, the family rejoices, but if a girl is born the family laments. There is a general belief that if a man is not blessed with a son, the door to the heaven will not be opened to him. There is a saying that "let it take time but let a son born" (Ghimire, 2009).

No doubt, women's participation in bureaucracy and policies has increased in the past few years. However, only a few of them have reached the position of decision making. The constitutional provision for the allocation of 33 percent of the candidacy for women constitutional assembly by each political party has opened the door of political recognition of women. In Nepal, women's participation in planning and decision-making processes of economic and political aspects is still minimal. Gender bias persists in Nepal; literacy and schooling gaps between men and women are still large. In fact, the interaction of gender biased indicators of welfare, capability, work; participation and earning reflect the centrality of women's education for economic growth.

In families, in the absence of men women are acknowledged to act as heads of the household and thus, the decision maker. In the family, when husband is present as a functioning head of the household, he often initiates the decision making process. The women are seen to be excluded to carry out any job related to decision making whether in the family or in the society. Men easily overpower women in such matters. The decision maker seeks a decision that is acceptable to the family (Singh, 2004).

The economic factors are found as the most important factors, which directly and indirectly affect the decision making process of women in market economy, which tends to raise their strength in decision making power as an important factor. Beside that, convincement of women to the domestic and subsistence sectors automatically implies a low status that lessens their economic decision-making power. Equality between men and women in such a situation can not be dreamt for, when half of the population is deprived of the basics right of life, it will be impossible to achieve the aim of prosperity and development in Nepal.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

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 traditional 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.

The population of female is greater than that of male in Swarek VDC. Though the women have larger population they are involved in minor decision, such as food items and clothing but the major and crucial decision is done by male such as livestock management, farm management, selling and purchasing of land etc.

So, to identify the major issue why only the male are involved in major decision making have carried out this study.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

The main objective of this study is to analyse the role of women's in Household Decision Making of the Swarek Village Development Committee.

The specific objectives are as following:

- a) To examine the socio- economic status of women of study area.
- b) To compare the effectiveness of job holder and non- job holder women in household decision making process.
- c) To explore the problems of women in decision making process.

### **1.4 Importance of the Study**

Nepal has multi-ethnic society. It has cultural variations. A part from this, Nepal has regional variations too. Brahmin is one of the most important such as running the whole household, looking after the family members, performing the agricultural activities, looking after the cattle and also performing the social activities.

This study will help to find out the status of women, especially Brahmin women as well as their role in household's decision-making power. This study will be important to all those who are interested to know more about them. It will also help the native and the foreign researchers in the days to come to the further detail study on the same topics or in the similar field. This study will also be very helpful even for the planners, policy makers, NGO/INGOs in relation to the introduction and execution of development activities.

## **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

The study is narrowed down in our area of concern to only household decision making and therefore we would be analysing, the relative status of men and women in the same household. In other words, we would be ignoring the inter-caste, inter-class relations and other factors between men and women during our analysis of decision making. The study was focused in a very small range of Geographical area of Swarek VDC only.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The study was divided into five chapters. The first chapter provides introduction or role of women in various sectors, statement of the problems, objectives, importance, limitation and organization of the study area. The second chapter was deal with reviews of literature. Theories and research reports on the concept regarding the status of women and role of women in decision making, and women's rights in general overview and national context, and also included conceptual frameworks of the study in this chapter.

The third chapter focuses on the methodological procedures adopted in the present study. They include the research design, rationale for the selection of study area, nature and source of data, universe and sampling, tools and techniques of data collection, methods of data analysis and interpretation procedure. Similarly, the fourth chapter of the thesis was involved in socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the study area. The last chapter is divided into two sections. The first section deals with summary, the second section deals with conclusion of the research.

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Conceptual Literature Reviews**

The thought process of selecting a logical choice from the available options. When trying to make a good decision, a person must weight the positives and negatives of each option, and consider all the alternatives. For effective decision making, a person must be able to forecast the outcome of each option as well, and based on all these items, determine which option is the best for that particular situation.

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 are external decision are entirely made by male member of house (Jha, 2012). 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 doctrine the ideology of male superiority and female inferiority. The processes of indoctrination continue unless the girls internalize and behave in the same way. Women lack behind due to patriarchal system, female confine themselves to such task as cooking ,washing, taking care of children should not 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 have simply gone unnoticed because societal norms defines this activity as a male task.

Women oppressed and suppressed reflect all aspect 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 exclude from important decision making. Decision making process also associated with family. "A decision making process follows 4 inter related steps in 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, 2007).

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 (Jha, 2012). 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 has to play multiple roles in the domestic sphere. They are household managers. Mother and wives: in the community. They maintain social and cultural services predominately as a voluntary basic 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.

Women in high caste groups Brahmin hold perhaps the most critical and miserable position which is determined by the so called rites and ritual sanctioned from time to time. The women from high caste group have been victim of male suppression from time to time. The position of daughter and daughter –in- law is also different in

family. Sister and daughter is always worship able to parents and brother whereas daughter –in-law is also considered to be in the lowest position in the family. (Luitel ,1992)

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 “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 have very low participation in decision-making process, 70% household related and external decision are entirely made by male member of house (Acharya, 1995).

Women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. Their major role in agricultural production particularly, both in labourers and managers of the production process (Acharya and Bennett, 1983).

Dahal (1992) summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal (CEDA, 1981) that among high cast groups. The authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and property. Among the women for Baragaule, Loharung Rai and Kham Magar, they have liberal social structure, which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise the Newar, the Tamang and the Tharu women can have their own independent source of property. Out of that, among the Newar of Kirtipur women cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal, 1992).

Acharya, (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performer under national and international aspires activities involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention of such things as

making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies. To provides similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance right, family rights and all over legal rights involving the educated women in office and involving them into seminar and symposia from time to time.

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from participation fully in economic development, which results low decision making power in women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, conception delivery and upbringing of child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low.

