

"Socio-economic Status of Women"
(A Case Study of Rural Women of Dharmasthali VDC in Kathmandu District)

A Project Work Report
Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirement
of Master of
Arts in Rural Development

BY
Nabin K.C.
Exam Roll No: 3881 (2059-61 Batch)

Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
Nepal

Letter of Recommendation

This project work report entitled "Socio-economic Status of Women- A Case Study of Rural Women of Dharmasthali VDC in Kathmandu District" is prepared by Mr. Nabin K.C. under my supervision and guidance. I hereby recommend this report for its final evaluation and approval.

Dr. Uma Kant Silwal
Associate Professor
Supervisor

Letter of Approval

This project work report entitled "Socio-economic Status of Women" (A Case Study of Rural Women of Dharmasthali VDC in Kathmandu District) has been finally evaluated and approved in partial fulfillment for the requirement of Master of Arts in Rural Development by the evaluation committee.

Evaluation Committee:

Head of Department

External Examiner

Dr. Uma Kant Silwal

Supervisor:

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the individuals that made this thesis possible. A number of individuals have helped and encouraged me in various ways in completing this study. Here, I wish to express my special gratitude to all who have helped me.

First I would like to thank Dr. Uma Kant Silwal my supervisor, for the invaluable guidance and suggestions. It is because of his guidance and co-operation I could give this project work its present shape.

Special thanks to my family members for giving me the immense support during the preparation of project work.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the respondents of Dharmasthali VDC ward no: 2 for their co-operation.

Nabin K.C.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Recommendation

Letter of Approval

Acknowledgement

Executive Summary

List of Tables

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the Study	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem	6
1.3	Objectives of the Study	8
1.4	Rationale of the Study	8
1.5	Organization of the Study	8

CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Review of the Literature	9
-----	--------------------------	---

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Design	17
3.2	Nature and Source of Data	17
3.3	Sampling Procedure	17
3.4	Data Collection Techniques	18
3.4.1	Household Survey	18
3.4.2	Key Informant Interview	18
3.4.3	Observation	19
3.5	Analysis of Data	19
3.6	Limitation of the Study	19

CHAPTER IV
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1	Introduction to the Study Area	20
4.2.	Age Group	21
4.3	Educational Status	22
4.4	Believe on Rituals and Religions	22
4.5	Family Structure	23
4.6	Opinion towards Female Education	23
4.7	Reasons of Discrimination in access to Health, Education, Employment and other Areas	24
4.8	Age at Marriage	25

4.9 Role and Status of Women	26
4.10 Sources of Drinking Water, Energy and Fuels for Cooking Concerning to Women	28
4.11 Exposure to Mass Media	28
4.12 Consciousness and Awareness	29
4.13 Types of Work and Source of Income	30
4.14 Economically Dependent upon the Family Member	31
4.15 Legal Provision of Seat for Women	32
4.16 No. of livestock	33
4.17 Involvement in Work and Decision Making	34
4.18 Women Inferior and their Labour less Valuable	35
4.19 Degradation of Environment	37
4.20 Improvement of Women's Role and Status	38

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary	39
5.2 Findings	39
5.3 Conclusion	41
5.4 Recommendation	42
Bibliography	
Questionnaire	

Executive Summary

Women in Nepal experience marginalization at social, economic and political levels which impinges on their health, education and legal status. Our social belief is that women are basically inferior and their labour and efforts are less valuable than that of men. Women are still behind men economically and socially due to patriarchal and conservative norms of the society.

The objective of the study is to examine the socio-economic status of women of Dharmasthali Village Development Committee. The specific objectives are follows: To analyze socio-economic condition of the women in the study area, to assess the status of women in rural household, to assess and examine the levels of awareness of women and to examine the role of women in agriculture.

The study has been carried out in 38 households. To select the respondents random sampling technique was used. The study is based primarily on the information collected during the field survey in the study area by administering questionnaire, interview and observations.

The findings may not be generalized to the national level.

Women are disadvantaged politically, legally, socially and economically. Providing women with education, job training and basic services to ease household responsibilities are ways to empower women. The wide range of utilization and exposure of mass media made them consciousness about the events of the surroundings.

