

**THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN THARU  
COMMUNITY**

**(A Case Study of Gangoliya VDC, Rupendehi District)**

**A Thesis**

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**By**

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## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This thesis entitled “**The Socio-Economic Status of Women in Tharu Community (A Case Study of Gangoliya VDC, Rupendehi District)**” has been prepared by Rukmini Bhandari under my supervision. I hereby, recommended this thesis for Examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

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Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah

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## APPROVAL SHEET

We certify that this thesis entitled “**The Socio-Economic Status of Women in Tharu Community (A Case Study of Gangoliya VDC, Rupendehi District)**” submitted by Rukmini Bhandari to Central Department of Economics, Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER’S of Arts in Economics has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. We hereby accept this thesis as a part of said degree.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLE	vii
ACRONYMS	x

### **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 General Background
- 1.2 Statement of Problem
- 1.3 Objectives of the Study
- 1.4 Significance of the Study
- 1.5 Organization of the Study
- 1.6 Limitations of the Study

### **CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

- 2.1 Theoretical Framework
- 2.2 National Context

### **CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Short Look in the Study Area
- 3.2 Research Design
- 3.3 Nature and Source of Data Collection
- 3.4 Primary Data Collection
  - 3.4.1 Structured Questionnaire
  - 3.4.2 Interview with Key Information
  - 3.4.3 Observation
- 3.5 Secondary Data Collection
- 3.6 Sampling Procedure
- 3.7 Method of Data Collection

### 3.5 Method of Data Analysis

## **CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY**

### 4.1 Profile of the Study Area

### 4.2 Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

#### 4.2.1 Marital Status

#### 4.2.2 Family Structure

#### 4.2.3 Education Status

#### 4.2.4 Occupational Status of Scrapple Households

#### 4.2.5 Pattern of Land Holding

#### 4.2.6 Property in Women's Ownership

#### 4.2.7 Women Participation in Informal Education

#### 4.2.8 Preferred Place of Treatment by Respondent Women

### 4.3 Role of women in Decision Making Process

#### 4.3.1 Farm Management

#### 4.3.2 Decision Making Role in Health

#### 4.3.3 Children's Education Management Aspect

#### 4.3.4 Decision Making role in Household Management Aspect

#### 4.3.5 Cause of Low Socio-economic Status of Respondents

#### 4.3.6 Suggestion to Improve the Socio-economic Status of Tharu Women

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### 5.1 Summary

### 5.2 Conclusion

### 5.3 Recommendations

## **References**

**86-88**

## **Appendixes**

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Table 4.1: Distribution of Population by Caste/Ethnic Group of VDC Gangoliya	
Table 4.2: Marital Status of the Respondents	
Table 4.3: Family Structure of Sample Household	
Table 4.4: Education Status of Household Couple	
Table 4.5: Occupation of Sample Households	
Table 4.6: Land Holding Pattern of Sampled Household	
Table 4.7: Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Women's Ownership in Property	
Table 4.8: Participation of Respondents in Adult Literacy Classes	
Table 4.9: Preferred Place of Treatment by the Respondent Women	
Table 4.10: Decision making Role in Cropping Pattern	
Table 4.11: Decision Making Role in Livestock Management	
Table 4.12 : Decision Making Role in Health Management	
Table 4.13: Decision Making Role in Children's Education Management Aspect	
Table 4.14: Decision Making Role in Household Management Aspect	
Table 4.15: Distribution of Socio-economic of their Low Status	
Table 4.16: Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Suggest to Improve their Status	

## ACRONYMS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
FY	:	Fiscal Year
GNP	:	Gross National Product
GoN	:	Government of Nepal
HH	:	Household
INGO	:	International Government Organization
NGO	:	National Government Organization
NLSS	:	Nepal Living Standard Survey
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nation
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	:	Village Development Committee



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General Background

Nepal is a landlocked country. It lies between two large countries India and China. Nepal constitutes 0.3 percent area of Asia and 0.03 percent of the world. It is developing country where the socio-economic status of the people is very low. Its economy is based on agriculture sector. More than 80 percent percent of the total population is depended on agriculture. Nepal has 15 percent mountain, 68 percent hill and 17 percent terai of the total land. Due to lack of irrigation, crop diversification and modernization in agriculture productivity of land is not satisfactory. The portion of irrigated land is only 20 percent. The economic growth of the country is not improved substantially over time to over take population growth.

Broadly people of Nepal can be classified into the three major ethnic groups in terms of their origin. Indo-Nepalese, Tibeto Nepalese and indigenous Nepalese.

The Indo-Nepalese have Aryan features and speak Indo-Aryan languages. These groups occupy the more fertile lower hill, river valleys and Tarai plain. The majority of the Indo-Nepalese are Hindus along with small numbers of Muslims, Buddhists and Jains.

The Tibeto Nepalese have distinctively mongolian features and speak Tibeto -Burmese language. These groups occupy the higher hill

and mountainous areas. Different groups within this category practice Buddhism, Animism or Hindusm.

An indigene is literally someone or something that is native to or originating from a given place. Therefore, when indigenous is used purely as an adjective, an indigenous people are a group or culture regarded as "coming from" a given place. In this broad sense almost any person or group is indigenous to some location or other.

Nepal has multi ethnic society comprising of almost 59 castes and ethnic groups who have diverse beliefs in different religions. Among them Tharu is one of the second largest indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal. According to Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS, 2012) showed that 6.6 percent of Tharus are living in Nepal of total population. They have settled over the kingdom of Nepal the whole Terai belt found living in close proximity to densely forested region and adjoining Inner Terai from ancient time. Culturally and linguistically Tharus are divided into sub-groups. Culturally the Tharu of Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari are known as Morang Kochila the Tharu living in Udaypur, Saptari and Mid western Terai are called Dangoura, Dangaura) and Desauri and those living in Far western Terai and known as the Rana Tharus of Kailali and Kanchanpur.

Similarly, Tharus living in western Tarai like Rupendehi, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi are know as Paschuhan, Rautar Purbaha.

