

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Access refers to the desired condition where people and resources put together without any restriction for the best use possible to achieve better means of making decisions. Sometimes these decisions may impact for their whole life. So access is essential for decision making.

Decision making is the process of making choices among competing courses of action (Edmund, 2009:1). Descriptive and normative decision-making theories possess distinct characteristics and follow specific methodologies for selecting a course of action. Normative, or rational, theories of decision making are based on fundamental axioms. Decision and behavior may be the core characteristics of decision-making phenomena. They involve the process of human thought and reaction about the external world, which include the past and possible future events and the psychological consequences, to the decision maker, of those events. The essence of decision making seems to integrate both the beliefs about specific events and people's subjective reactions to those events. For instance, decisions are responses to situations and may include three aspects. First, there may be more than one possible course of action under consideration. Second, decision makers can form expectations concerning future events that are often described in terms of probabilities or degrees of confidence. Finally, consequences associated with possible outcomes can be assessed in terms of reflecting personal values and current goals (Stuart, 2009:5).

Decision making is one of the important parts of improving socio economic status of people. The roles of a woman are attributed differently as she enters into different stages of her life, with regards to various biological events, regardless of age, class, castes, geography, education and so on. A family initiates after the marital institutions between a man and woman. Marriage is a legal union between man and woman as a husband and wife. Lynn Bennett mentions that a marriage tells a lot about the relative status of women and men and the structures of caste and kinship and it can be taken as an expression of the Hindu world-view (Bennett, 2002:165). Without marriage a woman's life is incomplete as they are in the subordinated position and in the absence of male partner a woman life is considered valueless. Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers who are guided and protected by fathers, husbands and sons respectively (Subedi, 1997:123). Women's position without a

male consort is not fulfilled under Hindu philosophy whilst emerging global circumstances towards women's role is in transition.

A family is formed after the combination or arrangement of its two sides (i.e., male and female). The formation of family is initiated after marriage. After marriage in many countries female parties are sent to their newly married husband's home and she is considered as the property of the newly married husband. This fact can be seen in Hindu religion also. Unmarried women are property and under the control of their father and married women belong to their husband which shows that either unmarried or married women have full rights to make any decisions.

In Nepal, husband is thought of as a (Das, 1993:35) "better half" while his wife is "other half". Therefore the death of her husband means that her body is divided and separated and so in widowhood her marital status is converted into her new role as a widow, Vidhava, Raadi (Sharma, 2040:495) which is often associated with assault, pain and agony. This condition is occurred after the death of her better half of life.

A new family is formed after the process of marriage. But there will be a big problem while any one of the newly initiated family deceased. Death is universal and natural process. It cannot be avoided and all people should die one day after being living. But this event is hurtful and makes socially dead for women whose husband is died. So this event makes women to die at two times, because as unmarried and married women she has not any protector and beloved. So they (widows) are in limbo and no longer have any protector. Across cultures they become outcasts and are often vulnerable to physical, sexual and mental abuse. In many societies of Nepal and as other developing countries widows experience is not just the sadness of bereavement but the realization of the loss of their position in family that in many cases, results in their utter abandonment, destitution and dishonor (Probate, 2009:3).

According to above statement due to loss of bereavement and position in family many widows are left behind and they are considered as socially dead and status-less person, which results weakness in every sector. As a result widow women have neither access to nor control over resources, except their self headed family in case of household decisions. This events impact in their decision making process because they are far from social capital, human capital, well being, economic empowerment, natural capital and access to modern facility and infrastructural tools, which are necessary for the decision making process.

A woman who has lost her husband by death and has not marriage again is called widow (Oxford Dictionary, 1996:604).

Widow is a harsh and hurtful word, which is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Vidava' and root word 'Dhava', means husband. Thus 'Vidava' means a woman whose husband is not alive (Manjushree, 1990:195). The root *vidua*, a Latin term, refers to a separation. Hence in 'widow' the meaning is pretty straightforward and it implies separation from spouse.

According to declaration of national group of widows of Nepal in 2002, "The word 'widow' is attached with stigma, humility and agony." So that the word single women is used instead of this word 'widow'.

A widow is associated with misfortune and regarded as inauspicious. Widows are considered as ill omen and the family and society disrespect them. Among the women widowed women are most marginalized. It is often stated that 'a woman without a husband is like an animal without a horn'. By this proverb, the status of a widow woman in Nepalese society is reflected.

Nepalese society is patriarchal society. Women's position with respect to the patriarchal institution is extremely ambiguous. Women are never full ritual members of these patriarchal groups; rather they are the links between them. Only after marriage, when she has assumed her husband's thar and gotra, does she achieve the same full status that boys achieved at their initiation (Bennett, 2002:214).

After achieving full adult status if a 'better half' of a couple (i.e. husband) deceased then it results to 'other half' in vulnerable, harmful and worst condition in a family. It also a result the widow is living, her life is socially, culturally and emotionally dead. She has to live all her life facing the slings and arrows of society as a widow. Whether human rights provide full right to wear any colour's clothes, she is prohibited to wear red colour dress. If the widow uses bright coloured screens or bed sheets, it is assumed that a widow was less in love with her deceased husband and has no respect for him. She also should control her smile and talk (Dhungana, 2002:35).

Decision making process is a complex phenomenon. It depends upon the capability (capacity to do something), access to and control over resources and social security (Physical and psychological) of any person. In many developing countries women are considered as subordinate part of family, while they are born equally. Millennium Development Goal third (MDG3) preserved this condition; however, it is difficult to change the social taboos and

people's attitudes. It is contributed that economic empowerment, well being and decision making process are correlated. These all are determined by natural capital, social capital, technology and tools, infrastructure, human capital and financial capital (IFAD, 2001:3).

Nepal is a country characterized by a diversity of ethnic groups, a hierarchical caste system, and geographical conditions ranging from the mountainous areas, to the hilly regions and tarai (flatlands). Great disparities exist in terms of human development between the people of these different casts, ethnic groups and geographical regions and within these categories there exists great disparities between the overall conditions of women and men.

In many traditional communities of Nepal and other developing countries *widowhood* represents a 'social death' for women. It is not merely that they have lost their husbands, and supporter but live people without any social status. Due to different causes women are far behind than their male partners. If a married woman have full support by their male partner but she will unable to make decision in many cases, how a widow women can do this, because society considered that she is socially dead after lost her husband (supporter).

It is universal fact that women are marginalized and discriminated. This situation is mostly prevailed in patriarchal society. In such society widows are seen to be in a very pathetic situation with the additional pain and suffering coming out of the deep rooted taboos, values and practices. There is No. concrete effort to protect their fundamental rights. Ill cultural practices and conservative thoughts are prevailing in most of our society. Low level of literacy and poor access to health, resources, credit services are more prone to enter into informal sectors which is completely exploitative to them.

In 2066/67 fiscal year Government policy regarding to enhance capability and empowerment of widow women is that, person (male) who marry with single women (widow) can get allowance of Rs.50, 000. Giving money is considered as dowry. In one side government policy is to punish for the dowry systems and other side government itself making encouragement for dowry systems as giving money. At last government took return this proposal after the voice rose against it. So proper policy regarding to the widow women without any conditions should be formulated and implemented strictly.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women, half of the world population, have been subjected to various kinds of harassment. Traditional society looked at women as a prey, motivator, and temptor; therefore, they were secluded, excluded and attached social stigma. The society has been very harsh towards

women particularly widows, who lost their husbands and live without re-marriage. They have been ill-treated, insulted, molested and considered them as 'amangalis' and bad woman. The cruelty to widows has been very severe if they belong to socially and economically well-off.

Early marriage, twelve years conflict, bad taboos and social norms are also increasing the proportions of widow women in the country day by day. Religious and social customs are also influencing the status of widows in rural and backward society.

Widow women have weak condition in Access to Decision Making Process than other women. What was the general lot of the widow? Was she allowed to survive her husband, or was she compelled to die with him? If permitted to survive, could she marry again if she so desired? Did she receive a humane and considerate treatment from the family and society? Could she hold or inherit property, so that she could lead an honourable and independent life after her husband's death?

The loss of a husband becomes an extremely unbearable, painful and unpleasant time and situation. She will lose her protector as well as pillar of standing in society. It is interesting to note that the word 'widow' shares its major root with the word 'divide'. Restriction to wear any colour dresses, participate in any cultural programmes, worshipping god and goddess, no access and control over resources as well as security problem are the major problems of widow women to make free and independent decisions.

Due to patriarchal systems women get little power than men. In case of widow women, in this VDC they have less access to decision making process in different areas as health, education, opportunities (employment and political), cropping land and other.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of the study are to study role of widow women in decision making related to socio economic phenomena. The specific objectives can be outlined as follows:

-) To find out current socio-economic and demographic characteristics of widow women in the study area.
-) To examine the access to decision making process of widow women on the basis of socio-economic characteristics (health, education, land ownership, economic and political opportunities, physical and psychological violence) in the study area.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

Limitations of this study are presented below.

-) It is limited in 114 widow women of Dharmasthali VDC, so the result could not be generalized at national level.
-) There are many factors affecting the access to decision making process of widows which are interrelated to each other. Access to decision making process is calculated in seven areas (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 institutions).
-) The in-laws and other relatives of widow thought negatively and respondents feel difficult to express their opinion regarding the issue.

1.5 Organization of the Report

The dissertation was divided into five chapters. The first chapter included introduction with background, statement of the problem, objective and limitation of the study. Second chapter included the literature review with status of women and access to decision making process of them in area of agriculture, household, economic empowerment, and health with status of widow and conceptual framework. Third chapter included the research methodology including introduction to study area, methods of data collection, sources of data, determining sample size, methods of data analysis. Fourth chapter included socio-economic and demographic characteristics of study population. Fifth chapter included socio-economic and demographic analysis of study population. Sixth chapter included statistical analysis of the study population. Seventh chapter included summary, findings and recommendation. References and questionnaire are included in entire part of the study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of the studies related to the socio economic status of widows and access to decision making process of them. It also attempts to explain selected status indicators related to widows in relation to access to decision making process.