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

Acharya, et.al.2010, analyze that Women's autonomy in decision making is positively associated with their age, employment and number of living children. Women from rural area and Terai region have less autonomy in decision making in all four types of outcome measure. There is a mixed variation in women's autonomy in the development region across all outcome measures. Western women are more likely to make decision in own health care (1.2-1.6), while they are less likely to purchase daily household needs (0.6-0.9). Women's increased education is positively associated with autonomy in own health care decision making ( $p < 0.01$ ), however their more schooling (SLC and above) shows non-significance with other outcome measures. Interestingly, rich women are less likely to have autonomy to make decision in own healthcare.

Strir Shakti, (1995) Women are more apt to say that their husbands make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands or those they have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved to accepting their husbands decisions without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly; simply because they express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision. The ideas that women express disagreement because they have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinions.

UN,(1980) Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls must face the practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10 to 14 after with they must start producing children is prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The primed reasons for the practice are the girls virginity, the prize and the luck awareness and education. Early marriage for many girls in Nepal to high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Early marriage robs girls of here childhood time necessary to develop physically emotionally and psychologically in fact early marriage inflicts great emotional stress as the young women is removed from her parents home to that of her husband and in laws. Her husband who will invariably be many years seniors will have little in common with a young teenager. It is with the strange non that she has to develop an intimate emotional and physical relationship. She is obliged to have intercourse although physically she might not be fully develop.

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

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

are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favour of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7% of gazetted officers and 5% of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10% of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 % of decision are made by men, 19% jointly and 31% by female, which shows very low %age of decision making power on the part of women.

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

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

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

Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. She observes as "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart" (Kaur 1987: 120).

Acharya and Bennett (1981) have singled out "decision making" from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some model from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village. Dangi (2003), in his study entitled "Women's Participation to their Household Management: A Case Study of Chuhandanda VDC, Terhathum District, concludes that Nepalese women still remain underprivileged as compared to their male counterparts. The study states that, in rural context, they work 17 percent extra hours than those of men in domestic and subsistence economy, however their socio-economic status remain both less recognized and more inferior in comparison to their male counterparts. The study concludes that women play greater role in household and domestic management process but they need final approval of their household head in this process.

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

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

Nepalese women also play managerial role for decision making i.e. farm management, resources allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male/female input into the farm management decisions.

According to Acharya and Bennett (1982) women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A women have a greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women .

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

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

wives of the leaders, but the involvement of women and man in the sample proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communities at large.

It can be concluded from the above studies that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic status of females. Nowadays the access fo female of resources has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way or other females have more responsibilities in household chosen, agricultural activities and other but they have less chance to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without equal participation of male and female in all spheres of households or other activities, there is less chance to be developed societies. Therefore, women should bring in to the mainstream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully role of decision making power.

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study is based on descriptive research design then socio economic status of women in study area and compare the effectiveness of jobholder & non-jobholder women at household decision making process. Analytical research design has also been used in the study as the study focuses on investigating the role of women in household decision making process, and challenges associated with it.

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

As mentioned earlier main objectives of the present study was described the decision making power of Brahmin women at micro level. For this purpose, Swarek VDC of Syangja district has been selected as a case for the study. The VDC is selected for the following reasons:

- a. I am familiar with the local people and there are not sufficient researcher available in household decision making.
- b. Women are much backward in this VDC in the district. Therefore selected this area.

#### **3.3 Nature and Source of the Data**

The nature of data was both qualitative and quantitative. The study was based on both primary and secondary data and information. The primary data was collected from the study area. During the field work, primary data was collected from the sample respondents and key informants. The secondary data was collected from the published and unpublished literature such as books, journals, articles, research reports and other different sources.

#### **3.4 Population, Sample and Sampling Procedure**

Swarek VDC was selected for the study, total population is 7278 where there are 1153 households, out of them there are 3720 female (VDC profile 2071).

There are nine wards in Swarek VDC. Out of total household 1153 and 3720 female. Researcher selected altogether out of 54 households 6 women (3 jobholder & 3 jobless ) for each wards as selected in the basis of accidental sampling.

### **3.5 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection**

The following technique and tools of the collection was applied in the research.

#### **3.5.1 Household Survey**

Household survey was done with the women in the selected household to get information, on socio-economic status 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. The research questionnaire forms will be filled up by the researcher interviewing with household women. The data will be collected through formal and informal interview using structured and open end question ,which helps to measure the socio- economic status of the respondents.

#### **3.5.2 Key Information Interview**

During the field study, informal interactions with a number of people were made. They were asked about role of women in household decision making process. In overall, interview was conducted with 115 job holder women and 205 women were non-job holders. Among the job-holders, here were 4 teachers, 5 local leaders, 3 government job holders, 2 assistant mid-wife nurse (ANM), 1 business woman and 2 others.

#### **3.5.3 Focus Group Discussion**

This method was most effective for the collection of much more information about the factors affecting decision making process of women in the study area. All together three focus group discussion was carried out on this study. The tool of Focus Group Discussion was checklist.

### **3.6 Method of Data Analysis**

Collection were described qualitatively and descriptively. The purpose of data collection was to obtain information to keep on record to make decision about important issues, to pass information onto others. Primarily data were collected to provide information regarding a specific topic. Various techniques like table, statistical tools, computer software etc employed to present the data. Data were analyzed with the help of computer program simple statistical tools like tables used for data analysis. Descriptive methods was used for qualitative data analysis.

## CHAPTER - IV

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The data and information collected from the samples are presented, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in this chapter for attaining the stated objectives of the study. In particular, this section includes the analyses and interpretation of various variables. This chapter as a whole has been organized as:

- 4.1 Socio Economic status of the sampled respondents
- 4.2 Participation of women in Household Decision Making Process
- 4.3 Problems faced by women in household decision making process of study area

#### 4.1 Socio Economic Status of the Sampled Respondents

##### 4.1.1 Age Distribution

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

**Table 4.1: Age Distribution of the Respondents**

| Age          | Jobholder women |       | Non-jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|--------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|              | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| 16-25        | 5               | 9.25  | 4                   | 7.41  | 9      | 16.66 |
| 25-46        | 15              | 27.77 | 9                   | 16.66 | 24     | 44.43 |
| 46-59        | 5               | 9.26  | 8                   | 14.81 | 13     | 24.07 |
| 60 and above | 2               | 3.71  | 6                   | 11.11 | 8      | 14.82 |
| Total        | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

The above table shows the age distribution of the sampled respondents selected for this study. The data showed that 9.25 percent of working women are between 16-25 years of age. 7.41 percent of non-working women belong to this group. Similarly, 27.77 percent of working women and 16.66 percent of non-working women belong to 25-46 years of age. Moreover, 9.26 percent of working women and 14.81 percent of non-working women belong to age group 46-59 years where as the remaining 3.71 percent of working women and 11.11 percent of non-working women are at the age group above 60.

