

ACCESS TO DECISION MAKING PROCESS

A STUDY OF WIDOW WOMEN IN DHARMASTHALI VDC

**A DISSERTATION
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This dissertation work entitled "Access to Decision Making Process: A Study of Widow Women in Dharmasthali V.D.C." by Mr. Kedar Satyal is prepared under my supervision for the fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of *Master of Arts in Population Studies*. To the best of my knowledge, the study is original and carried out useful information in this title. He has collected the primary data for this purpose in Dharmasthali VDC of Kathmandu district and completed successfully the requirements for dissertation.

I recommend this dissertation for evaluation to the Dissertation Committee.

Rabindra Nath Bhattarai

May, 2010

APPROVAL SHEET

ACCESS TO DECISION MAKING PROCESS

A STUDY OF WIDOW WOMEN IN DHARMASTHALI VDC OF KATHMANDU

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ABSTRACT

The study “Access to Decision Making Process, A study of widow women” is based on primary data from Dharmasthali VDC of Kathmandu district during October, 2009. The major objective of this study is to find out current socio-economic and demographic characteristics of widow women in the study area and to examine the access to decision making process of widow women on the basis of socio-economic characteristics including health, education, land ownership, economic and political opportunities, physical and psychological violence in the study area.

By using data from 114 households of 712 individuals of all 9 wards information were collected through field survey with the help of purposive random sampling. The data were entered into EPI Data software and required Dummy table were generated through SPSS programme. Through mean, frequency table, cross table objectives were analysed and hypothesis were tested by the use of bivariate (Correlation Coefficient) analysis.

In the study area only 6.73 percent population is found as widow/widower. Out of total respondents majority of population is found as Janajaties (49.12 percent), 73.68 percent is found as illiterate, 41.23 percent is found as household head, 64.91 percent is found as Hindu religious people and 38.60 percent population is involved in agriculture, only 3.51 percent respondents are found in below the age of 35 years and 85.96 percent were married before the age of 20 years.

Access to Median Decision Making Process is calculated as the median of all seven areas as going treatment of health problem, attending any types of education, cropping of land, working outside to feed family, expensing money from income, participating political activities and involving social organization. The median access to decision making process is found as 0.466(less than 50%). In correlation coefficient, widow women who faced health problems have higher access to decision making process then who didn't face. Increasing the level of education, transformation the ownership of land in own/son's/daughter's name, widow women who work outside to feed family and who got any political post have higher access to decision making process(these are negatively correlated with access to median decision making process). Participation in social organization have negative relationship in access to decision making process (i.e., negatively correlated -0.1351). Widow women who faced any types of violence have higher access to decision making process. Similarly widow women who got counseling have lower access to decision making process.

Table of Content

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABBREVIATIONS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1-6
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Limitations of the Study	6
1.5 Organization of the Report	6
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	7-17
2.1 Definition of the term Decision Making	7
2.1.1 Descriptive, Prescriptive, and Normative Modes of Decision Making	7
2.2 Status of Women	10
2.2.1 Socio-Economic Status and Access to Decision Making Process of Widow Women	11
2.2.2 Three Year Interim Plan	15
2.3 Conceptual Framework	16
2.4 Hypothesis of the Study	16
CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY	18-21
3.1 Description and Rationale for the Selection of the Study Site	18
3.2 Nature and Sources of Data	18
3.2.1 Sources of Primary Data	18
3.2.2 Sources of Secondary Data	18
3.3 Sampling Procedure	19
3.4 Research Design	19
3.5 Data Collection Techniques/Instruments	19
3.5.1 Individual Questionnaire Interview	19
3.5.2 Observation	20
3.6 Data Processing and Analysis	20
3.6.1 Estimation of Access to Median Decision Making Process	20
3.6.2 Procedure for Estimation of Correlation Coefficient	21
CHAPTER IV DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	

	OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION	22-26
4.1	Demographic Characteristics	22
4.1.1	Age and Sex Composition of Household Population	22
4.1.2	Household Size by Types of family	23
4.2	Socio-Economic Characteristics of Household Population	23
4.2.1	Religion by Literacy Status	23
4.2.2	Educational Attainment by Marital Status	24
4.2.3	Occupational Status	25
4.2.4	Caste/Ethnicity	26
CHAPTER V	SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF STUDY POPULATION	27-41
CHAPTER VI	STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF STUDY POPULATION	42-45
6.1	Correlation Matrix	42
6.2	Correlation Matrix Table	42
6.2.1	Facing Health Problem and Access to Decision Making Process	42
6.2.2	Attending any Types Education and Access to Decision Making Process	42
6.2.3	Land Transfer in own/son's/daughter's name and Access to Decision Making Process	44
6.2.4	Working Outside to Feed Family Access to Decision Making Process	44
6.2.5	Getting any Political Post and Access to Decision Making Process	44
6.2.6	Participation in Social Organization and Access to Decision Making Process	44
6.2.7	Violence Ever Faced and Access to Decision Making Process	44
6.2.8	Getting any Type of Counseling and Access to Decision Making Process	45
CHAPTER VII	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	46-50
7.1	Summary of Findings	46
7.1.1	Findings of Demographic and Socio-Economic Status	46
7.1.2	Findings of Access to Decision Making Process of Respondents	47
7.2	Conclusions	49
7.3	Area for Further Research	49
REFERENCES		
QUESTIONNAIRE		vi-xi

List of Tables

Table No. 3.1 : Selection of Study Population by Ward, 2009.	19
Table No. 4.1 : Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex, 2009	22
Table No. 4.2 : Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Size, and Composition of Family, Study Area,2009	23
Table No. 4.3 : Percentage Distributions of Household Population of 5 years and above Population by Religion and Literacy, Study Area, 2009	24
Table No. 4.4 : Percentage Distribution of Household Population of 5 years and above Population by Educational attainment and Marital Status, StudyArea, 2009	25
Table No. 4.5 : Percentage Distribution of Household Population of 10 years and above by Occupational Status, Study Area, 2009	26
Table No. 4.6 : Percentage Distributions of Household Population by Caste/ethnicity, Study Area, 2009	26
Table No. 5.1 : Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics, Study Area, 2009	28
Table No. 5.2 : Percentage Distributions of Respondents by Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics and Median Access to Decision Making Process,Study Area, 2009	30
Table No. 5.3 : Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Economic and Others Characteristics and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	31
Table No. 5.4 : Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Some Decision Making Indicators and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	33
Table No. 5.5 : Distribution of Respondents ever faced Health Problem by Caste/Ethnicity and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	35
Table No. 5.6 : Distribution of Respondents Age at Marriage by Currently Attending any Education and Median Access to Decision Making Process,Study Area,2009	35
Table No. 5.7 : Distribution of Respondents Transferred Ownership of Land by Types of Problem Ever Faced After Husband's Death and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	36
Table No. 5.8 : Distribution of Respondents Major Source of Income by Violence Ever Faced After Husband's Death and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area,2009	37

Table No.5.9 : Distribution of Respondents Working Outside to Feed Family by Educational Attainment and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area,2009	38
Table No. 5.10 : Distribution of Respondents Current Age by Getting Political Post and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	38
Table No. 5.11 : Distribution of Respondents Literacy by Involvement in Social Organizations and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	39
Table No. 5.12 : Distribution of Respondents Current Age by Getting Political Post and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009	40
Table No. 5.13 : Distribution of Respondents by Person who Perform Household Work and Particular Works, Study Area, 2009	41
Table No 6.1 : Correlation Matrix Table	43

ABBREVIATIONS

ADMP	: Access to Decision Making Process
AEDU	: Attending any Education after Husband's Death
Ag	: Agriculture
AHD	: After Husband's Death
BS	: Bikram Sambat
CBS	: Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	: Central Department of Population Studies
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
COUNS	: Getting Counseling after Husband's Death
DPS	: Department of Population Studies
FHP	: Facing Health Problem after Husband's Death
HH	: Household
MDG	: Millennium Development Goal
MoWCSW	: Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
OWORK	: Going Outside Work to Feed Family
PPOST	: Getting Political Post
PSORG	: Participation in Social Organization
SPSS	: Statistical Programmes for Social Sciences
TOWN	: Transferred Land in Own/Son's/Daughter's Name
UN	: United Nations
VDC	: Village Development Committee
VEF	: Violence Ever Faced After Husband's Death

WHO : World Health Organization

WHR : Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group