2.1 Definition of the term Decision Making

Bayesian decision theory explains, it is based on the notion that a decision-makers choice among alternative courses of action reflects his tastes for the ultimate outcomes, or payoffs, as well as his beliefs regarding the likelihoods of the events in which these payoffs materialize. The decision maker's beliefs, both prior and posterior, are supposed to be measurable cognitive phenomena representable by probabilities. The essential tenets of Bayesian decision theory are two, (a) new information affects the decision maker's preferences, or choice behavior, through its effect on his beliefs rather than his tastes, and (b) the posterior probabilities, representing the decision maker's posterior beliefs, are obtained by the updating the prior probabilities, representing his prior beliefs, using Bayes' rule. The critical aspect of Bayesian decision theory is, therefore, the existence and uniqueness of subjective probabilities, prior and posterior, representing the decision maker's prior and posterior beliefs that abide by Bayes rule (Karni, 2009:2).

The way people can and do make decisions varies considerably. Much early research has focused on the way we are observed to make decisions and the way in which we should theoretically make decisions, and as a result, the range and diverseness of theory is vast. From this theory, an array of decision making models has emerged. Depending on their methodological foundation, these models can be classified as either descriptive, prescriptive or normative.

2.1.1 Descriptive, Prescriptive, and Normative Modes of Decision Making

As research has evolved, the distinction between descriptive and normative theories has become fuzzy. Normative theories have been refined so that they better "describe" decision making. Similarly, theories descriptive in nature have sought to introduce normative axioms. It is, however, important that the distinction between descriptive and normative remains clear; the distinction acts as a useful reference point when attempting to improve managerial decision making processes. More recently, a third classifier has been introduced which better

describes models such as the Advantage Model and Prospect Theory. A prescriptive model is one which can and should be used by a real decision maker and is tuned to both the specific situation, and needs of the decision maker. Prescriptive models are based on both the strong theoretical foundation of normative theory in combination with the observations of descriptive theory. A simple way of distinguishing between these modes of decision making is:

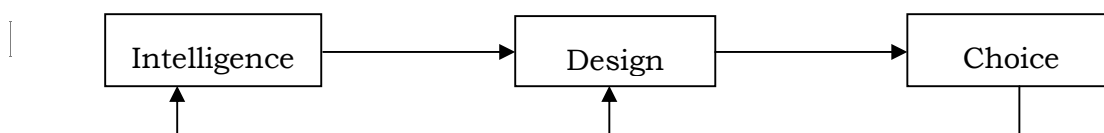
Descriptive: What people actually do, or have done.

Prescriptive: What people should and can do.

Normative: What people should do (in theory).

The focus of this paper is descriptive decision making and the processes employed by real decision makers. Simon proposed a three phase trichotomy of decision processes. These three phases he termed Intelligence, Design and Choice shown in following figure (Figure 1).

Simon's Model of the Decision Process



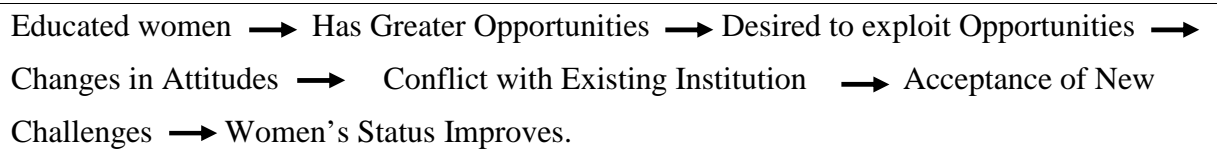
Intelligence (which was borrowed from and based upon the military meaning of the same word) involves identifying the need for a decision or as Simon put it, “searching the environment.” Once the environment has been searched, i.e., the need for a decision identified, the design phase commences. This comprises investigating and developing the problem domain and alternatives. Simon’s final phase is that of choice, which describes the activity of selecting the most appropriate course of action from the alternatives previously generated. The cycle of the stages is quite complex. Each phase in making a particular decision is itself a complex decision making process. For example, the design phase may call for further Intelligence, and any phase can generate new problems which themselves have Intelligence, Design and Choice phases (Stuart, 2009:2).

The pattern of roles provides for a definition of what is to be done in a family, who is to do it and who is to decide on the allocation of tasks. The status of women changes by their being more educated and getting employed, they are made to play a greater part in decision making (Khanna and Varghese, 1976:108-109).

It is considered that, three pillars in its work to achieve gender equality, women empowerment and involvement in decision making (IFAD, 2001:2). They are;

-) Economic empowerment: improving women's access to income earning opportunities and productive assets.
-) Decision-making: increasing women' say in community affairs and strengthening women producer's organizations.
-) Well-being: improving access of women in rural people in particular women, to basic health services, education and infrastructure.

Economic empowerment and wellbeing both are important parts of decision making. Economic empowerment of women includes enabling strength of women in economic aspects and activities. Similarly wellbeing gives high priority to basic health services and condition, education and infrastructure, which able to influence the public and private decisions that affect lives of the women. So that well-being and capability enhancement is economic empowerment and access and control over resources are interrelated.



(Khanna and Varghese 1976:195).

The above process shows that education is one of the important aspects for enhancing capability to get proper opportunities. Well educated women can get greater opportunities than others. They can exploit opportunities more than other less educated female, which helps to make change in attitudes. Conflict will exist with and new challenges were accepted. As result the status of women will improved and they can make proper decision where they feel requires.

The latent force which encourages women or people to draw conclusion and to take stand whether it is right or wrong is power. Access to decision making process is depends on the health status of decision maker, knowledge or educational status, economic empowerment (i.e., access to land and resources, employment and political opportunities). Both are depends upon to the physical and psychological security.

Access to decision making process is also an authority of institutionalized power and manifest power which helps to people that what is to be done in a family, who is to do and who is to decide an allocation.

2.2 Status of Women

The term 'status of women' is defined as the unification of the position of women occupies as a worker a student, a wife and a mother, the power and prestige attached to these positions, and the rights and duties, she is expected to exercise (United Nations,1984). Women status is a multidimensional phenomena which shoes that the status of women is conceptualized at two different levels; the micro level; or the status of women within household and at the macro level; their status in the society and household too. Women approach on social resources is measured by their level of labour force participation and degree of the economic independence to earn by themselves; which consequently establishes their status in the society (Tiwari, 1995:18).

In Hindu religion there is dual position of single women. In on hand women as goddess, creative and helper and other hand, women were said to be slave, mysterious, sexy and enemy. Before marriage her position in natal family is high, and worshipped but her position in-laws family she was measured in the rape of impurity (Bennett, 2002: 214).

It is an event that can happen in any time and ultimate end of the physical and all other evidence of life after birth has taken place. There is no certainty of any people when to die and where to die. Thus, the death of a person is unquestionably a terrible event for those related with that dead individual. In case of a married woman, the loss of a husband becomes an extremely unbearable, painful and unpleasant time and situation. She will lose her protector as well as pillar of standing in society. It is interesting to note that the word 'widow' shares it's major root with the word 'divide'. The root *vidua*, a Latin term, refers to a separation. Hence in 'widow' the meaning is pretty straightforward and it implies separation from spouse.

Nepal is hardly suffered from sati system before the time of Chandra Shumsher. Chandra Shumsher was the one who was determined to uproot the practice of sati altogether consulted the scriptures and discussed the matter with the royal preceptors and priests, members of the nobility, officials and scholars. He was well aware of the fact that, sometimes, unwilling widows were persuaded to become satis by people with the objective of inheriting their property, or to fulfill their vested interests. However, Chandra Shumsher's ardent desire to abolish the practice brooked No. delay. So on his 58th birthday, 8 July 1920, the prime minister enforced a legislation abolishing the longstanding horrible custom of sati (Maskey, 1996:196).

2.2.1 Socio Economic Status and Access to Decision Making Process of Widow Women

A number of elements identified as critical for establishing an enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women are highly relevant for women in rural areas. They include strengthening women's *capabilities*, for example through access to education and health services; increasing their access to and control over *resources and opportunities*, such as land, credit, employment, and migration; enhancing their *agency and leadership* roles, including through increased participation in decision-making; and protecting and promoting their *human rights* and ensuring their *security*, including freedom from violence and the threat of violence. Access to basic services, such as health care and education, is a precondition for strengthening the capabilities of rural women and facilitating their empowerment. It has been estimated that approximately one third of the households in sub-Saharan Africa are permanently headed by women, either widows or women who are single, divorced or separated from their partners. Many more farm households are de facto headed by women while men are away (UN, 2000:20).

In fact, Roelker has argued that many women preferred to remain widows rather than remarry because of the independence widowhood afforded. Diefendorf, in discussing the wives of Parisian councilors in the sixteenth century, argues that widowhood was the first time they entered into full possession of their own property (Kalas, 1993:525).

Recent scholarship has recognized that medieval and early modern nunneries functioned as refuges, both permanent and temporary, for many kinds of women who could not or would not live in family households. Widows were particularly numerous among the convents' transient populations. But a widow's own family often competed with the convent for her loyalty and money. Her options in this situation were limited both by legal constraints that affected her dowry, inheritance, and independence, and by cultural expectations (Baernstein, 1994:797).

Widows' decisions are influenced by multiple considerations, some of which are unique to them and, thus, contradict the monolithic notion of the "African woman," especially in Kenya, where a sizable proportion of "women have been gradually overcoming their socialization and no longer regard themselves as inferior to men". The findings of this study challenge the notion that "women can be controlled, inherited, and remarried by the decisions of their husband's lineage and even given to male friends as part of household hospitality" (Gwako, 1998:185).

In the case of a widow, female relatives deal kindly or harshly with her depending on the way and manner she treated her husband while alive. During the first 40 days after the death of her spouse, the widow is considered to be in an impure state, and until she is purified her actions are to be governed, regulated, and dictated by an attendant. She is not to do anything that is not ritually sanctioned by this attendant. The matrilineage of the deceased usually selects an experienced female member as an attendant to the widow. The widow is supplied with a charm to wear in order to repel evil forces, particularly the spirit of the dead spouse that would otherwise haunt her. The female attendant makes sure the charm is properly secured during the entire 40-day funeral celebration. The attendant also supervises the grieving, eating, drinking, conversations and public seating of the widow (Aborampah, 1999:261-262).

It is stated that 'voluntary enlightened widowhood' as a great social asset and believed that "a real Hindu widow is a treasure. She is one of the gifts of Hinduism to humanity." This was because a Hindu widow had "learnt to find happiness in suffering, has accepted suffering as sacred". "May chaste and virtuous women ever cling to their suffering? Their suffering is not suffering but is happiness'. However, it is significant that how-ever repressive this may seem Gandhi wanted men to emulate the same ideal: "Hinduism will remain imperfect as long as men do not accept suffering", as some of these widows did, and, like them, "withdraw their interest from the pleasures of this life"(Kishwar, 1985:1699).