#### 4.1.2 Ethnic Composition

Nepal is a multi - ethnical country where there are different caste/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has their own language , culture and tradition . Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in society and it plays important role in terms social activities. In Nepal, Brahman and Chettri play dominant role then other castes.

The following table reveals ethnic composition of the respondents in the study area:

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Household by Ethnic Composition**

| Caste/ Ethnicity | No. of Household | Percentage |
|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Brahman          | 26               | 48.15      |
| Dalit            | 15               | 27.78      |
| Janajati         | 9                | 16.67      |
| Others           | 4                | 7.40       |
| Total            | 54               | 100        |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Above table show that ethnic distribution respondents. Among the total respondents Brahman is the highest . Brahman contains 48.15% , followed by Dalit (27.78%). The third position is occupied by Janajati (16.67%) which is slightly greater than other (7.40%). It was due to the large population of Brahman and Dalit in the study area.

### 4.1.3 Marital Status

Marriage is the single most important event in the life of men and women . According to Hindu tradition marriage is the compulsory for the all whether man are woman .A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has no option but to get married . In Nepal of both men and women are marred before 25 yearas of age (Acharya , 1995 ). Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society marriage determines the social roles and responsibility of people . It is essential for legitimate birth. Females' role also increases in family only after marriage. It enhances there decision making power.

The following Table shows the marital status of the respondents:

**Table 4.3: Marital Status of the Respondents**

| Marital status | Jobholder Women |       | Non-Jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| Married        | 18              | 33.33 | 21                  | 77.78 | 39     | 72.22 |
| Unmarried      | 9               | 16.67 | 6                   | 22.22 | 15     | 38.89 |
| Total          | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Above table shows the marital status of respondent. In fact, out of 54 respondents, 72.22 percentage respondent are married, among them 33.33 are jobholder and 77.78 percentage are non-jobholder. 38.89 percentage respondent are unmarried, among them 16.67 percentage are jobholder and 22.22 percentage are non-jobholder.

### 4.1.4 Educational Status

Education is an important element of life. It plays an important role for the development of people, nation and economy as a whole. It is a principal mechanism of fulfilling an agent for awareness and change. Therefore it is central to the process of empowering both men and women. The table below depicts the educational status of the women chosen in this study.

**Table 4.4: Educational Level of the Respondents**

| Educational level | Jobholder women |       | Non-jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| Illiterate        | -               | -     | 4                   | 14.81 | 4      | 7.40  |
| Literate          | -               | -     | 5                   | 18.52 | 5      | 9.26  |
| Primary level     | -               | -     |                     |       |        |       |
| Secondary level   | 1               | 3.70  | 11                  | 40.74 | 12     | 22.22 |
| SLC passed        | 4               | 14.81 | 5                   | 18.52 | 9      | 16.67 |
| Intermediate      | 14              | 51.85 | 2                   | 7.4   | 16     | 29.63 |
| Graduate          | 6               | 22.22 | -                   | -     | 6      | 11.11 |
| Masters           | 2               | 7.4   | -                   | -     | 2      | 3.70  |
| Total             | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Table no. 4 shows that the women in the Jobholder category are more educated than non-jobholder women. In total number of 3.70 Percent of jobholder women are secondary level, 14.81 percent are SLC passed, 51.85 percent are intermediate, 22.22 percent are graduate and 7.4 percent are at the master's level where as 14.81 percent of non-jobholder women are only illiterate, 18.52 percent are literate, 40.74 percent are educated till secondary level 18.52 percent of them are SLC passed, 7.4 percent of them are intermediate. It is seen from the above table that jobholder women are more qualified in terms of education than non-jobholder women.

#### **4.1.5 Family Structure**

Family structure also has an impact on the responsibilities of both male and female in their household activities. Nuclear family structure is mostly seen in urban areas where as more families in the rural areas trend to be a joint family. Women in the nuclear family structure are more liberated than in the joint family structure and have

less responsibility. The following table shows the family structure of the sampled household.

**Table 4.5: Family Structure of the Household**

| Family structure | Jobholder women |       | Non-jobholder working |       | Total  |       |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                  | Number          | %     | Number                | %     | Number | %     |
| Nuclear          | 17              | 62.97 | 13                    | 48.15 | 30     | 55.55 |
| Joint            | 10              | 37.04 | 14                    | 51.85 | 24     | 44.44 |
| Total            | 27              | 100   | 27                    | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

The above table shows that 62.97 percent of the jobholder women's household has unclear family structure whereas only 48.15 percent of non-jobholder women's household has nuclear family structure. It depicts that the women in joint family tend to be more engaged in household work than in outer activities.

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

Religion is a kind of belief or faith on gods or worshiping system by the people. So, it is an extreme faith on gods. There are many people having different faith on god. It is, therefore, an agnostic faith on the existence of gods. The society exists on the beliefs on religion.

The following table presents the distribution of religion. The people having belief on different religion are presented on the table given below:

**Table 4.6: Distribution of the household by Religion**

| Religion  | No. of household | Percentage |
|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Hindu     | 45               | 83.33      |
| Christian | 4                | 7.41       |
| Buddhist  | 5                | 9.26       |
| Total     | 54               | 100        |

*Source: Field survey, 2016*

Above table shows the distribution of the respondents by Religion. Among the total respondents, Hindu is the highest. Hindu contains (83.33%) , followed by Christian (7.41%). The third position is occupied by Buddhist (9.26%). It was due to the large population of Hindu.