Tharu are an innocent shy and relatively timid people. Some of the earliest settlements of Tharus were deep in the forest isolated from other ethnic groups. They have been exploited by government authorities in the past and still to a lesser degree are out maneuvered by the surrounding non Tharus. Tharus are not good in business or home

economics. They are often in debt since the grain they produce is frequently used to brew alcoholic drinks. More clever persons from the hill will lend them money to purchase food and then continue to compound the interest. Eventually the hill man acquires the Tharu's land and Tharu is relegated to landless status (Pyakuraya, 1982).

Tharus are rich in culture heritage their verbally communication is very rich they have their own customs and dress Tharu women wear cholya (upper garment) Lehenga and Lungi (Kind of wrapper to cover the lower part of the body). There are some special garments which are used only in folk performing arts especially folk drama and folk dances.

Tharus are well known peasants farmers of the Terai. The economy of Tharu community is based on agriculture and forest. They grow paddy, wheat, barley, gram, mustard, potato, cauliflower, onion, pumpkin, etc. They keep cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, etc. So farm and animal products are the major source of income and bases of economic life. However very few of the Tharu people have started other professions now-a-days.

Women play significant role in the development of a nation. Without women participation, goals of development activities cannot be fully attained. Women's inside activities are generally connected with men's outside sphere. It is seen that if women do not manage the household sphere properly men shall not be able to work outside enthusiastically. So the role of men and women are interdependent. But overall burden of women is higher than that of men.

In Nepalese context women of any caste or ethnic groups are generally associated with poor health, illiteracy, unemployment and overloaded. The birth of son brings prestige, identity, entity and dignity to a mother in the Nepalese society/ There is saying that "let it be a later", but let it be a son. The position of women has been different in ideology and practice. In Hindu Scripture women has been gives very high position and they are thought to be the foundation of happiness. The religions text has also mentioned the name of many goddess in the form of Shakti. They are worshipped in the temples. But in practice women are not honored in accordance with the teaching of religious books, rather there evolved a practice of exploiting women on the basis of such religious tradition.

In Nepal most of the economic activities are guided by agriculture. The contribution of women to the agriculture economy is grater than male but their contribution is not accounted to the GNP.

The life of Tharu women is dominated in comparison to their male counterpart in Nepal. Tharu women's status in the society results continuous lags in opportunities in education, training, employment, health public life access to economic rights etc. Although Tharu women are very active in household and field works, they have assigned very less status to men. But we see just reverse in the case of Rana Tharus. That is Rana Tharus maintain a female dominant society. Household activities are not considered as economic activities. Tharu women are restricted into their domestic and subsistence activities. The main profession of these women are household shares and agricultural activities. Tharu women also help their male counterpart in collecting

food materials such as rice, wheat etc. They substitutes for paid labor in activities like repairing and maintaining the house. They also involve in productive works such as kitchen garden, cattle and poultry farming and so on.

Tharu women carry a triple burden in the society: as a production worker, Tharu women contribute directly to subsistence and income as a mother and wife Tharu women care for the children and the family member; as a community worker. They give all leisure time and labor to the society.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

According to census of 2012 the total population of Nepal is 26494504 of which 12849041 (48.5%) are male and 13645463 (51.5%) are female. The data shows that women cover more than half of the country's population but still in the Nepalese context women suffer from illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. The literacy rate of men is 75.1 percent and that of women is only 57.4 percent (CBS, 2012).

The role and status of women differ according to caste and ethnicity, however their subordinate to men exists in all caste, ethnic and religious groups. So the socio-economic status of women in Tharu community also poor transient. Nepal is an agricultural country where about 71 percent people depend on agriculture (NLSS, 2003/04). There is similar situation in Gangoliya VDC. Most of people are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry in this VDC. Women play important role in household subsistence in agriculture in labor work and so on. Women labor participation in agriculture is thus the backbone of Nepalese economy. Besides agriculture they have to perform many other household activities but these activities are not taken into account into monetary terms. So it is necessary to do a depth analysis of Nepalese women's situation in order to support the planning of facilitating increased of women to the national developing process. But most of the women are uneducated and also deprived of getting education. As we know that education plays a vital role in the development of socio-economic condition of any place of nation.

Women are highly dominated by men. Their decision making is considered not important. They have still not enjoyed with the basic

needs. Because of these conditions the socio-economic condition is in deplorable situation.

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

- a. To explore the socio-economic status of women in Tharu community in the study area regarding the household decision making.
- b. To assess the level of education, property ownership and employment among Tharu women.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study has been very useful for those individuals and institutions that have interest to know about the status of Tharu women. This can be also useful for policy maker and planners to national level because they need to know the condition of the problem while devising appropriate policy and program to address the problem.

This study may also be helpful for all the researchers, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies, focusing the issue of Tharu women's socio-economic status.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The study has been presented into following five units and the report is prepared as following.

- Chapter one deals the interdiction. It includes general background of the study. Statement of the problem, objective of the study,

significance of the study, organization of the study and limitations of the study.

- Chapter two deals with the literature review for the study. It includes theoretical framework and national context.
- Chapter three comprises the research methodology used during the field survey and provided a detailed explanation of the research design, sampling procedure, source and tools of data collection, key information survey, data processing and analysis of the study.
- Chapter four deals a short profile of the study area, which includes geographical location. Population and natural resource etc. It also deals with the socio economic condition of the sample women of the study area which has been heavily supplemented by the collected data from the field.
- Chapter five provides a brief summary of the whole study, finding the study conclusion of the study and recommendation. Some strategies to improve quality of life of women of the selected area.

And finally annexes and bibliography set has been compiled in study.

## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

This study has been focused on the socio-economic status of women in the Tharu community in a very small range of geographical area of Gangolia VDC of Rupendehi district. So, Conclusion or



generalization of this study may or may not applicable in the other part of the nation.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

Though the one of biggest indigenous Tharu population has been living in Nepal for thousands of years, the government has not able to include Tharu indigenous people in the national mainstream yet i.e. they are marginalized. But fortunately some of the Nepalese and foreign scholars and researchers have paid due attention over this problem. They have made great contribution in identifying its socio-economic and cultural trends and make the government know about them. Some of them have been reviewed as following.