In many conservative societies, widows are called as with the low levels words, which also make her hurtful. In those societies where the status of women is low, the mourning and burial ritual, are inherently gendered. Rituals are used to exalt the position of the dead man, and his widow is expected to grieve openly and demonstrate the intensity of her feelings in formalized words (Probate, 2009:5).

In both India and Africa, there is much emphasis on dress and life styles. Higher-caste Hindu widows must not oil their hair, eat spicy food, or wear bangles, flowers. Across the culture widows are made to look unattractive and unkempt (Probate, 2009:6).

In theory 51 % of widows have rights to a share in their husband's land. But these rights are often violated in practice by brothers-in-law. If not forced to will away her financial independence, a widow is subjected to emotional blackmail by her own children or forced into leviratic marriage with her brother-in-law so that she has No. decisive power either over her property or on her financial status (Paudel, 2008:V).

In the Russian society, it is found that single women whether divorces or widows, they are considered as lucky to be single. There were an increasing number of single women in Russia day by day. Till 2005, the status of single women was 70.00 % (Unmarried, Widows and Divorces). Out of them, Widows and Divorcees are 65.00 % and living together are 15.00 %. All the Single Women in Russia, they live as a respected citizen without any problems in their lives from anybody. They enjoy legal provision in favour of them. They are legally and socially allow and free to remarry if they wish to. Remarriage is viewed as a normal practice by Russian society. The state supports single women with dependents through mother child special fund provides monthly allowance to single women and her children, special provision in school and shop and free medical treatment.

In the Russia the widows can easily transfer all fixed and liquid assets of their husbands to whomever she chooses or in their own names. Furthermore, her state also supports widows in rearing their children and for their education. She is free to remarry without any hindrance. Such marriages are taken in a positive way. Society understands and places No. blame on single women for her husband death. They are considered that every individual have right to live their lives in a dignity. One has to understand that everybody faces problems and difficulties in his/her life and try to help in any circumstances. Instead of living in past and think of their problems it is better to think of their future and go ahead that the attitude of Russian society (Urevna, 2005:205).

According to Jayal it is stated that there were some positive attitude regarding widows in Mahabharat. Jayal stated that the state of widowhood was a great calamity. The reason for it is more or less self-evident. Women were known as 'Abalas' i.e. those without power, and therefore they depended upon their protectors. Although a woman was proud of all her protectors than the husband and therefore his death was the greatest calamity for her. Many widows like Dasaratha's wives and Kaurava's widows also lived at home. A widowed mother had a respectable position at home. Even in the didactic portions, full of moral teachings, we do not come across any passage indicating the mode of life a widow was a lead after her husband's death (1966:174,189).

Ranjan states that, the status of widowhood in Hindu society is considerate as the worst and the most dreadful period in a high caste women's life. Among the lower caste, at least the stigma of widowhood is removed since them. A widow in Hindu society has to undergo various socio-religious cultural oppression as well as economic hardship (1989:135).

Owen highlighted that, the rise of widowhood among young women is quite unprecedented. Conflict, violence and natural disasters (Tsunami) have led to the death or disappearances of thousands of men in so many regions of the world in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Middle East and Eastern Europe. Yet in spite of the huge numbers of single women (widow) and children dependent on them, it is estimated that Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, South Africa, over 45 % of adult female are either widows or wives of missing husband (2005:105).

According to Civil Code (Muluki Ain), 11th revision, 2058 BS No. 12, Single women can live separately taking her property, if she is interested. If widow or widower without children married with somebody, they can use their property according to their will. If they have children and married with another person then the rearing, caring and education of children will be should from same property. Expected that property cannot be allowed to sold, when children become young, he/she can use it. If the widow was childless from second husband that property goes to the children from the first husband if not so the property goes to the side by inheritor of first husband (Muluki Ain 11th revision, 2058 BS No. 12).

According to Civil Code (Muluki Ain), 11th revision, 2058 BS No. 2, widows fixed and variable property should legally be safed. From the same outcome, tendency of providing portion of property to widowed daughter-in-law equal to the son. Shows some sort of positive glimpses of change in the social aspect from which are measured of seven (Muluki Ain, 11th revision, 2058 BS No. 2).

According to Singh and Bhattarai (2004), the socio cultural status of widows is not encouraging. Majority of the widows are suffering from mental, physical socio-psychological torture during their widowhood period. Widows of Hindu and Newar and Buddhist family are forced to follow many rules and regulations, which are not in favour of them. So, such rules and regulations should be discouraged and everyone should be prepared for it. For that, this is to make an issue and conduct and discussion in every sector. Once everybody in the society realizes it as negative practice, it will be disappeared within the society (95).

In Nepal the experience is different for the young widows, as her young age is viewed as a pitied one and called Ashahaea, abala, bridha. Many widowed women are perceived as an available object, and an opponent to her husband's family in matter of property ownership. She is therefore assaulted and violated by her in-laws and has to face constant pressures from them along with her silent pain from loss. She is never seen as a person, an individual, a human and woman (Dhungana, 2002:35).

Thapa (2003:48) states that, single women are expected to eat food cooked by themselves and in some places they are not allowed to eat meat, fish, egg, onion and garlic, resulting in high incidences of malnutrition within this group. It is clearly understood that single women in general suffer from different forms of social isolation and are subjected to psychological abuse and emotional torture- being dubbed "unlucky". Most of the single women are forced into a life of humiliation by their in-laws, as the family structure in Nepal is mainly joint family system. They are declared as the cause of husband's death.

Only 9 % women are favour to remarriage where as 91 % are opposed it. 50% respondents are wearing colourful dresses, only 11% get the support by the state and 36% get the support by their natal as well as in-law family. 36% respondents have self access to decision making process in households' chores in family. 69% respondents have their own registered land, 76% have some property status includes pewa, daijo or jiwani. But 24% don't have any property, 38 % have their own financial decision making in their family (Paudel, 2008:28).

According to a study on status of widows in Nepal conducted by an organization, Women for Human Rights (WHR), has found 67% of the widows are between 20 to 30 years of age. It is also known that most of the single women are traumatized and are most vulnerable victims in terms of basic need, health, education and psychological impacts. Although the constitution of Nepal, guarantees equality between all citizens, there are still more discriminatory provision in various laws against single women that conflict with rights provided under the CEDAW convention. Strong patriarchal culture and conservative practices emphasizes traditional roles of a single women, is a major hurdle in the implementation of human rights convention in Nepal. Lack of conceptual clarity related to the women's human rights and to the principle of equality among people has created confusion, which further limits single women's fundamental rights and freedom. Most of the women in rural areas are not fully aware on their human rights as well as not aware on any kinds of conventions, declarations that the government has signed in. (WHR, 2008:25)

2.2.2 Three Year Interim Plan

Following provisions are made for the welfare of single women (Widow) in three year interim plan (National Planning Commission, 2007:96, 97).

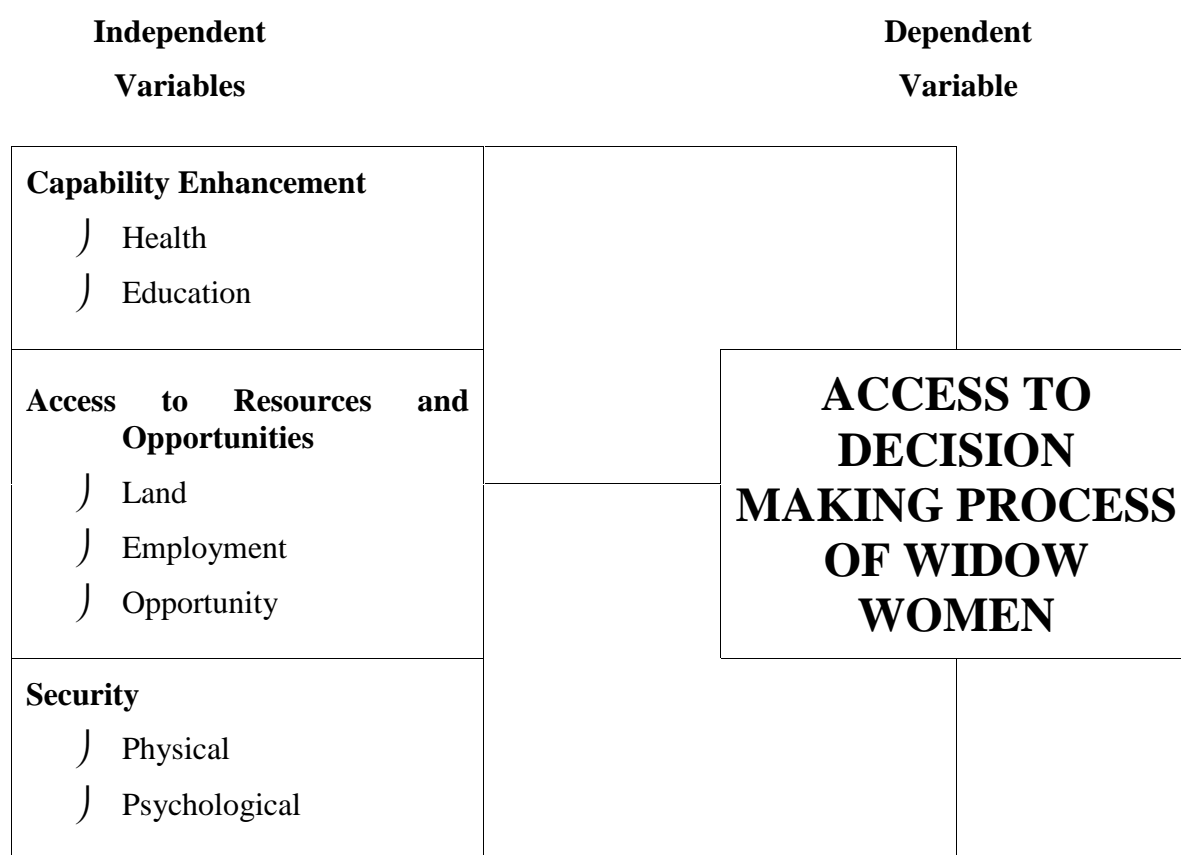
-) Relief distribution to all the widows and single women affected by the Conflict.
-) Special programs will be conducted for the widows and single women

-) Works on social security allowance for the old and widows and records updating are proceeding.
-) Similarly, allowance for senior citizens, helpless widows and people with disabilities have been increased.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

Based on the presented conceptual framework, this study is limited to assess the Access to Decision Making Process of widows women and find out their current socioeconomic status of in Dharmasthali VDC of Kathmandu district.