#### **4.17. Occupation and Source of Income**

Occupation or source of income is a vital factor influencing household activities. Household in which both the members earn income tend to be more affluent than the household where earning the bread for the family rests on one person. However, the households whose main source of income is their own family business then it is found that all the family members including the children provide a helping hand in running at the following table however shall the occupation of the sampled working women of this study.

**Table 4.7: Distribution of Households by Occupation & Source of Income**

| <b>Occupation</b>               | <b>No. of Household</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Agriculture & Livestock Farming | 10                      | 18.52             |
| Business                        | 6                       | 11.11             |
| Services                        | 27                      | 50                |
| Wage- earning                   | 11                      | 20.37             |
| Total                           | 54                      | 100               |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Occupation and source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Out of the 54 household, services have occupied the first position as the source of income 50% households are dependent upon services for their income. It is followed by wage earning 20.37% household. The wage earning category has higher proportion as main source of income because most of civil castes have no other alternatives except work as wage labour. Similarly, 11.11% household people are engaged in business, while only 18.52% household people are in agriculture and livestock farming and they earn from their agriculture & livestock farming.

#### 4.1.8 Access of Land

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. The question has been asked regarding the possession of land ( as cultivated and household ). But both types of land is combined due to which every household has their own land .

The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

**Table 4.8: Possession of Land by Household**

| <b>Land (Ropani)</b> | <b>No. of Household</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 0-5                  | 21                      | 38.89             |
| 5-10                 | 15                      | 27.78             |
| 10-15                | 12                      | 22.22             |
| 15+                  | 6                       | 11.11             |
| Total                | 54                      | 100               |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Out of the total 54 household most of the household have less than 5 ropani of land, 38.89 percentage household have only 0-5 ropani , 27.78 percentage household possessed 5-10 ropani of land .Similarly 22.22 percentage household possessed 10-15 ropani and only 11.11 percentage household have land more than 15 ropani. Thus, it can be concluded from the finding that most of the respondents have small land holding.

#### 4.1.9 Alternative Source for fulfillment of Deficit of Food Production

It was found that 32 household have food deficit. They have to face the problem of food thought it is essential for sustaining life. They fulfill their need for food by different alternatives as service, business, livestock farming, wage earning and debt. The following tables show the way to fulfill the deficiency of food production.

**Table 4.9: Distribution of Household by coping with deficit Food Production**

| Activities        | No. of Household | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Services          | 7                | 21.86      |
| Business          | 5                | 15.63      |
| Livestock farming | 6                | 18.75      |
| Wage-earning      | 11               | 34.38      |
| Debt              | 2                | 6.25       |
| Other             | 1                | 3.125      |
| Total             | 32               | 100        |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Above table show the various alternative way of fulfilling the food deficiency due to low production in agriculture sector. The main means of compensation for deficit production is wage earning which cover 11 household, following by services 7 household. The third position is business 5 household, livestock farming is 6 household for coping with the deficiency of production. About 2 household are talking debt to fulfill their needs. It show the miserable condition about people. Other category occupies 1 household out of total food deficient household.

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

In every household there are certain responsibilities for both male and female members however it is observed that female member tend to look after the household activities and male members on the other hand are concerned with the responsibilities outside the house i.e. to earn money. Similarly whenever there is any decision to be made the final say is from the male member and the women play only the advisory role. There are various household decision to be made that could range from small bazaar expenditure to serious investment, looking after the children and other many such activities. The research thus presents the participation level of women in household decision making which are shown in the tables below:

##### **4.2.1 Possession of Household Income**

It is an important issue in every household. Generally the female member of the household has the task to keep money but to use the money is a totally different thing.

It is observed that women usually have to take permission from men to use household income where as men are free to do so without even consulting anybody. Hence for this reason women play the role of managers while men are controller of everything in the households.

**Table 4.10 : Distribution of sampled household by possession of household income**

| Household members | Jobholder women |       | Non-Jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| Myself            | 12              | 44.44 | 4                   | 14.81 | 16     | 29.63 |
| Male              | -               | -     | 9                   | 33.33 | 9      | 16.67 |
| Both              | 15              | 55.56 | 14                  | 51.85 | 29     | 53.70 |
| Total             | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

The above table shows that in most of the sampled household income is possessed by both the member. Myself passes household income in 44.44 percent of jobholder women's household and 14.81 percent of non jobholder women's household. While in 33.33 percent male of non-jobholders and both the members have control over the household income. But in most cases, according to the survey women have to take permission from men or male member to use it.

#### **4.2.2 Saving of Household Income**

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

The following table presents saving of household income of the target informants:

**Table 4.11: Saving of Household income**

| Household members | Jobholder women |       | Non-Jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| Myself            | 8               | 29.63 | 6                   | 22.22 | 14     | 25.92 |
| Male Members      | 15              | 55.56 | 21                  | 77.78 | 36     | 66.67 |
| Both              | 4               | 14.81 | -                   | -     | 4      | 7.41  |
| Total             | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

Source: Field Survey 2016

The above table shows the data on saving of household income. There were 25.92% women are self keeping for household income (in 29.63% jobholder & 22.22% are non-jobholders). Were 66.67% household for male decide and keeping for household income and then 7.41% both male and female are keeping the household income.

#### 4.2.3 Total Authority to Mobilize Saving

Generally the female member of the household has the task to keep and saving money but to use the money is a totally different thing. It is observed that women usually have to take permission from men to handle female saving.

**Table 4.12: Authority to Mobilize Saving**

| Household members | Jobholder women |       | Non-Jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| Yes               | 6               | 35.29 | 2                   | 22.22 | 8      | 30.77 |
| No                | 11              | 64.71 | 7                   | 77.78 | 18     | 69.23 |
| Total             | 17              | 100   | 9                   | 100   | 26     | 100   |

Source: Field Survey 2016

This table shows the authority to mobilize saving of respondents. Among total money saver, 26 respondents were household working people. Less than 35% uses of saving, above 65% household leading the male member of saving of amount.

#### 4.2.4 Household Expenditure

Women are considered to be main initiator for the expenditures in food and clothing in both the rural and urban areas mostly in developing countries. The decisions regarding these kinds of expenditures have to be made in a daily basis in every household and which involves less amount of money. Men normally leave it to their wives to make these kinds of decisions and do not want to be bothered by it. The following table shows the decision maker on household expenditure in the sampled household.