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2007): Socio-economic means relating to or concerned with interaction of social and economic factors 'status' is complex of many elements including economic, political. Social, religious and other relationship. It is certainly not easy task to assess the social and economic' status of people. The term 'Socio-economic' status means' in system of social stratification, it refers to a combination of Various social and economic indexes of rank which are used in research studies. The term is often used to deal with stratification in a society without the need for the assumption that these are distinct social classes" (Bhhusan 1989). The socio-economic status of people is not entirely dependent upon the circumstances of age ethnic life style, geography and number of other variables imposed by the wider national society in terms of constitutional and legal frameworks.

"Indigenous" means someone or something born or produced naturally in a land or region and another meaning to term is someone or something which is native or belonging naturally to (the social, region etc.) the term is primarily used of aboriginal inhabitants or natural products (Murray, James A.H. Bradley, Henry Craigie and W. A Onions CT (1989).

Satnam Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana State, emphasizes upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women who are never found as final decision maker in many matters except for case of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participation in women's organization such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned programs should be designed which support women's potential as capable and worthily decision makers.

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

United Nation (1987) focused that the role of young women workers in manufacturing of rapidly industrializing economy is closely associated with the international division of labor. Garment and textile industries of Philippines and Thailand were chosen to analyze the role of women. The data presented in this study indicated that women's employment has been concentrated in the most labor-intensive and

wage industries and that in association with this fact, the labor force participation rate of women has risen, much faster than that of men during the export oriented phase of industrialization. The wage levels of men and women are found to be similar in Thailand, but the work burden of women and the task assigned to them does not revealed as the same since the development programs have not effectively addressed women's contribution as industrial workers, fairer laws are required to cover women working in manufacturing. If governments are genuinely interested in protecting women as well as promoting opportunities, then social policies and job related program will be needed to prepare women workers for the new skills and jobs of the future.

Report of UNICEF (1987) depicts that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male requirement may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government services only 7 percent of graduated officers and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the nation and local level. Most of the decision making concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 percent of decision are made by men, 19 percent jointly

and 31 percent by female which shows very low percentage of decision making power on the part of women.

V. Mazumdar (1982) Stressed on the Asian Women Who have been subjected to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continue even to this day, may be to a lesser degree. There are three components to balance the inequality i.e. economic, political power and knowledge. Asian women's works are considered as unproductive. It is closely associated with their inferior social status and also the loss of personal freedom. Mazumdar also talks of non-socialist countries where the extension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic and social role of women. The determinant of decision making of women is family constraints, illiteracy, traditional barrier, attitude and women's ability. It is suggested to form grass root level organization responsive to the needs of the poor, local women and suggested such group to study social organizations like families and household.

C. Newman and S. Canagarajah (2000) showed that non farm activities play an important role for women in many ways. The methodology used was based on two comprehensive sets of household level data over periods spanning four to five years for each rural Uganda and Ghana. Non farm activities are defined by wage work that is not in agriculture but located in local areas. Non farm participation led to the largest declines in female poverty rates in both countries. Since the non-farm activities were linked to rapidly falling poverty rates, it is equally important for men and women. The higher levels of education

lead to the greater participation in non farm work are linked with the higher standards of living at least at the lower income deciles.

## **2.2 National Context**

There are many controversies about the origin of the Tharus, scholars have not been able to come to a clear conclusion regarding the origin of the Tharu. Some scholars have derived their origin through etymologies and some tried to trace their origin through a legend.

Pyakural (1982) states that Physically and especially in facial features. The Tharu look like, they stem from mongoloid stock. They speak the aryan language. In an ancient time the Tharus may have accepted Buddhism but later they were influenced by Hinduism.

Gautam and Magar (1994) stated that when Muslim invaders captured Rajputana and Murdered men and women of royal courts, the princess and many other royal women attendants fled away into the forest of Tarai. The royal women living inside the forest for many years accepted their male servants as new husbands. The offspring of these Rajput women that were born out of the liaisons between the Rajput women and their servants giving birth to the breed known as the "Tharu".

Bista (1967) concluded that legend indicates their origin from Rajasthan in north western India. According to this legend the Tharus came from the Thar Desert of Rajasthan in India and hence they become Tharu. Most of them sincerely believe that they came from Rajputana in India at the time of the Islamic invasion.

M. Acharya (1979) states that conventional social is one of the major reason obstructing women from participating fully in economic development. Which result low decision making power in the women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human being, conception, delivery and upbringing of the child has made. It extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low. Even political, social, cultural development follows the economic development of a country. In this contest, the committees constituted by United Nations in the status of women are trying to gain for equals rights for women in various field, their social and economic life and suggestion for removal of gender inequalities in legal economic, social and educational matters.

M. Acharya (1967) concludes that in addition to the activities being performed under national and international auspices involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention to such things as making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies providing similar schools and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance rights, family rights and all over legal rights, involving the educated women in office and involving them in seminar and symposia from time to time etc.

M. Acharya and L. Bennett (1981) have conducted a number of studies relating to women status in Nepal. Firstly, the time allocation

pattern of man and women at household level, where women perform almost all kinds of agricultural activities and their daily labor input in 9 hours against 5 hours for man. But the degree of involvement varies considerably across ethnic groups and social classes. Women are greatly involved in farming as well as in household chores. But household level is very low.

The finding of the model reveals that in the first sphere women participation in farming and domestic activities constitutes 86 percent, women impact accounts for 57 percent in agro-production in second sphere, while their inputs in third sphere and fourth drop down to 38 percent and 25 percent respectively. Their total contribution to the household income remains at 50 percent as opposed to 44 percent for males. The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed in market economy in different communities, which subsequently relates to their decision power within the households.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2001) mentioned that women account 11587502 (50%) population out of total population of Nepal. Women play crucial role inside household as well as in agriculture and related activities. The tasks women perform are not recognized as work. In most of the Asian countries women are nearly respected in their role of mothers and housekeepers. The dual burden is very heavy on the women. In the economic setting women occupy lower status than men because traditionally women have been associated with reproductive rather than productive tasks. Therefore whatever job is performed by women demands lower prestige and is paid lower rate if a man does same kind of work.



According to preliminary report of population Census 2001, Nepalese women constitute more than 50 percent of the total population in the country. The infant and maternal mortality rates are also higher in Nepal among the countries of South Asia. The adult literacy rate of 40 percent is one of the lowest in South Asia (CBS, 1995). Although women who comprise half of the population of the country and have always have been involved in national development, they are still marginalized from the opportunities such as economic resources, e.g. property, income, employment as well as other resources. Illiteracy, unhealthiness, poverty and conservative social taboos have been the fate of Nepalese women in general (B.P. Chaudhary, 2010).