Conceptual Framework of Access to Decision Making Process of Widow Women:



Source: Field Survey, 2009

2.4 Hypothesis of the Study

Following hypothesis are developed for the study of Access to Decision Making Process of Widow women:

-) Well capable women have higher Access to Decision Making Process.

-) Widow women who have higher the access to resources and opportunities also have higher the Access to Decision Making Process.
-) Widow women who face violence (physical and psychological) have lower the Access to Decision Making Process.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description and Rationale for the Selection of the Study Site

To obtain relevant information about Access to Decision Making Process of widow women, the selection of the suitable field site is a foremost requirement. This study intends to analyze access to decision making process of widow women in health, education of the child/own, access to land, employment, political opportunities, physical and psychological security.

Dharmasthali VDC is situated in the middle region and northern part of Kathmandu district located between 27'27" to 27'49" north latitude and 85'10" to 85'32" east longitude. It is at about 4 kilometer far from Balaju ring-road area of Kathmandu district.

This Dharmasthali VDC is as a square and some elongated in southern edge in its shape, this study area limits which is bounded in the east by Manamaiju and Kavresthali VDC, in the west by Goldhunga VDC, Jitpurphedi in the north and by Goldhunga in the south. The total area of this VDC is 4 sq. kilometer land. There are living many tribes in this VDC.

Therefore Dharmasthali VDC is selected for this purpose based on the fact; nobody has conducted such type of research till date of this issue. The area covers almost all the area of socio economic characteristics of rural areas of Nepal. For the present study 114 sample respondents are selected. This study will able to present current socio economic status and Access to Decision Making Process of widow.

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

The research work is based on primary and secondary sources of data.

3.2.1 Sources of Primary Data

The sources of primary data are the sample respondents. Primary data had been collected through the administration of questionnaires and direct interview with respondents.

3.2.2 Sources of Secondary Data

Published annual report of the different organizations like MoWCSW, UN and CBS etc. is taken as basic sources of secondary data. Similarly, related books, magazine, journals, articles etc. are also used as secondary data.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

This study used the primary data collection technique. Field work was done in October 2009. Dharmasthali V.D.C. of Kathmandu district is selected by random sampling. Simple random sampling technique was used to collect information from the universe of the respondents.

According to Census 2001 total no of population of this VDC (9 wards) are 4688. Out of them 2337 population are female. Among them only 225 women are widows (single women). Among them 114 respondents are taken as sample and it is 50.60 % of total targeted population. For the selection of sample each ward are taken as strata and again about 50.60 % of widows women are taken as sample from each ward purposively. The sample size for each ward is presented below (Table No. 3.1).

Table No. 3.1 Selection of Study Population by Ward, 2009.

Ward No	Total Population	Female Population	Widows Population	Sample
1	439	222	18	9
2	436	214	22	11
3	783	394	41	21
4	469	214	22	11
5	811	420	33	17
6	514	274	24	12
7	404	197	15	8
8	439	218	30	15
9	393	184	20	10
Total	4688	2337	225	114

Source: CBS, 2003.

3.4 Research Design

It attempts to assess the status of widow women and their access to decision making process related to health, education, political participation and economy (income and employment status) of widow women of this area. Hence this research work is primarily based on descriptive statistics. This research design also tries to present analytical and comparative information among the Nepalese widows. So this research is prepared after the field observation and interview among the 114 respondents.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques/Instruments

Following tools are used to collect information from the respondents:

3.5.1 Individual Questionnaire Interview

Different 71 close ended individual questionnaires were asked to collect information in

different four sub topics regarding to the topics. Then they are gathered and used to analyze for data tabulation and presentation.

3.5.2 Observation

Observation was done at the time of field survey and data collection. Then important aspects are recorded in note copy. That information was used to analyze at the time of data analysis and presentation.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

Data processing analysis were processed by SPSS Package. Descriptive and bivariate analysis method is used to analyze data obtained from respondents. Similarly mean had been calculated to evaluate the relative importance of each independent variables affecting Access to decision making process of widow women.

3.6.1 Estimation of Median Access to Decision Making Process

Access to decision making process(ADMP) measures the decision making by widow women in all the seven areas (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 organizations). First if decisions are made by widow women is considered as 1 and if other members of the family made decisions is considered as 0 (the purpose of such assumptions is only as nominal scale but not as all decisions is made by widow women and there is no problem for access to decision making). To calculate median sum of all seven variables are considered as 1. To get result in one, all above seven variables are added and divided by 7. In which 0.00 is poorest access to decision making process and 1.00 is the perfect access to decision making process. Then median access to decision making process is computed among the total 114 respondents. Following formula is used to calculate median access to decision making process:

$$\text{Median} = \frac{N+1}{2}$$

Where N= Total Respondents.

Median= Median Access to Decision Making Process (Median ADMP).

Lastly, results of median indicate the average access to decision making process by widow women in relation to selective areas.

3.6.2 Procedure for Estimation of Correlation Coefficient

Let Y_i be the dependent variable i.e. Access to Decision Making Process and X_i be the independent variable for i characteristics then the Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) is calculated as:

$$r = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum X_i Y_i - \bar{X} \bar{Y}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2}}$$

Where N = total observations

X_i = i^{th} independent variables

Y_i = i^{th} dependent variable

i = variables

r = Karl Pearson Correlation.

Note: if ' r ' exists in negative ($-$) value then correlation is taken as negative relationship, if r exists in positive ($+$) value then correlation is taken as positive relationship and 0 is No. relationship which varies -1 to $+1$.

CHAPTER IV

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

This chapter deals with the demographic, social, economic and miscellaneous characteristics of household and respondents of the Dharmanthali VDC of Kathmandu district. In this study 114 households were taken as sample.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics

The basic demographic characteristic as age and sex composition of household population is presented in this sub section.

4.1.1 Age and Sex Composition of Household Population

The social relationships with a community are considerably affected by the relation members at each age of a population. Age composition is very useful for various types of planning like potential manpower planning, voting population, dependent population and different types of researches. The age groups are divided as 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 75 and over years of age.

Table No. 4.1 Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex, 2009

Age-group	Female		Male		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
0-4 Years	10	2.71	22	6.41	32	4.49
5-9 Years	19	5.15	53	15.45	72	10.11
10-14 Years	36	9.76	54	15.74	90	12.64
15-19 Years	41	11.11	39	11.37	80	11.24
20-24 Years	31	8.40	39	11.37	70	9.83
25-29 Years	26	7.05	32	9.33	58	8.15
30-34 Years	38	10.30	18	5.25	56	7.87
35-39 Years	35	9.49	29	8.45	64	8.99
40-44 Years	25	6.78	25	7.29	50	7.02
45-49 Years	18	4.88	14	4.08	32	4.49
50-54 Years	14	3.79	14	4.08	28	3.93
55-59 Years	16	4.34	0	0.00	16	2.25
60-64 Years	18	4.88	0	0.00	18	2.53
65-69 Years	14	3.79	0	0.00	14	1.97
70-74 Years	15	4.07	3	0.87	18	2.53
75 and Above	13	3.52	1	0.29	14	1.97
Total	369	51.83	343	48.17	712	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The distribution of population by age and sex are more convenient to explain the various aspects in population. In 114 sampled households, the total population was 712. The sex ratio was found 92.95. Out of total 712 populations, 343 were males and 369 were females. The

highest proportion of the total population was found in age group 10-14 years (12.64 %). The lowest proportions of the population were found in age group 65-69 years (1.97 %) 75 and above years (1.97 %). The proportion of female population was highest in age group 15-19 years (11.11 %). While the highest proportion of male population in age group 10-14 years (15.74 %). This is shown in above table (Table No. 4.1).

4.1.2 Household Size by Types of Family

A type of family is also play vital role for determining the status of women and specially for the widow women. There would be subordinate role of women in larger family. So higher the family size will affect the Access to Decision Making Process of widow women. On the Basis of residence family is divided into Nuclear and joint. Similarly Household size is divided as 1 to 5, 6 to 10 and 11 to over persons in a house.

Table No. 4.2 Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Size, and Composition of Family, Study Area,2009

Household Size	Family					
	Nuclear		Joint		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
1 to 5 Members	106	21.63	384	78.37	490	68.82
6 to 10 Members	8	4.30	178	95.70	186	26.12
11 and Above Members	0	0.00	36	100.00	36	5.06
Total	114	16.01	598	83.99	712	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The proportion of highest population was found in joint family (83.99%) and rest was found nuclear family (16.01%). Majority of population was found in 1-5 members in a family (68.82%) followed by 6-10 members in a family (26.12%) and rest is found in 11 and above members (5.06%) in a household. This is shown in above table (Table No. 4.2).

4.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Household Population

Socio-economic characteristics are represented by literacy, educational status, current occupation, religion and caste/ethnicity. It has been cross-tabulated in religion by literacy, educational status by marital status and current occupation by caste/ethnicity.

4.2.1 Religion by Literacy status

Religion is one of the important determinants of socio-economic status of any society. Similarly literacy play vital role on it. Religion is divided into four categories as Hindu, Buddhist, Kirats and Others (Baisnabi) and literacy is divided into two literate and illiterate. Population is taken from 5 years and above age groups.

The highest proportion of population was found in Hindu religion (67.35%) followed by Buddhist (30.29%) and lowest in Kirats (0.88%). Among the population, about 65.59% population was literate and 34.41% population was illiterate.

Table No. 4.3 Percentage Distributions of Household Population of 5 years and above Population by Religion and Literacy, Study Area, 2009

Religion	Literacy					
	Literate		Illiterate		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Hindu	310	67.69	148	32.31	458	67.35
Buddhist	126	61.17	80	38.83	206	30.29
Kirats	4	66.67	2	33.33	6	0.88
Others	6	60.00	4	40.00	10	1.47
Total	446	65.59	234	34.41	680	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Among the Hindu religious population about 67.69% were literate and rest (32.31%) was illiterate. In Buddhist population about 61.76% populations were literate and 38.24% were illiterate. In Kirati religious population about 66.67% populations were literate and 33.33% were illiterate. In others religious population this share was 60% and 40% respectively. This is shown in above table (Table No. 4.3).