**Table 4.13: Decision maker of household expenditure ( Bazaar Purchase)**

| Household decision maker | Jobholder women |       | Non-jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                          | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| Male                     | 9               | 33.33 | 4                   | 14.81 | 13     | 24.07 |
| Female                   | 11              | 40.74 | 19                  | 70.34 | 30     | 55.55 |
| Both                     | 7               | 25.93 | 4                   | 14.82 | 11     | 20.37 |
| Total                    | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

This table shows that in 40.74 percent of the jobholders women's household and 70.34 percent of the non-jobholder women's household, the decision regarding small household purchase expenditure is made by the female member i.e. 51.85 percent jobholder women and 77.77 percent of non-jobholder women make the final decision where as in 33.33 percent of jobholders household and 14.81 percent of non-jobholder women's household the decision is made by male household head while in 25.93 percent of jobholder women and 14.82 percent of non -jobholder women's household, the decision is made jointly by both the member.

#### 4.2.5 Decision Maker of Medical Treatment

Women in most of the developing countries are quite unconscious or careless regarding their health. They are more concerned regarding the welfare of their children or their spouse. Moreover women in countries like Nepal do not want to spend extensive amount of money on their own ailment and ignore their pain for the

luxury of other member of the family. The following table shows the participation level of women in the decision making regarding treatment of household member.

**Table 4.14: Decision Maker for Medical Treatment**

| Household decision maker | Jobholder women |       | Non- jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                          | Number          | %     | Number               | %     | Number | %     |
| Male                     | 10              | 37.04 | 5                    | 18.52 | 15     | 27.78 |
| Female                   | 8               | 29.63 | 18                   | 66.66 | 26     | 48.14 |
| Both                     | 9               | 33.33 | 4                    | 14.82 | 13     | 24.07 |
| Total                    | 27              | 100   | 27                   | 100   | 54     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

This table shows that in 37.04 percent of jobholder women's household and 18.52 percent of non-jobholder women's household, the decision regarding medical treatment of household members is made by the male household lead. Likewise in 33.33 percent of jobholder household and 14.82 percent of non-jobholder women's household the decision is made by both the members. Where as 29.63 percent of jobholder women and 66.66 percent non-jobholder women are the decision makers in their respective households regarding seeking medical treatment.

#### **4.2.6 Family Planning**

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in must of the developing countries rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of life as well as environment.

The family planning is gating popular recently to maintain the small family. People don't like to create burden having large family, so they are attracted toward FP.FP is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries the food production is low & there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance & manage population & environment properly. The following table shows the knowledge about FP of respondent.

**Table 4.15: Decision maker of Household Family Planning.**

| Household decision maker |         | Jobholder women |       | Non-jobholder women |       | Total  |       |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                          |         | Number          | %     | Number              | %     | Number | %     |
| No                       |         | –               | –     | 6                   | 22.22 | 6      | 11.11 |
| Yes                      | Husband | 9               | 33.33 | 18                  | 66.67 | 27     | 50    |
|                          | Wife    | 5               | 18.52 | 2                   | 7.41  | 7      | 12.96 |
|                          | Both    | 13              | 48.15 | 1                   | 3.7   | 14     | 25.93 |
| Total                    |         | 27              | 100   | 27                  | 100   | 54     | 100   |

Source: Field survey 2016

The question had asked to the respondent regarding the knowledge about FP. Of the total 88.89 percent respondent gave in positive answer & 11.11 percent in negative answer.

#### 4.2.7 Determination of No. of Children

Family is the basic unit of the society and it is an institution, which plays important role in building society. Family size has dominant role in decision-making process. There were found female of small family or nuclear family has higher responsibilities for decision making than big or joint family.

**Table 4.16: Decision maker of child Determination**

| Household Decision Maker | No. of Household | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Husband                  | 27               | 79.41          |
| Wife                     | 4                | 11.76          |
| Both                     | 3                | 8.82           |
| Total                    | 34               | 100            |

Source: Field survey 2016

Regarding the number of children to be had, the strongest of husband decisions (79.41%) among the 34 women who responded to this question. While decisions of the husband & wife both are also seen as significant (11.76.%), the wife 8.82% show the least contribution in this particular decision making process.

#### 4.2.8 Decision Maker of Registration on Government Record

Decision making plays vital role in the family. The family needs to be clear about who takes responsibility on different kinds of decisions. The family members should be more responsible for registering and leading according to the responsibility. Thus, the decision maker is known as having lead role in the family.

The following table presents the existence of decision maker of registration in government record:

**Table 4.17: Decision maker of Registration on Government Record**

| Household member    | Jobholder women's |            | Non-working women's household |             | Total  |             |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|                     | Number            | percentage | Number                        | Percentages | Number | Percentages |
| Male                | 8                 | 29.63      | 15                            | 55.56       | 23     | 42.59       |
| Female              | 5                 | 18.52      | 3                             | 11.11       | 8      | 14.82       |
| Both                | 12                | 40.74      | 4                             | 14.81       | 15     | 27.77       |
| Other family member | 3                 | 11.11      | 5                             | 18.52       | 8      | 14.82       |
| Total               | 27                | 100        | 27                            | 100         | 54     | 100         |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

This table show the decide to households government registration so birth, death, migration etc. registration. Therefore 29.63% males and 18.52% females jobholders women & 55.55% males and 18.11 females non-jobholder household decide the government registration activities. Males and females both decision maker of 40.74 percentage jobholder, 18.52 non-job holder household both are engage the government registration activities and 11.11% jobholder, 18.52% non-jobholder are other family member decided it.

#### 4.2.9 Education of Children

Education today is considered as a primary need of every human being. Education of children is an important decision to be made<sup>4</sup> in every household. However

discrimination exists regarding education of girls. The following data reveals the decision maker regarding children's education.