R. Bajracharya (2005) discussed on the gender issues of all Nepalese women and cultural diversity. In Nepal women are being ill-treated by male dominance and power. The work burdens of Nepalese women in the reproduction, household and employment is among highest with the lowest human and gender development in the world. Gender discriminations differ among all castes, ethnic groups, class and geography with more cruelty in rural and under developed areas of Nepal, a pluralistic society. Nepalese women face various form of discriminations due to family practices, patriarchy, inheritance and property ownership, early marriage, violence against women, less access to health, education and institutions and resources etc. The study suggested that several effort have to be made to reduce and balance the gender discrimination. In spite of still existing inequality of men and women. Some changes have definitely taken place in gender sector worldwide including Nepal with the mainstreaming and empowerment of the women through affirmative and inclusive policies in public and

private sectors. Women, in fact, constitute very vital pillars in society for development of religion, tradition and culture of the nation.

D.B. Bista (1967) mentioned that Tharu are probably the oldest and original inhabitants of Terai. Tharus live very nearly to the heavy forest region and the culture living standard, tradition differs from western Nepal to eastern Nepal. Although various ethnic groups are completely individual cultural ethnic entities. Tharu are influenced by several groups other than their own. Tharu are traditional peasant farmers, are exploited by 'Zimindars' (landlords) and revenue agents. Tharu are said to have been theoretically divided into two main categories, namely Pradhan and Apradhan. Tharu marriages are polygamous and patriarchal. Tharu in general, practice their own tribal religion which consists of worshiping a number of spirits and some Hindu deities which have been incorporated. Those who still practice their traditional Tharu religion have their own guruva (Priests). Any kind of rituals religious activity in the family is always in the name of senior member of the family. Some Tharu cremate their dead body while some bury them. Joint family system is usual in Tharu society.

D. Rajaure (1981) focused that the status of Tharu women is complex and varies from woman to woman. Tharu women's status varies in different spheres of activity in their day to day life. Despite the complexity and variations, however a few general principles can be established which will help in evaluating the status of Tharu women in their society one such general principle is complementarity and other is flexibility. Tharu women have more alternatives than women in many other Nepalese groups if Tharu women's life at their husbands' house is

not happy or successful. However, in Tharu society, for a women who has neither a husband nor a child, there seems to be no future.

He further writes that through Tharu women have no legal right in property female are also consulted in decision making too. If Tharu man does not consider her opinion in decision making she threatens her husband that she will leave him or divorce. In Tharu society women ritual or social status don't change after divorce or widowhood but it affects men negatively. They have to pay bride -price. Salt costs expensive for poor Tharus to remarry. So, Tharu men and family try to keep women happy.

K. Pyakurayal (1982) mentioned that women have a special status among the Tharu communities. It is to racially, the enjoyed full freedom from the early period and they hate to see it being eroded; so they resist. If a wife feels that she is not being give due care and respect by her husband in the home or feels that she is not treated well by her mother-in-law, it might be a sufficient cause for her to run away and get settled with someone else who is more reasonable.

R. Gautam and A.K. Magar (1994) mentioned that Tharu women have higher status among Rana Tharu as Rana Thru women push their empty plate of food towards their husbands with their feet after finished eating. Male is not allowed to enter the kitchen. It showed that Rana Tharu women still consider themselves as an ancestor of Rajput women and their husband as an ancestor of servant of Rajput women.

J.S. Eng and J. Hender (2000) focused the poor situation of Tharu women. The Tharu society is male dominated society. Where property is

handled by male while female are concentrated only in the domestic works, decimation was found in the study area, the ratio of Tharu girls' student to Tharu boys' students was quite high at primary level but gradually tapers at the higher grades. The withdrawal rate of Tharu girls student was higher than that of boys. Early marriages, language problem, use of their children in field works, ignorance of parents are presented as the case of withdrawal. Apart from these, poor economic condition is found to be the main principal factors of determining the low educational status of Tharu women.

According to Jeanette Gurung (1999), in Thaur communities women are accorded less decision making power, have less access to resource and property. They are less to conduct business on their families, behalf. In Tharu community the women play dominated role in making decision about the household activities. As polyandry is common in this caste group women cannot play a key role in this community. Women do not even decide what food to prepare for dinner.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Methodology deals with the process applied for the present study. It describes research design, nature and source of data collection sampling procedure, methods of data analysis etc.

#### **3.1 Short Look in the Study Area**

The present study has been conducted in Gangoliya VDC of Rupendehi district which lies 3 kilometers East to the Siddhartha highway of Butwal, Bhairahawa. According to CBS 2012, the total population of the study area is 6966 and the population of Tharu is the highest which is 3304 in number.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This research has been designed in exploratory method. So it tries to explore the socio-economic status of married Tharu women of the study area. So the present study is descriptive in nature which covers only the Gangoliya VDC of Rupendehi district.

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

This study has been used both primary and secondary data and information. Primary data have been collected through questionnaire, interview, key information and observation. Similarly, secondary data have been collected from various published and unpublished materials by related organizations such as VDC profile of Gangoliya VDC, DDC

profile of Rupendehi district, CBS 2012 profile, Tharu Kalyankarni office  
etc.

### **3.4 Primary Data Collection**

The primary data have been collected from the field survey through various techniques such as questionnaire, interview with key informants and observation method. The structured questions were asked directly to the married women to get information about the women's education, employment, property ownership status and their decision making power.

#### **3.4.1 Structured Questionnaire**

The structured questionnaire is used in interviewing the sampled women about their literacy. Occupation property ownership, and decision making role in purchase and sale of livestock and agriculture goods. Use of improved sheeds, buying household things, domestic expenditure, caring on health sanitation caring the children education, family planning etc.

#### **3.4.2 Interview with Key Information**

The present study has been also conducted by discussing with the local teachers, VDC representatives, elder person, husband of women, social workers, etc. to respond the concerns about the women's education, occupation etc. status and family background of the study area.