4.2.2 Educational Attainment by Marital Status

Education is the major socio-economic component, which enhances the social, political and economic development and quality of life of people. The educational attainment people have a very strong effect on behaviour and doing activities in a household and society. It has been widely accepted that education has a strong impact on the development of latent potentiality.

Table No. 4.4 Percentage Distribution of Household Population of 5 years and above Population by Educational attainment and Marital Status, Study Area, 2009

Educational Status	Marital Status							
	Never Married		Married		Widow/Widower		Total	
	No.	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Non-Formal	0	0.00	4	2.90	26	86.67	30	6.73
Primary(1-5)	114	41.01	38	27.54	4	13.13	156	34.98
Lower Secondary(6-8)	52	18.71	30	21.74	0	0.00	82	18.39
Secondary(9-10)	62	22.30	32	23.19	0	0.00	94	21.08
Intermediate	42	15.11	18	13.04	0	0.00	60	13.45
Bachelor	8	2.88	10	7.25	0	0.00	18	4.04
Master and Above	0	0.00	6	4.35	0	0.00	6	1.35
Total	278	62.33	138	30.94	30	6.73	446	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Education has been considered as catalytic agent of reducing gap between men and women in

case of decision making process. Mainly education is necessary for widow women to make aware about the issue of decision making than uneducated women.

Educational status is categorized into non-formal (adult and other education except formal), primary (up to class 5), lower secondary (6 to 8 class), secondary (9 to 10 class), Intermediate, Bachelor and Master and above. Five years and above population is taken to analyse the educational attainment and marital status.

This is shown in above table (Table No. 4.4). The highest proportion of population attained primary level of education (34.98%), followed by secondary level of education (21.08%) and lowest in master and above (1.35%). Similarly highest proportion of literate population were never married (62.33%), followed by married (30.94%) and widow/widower were less literate (6.73%). The above table (Table No. 4.4) showed that almost widow/widower population had attained just non-formal education (86.67%) and rest of such population has attained primary level (13.13%).

4.2.3 Occupational Status

Occupation is the source of income. Income helps to make economic motive and well economic status helps to increase access to decision making process. Household population is selected for 10 years and above for the analysis of study population on the basis of occupational status.

The following table (Table 4.5) shows that the highest proportion of population was found in student population (24.01%) followed by agriculture (23.68%), domestic work (18.75%), service (12.17%), trade (7.89%), currently not working (4.28%), daily wages in non-agriculture (4.28%), dependent (2.96%), cottage industry (1.32%), and lowest in disabled

Table No. 4.5 Percentage Distribution of Household Population of 10 years and above by Occupational Status, Study Area, 2009

Current Occupation	No.	Percent
Agriculture	144	23.68
Cottage Industry	8	1.32
Trade	48	7.89
Service	74	12.17
Daily Wages (Agricultural)	2	0.33
Daily Wages (Non-Agricultural)	26	4.28
Domestic Work	114	18.75
Disabled	2	0.33
Student	146	24.01
Currently Not Working	26	4.28
Dependent	18	2.96
Total	608	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

(0.33%), daily wages agriculture (0.33%).

The Table No. 4.5 shows that highest proportion was found in agriculture (23.68%) as Nepal except student. In other hand less percent was found in non agricultural sector as trade, daily wages non agriculture, service which have vital role to determine access to decision making process.

4.2.4 Caste/Ethnicity

Ethnic composition is one of the important determinants for determining status of women. In case of widow women there is ethnic variability in their socio economic status. This study is conducted in Janajaties majority area. Many studies had shown that the status of Janajaties women is higher than the status of others ethnic groups.

The following table (Table No. 4.6) shows that highest proportions of population is found in Janajaties (46.91%) followed by Brahmins population (24.16%), Chhetries (21.07%) and lowest is found in Dalits population (7.87%).

Table No. 4.6 Percentage Distributions of Household Population by Caste/ethnicity, Study Area, 2009

Caste/Ethnicity	No.	Percent
Brahmins	172	24.16
Chhetries	150	21.07
Janajaties	334	46.91
Dalits	56	7.87
Total	712	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

CHAPTER V

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF STUDY POPULATION

All total 114 cases of widow women are selected for the descriptive data analysis. Out of the total sample size 49.12 per cent of respondent were from Janajati communities. A higher percentage of respondents are found in age group 60-69 years (28.07%). The mean age of respondents reported nearly 57 years in the study area.

Among the total respondents higher concentrations is found in the age group 60-69 years of age (28.07%), followers with 21.05% of the age group 50-59 years and lowest was found in age group 80 and above years (5.26%). Out of them 49.12 per cent from Janajaties communities, Chhetries are followers with 22.81%, Brahmins are found 21.05% and only 7.02% are found Dalits. Table No. 5.1 describes the socio economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Looking at the age group of respondents, out of total sample population 71.93% are engaged in agriculture and domestic work, 15.79% is dependent and disabled, 5.26% is currently not working and only 7.02% is engaged in non-agricultural (Trade/business) sector. Education is another important determinant of decision making. Most of the respondent are illiterate (73.68%) and among the literate respondents 22.81% respondent were attained informal education and only 3.51% respondent were attained primary level education.

While looking at religion of the respondents, out of total respondents, 64.91% are Hindus. Hindus are found higher in the area and 35.09% are followers of other religions. Similarly, a total of 58.77% of respondents are found just members of the family after their husband's death and 41.23% of the respondents are found as household head after their husband's death. In other hand majority of the respondents are married before then legal age at marriage (i.e. 85.96% are married less than 20 years of age) and only 14.03% of the respondents are married after the age of 20 years.

To determine the level of decision making, first seven variables are taken as the component of access to decision making. If the decision is made by respondents herself is taken as required 1 and if other member of the family made decisions is considered as 0 for the development of median. Then all are added and divided by 7 to determine median access to decision making process. Where 1.00 is perfect access to decision making by respondents in

all seven areas and 0.00 is the poorest access to decision making by the respondent. To develop the access to decision making process seven variables (decision making on

Table No. 5.1 Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics, Study Area, 2009

Indicators		
Age Group	Number	Percentage
30-39 Years	14	12.28
40-49 Years	18	15.79
50-59 Years	24	21.05
60-69 Years	32	28.07
70-79 Years	20	17.54
80 and Above Years	6	5.26
Total	114	100.00
Literacy and Educational Attainment		
Illiterate	84	73.68
Non-formal	26	22.81
Primary	4	3.51
Total	114	100.00
Occupation of Respondent		
Dependent/Disabled	18	15.79
Currently Not Working	6	5.26
Agriculture/Domestic Work	82	71.93
Non Agricultural	8	7.02
Total	114	100.00
Religion of Respondent		
Hindus	74	64.91
Non Hindus	40	35.09
Total	114	100.00
Caste/Ethnicity of Respondent		
Brahmins	24	21.05
Chhetries	26	22.81
Janajaties	56	49.12
Dalits	8	7.02
Total	114	100.00
Survey Status of Respondent		
Household Head	47	41.23
Member of Household	67	58.77
Total	114	100.00
Age at Marriage of Respondent		
Below 20 Years	98	85.96
20 and above Years	16	14.03
Total	114	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

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 organizations) are added. By which median access to decision making process is estimated. The percentage distribution of respondent shows that out of total

114 respondents, highest percentage of respondents was found in age 55 and above years whose median access to decision making process is only 0.362 followed by 35-54 years respondents (31.58 %) having 0.625 median access to decision making process and , only 3.51 % are found below age 35 years whose median access to decision making process is highest (0.929) than others age groups.

Looking at the literacy and educational attainment, 73.68% are found illiterate whose median access to decision making process is only 0.418 followed by literate but not schooling (non-formal) 22.81% of respondents having 0.571 median access to decision making process. Among the respondents who attained primary level (3.51%) of education, their median access to decision making process is found 0.643.

Regarding the occupational status of respondents, highest percentage (49.12%) is found in others (domestic work, dependent, disabled) category of occupation and found only 0.312 median access to decision making process, followed by the respondents who are doing agricultural work (38.60%) and their median access to decision making process is found 0.587. Similarly respondents who are involving non agricultural work (i.e. Trade and Business) are found 7.02% and their median access to decision making process is found 0.536, and only 5.26% of respondents are found currently not working whose median access to decision making process is found highest (0.905) than others occupation holders. In terms of religion, 64.91 % of respondents are found Hindus having 0.452 median access to decision making process and the share of Non-Hindus respondents is found 35.09% and their median access to decision making process is found 0.514.

The study is situated in Janajaties majority area. The percentage of respondents of Janajaties caste is found 49.12% having 0.492 median access to decision making process, followed by Chhetries caste respondents (22.81%) with 0.452 median access to decision making process. Brahmins are found 21.05 % with 0.343 median access to decision making process and the percentage of Dalits are found 7.02% with 0.464 median access to decision making process. In terms of household status highest percentage of respondents are found as the member only (58.77%) with 0.329 median access to decision making process and rest of the respondents are found as household head (41.23%) with 0.652 median access to decision making process. Looking at the completed age at marriage of respondents', highest percentage is found married in below the age of 20 years (85.96%) with 0.461 median access to decision making process and rest of the respondents are found married 20 and above years (14.04%) with

0.524 median access to decision making process. Among the total 114 respondents their median access to decision making process is found 0.466.