**Table 4.18: Decision maker of children's education**

| Household member | Jobholder women's |            | Non-working women's household |             | Total  |             |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|                  | Number            | Percentage | Number                        | Percentages | Number | Percentages |
| Male             | 8                 | 29.63      | 14                            | 51.85       | 22     | 40.74       |
| Female           | 4                 | 14.81      | 6                             | 22.22       | 10     | 18.52       |
| Both             | 15                | 55.55      | 7                             | 25.93       | 22     | 40.74       |
| Total            | 27                | 100        | 27                            | 100         | 54     | 100         |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

The above table shows that 14.81 percent of jobholder women and 22.22 percent of non-jobholder women make the final decisions regarding education of children in their respective households while in 29.63 percent of jobholder women's household and 51.85 percent of non-jobholder women's household it is decided by the male household head. And in 55.55 percent of jobholder women's household and 25.93 percent of non-jobholder women's households the decision is made by the joint efforts of both male and female.

#### **4.2.10 Attending social ceremonies**

There are festivals, weddings and various other social ceremonies in Nepali households. The table below shows the decision maker regarding these social ceremonies i.e. who shall attend or whom to invite, preparation to be made etc.

**Table 4.19: Decision maker to attend/ invite in social ceremonies**

| Household decision maker | Jobholder women's |            | Non-jobholder women's |             | Total  |             |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|                          | Number            | Percentage | Number                | Percentages | Number | Percentages |
| Myself                   | 11                | 40.74      | 5                     | 18.52       | 16     | 29.63       |
| Husband                  | 6                 | 22.22      | 10                    | 37.04       | 16     | 29.63       |
| Both                     | 3                 | 11.11      | 3                     | 11.11       | 6      | 11.11       |
| Other Family Member      | 7                 | 25.93      | 9                     | 33.33       | 16     | 29.63       |
| Total                    | 27                | 100        | 27                    | 100         | 54     | 100         |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

As the above table says, in 40.74 percent of the jobholder women's household and 18.52 percent of the non-jobholder women's household the decision regarding attending social ceremonies or inviting others is in the hands of the myself household head. In 22.22 percent of the jobholder women's household and 37.04 percent of the non-jobholder women's household decision making is done by the joint effort of husband where as 25.93. percent of jobholder women and 33.33 percent of non-jobholder women have the other family members say in attending social ceremonies or inviting others in their respective households.

#### **4.2.11 Household Activities**

In Nepal more females are engaged in household activities while very few males are engaged in these activities. Females spend more time in household chores than males. In study area also, it was found that more females are engaged in household chores than males. Females are mainly engaged in cooking activities, caring children, cleaning house, washing clothes, collection fuel, welcoming & serving guest and other household activities.

**Table 4.20: Decision Makers by Daily Household Activities**

| <b>Household Daily Activities</b>  | <b>Sex</b> | <b>All Time</b> | <b>Mostly</b> | <b>Sometime</b> | <b>Never</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Caring Children and Disable Member | Male       | 5               | 5             | 3               | 5            | 18           |
|                                    | Female     | 22              | 9             | 5               | –            | 36           |
|                                    | Total      | 27              | 14            | 8               | 5            | 54           |
| Cooking for Family                 | Male       | 3               | –             | 8               | 1            | 12           |
|                                    | Female     | 36              | 4             | 2               | –            | 42           |
|                                    | Total      | 39              | 4             | 10              | 1            | 54           |
| Cleaning House                     | Male       | 10              | 6             | 9               | 3            | 28           |
|                                    | Female     | 12              | 5             | 7               | 2            | 26           |
|                                    | Total      | 22              | 11            | 16              | 5            | 54           |
| Washing cloth for Family           | Male       | 9               | 3             | 10              | 5            | 27           |
|                                    | Female     | 12              | 6             | 7               | –            | 27           |
|                                    | Total      | 21              | 9             | 17              | 5            | 54           |
| Collection of Fuel                 | Male       | 16              | 3             | 11              | 1            | 31           |
|                                    | Female     | 13              | 2             | 7               | 1            | 23           |
|                                    | Total      | 29              | 5             | 18              | 2            | 54           |
| Welcoming and serving Guest        | Male       | 7               | 5             | 3               | –            | 15           |
|                                    | Female     | 27              | 8             | 4               | –            | 39           |
|                                    | Total      | 34              | 13            | 7               | –            | 54           |
| Other Household Activities         | Male       | 10              | 10            | 3               | 3            | 26           |
|                                    | Female     | 12              | 8             | 6               | 2            | 28           |
|                                    | Total      | 22              | 18            | 9               | 5            | 54           |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

In the total 54 sampled household 18 males & 36 females are engage the charring children and disable member daily household activities, however in 12 males & 42 females cooking for family. Males and females are equal 50 percent engage the cleaning house and washing clothes for family. Collection fuel are engage the 23 males & 31 females respondent household, more then 50 percent female are engage

the welcoming and serving guest activities. In the sampled respondent 26 household male are engage the other daily household activities and 28 female.

#### 4.2.12 Causes of Household Dispute

A family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. As the family is larger, there are more hurdles and disputers in a family. Therefore, a family link is a kind of thread. If the thread is turn, everything is over. Thus, this study finds out the causes of household disputes in the family.

The following table presents the causes of household disputes:

**Table 4.21: Causes or Types of Household Dispute**

| Causes of Dispute      | No. of Household | %(Percentage) |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Self decision of Male  | 30               | 55.55         |
| Discrimination of Male | 15               | 27.78         |
| Others                 | 3                | 5.56          |
| Total                  | 54               | 100           |

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

According to the above table 4.14 dispute are family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. Self decision of male 30 household main causes of dispute. 15 household disputes for discrimination of male with 3 respondent household are other causes of household dispute. These causes are the large number of family, domestic chores which only the women have to perform. Similarly, other reasons found were the rush of family to perform field works and competitive attitudes to complete the family works.

Moreover, the following table presents the decision making process to control household disputes:

**Table 4.22: Decision maker to the Dispute Control**

| <b>Decision by</b> | <b>No. of Household</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Male               | 28                      | 51.85                 |
| Female             | 11                      | 20.37                 |
| Both               | 15                      | 27.78                 |
| Total              | 54                      | 100                   |

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

According to the table no.4.22, show the dispute control therefore 54 respondent household, 28 household male decide to HH dispute control and 11 household female decide with 15 respondent household both male & female control the household dispute in study area.