#### **3.4.3 Observation**

This method has been used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day-to-day activities their role in household activities. The decision making process in the household

observed to find out the women's role in the household decision making. The data collection through observations has been used to support the structured data in relevant place in the text. Human nature is basically hesitating to explore their weakness so it helped to collect this information through observation.

### **3.5 Secondary Data Collection**

The secondary data have been collected from various published and unpublished materials by related organizations such as VDC profile of Gangoliya VDC, DDC profile of Rupendehi district, CBS, 2012 profile, Tharu Kalyankarni office, etc.

### **3.6 Sampling Procedure**

All the Tharu women residing in Gangoliya VDC has been considered as the universe population of the present study and Tharu household has been taken as a sample unit. According to Central Bureau of Statistics 2012 a total of 1,172 household are found with in the nine wards of Gangoliya VDC. Although the prescribed VDC posses nine wards. This study is targeted to pick up only three wards depending on heavily populated household of the Tharu communities. Those are 2, 3, 4 which contain 85, 85 and 80 household respectively. The total household among the wards 2, 3, and 4 constitute up of total 250 in number. Altogether more than 10 percent of these Tharu households have been selected proportionately as the sample size for the generation of information. Therefore out of 85 households 11 house from ward 2. In the similar manner out of 85 and 80 household of words 3 and 4 the sample sizes of household has been selected 10 and 9 respectively.



Therefore altogether 30 household have been picked up as a sample size from the target wards. Final from each house hold one married Tharu women of age group 20-60 has been selected as respondents through random sampling. Women below 20 years and above 60 years are not include in this study as a sample.

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

Data for this study has been collected from the field survey. This study has been mainly based on primary data. The study has been conducted through the formal method of interview, observation, structured questionnaire, further more secondary data has been collected by field surveys text books statistical reports and previous research studies.

### **3.5 Method of Data Analysis**

All the collected data have been transcribed into excel texts to ease the data analysis the data has been analyzed by using simple and suitable mathematical and statistical tool like tabulation, Percentage, mean, frequency and other graphical presentation have been employed as analytical tools.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY

#### 4.1 Profile of the Study Area

Gangoliya VDC is selected as a study area situated in Rupendehi district of Lumbini zone of Nepal. According to census 2012 the total population of Rupendehi district 880196 is of which male population is 432193 and that of female is 448003 its total area is 1360 square kilometer and the total number of households of Rupendehi district is 117856.

Gangoliya VDC lies 15 kilometers south of Butwal city and 3 km East to the Siddhartha highway. According to CBS 2012 the total population of this VDC is 6966 of which male population is 3423 and that of female is 3543. This VDC comprises altogether 1172 households.

The distribution of population by caste ethnic group of Gangoliya VDC have been presented in next page.

**Table 4.1**

#### **Distribution of Population by Caste/Ethnic Group of VDC Gangoliya**

S.N.	Caste/ethnic group	Population	
1	Tharu	3204	
2	Pahadi Brahman	948	
3	Yadav	481	

4	Magar	197	
5	Teli	190	
6	Limbu	182	
7	Muslim	172	
8	Majhi	163	
9	Chamar/Harijan/Ram	91	
10	Chauetri	91	
11	Thakuri	76	
12	Sarki	7	
13	Kami	70	
14	Baniya	68	
15	Nuniya	64	
16	Lodha	48	
17	Hajam/Thakur	46	
18	Koiri	46	
19	Mushar	38	
20	Tharai Barahman	36	
21	Dusadh/Paswan/pasi	36	
21	Newar	34	

22	Knewat	33	
24	Sanyasi	31	
25	Kurmi	30	
26	Kahar	29	
27	Kayshath	8	
28	Kalwar	5	
29	Damai/Dholi	4	
30	Gurung	4	
31	Kumal	3	
32	Others	21	

Source: District Profile of Rupendehi, 2064.

## 4.2 Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

In this chapter the socio-economic status of women has been studied. It includes some socio-economic variables that directly or indirectly affect socio economic status of women like marital status. Major occupation or employment, land holding pattern, property ownership and household decision making role of the respondents etc.

### 4.2.1 Marital Status

Only married women of age group 20-60 are the respondent of present study. Marital status is also a social indicator for understanding the socio-economic status of women. Early marriage system has been one of the important characteristics of Nepal. Marital status change the women's status. It also change the women's role and increases the duties and work load of the women. It is through the marriage that women change their status of daughter to daughter in law. The marital status of the respondent is shown in the table below.

**Table No. 4.2**

#### **Marital Status of the Respondents**

S.N.	Marital status	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Married	28	93.33
2	Widowed	2	6.67
Total		30	100

Source: field survey, 2013.

The above table shows that out of 30 sample household, 28 (93.33%) of them are found to be married and only 2 (6.67 %) of them are widowed. Married and widowed females get different treatments in the society. The married females have to lose all their freedom and rights. The condition of widowed females are even worse. They have to face the curse and unnecessary blames of the society.

#### 4.2.2 Family Structure

The family structure in the study are is divided into two categories i.e. nuclear and joint family. Almost of the Tharus still live in joint family but some live in nuclear. In nuclear family decision making role and other socio-economic indicator are higher than comparision in the joint family. The family structure of sample household is presented in the table below:

**Table 4.3**

**Family Structure of Sample Household**

S.N.	Family Type	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Joint	17	56.67
2	Nuclear	13	43.33
Total		30	100

Field survey, 2013.

The above table shows that 56.67 percent of the sample households comprised joint family and the remaining 43.33 percent of

the households are nuclear family. Thus the table shows that the family structure of Tharu are more in joint type than nuclear in the study area.

### 4.2.3 Education Status

Education plays a key role in the development of an individual. It is one of the major degree to measure the social status of any community. Moreover, education for women is so important it helps them to improve their status in the community. Generally, the level of education is the indicator of the social status of women.