Table No.5.2 Percentage Distributions of Respondents by Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Indicators			
Age Group	Number	Percent	Median Decision Making Access
Below 35 Years	4	3.51	0.929
35 to 54 Years	36	31.58	0.625
55 and Above Years	74	64.91	0.362
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Literacy and Educational Attainment			
Illiterate	84	73.68	0.418
Non-formal	26	22.81	0.571
Primary	4	3.51	0.643
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Occupation of Respondent			
Currently Not Working	6	5.26	0.905
Agriculture	44	38.60	0.587
Non Agricultural	8	7.02	0.536
Others	56	49.12	0.312
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Religion of Respondent			
Hindus	74	64.91	0.452
Non Hindus	40	35.09	0.514
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Caste/Ethnicity of Respondent			
Brahmins	24	21.05	0.343
Chhetries	26	22.81	0.452
Janajaties	56	49.12	0.492
Dalits	8	7.02	0.464
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Household Status of Respondent			
Household Head	47	41.23	0.652
Member of Household	67	58.77	0.329
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Age at Marriage of Respondent			
Below 20 Years	98	85.96	0.461
20 and above Years	16	14.04	0.524
Total	114	100.00	0.466

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The others characteristics of respondent are categorized in different topics, that are describes below. Decision making of widow women is determined by problem faced after husband's death. Out of total 114 respondents, problem of caring family is faced by 42.11 % with 0.476 median access to decision making process. An equal (22.81% for each) percentage of respondents are found facing economic and psychological problem with 0.286 and 0.536 median access to decision making process respectively.

Similarly 10.53% of respondents faced health problem after their husband's death, whose

Table No. 5.3 Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Economic and Others Characteristics and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Particulars			Median Decision Making Access
Problem Ever Faced	Number	Percent	
Economic	26	22.81	0.286
Caring Family	48	42.11	0.476
Psychological	26	22.81	0.536
Health	12	10.53	0.500
Others...	2	1.75	0.143
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Violence Ever Faced After Husband's Death			
Yes	28	24.56	0.486
No	86	75.44	0.460
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Types of Violence Faced			
Cause of Death of Husband	20	71.43*	0.429
Unlucky	4	14.29*	0.857
Bad Aspects of House	14	50.00*	0.536
Change of Role After Husband's Death			
Yes	82	71.93	0.460
No	32	28.07	0.486
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Types of Changed Role			
Money Expense	68	82.93*	0.429
Political	6	7.32*	0.571
Cultural	22	26.83*	0.500
Social	18	21.95*	0.607
Facing Blame After Husband's Death			
Yes	40	35.09	0.531
No	74	64.91	0.438
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Types of Blame Faced AHD			
Cause of Death of Husband	8	20.00	0.333
Leave Home	14	35.00	0.619
Bad Luck of House	14	35.00	0.571
Others...	4	10.00	0.429
Get Counselling After Husband's Death			
Yes	62	54.39	0.471
No	52	45.61	0.462
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Types of Counselling Get AHD			
Self Sustain	20	32.26*	0.571
Psychological	20	32.26*	0.514
About Rights	38	61.29*	0.429

Source: Field Survey, 2009

* Total Percentages exceed 100 due to the multiple response of Yes.

median access to decision making process is found 0.500 and only 1.75% of respondents are faced others (loneliness) problem with 0.143 median access to decision making process.

Looking at the violence ever faced by the respondents, out of total 114 respondents only 24.56% are faced at least one types of violence, whose median access to decision making process is found 0.486, and rest 75.44% of respondents are reported that they are not faced any types of violence with 0.460 median access to decision making process. Among the respondents who ever faced at least one types of violence, 71.43% of respondents faced cause of death of their own husband as torture with 0.429 median access to decision making process. Similarly 54.39% with 0.471 median access to decision making process got counseling and 45.61% with 0.462 median access to decision making process not got any types of counseling. These are shown in above table (Table No. 5.3).

Making decision is one of the important determinants for determining status of women in house as well as society. In our society, many of the marriage decisions are made by male parties as grandfather, father, uncle, brother etc. which directly showed the poor decision making status of women before their marriage. The following table (Table No. 5.4) shows the different decision making indicators.

Among the respondent majority of the respondents were married after the decisions of other members of the family except father and mother (26.32%) with 0.531 median access to decision making process. Decisions of father and mother both and own self (24.56%) is follower to the highest one with the median access to decision making process 0.321 and 0.469 respectively. While low Percentage is found in making decisions by mother herself for the marriage of her daughter (1.75%) with 0.429 median access to decision making process.

Among the respondents who got PEWA assets, by which widow women can improve their economic status and helps to improve access in decision making process is got by less respondents (5.26%) with 0.429 median access to decision making process and majority of the respondents not got any PEWA assets (94.74%) with 0.469 median access in decision making process.

Looking at the getting inherited properties, majority of the respondents got (68.42%) properties with 0.479 median access to decision making process and only 31.58% of the respondents not got any inherited properties with 0.429 median access to decision making process.

Current health status is another important determinant for improving access in decision making process. Among the respondents majority is found (56.14%) are still suffering from

Table No.5.4 Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Some Decision Making Indicators and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Indicators	Number	Percent	Median Decision Making Access
Decider for Own Marriage			
Father	26	22.81	0.500
Mother	2	1.75	0.429
Both Father and Mother	28	24.56	0.321
Other Family Members	30	26.32	0.531
Own self	28	24.56	0.469
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Having "PEWA" assets in Own Name			
Yes	6	5.26	0.429
No	108	94.74	0.469
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Consulting Anyone to Use "PEWA" assets			
Yes	2	1.75	0.000
No	4	3.51	0.500
Not Having "PEWA"	108	94.74	0.471
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Getting Inherited Properties After Husband Death			
Yes	78	68.42	0.479
No	36	31.58	0.429
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Free from Health Problem Now			
Yes	50	43.86	0.476
No	64	56.14	0.459
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Controlling in Eating Habit After Husband Death			
Yes	34	29.82	0.333
No	80	70.18	0.508
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Restricted to Wear Any Colour Dresses			
Yes	26	22.81	0.571
No	88	77.19	0.420
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Restricted to Move Out from Home After Husband's Death			
Yes	12	10.53	0.476
No	102	89.47	0.464
Total	114	100.00	0.466
Opinion About Widow's Remarriage			
Yes	30	26.32	0.482
No	28	24.56	0.500
Don't Know	46	40.35	0.444
Not Stated	10	8.77	0.143
Total	114	100.00	0.466

Source: Field Survey, 2009

any health problem with 0.476 median access to decision making process and 43.86% of the

respondent is found free from any health problem with 0.459 median access to decision making process.

Controlling in eating habit is another determinant of capability of respondents. Among the respondents about 70.18% were not being controlled in their eating habits after their husband's death, have higher (0.508) median access to decision making process. In other hand respondents who faced controlling in their eating habit after husband's death (29.82%) have lowest median access to decision making process (0.333).

Freedom to wear any colour dresses also indicates the decision making status of respondents. Among the respondents, majority is found no any restriction (77.19%) to wear any colour dresses with lowest (0.420) median access to decision making process. In other hand 22.81% of the respondents are found restricted to wear any colour dresses with highest (0.571) median access to decision making process.

Freedom in mobility is another right of human beings. But some cultural practices are against in this right. Among the respondents who feel restriction to move outside from house have lower percentage (10.53%) with highest (0.476) median access to decision making process. In other hand respondents who have not feel any restriction have highest percentage (89.47%) with lowest (0.464) median access to decision making process.

Lastly, opinion about widow's remarriage is also indicates the decision making status of widow women. Among the respondents majority of them (40.35%) are found no opinion about widow's remarriage and 8.77% are found not stating about this with 0.444 and 0.143 median access to decision making process respectively. In other hand 26.32% of the respondents are found in positive opinion (yes) with highest median access to decision making process (0.482) and 24.56% of the respondents have negative opinion (no) with 0.500 median access to decision making process. These are shown in above table (Table No. 5.4).

Table No. 5.5 presents the percentage of distribution respondent's health problem ever faced by caste ethnicity with median access to decision making process. Regarding to the health condition of respondents 80.70 % of respondents faced health problem with median access to decision making process 0.488. Rest of the population reported as not faced (i.e. 19.30 %) any types of health problem whose median access to decision making process is 0.351.

Out of total Brahmins population 66.67% faced health problems and 33.33% respondents are reported not faced any health problem. The median access to decision making process of total Brahmins population is found 0.343. Similarly 84.62% of Chhetries population faced health

problem and 15.38% respondents reported as not faced any types of health problem. The median access to decision making process of Chhetries population is found 0.452. In other hand 85.71% of Janajaties population is reported as they have ever faced health problem after their husband's death and 14.29% reported as not faced any health problem. The median access to decision making process of Janajaties is found 0.492.

Table No. 5.5 Distribution of Respondents ever faced Health Problem by Caste and Ethnicity and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Caste Ethnicity	Faced Health Problem After Husband's Death					
	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Bhramins	16	66.67	8	33.33	24	0.343
Chhetries	22	84.62	4	15.38	26	0.452
Janajaties	48	85.71	8	14.29	56	0.492
Dalits	6	75.00	2	25.00	8	0.464
Total	92	80.70	22	19.30	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.496		0.343		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Among Dalits population 75.00% of respondents reported that they have ever faced health problem and 25.00% are not faced the health problem. The median access to decision making process of Dalits population is found 0.464. This is shown in above Table No. 5.5.

Table No. 5.6 shows that total median access to decision making process of respondents is found 0.466. Out of them majority (85.96%) is found married in before the age of 20 years with 0.461 median access to decision making process and only 14.04% is found married after the legal age at

marriage (i.e. 20 years) with 0.524 median access to decision making process.

Table No. 5.6 Distribution of Respondents Age at Marriage by Currently Taking any Education and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study area, 2009

Currently Attending any Education	Age at Marriage					
	Below 20	Percent	20 and Above	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Yes	38	82.61	8	17.39	46	0.614
No	60	88.24	8	11.76	68	0.363
Total	98	85.96	16	14.04	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.461		0.524		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Out of total respondents who are taking informal education, it is reported that 82.61% are married before than 20 years and 17.39% are married after 20 years. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.614. Similarly among the respondents who are not taking

any education, 88.24% is found married before the age of 20 years and 11.76% of respondents is found married after the age of 20 years. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.363. This is shown in above table (Table No. 5.6).

Table No. 5.7 shows that average access to decision making process (Median ADMP) of widow women is 0.466. Among them only 42.11% of respondents are able to transferred their cultivating land in own/son's/daughters name after their husband death. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.500. Similarly 57.89% of respondents who have their own cultivating land but not transferred ownership of land. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.440.