Agriculture is the important source for the livelihood for the majority of the women. It is found that women lives remained centered on their traditional roles- taking care of most household chores, fetching water and animal fodder and doing farm. The economic contribution of women is substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. Their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding, and harvesting.

The findings of the study are as follows.

- 1. It is found from the study that the inter caste marriage has been accepted in the society. 34% of the women said that they got married to the inter caste family where as majority 66% of them said within their caste. Nuclear family has been dominantly preferred rather than the joint family. Usually joint family has been the choice of the illiterate women.*
- 2. The literacy rates of women are 53 percent. Even though they are literate it's the male dominated societies. But it still indicates and proves that it's patriarchal society where in the male is very powerful and female are dominated no matter how educated the female is in the family, they are more exploited and get less access in terms of health, education, employment & other areas. The reason of women inferior & their labour regarded less valuable is due to the illiteracy, conservative tradition & poverty*
- 3. It is found that women have been the instrumental factor both in household and agricultural activities even though they are less respected and has low socio-economic status. Apart from it, the role and status of women are very much confined within the household activities as house wives. The study shows that female shares the activities along with the male counter part. Women are neglected while making the decision may it be either household activities or external affairs.*

4. *The level of awareness in terms of sanitation, balance diet and family planning is 82%, which means the level of awareness is high in the society. 97 % of them urged that there should be legal provision made for the reservation of seats for women in the education, employment, health and political sectors. 100% of the women used the electricity and tap water as the sources of energy & drinking water which suggest that they are using the basic infrastructure facilities. 68% of the women used fire woods for cooking, which suggested that fire woods are widely utilized as the sources of fuels for cooking because of the wide spread availability of fire woods which saves money.*
5. *Degradation of the environment increases the work load of the women. The extensive work load is due to the responsibilities of the house hold and agricultural activities.*
6. *Women of the study area suggested that education as the instrumental factor for the improvement of the role and status of women in the society; the lack of education that prevents the women from solving the problems physically and mentally.*

This study shows that female is less literate and is neglected in every field. Within the family, an educated woman did not necessarily hold a higher status than her uneducated counterpart. The overall status of women is much lower as compared to their male counterparts. Despite of exposure and access to basic infrastructural facilities in the sector of mass media, health and sanitation, yet women's lives remained centered on their traditional roles--taking care of most household chores, fetching water and animal fodder, and doing farm work. The discriminatory attitude among parents towards a son and a daughter is much less. But of the parents, especially the uneducated ones seem to have very high preference to sons. The illiterate women of the study area preferred the joint family.

The recommendations are; Provide women with an education, job training. Practice public speaking, practicing public speaking is one way to give women confidence to speak their minds and contribute to conversations and decision-making within and outside the household. The government, INGO and NGOs have to implement the program that would encourage the young children to go to school, improve the laws to increase women's rights and provide women with micro-credit to start their own businesses.

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Table Headings	Page No.
1.	Ward wise Population	20
2.	Age Structure	21
3.	Distribution by Age Group	22
4.	Distribution by Educational Status	22
5.	Distribution by Family Structure	23
6.	Opinion towards Female Education	24
7.	Send Children to School	24
8.	Reason of Discrimination on Access to Health, Education, Employment and Other Areas	25
9.	Age at Marriage	25
10.	Marriage within Caste and Inter Caste	26
11.	Role & Status of Women	27
12.	Head of the Family	27
13.	Fuels used for Cooking	28
14.	Exposure to Mass Media	29
15.	Conscious about the Balance Diet, family Planning and Sanitations	29
16.	Attended during the Ill Period	30
17.	Types of Work	30
18.	Primary Source of Income	31
19.	Economically Dependent upon the Family Member	31
20.	Legal Provision for Reservation of Seats for Women	32
21.	Women Participation in Politics	32
22.	Reason not participating in Politics	33
23.	No. of Livestock	33
24.	Distribution of Work	34

25.	Selection of Preservation of Seeds	34
26.	Decision Making	35
27.	Reasons for Women Inferior and their Labour Less Valuable	35
28.	Reasons of Lower Status of Educated Women than Uneducated Husband	36
29.	Reason of Extensive Work Load	36
30.	Women physically and mentally not fit to face the Problems	37
31.	Effects on Women's Lives by Degradation of the Environment	38