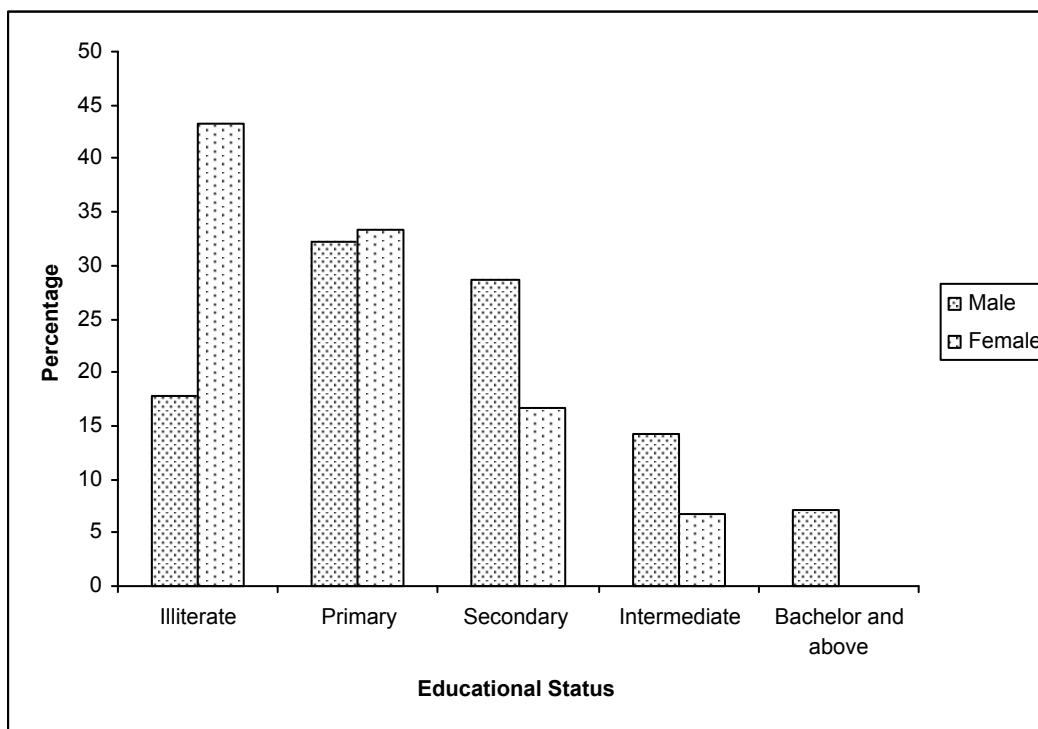
The education status of the sampled households of the study area has been presented below.

**Table No. 4.4**  
**Education Status of Household Couple**

Educational Status	No. of Respondents				Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	5	17.85	13	43.33	18	31.03
Primary	9	32.14	10	33.33	19	32.76
Secondary	8	28.58	5	16.67	13	22.41
Intermediate	4	14.29	2	6.67	6	10.35
Bachelor and above	2	7.14	-	-	2	3.45
Total	28	100.00	30	100		100

Source : Field Survey, 2013.

The educational status is divided into 5 categories which are illiterate, primary level, secondary level, intermediate level and bachelor and above.



The above table shows that out of 28 male population. 17.85 percent of them are found to be illiterate, 32.14 percent hold primary education, 28.58 percent secondary, 14.29 percent intermediate and 7.14 percent of them hold bachelor and above education. In similar way it is found that out of 30 female population 43.33 percent are found to be illiterate, 33.33 percent hold primary education, 16.67 percent secondary, 6.67 percent intermediate and none of them hold bachelor



and above education. Thus female population are found to be more illiterate as compared to male population in the study area. The above table also shows that majority of the population in the study area are literate which reflects 32.76 while 31.03 percent of them are illiterate.

In the study area the female population of age group 35-60 are found to be more illiterate than 20-35. But neither male nor female Tharu population below 20 years or on married are found to be illiterate in the study area. The ratio of Tharu girls student than boys student are quite higher at primary level but gradually tapers at the higher grade. The withdrawal rate of Tharu girls student are higher than that of boys student. Early marriage, language problem, use of parents their children in field work, ignorance of parents, low economic status are the cause of withdrawal. A part from these and poor economic condition are found to be main causes of the low educational status of Tharu women in the study area.

#### **4.2.4 Occupational Status of Sample Households**

Occupation is considered as the main source of income it represents the economic status of people. Agriculture and animal husbandry is the main occupation of the Tharus of the present VDC. Due to lack of higher education, Tharus participation in non farm employment is limited. Besides agriculture the Tharus are engaged in income activities like small business which includes Retail or small shop and selling of vegetables in the local market, carpentry, service, livestock raising, tailoring, wage labor, household works and others. The table shows the occupational pattern of sample household.