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

Specially, the women in the study area are not much involving in the decision making process. The domination of male is being practiced for ages. However, the changing concept on dealing the issues of household activities, the women is also leading the family. At the same time, the women in Swrek VDC of Syangja are trying to lead their family as the men. There are some unavoidable problems faced by the women in household decision making process. Some of the factors are discussed in the following sub-sections.

##### **Factors Affecting Decision Making of Women in Household Activities**

Like other developing countries, in Nepal also the women are lagging behind men in many aspects. The fact may be fewer opportunities that they receive in life. Early marriage, lower literacy rate, social norms are many other factors due to which women are dominated. This influence is also seen in the role played by women in household decision making. The women were asked about their opinion regarding the factors affecting decision making that is presented in the table below.

**Table 4.23: Factors Affecting Decision Making**

| <b>Influencing Factors</b>   | <b>Respondent Women</b> |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
|                              | <b>No.</b>              | <b>Percentage</b> |
| Illiterate                   | 3                       | 30                |
| Poverty                      | 2                       | 20                |
| Social & traditional culture | 5                       | 50                |
| Other                        | -                       | -                 |
| Total                        | 10                      | 100               |

*Source: Field survey 2016*

Data included in table 10 shows the opinions of the sampled respondents regarding the factors that influence their decision making. According to the table 30 percent of women consider education as the most influencing factor. 20 percent of women consider economic status to be the most influencing factor. If they contribute economically in the household then they gain more power to make decisions regarding investment and selling of property and other serious money related matters. They are thought as inferior to men and society demands them to be less efficient than men and take a backward seat in every decision to be made in the households. Similarly 14.82 percent of the women believe all the factors equally influence their decision making regarding other household issues.

### **4.3.1 Major Problems**

#### **4.3.1.1 Illiterate**

Education plays vital role for changing the life study of the people in any area. It is one of the most effective tools for changing the livelihood. Similarly, it is education that changes a person to a good socialized and cultured. There were only 30% women literate. It means the targeted area is suffering from illiteracy.

#### **4.3.1.2 Poverty**

Poverty is the greatest enemy of a person. The life style of a person, a family or a country depends upon the economic status. Thus, if the people living in a particular area are suffering from poverty, they never get opportunity for changing their life

standard. The people in the study area were under the darkness of sever poverty. Only 20% people stated that there was problem due to poverty.

#### **4.3.1.3 Social and traditional culture**

Society is a common place for culture. In other words, no culture exists without society, and each society is the living phenomena for culture. The society is the backbone of culture. Sometimes social components like culture, tradition, rituals and other issues play vital role in decision making process in the family. The study showed that 50% women said that social and traditional culture was the main reason of issue in the process of decision making process in their family.

#### **4.3.2 Supported Problems**

The women are facing problems in household decision making process. Some problems are due to economic condition and some challenges are due to social condition. In this regard, some other problems faced by the women are as follows:

##### **4.3.2.1 Politics**

Politics is a game of power. It is highly associated with men and their activities in the society. The men always take opportunity to lead the family. So, the women are facing problem because of political issues.

##### **4.3.2.2 Marriage**

There is early marriage system in the existing society. The women are compelled to get married in the early age. So, they have to be dominated by the seniors of their family. They are not given opportunities to lead the family.

##### **4.3.2.3 Head of the family**

There is a provision of having senior male member of the family as a head of the family. The head is the dominating figure in the family. And, the leading role of the family always goes to the head of the family. This is the reason why the women are facing problems in household decision making process.

## **CHAPTER -V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **5.1. Summary**

The study entitled 'Role of women in household decision making process' is the key study to find out the women's role in decision making process in Swrek VDC of Syangja district. This study aims to examine the socio-economic status of women, to compare the effectiveness of job holder and non-job holder women in household decision making process and to explore the problems of women in decision making process. thus, this study is the key study to find out the situation of women in illiterate Nepalese community

This research study was based on the qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The data were described on descriptive and exploratory method. This study aimed to meet the target objectives with the help of primary and secondary data. The researcher had consulted various authentic materials like books, journals, web sites, articles and so on. The research methodology incorporated the sample size, sample population, study area, research technique and tools (household survey, key informant interview and focus group discussion). The methodology also incorporated the processing and analysis of data. Thus, this research is completely based on a systematic process.

The research found out that the women who were job holder they had high power of decision making in the family. Similarly, the women who were involved in social and political activities they have domination in the family. They involve in decision making process. Moreover, the women who were much literate in comparison to their husbands they have decision making power in the family. Thus, the study showed that social, economic and literacy situation have direct impact on decision making process of women. The women who were not job holder and illiterate they had many challenges in their family. They do not have opportunity for making decision. They are suffering from the social and cultural evil traditions.

The major findings of the study are as follows:

- ) Among the 54 respondent 50% are jobholder & 50 % are non jobholders Majority of sample respondents for this study are married.

So most of them have a status of wife and daughter-in-law in their household. Though this area has very strong social and traditional culture.

- ) Majority of respondent are Brahman & Dalit but Brahman the dominant caste or ethnic group in the study area.
- ) All respondent are literate 29.63% intermediate pass and 3.70% masters pass
- ) With regard to religion of 83.33% Hindu, 7.41% Christian, 12.97% are Buddhist in the study areas respondent
- ) Majority of jobholder women are more qualified in terms of education than non-jobholder women.
- ) With regard to family structure, 55.55percent are nuclear family & 37.04 percent household have joint family. The family structure of most of the jobholder women is nuclear 62.97% in nature where as non-working women 51.85% have joint family structure. It is also found that in joint families women have more responsibility and less mobility and freedom and hence women are confined mostly on household work than in outside affairs.
- ) Mostly female involve in wage earning of non-jobholder women for 11 household & continue by business & agriculture livestock farming for 6 & 10 households.
- ) Most of the 32 household are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfill their food deficiency of by involving in 11 household in wage earning, 7 household service, business debt are 2 household and 1household are other then fulfill the food deficiency.
- ) Males & females both are control the household income. In 53.70% household kept by both and 39.63% for female (myself) while 16.92% by male member.
- ) With 66.67percent males are saving the household income , 25.92percent myself & 7.41percent males and female are saving the household income.
- ) More then 50% decision for household expenditure is taking by female. The women in majority of both the jobholder 40.74% as well

as non-working women's 77.77% household are the decision maker regarding expenditure on household purchase. It is found that men do not like to be bothered by these matters.