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

Problem Ever Faced After Husband's Death	Transferred Ownership of Land					
	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Economic	10	38.46	16	61.54	26	0.286
Caring Family	20	41.67	28	58.33	48	0.476
Psychological	16	61.54	10	38.46	26	0.536
Health	2	16.67	10	83.33	12	0.500
Others...	0	0.00	2	100.00	2	0.143
Total	48	42.11	66	57.89	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.500		0.440		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Among the respondents who ever faced economic problem after their husband's death, 38.46% of respondents is found transferred the ownership of land and 61.54% is found not transferred the ownership of land. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.286. Similarly out of the respondents who ever faced problem of caring family, 41.67% is found transferred the ownership of land and 58.33% are reported that their ownership of land is not transferred. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.476. Findings show that out of total psychological problem faced respondents 61.54% are found transferred the ownership of land and 38.46% are found in not transferred. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.536. Similarly out of total respondents who faced health problem, 16.67% is found in transferred land ownership and 83.33% is found not transferred the ownership. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.500. Lastly the total respondents who faced others (loneliness) 100.00 % are found not transferred the ownership of land and their median access to decision making process is found 0.143. This can be shown in above table (Table No. 5.7).

Table No. 5.8 shows the cross tabulation of respondents with major source of income by violence ever faced and median access to decision making process (Median ADMP). Out of the total respondents 57.89% is found in agricultural source with 0.531 median access to decision making process and 42.11% is found in non agricultural source (i.e. it includes service, trade, wage able, government allowances and others) of income with 0.371 median access to decision making process.

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

Violence Ever Faced	Major Source of Income					
	Agriculture	Percent	Non Agriculture	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Yes	18	64.29	10	35.71	28	0.486
No	48	55.81	38	44.19	86	0.460
Total	66	57.89	48	42.11	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.531		0.371		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Source of income also determines the rate of facing violence. Among the respondents who ever faced violence 64.29% is found in their major source of income in agriculture and 35.71% is found in non agriculture. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.486. Similarly among the respondents who are reported not faced any violence 55.81% is found in major source of income is agriculture and 44.19% is in non agriculture. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.460. This is shown in above table (Table No. 5.8).

Education play vital role in decision making. Table No. 5.9 shows the percentage distribution of respondents by working outside to feed family by educational attainment with their median access to decision making process (Median ADMP). Out of the total respondents 56.14% work outside than house to feed family with 0.567 median access to decision making process and 43.86% not go for outside work with 0.326 median access to decision making process.

Looking at the educational attainment of respondent, out of the total illiterate respondents 47.62 % go outside to work and 52.38 % not go to outside work to feed family. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.418. Among the respondents who are literate but not schooling (Non-formal) 84.62 % go to outside work and 15.38 % do not go to others work. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.571. Respondents who are attained primary level education each 50.00 % go to and not got to others work to feed family

respectively, with median access to decision making process 0.643. This is shown in below table (Table No. 5.9).

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

Educational Attainment	Working Outside to Feed Family					
	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Illiterate	40	47.62	44	52.38	84	0.418
Non-formal	22	84.62	4	15.38	26	0.571
Primary (1-5)	2	50.00	2	50.00	4	0.643
Total	64	56.14	50	43.86	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.567		0.326		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Current age of respondents also determines the access to decision making process. Table No. 5.10 shows the percentage distribution of respondents by current age and getting political post with median access to decision making process (Median ADMP). Only 3.51% of respondents are found in below the age of 35 years with 0.929 median access to decision making process. Similarly 31.58% is found in age group 35 to 54 years with 0.625 median access to decision making process and majority (64.91%) is found in age group 55 and plus year with 0.362 median access to decision making process.

Among the respondents who get any political post in local level each 20.00% is found in age group <35 years and 54< years, and 60.00% is found in age group 35-54 years with 0.743

Table No. 5.10 Distribution of Respondents Current Age by Getting Political Post and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Getting Political Post	Current Age						Total	Median ADMP
	< 35	Percent	35-54	Percent	54 <	Percent		
Yes	2	20.00	6	60.00	2	20.00	10	0.743
No	2	1.92	30	28.85	72	69.23	104	0.447
Total	4	3.51	36	31.58	74	64.91	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.929		0.625		0.362		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

median access to decision making process. In other hand respondents who do not get any political post 1.92% is found in age group <35 years, 28.85% is found in 35-54 years and majority (64.91%) is found in 54< years. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.447. This can be shown in above table (Table No. 5.9).

Involvement in social organization is also helps to empower widow women. Similarly literacy has major role to determine access to decision making process. Out of the total

respondents 26.32% are found literate with 0.571 median access to decision making process (Median ADMP) and 73.68% are found illiterate with 0.418 median decisions making power. Total median access to decision making process is found 0.466.

Table No. 5.11 Distribution of Respondents Literacy by Involvement in Social Organization and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Involvement in Social Organization	Literacy					
	Literate	Percent	Illiterate	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Yes	30	27.78	78	72.22	108	0.460
No	0	0.00	6	100.00	6	0.476
Total	30	26.32	84	73.68	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.571		0.418		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Looking at the involvement in social organization (i.e. involvement as a member of Women for Human Rights, Single Women Groups which works for welfare of the widow and single women) majority is found 72.22% is illiterate. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.460. Similarly respondents who are not involving in those organization 100.00 % are found illiterate and their median access to decision making process is found higher than (0.476) people who are involving. This is shown in above table (Table No. 5.11).

Religion determines the status of women regarding to the decision making aspects. Table No. 5.12 is the cross tabulation of religion by getting counseling with median access to decision making process (Median ADMP). Majority of the respondents are found Hindus (64.91%) with 0.452 median access to decision making process and 35.09% are found Non-Hindus with 0.514 median access to decision making process

Table No. 5.12 Distribution of Respondents Religion by Getting Counselling and Median Access to Decision Making Process, Study Area, 2009

Getting Counseling	Religion					
	Hindus	Percent	Non Hindus	Percent	Total	Median ADMP
Yes	34	54.84	28	45.16	62	0.471
No	40	76.92	12	23.08	52	0.462
Total	74	64.91	40	35.09	114	0.466
Median ADMP	0.452		0.514		0.466	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Among the respondents who get any types of counseling 34.84% is found Hindus and 45.16% is found Non-Hindus. Their median access to decision making process is found 0.471. In other hand respondents who are not getting any types of counseling their median access to decision making process is found 0.462. Among them 76.92% are Hindus and 23.08% are Non-Hindus which is shown in Table No. 5.12 above.

Decision making and household works working performance is one of the important indicators of access to decision making process. Below table (Table 5.13) reveals that

Table No. 5.13 Distribution of Respondents by Person who Perform Household Work and Particular Works, Study Area, 2009

Types of Work		AO	AOF	MO	MOF	MFE	MOM	AM	Total
Bringing Water From Tap	No	54	32	0	22	2	0	4	114
	%	47.37	28.07	0.00	19.30	1.75	0.00	3.51	100.00
Colouring Door Side by Red Mud (Dailo Potne)	No	52	56	0	6	0	0	0	114
	%	45.61	49.12	0.00	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Sweeping House	No	52	48	0	12	2	0	0	114
	%	45.61	42.11	0.00	10.53	1.75	0.00	0.00	100.00
Making Tea	No	56	30	12	16	0	0	0	114
	%	49.12	26.32	10.53	14.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Cutting Grass for Cattles	No	34	14	2	14	4	0	0	68
	%	50.00	20.59	2.94	20.59	5.88	0.00	0.00	59.65
Cleaning dust of Cattles	No	40	20	0	8	6	0	0	74
	%	54.05	27.03	0.00	10.81	8.11	0.00	0.00	64.91
Milking (Dudh Duhune) Morning	No	28	10	0	6	8	2	2	56
	%	50.00	17.86	0.00	10.71	14.29	3.57	3.57	56.12
Going To Sell Milk	No	24	10	4	2	10	2	2	54
	%	44.44	18.52	7.41	3.70	18.52	3.70	3.70	47.37
Expensing Money from Selling Milk	No	30	12	2	0	2	2	6	54
	%	55.56	22.22	3.70	0.00	3.70	3.70	11.11	47.37
Making Breakfast	No	58	36	6	10	2	0	2	114
	%	50.88	31.58	5.26	8.77	1.75	0.00	1.75	100.00
Washing Dishes & Kitchen Cleaning (Morn)	No	48	48	2	16	0	0	0	114
	%	42.11	42.11	1.75	14.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Going Others Work (Mela)	No	52	26	2	16	6	2	2	106
	%	49.06	24.53	1.89	15.09	5.66	1.89	1.89	92.98
Feeding Cattles	No	36	20	6	4	4	0	0	70
	%	51.43	28.57	8.57	5.71	5.71	0.00	0.00	61.40
Making Lunch	No	60	32	8	10	2	0	2	114
	%	52.63	28.07	7.02	8.77	1.75	0.00	1.75	100.00
Washing Dishes & Kitchen Cleaning (Day)	No	52	40	4	18	0	0	0	114
	%	45.61	35.09	3.51	15.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Making Light (Diyo Balne)	No	62	32	8	8	2	0	0	112
	%	55.36	28.57	7.14	7.14	1.79	0.00	0.00	98.25
Milking (Dudh Duhune) Evening	No	24	12	4	2	8	4	0	54
	%	44.44	22.22	7.41	3.70	14.81	7.41	0.00	47.37
Feeding Cattles at Night	No	32	24	2	2	4	4	2	70
	%	45.71	34.29	2.86	2.86	5.71	5.71	2.86	61.40
Making Dinner	No	54	46	4	6	2	0	2	114
	%	47.37	40.35	3.51	5.26	1.75	0.00	1.75	100.00
Washing Dishes & Kitchen Cleaning (Nig)	No	52	54	0	6	0	0	2	114
	%	45.61	47.37	0.00	5.26	0.00	0.00	1.75	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Where **AO**: Always Own Self, **AOF**: Always Other Female, **MO**: Mostly Own Self, **MOF**: Mostly Other Female, **MFE**: Male Female Equally, **MOM**: Mostly Male, **AM**: Always Male, **Morn**: Morning, **Nig**: Night.

performance of work by person who performs. Almost works are performed by either widow women or other female members of the family always ownself. Male always is highest found in expensing money from selling milk (11.11%). Cleaning and washing dishes are always or mostly, ownself or other female member except at night. Male female equally performed to go sell milk (18.52%). Less than 62.00% of respondents have found cattle in their own home. This is shown in below table (Table No. 5.13) that more than 42.00% respondents performing their household work always ownself. In other hand more than 17.00% to less than 50.00% respondents are found that their household works are always performed by either daughter-in-law or daughter (Always other Female). Similarly less than 11.00% respondents are found performing their household works mostly (Mostly Ownself). Less than 21.00% respondents are found that their household works is performed mostly other female (i.e. daughter-in-law or daughter). Less than 15.00 % is reported that their household works are performed by male female equally except going to sell milk 18.52%.