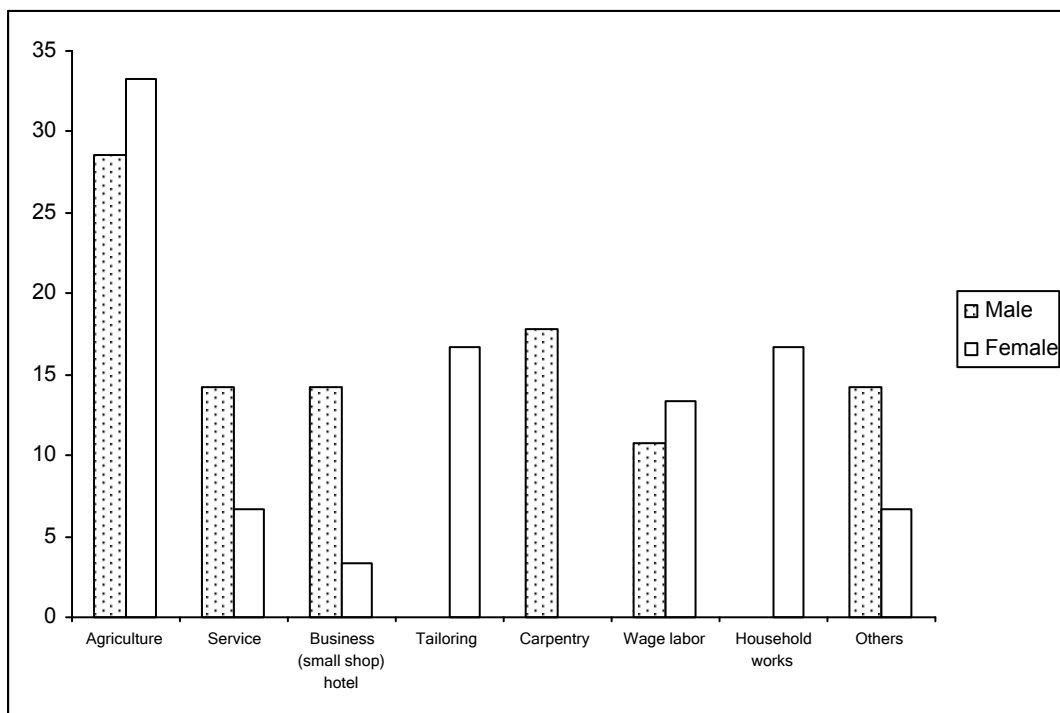
**Table 4.5**

#### **Occupation of Sample Households**

Occupation	No. of Population			
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Agriculture	8	28.58	10	33.33
Service	4	14.28	2	6.67
Business (small shop) hotel	4	14.28	1	3.33
Tailoring	-	-	6	16.67
Carpentry	5	17.86	-	-
Wage labor	3	10.72	4	13.33
Household works	-	-	5	16.67
Others	4	14.28	2	6.67
Total	28	100.00	30	100.00

The above table shows that out of 28 male population 28.58 percent of them are found to be engaged in agriculture 14.28 percent in service, 14.28 percent in Business, 17.86 percent in carpentry, 10.72 in wage labour none in tailoring and households work and 14.28 percent in other occupation like foreign employment grazing cattle etc. In the same way out of 30 female respondents 33.33 percent of them are found to be concentrated mainly upon agriculture. 6.67 percent in service, 3.33 in business, 20 percent in tailoring, 13.33 percent in wage labor, 16.67 percent in household work, 6.67 in others like selling of livestock products, grazing cattle handicraft etc and none of them are found to be engaged in carpentry and forcing employment.

From the field survey out of 30 households only two household are not found to be engaged in agriculture besides other occupation. While remaining the other population are engaged in agriculture besides other occupation.



The field survey and above table show that majority of the economically active population of the study area are engaged in agriculture which proves to be agriculture as the main occupation.

#### 4.2.5 Pattern of Land Holding

Land can be considered as the key resource of the Tharu community. The pattern of land holding not influences the economic status of household but also the social status in the community. The

distribution of land of the sample households has been shown in the below.

**Table 4.6**

**Land Holding Pattern of Sampled Household**

S.N.	Land holding in Kattha	No. of HHs	Percent
1	0-3	2	6.67
2	3-6	3	10
3	6-9	3	10
4	9-12	5	16.67
5	12-15	6	20
6	15-18	7	23.33
7	18 and above	7	13.33
Total		30	100

Field survey, 2013.

The above table shows that out of 30 sampled households 6.67 percent households less than 3 Kattha, 10 percent hold up to 3 kattha, 10 percent household hold up to 6 khatta, 16.67 percent households hold up to 9 kattha, 20 percent household hold upto 12 kattha,, 23.33 percent households hold upto 15 kattha, and 13.33 percent households above 18 kattha. The Tharu of the study. The tbale clearly shows that majority of the Tharu of study area hold up to only 15 kattha. From the field survey it is found that Tharu having more than 3 Bigha (20 Kattha = 1 bigha). In the study area the Tharu who is land less or who have less than 1 Bigha they cultivate other land in adniya basis. Most of the Tharus

in present VDC cultivate other and in adhiya basis i.e. so present product to ech (owner and worker).

#### **4.2.6 Property in Women's Ownership**

In Nepal women have less access on ownership of family. So they are economically backward. If they have property in their ownership, they are not free to use it. Therefore the socio economic status of women is miserable.

**Table No. 4.7**

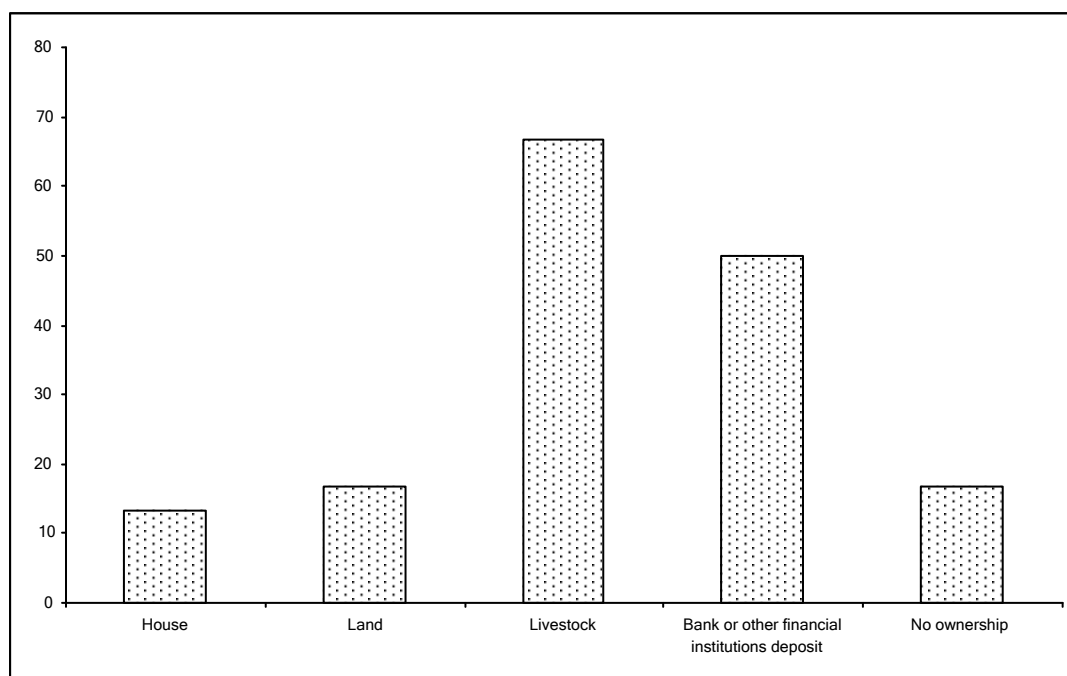
**Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Women's  
Ownership in Property**

S.N.	Types of Property	No. of respondents	Percent
1	House	4	13.33
2	Land	5	16.67
3	Livestock	20	66.67
4	Bank or other financial institutions deposit	15	50
5	No ownership	5	16.67
Total		30	100

Field survey, 2013.