- ) 88.89% household listen about family planning. Then decide for 50% husband & only 12.96% decide for wife
- ) Women & both (husband & wife) equal 8.82% decide for child production in 34 marriage respondent household. Then maximum decide for husband 79.41%.
- ) Among the 54 respondent 23 household male are decided to government registration, 15 household both male & female and 8 household equal Female and other family member decided for government registration so birth, death, migration etc.
- ) Education of children is a priority in most of the households of both working and non-working women. The decisions related to children's education is jointly made by both the parents i.e. men and women after knowing the desires of their children. It is found that jobholder women's household have more power in deciding about their children's education than non-jobholder women.
- ) Women are the main decision maker regarding social ceremonies to attend other's ceremonies or inviting other people for celebration. It is found that jobholder women are mostly consulted or given more responsibility in the decision related to attending or organizing social ceremonies than non-jobholder women. It may be because of the social relation that a jobholder woman have outside the house.
- ) Mostly males are control the household dispute. In 30 household male, 11 household female and 15 household both member control the household dispute.
- ) Women take the sole responsibility of all the household activities like charring children, cooking, welcoming & serving guest etc. The men only offer a helping hand in some cases. It is found that men in the jobholder women's household participate more in household activities than non-jobholder women.

- ) Comparatively jobholder women household are more in favour of educating women and property right for women than non-jobholder women's households.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The study found that the socio-economic status of the women in household decision making process. The women who were higher in social and economic status they had opportunity to lead their family. Thus, the social status is one of the key components of decision making process. Similarly, economically strong women had also led the family and made generous decisions.

Secondly, job is the key component of decision making process. The women who were job holder they have decision making power in the family. It is also associated with the economic condition. The finding states that the nature of job of the women is the change agent of making decision. The women who were illiterate and non-job holder they had no opportunity for making decision. They had to obey their husbands.

Thirdly, the study found that there were three main issues on making household decisions. They were illiteracy, poverty and social and traditional culture. These components were the main fences for women in making decision. These components did not make the male in making decision.

## **5.3 Suggestions**

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

The encouragement of the cooperative forms of social organization such as credit societies, marketing cooperatives and mother's club in order to mobilize women should be employed.

Steps should be taken to make men and the society it self aware regarding the capabilities of women as effective decision maker on important issues as well. The male member of the family should not restrict the mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities.

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

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

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10. Number of Family Member

|        | 2-4   | 5-8   | 9-12  | 12+   |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Male   | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Female | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

11. Religion (a) Hindu (b) Buddhist (c) Christian (d) Other

**C: Socio Economic Status of Women in Study Area**

1. Do you have own land ?

(a) Yes (b) No

2. Who is land owner ?

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

3. How many land have you (in Ropani)

0-5 5-10 10-15 15+

4. It is food production in your land sufficient for consumption of whole year ?

(a) Yes (b) No

5. If no where do you fulfill food deficit ?

(a) Services (b) Business (c) Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning (e) Debt (f) Other

6. What is your main occupation ?

(a) Service (b) Business (c) Agriculture & Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning (d) Other

**D: Level of Jobholder & non-jobholder women in household decision making process of study area:**

7. Do you have saving of amount ?

- (a) Yes                      (b) No

8. Do you have total authority to mobilize saving ?

If No, why ?

.....

9. Do you know the income of your husband or other members of your family ?

- (a) Yes                      (b) No

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

- (a) Myself    (b) Male    (c) Both

11. Who keep your saving ?

- (a) Myself    (b) Husband (c) Both

12. If working , how do you spared the money you earn ?

- (a) Give to the family                      (b) By food item    (c) Children education

- (d) For myself                              (e) Other

13. To whom you consult to spared your income ?

(a) Own decision (b) Male member (c) Both

14. Do you have household dispute ?

(a) Yes (b) No

15. Who decide to control the dispute ?

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

16. Who decide to purchase goods for market ?

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

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

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

18. Do you listen about family planning ?

- (a) Yes (b) No

19. Who decide it ?

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

20. Who decide to determine of NO. of children ?

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

21. Who makes decide to select school for your children ?

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

22. Who decide registration about government record ?

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

23. Has your family attended / organized any social ceremonies ?

- (a) Yes (b) No

24. Who decide ?

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

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

| Household daily activities | Sex  | All time | Mostly | Sometime | Never |
|----------------------------|------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Charring children &        | Male |          |        |          |       |

|                            |        |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| disable member             | Female |  |  |  |  |
| Cooking for family         | Male   |  |  |  |  |
|                            | Female |  |  |  |  |
| Cleaning for house         | Male   |  |  |  |  |
|                            | Female |  |  |  |  |
| Washing clothes for family | Male   |  |  |  |  |
|                            | Female |  |  |  |  |
| Collection fuel            | Male   |  |  |  |  |
|                            | Female |  |  |  |  |
| Welcoming & serving guest  | Male   |  |  |  |  |
|                            | Female |  |  |  |  |
| Other household activities | Male   |  |  |  |  |
|                            | Female |  |  |  |  |

## **ANNEXES – II**

### **Focus Group Discussion Question**

**E: Problem faced of women in household decision making process of study area :**

26. What are the factors do you think affects your decision making regarding household issue ?

- (a) Education
- (b) Economic status
- (c) Ownership of property
- (d) Social & Traditional culture
- (e) Other

27. What can be done to improve to decision making power of women ?  
give your advice.....

## **ANNEXES-III**

### **Guidelines for Key informant Interview**

- a. Are you a job holder?
- b. If yes, what kind of job do you have?
- c. Are you satisfied with your income?
- d. Why?
- e. How much time do you spend for family?
- f. Are your family members happy with your job?
- g. Why? Why not?
- h. Are there any problems in your job?
- i. If there are, could you please mentions some?
- j. Do you have any problems regarding making household decision?
- k. If yes, could you tell please?