CHAPTER VI

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF STUDY POPULATION

This chapter consists of the statistical analysis on the basis of proposed hypothesis. In which different eight variables are taken to show the statistical analysis in relation to access to decision making process.

6.1 Correlation Matrix

On the basis of proposed hypothesis correlation between access to decision making process (ADMP) and facing health problem after husband's death (FHP), ADMP and attending any types of education currently (AEDU), ADMP and transferred ownership of land in own/son's/daughter's name (TOWN), ADMP and working outside to feed family (OWORK), ADMP and getting any political post (PPOST), ADMP and participation in social organization (PSORG), ADMP and violence ever faced after husband's death (VEF), and ADMP and getting any types counseling after husband's death (COUNS).

6.2 Correlation Matrix Table

Correlation between access to decision making process and other variables are shown in below.

6.2.1 Facing Health Problem and Access to Decision Making Process

Facing any types of health problem after husband's death and access to decision making process is negatively correlated with statistically significance of correlation -0.2232 at significance level 0.01. It indicates that facing health problems increases the access to decision making process. Though it is not related with any theory, the data has been given in the negative relationship.

6.2.2 Attending any Types Education and Access to Decision Making Process

Attending any types education and access to decision making process is positively correlated with statistically in significant correlation coefficient of 0.4871 in 0.01 significant levels. It indicates that higher the level of education higher the access to decision making process. Most of the respondents are illiterate and among the literate respondents most are taking non-formal education.

6.2.3 Land Transfer in own/son's/daughter's name and Access to Decision Making Process

Transformation of ownership of land in own/son's/daughter's name and access to decision making process is positively correlated with statistically significant correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is 0.0201 which is significant in 0.01 levels. It indicates that after husband's death, transferred the ownership of land from other family members to own/son's/daughter's name have higher access to decision making process than not transferred.

6.2.4 Working Outside to Feed Family and Access to Decision Making Process

Working outside to feed family and access to decision making process is positively correlated with statistically significant correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is 0.3867 which is significant in 0.01 level. It indicates that widow women who work outside have higher access to decision making process than who don't go outside work.

6.2.5 Getting any Political Post and Access to Decision Making Process

Getting any political post and access to decision making process is positively correlated with statistically significant correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is 0.3264 which is significant in 0.01 level. It indicates that widow women who got any political post have higher access to decision making process than who didn't get.

6.2.6 Participation in Social Organization and Access to Decision Making Process

Participation in social organization and access to decision making process is negatively correlated with statistically not significant correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is -0.1351 which is significant in 0.05 level. It indicates that widow women who are participating in social organization have lower access to decision making process than who are not participated.

6.2.7 Violence Ever Faced and Access to Decision Making Process

Violence ever faced and access to decision making process is negatively correlated with statistically not significant correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is -0.0252 which is significant in 0.05 level. It indicates that widow women who faced any typed of violence have higher access to decision making process than who don't face any violence.

6.2.8 Getting any Type of Counseling and Access to Decision Making Process

Getting any types counseling and access to decision making process is negatively correlated with statistically not significant correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is -0.0800 which is significant in 0.05 level. It indicates that widow women who get counseling have lower access to decision making process than who don't get any counseling.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary of Findings

The dissertation entitled "Access to Decision Making Process" A Study of Widow Women of Dharmasthali VDC is based on small scale. This study attempts to examine the relationship between status of widow women and access to decision making process of Dharmasthali VDC of Nepal. The main objectives of this study are to find out the current socio-economic status and to examine access to decision making process in health, education, policy and economy. It is measured by the selected indicators such as education, health, age at marriage, caste/ethnicity, household (survey) status, problem ever faced, violence ever faced, role changed after husband's death, facing blame, get counselling and household work performance with the help of access to decision making process (decision making on 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 organizations).

The respondents of this study are widow women. This study is conducted on the primary data collection from 114 respondents of all wards of the VDC using purposive sampling method. Among them 64.91 % are Hindus and 35.09 % are Non-Hindus. The summary of the major findings of this study and conclusion is presented below.

7.1.1 Findings of Demographic and Socio-Economic Status

All the respondents are above 30 years and 64.91% of respondents are above 54 years. About 85.96% of respondents are married before the age of 20 years and rest 14.04% are married after the age of 20 years.

Majority of the respondents (73.68%) are illiterate and only 26.32% are literate. Among the literate respondents 86.67% respondents attained non-formal education (i.e. they are not schooling for formal education) and only 14.33% of respondents are attained primary level of education.

Only 38.60% of respondents are working agricultural works and 7.02% are non agricultural works (trade/business) rest are either not working or disabled or dependent and domestic workers.

Majority of respondents are Hindu religious (64.91%) and rest are Non-Hindus (35.09%) includes Buddhist, Kirats and Baisnabi.

Most of the respondents are found as Janajaties (49.12 %) rest are Chhetries (22.81%), Brahmins (21.05%) and 7.02% are Dalits. Among the respondents 58.77% are only as a household member and 41.23% are found as head of the household.

Majority of the respondents (42.11%) faced problem of caring family after their husband's death, 22.81% faced psychological problem, 22.81% faced economic problem, 10.53% faced health problem and only 1.75% faced others (loneliness).

Only 24.56% respondents faced violence after their husband's death and 75.44% not faced any types of violence.

Among the 114 respondents, 71.93% faced change of role after their husband's death and 28.07% are not feel any types of role change.

Out of the 114 respondents 64.91% are not faced any blame and 35.09% faced blame as cause of death of husband (20.00%), leave to home (35.00%) and bad luck of house (35.00%) others (torture) (10.00%) after husband's death.

Among the respondents 54.39% getting one or more types of counseling after husband's death and 45.61% are not getting any types of counseling. Among the respondents who getting counseling 32.26% respondents get self sustaining and psychological counseling for each respectively and 61.29% get counseling about rights.

7.1.2 Findings of Access to Decision Making Process of Respondents

Access to decision making process measures the access of widow women in all the seven areas (going treatment of health problem, taking any types of education, cropping of land, working outside, expensing money from income, participating political activities and involving social institutions). To get result in one, all above seven aspects are added. In which 0.00 is poorest access to decision making process and 1.00 is the perfect access to decision making process. Then median access to decision making process is computed among the total 114 respondents. They are presented in below. median access to decision making process is found 0.466 of the total 114 respondents.

Less than 35 years respondents have higher median access to decision making process (0.929) than 35-54 years (0.625) and 54 above years (0.362). Out of total 114 respondents who are currently attending any education have higher median access to decision making

process (0.614) than not takers (0.363). Primary level attained respondents have higher median access to decision making process (0.643) than non-formal attained (0.571) and illiterate (0.418). Currently not working respondents have higher median access to decision making process (0.905) than agriculture working (0.587), non agricultural (i.e. trade and business 0.536) and others 0.312.

Non-Hindus respondents have higher median access to decision making process (0.514) than Hindus (0.452). Janajaties have higher median access to decision making process (0.492) than Dalits (0.464), Chhetries (0.452) and Brahmins (0.343). Respondents who are head of the household have higher median access to decision making process (0.652) than member of household (0.329). Respondents who married after the age of 20 years have higher median access to decision making process (0.524) than who married less than 20 years (0.461).

Respondents who faced psychological problem have higher median access to decision making process (0.536) than caring family (0.476), health (0.500), economic (0.286) and others (i.e. loneliness 0.143). Among the respondents who ever faced violence have higher median access to decision making process (0.486) than who do not ever face any violence (0.460). Similarly respondents who feel role changed after husband's death have lower median access to decision making process (0.460) than who do not feel change in role (0.486).

Among the respondents who faced any blame after husband's death have higher median access to decision making process (0.531) than who did not face any blame (0.438).

Respondents who get counseling after husband's death have higher access to decision making process (0.471) than who do not get (0.462). Respondents who face health problem after husband's death have higher median access to decision making process (0.496) than who do not face (0.343). But political post getters respondents have higher median access to decision making process (0.743) than who do not get any political post (0.447).

Respondents whose cultivable land's ownership is transferred after husband death in own/son's/daughter's name have higher median access to decision making process (0.500) than those not transferred (0.440). Among the respondents whose major source of income is agriculture have higher median access to decision making process (0.531) than non agriculture (0.371). Respondents who are involving social organizations have less median access to decision making process (0.460) than who are not involving (0.476).

7.2 Conclusions

From the analysis done above can be concluded that the median access to decision making process of widow women is poor (i.e. 0.466 less than 50%). Other conclusions are described below.

Ownership of land helps to increase access to decision making process of widow women.

Educational attainment have vital role to increase access to decision making process of widow women.

Political opportunities help to increase access to decision making process of widow women.

Widow women, who face psychological problems after husband's death have less effect on decision making than others.

Widow women, those have higher access to decision making process; however, they face violence.

Counselling is less affecting to improve access to decision making process of widow women.

Widow women who are as a member of household have less access to decision making process than who are household head.

Non-Hindus religious widow women have higher access to decision making process than Hindus.

Respondents those have higher access to decision making process; however, they faced health problems.

Involving in social organizations has less affects in access to decision making process of widow women.

7.3 Area For Further Research

The policy recommendation which may be derived from this study is to improve access to decision making process of widow women are given below.

Most of the respondents are more than 54 years and majority of the respondents have agriculture as a major source of income. So to increase access to decision making process of widow women income generating programme should be formulated and implemented to the people who are 55 years and above.

It is found that widow women who are head of household have higher access to decision making process, so policy that encourages equal participation in household decision making are formulated and should be implemented strictly.

It is found in the study that counseling have not affecting to enhance access to decision making process, so effective counseling programmes should be implemented to those people who are widow.

In this study results shows that political opportunities also increases access to decision making process of widow women. So policy that increases equal participation and opportunities in political sector of widow women should be formulated and implemented strictly.

It is found in this study who is working outside than household to feed family have higher access to decision making process. So policy related to encourage economic activities than within households work and opportunities should be increases for those people who are widow.

Findings shows that educational attainment have vital role for increasing access to decision making process of widow women. So policy related to increase educational attainment of widow women should be formulated and implemented strictly.

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