The above table shows that out of 30 respondents 13.33 percent said that women in their family have ownership on house, 16.67 percent said that women in their family have ownership on land, 66.67 percent women said that their family have ownership on livestock, 50 percent

women said their family have ownership on Bank and other financial institution like Mahila Bachat Samuhoa, Sahakari etc. and 16.67 percent women said that they have no ownership on any type of family property.



#### 4.2.7 Women Participation in Informal Education

**Table No. 4.8**

#### **Participation of Respondents in Adult Literacy Classes**

S.N.	Yes/No	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Yes	5	38.47

2	No	8	61.53
Total		13	100

Field survey, 2013.

Literate means a person who can read and write in any language with understanding. The involvement in literacy classes of Tharu women has been presented in table 4.8.

The above table shows that out of 13 illiterate respondents only a small percentage 38.47 percent had been participated in adult literacy classes but large percent 61.53 of the respondents did not participated in the classes.

#### **4.2.8 Preferred Place of Treatment by Respondent Women**

Health condition can be taken as another important socio-economic indicator. Even in this modern era quite a large number of people in the Nepal believes in superstition practices, preferring the Shamanas and healers.

Perffered place of treatment by the respondent women has been present below:

**Table 4.9**

#### **Preffered Place of Treatment by the Respondent Women**

S.N.	Land occupation	No. of respondents	Percent
------	-----------------	--------------------	---------

1	Hospital	3	10
2	Private clinic	15	50
3	Health center	6	20
4	Shaman/Healer (Guruwa)	6	20
Total		30	100

Field survey, 2013.

The above table indicates that 10 percent women prefer hospital for treatment whereas 50 percent women prefer private clinic, 20 percent health center (post) and 20 percent women visiting Shamans and local healers during health problems, this is due to lack of education, old mentality belief on superstition and low economic status.

#### **4.3 Role of women in Decision Making Process**

Decision making is one of indicator of social status. The ability to make decision makes people powerful. It explains the women's status in terms of decision making in different aspects of household as well as other activities.

The people in the study area are found to be engaged in agriculture so the decision making role has been analyzed in term of the decision making in farm management which included cropping pattern and livestock management, children education aspect, household management aspect.

##### **4.3.1 Farm Management**



The decision making role of women in farm management has been described into two sections namely:

- i. Cropping pattern and
- ii. Livestock management

**i. Cropping Pattern**

The cropping pattern includes the decision making role of women in various farm activities such as seed selection, ploughing planting. Spreading manure, irrigation activities and harvesting.

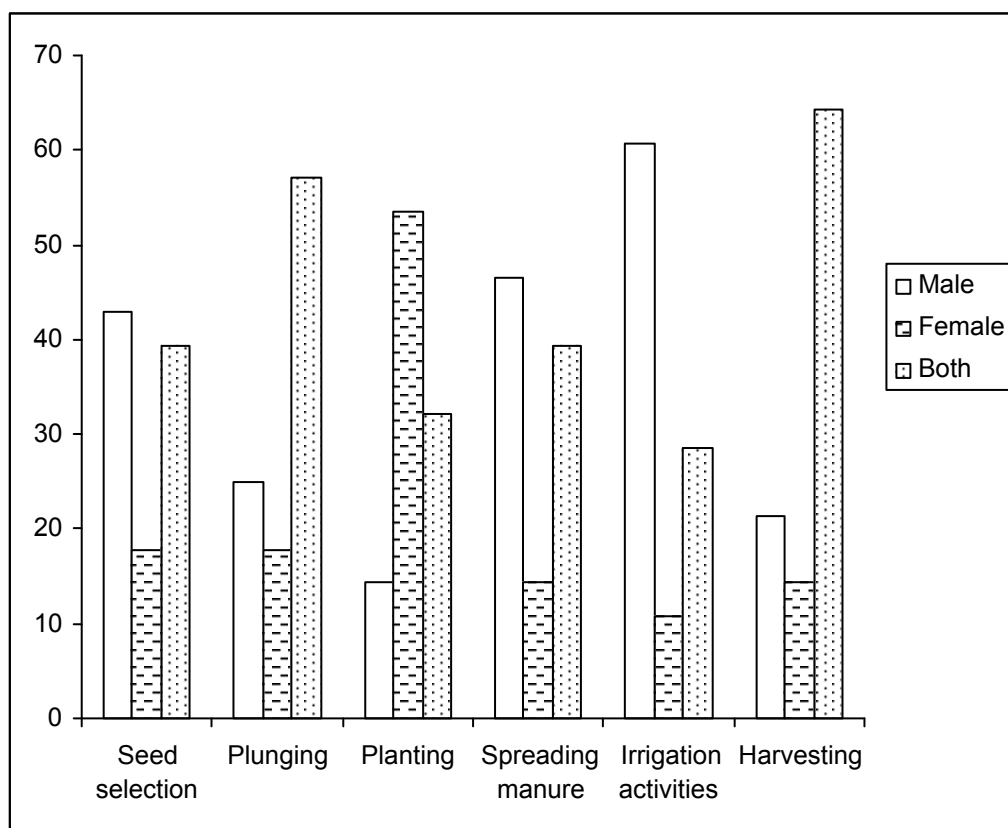
The decision making role of sample household is cropping pattern has been presented below.

**Table No. 4.10****Decision making Role in Cropping Pattern**

Farm activities	Decision maker Person						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Seed selection	12	42.86	5	17.86	11	39.28	28	100
Plunging	7	25	5	17.86	16	57.14	28	100
Planting	4	14.29	15	53.57	9	32.14	28	100
Spreading manure	13	46.42	4	14.29	11	39.29	28	100
Irrigation activities	17	60.71	3	10.71	8	28.58	28	100
Harvesting	6	21.42	4	14.29	18	64.29	28	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

The above table indicates that in the activity of seed selection the majority of the decisions are made by men 42.86 percent of the total sample population 28. The privation of women in the decision making role are found to be very few which contribute only 17.86 percent while the joint decisions of both the male and female contribute 39.28 percent. Therefore the present study shows that in this activity women participation is less than man in decision making role.



The above table also shows that in the context of ploughing activities, the decision making role by both the women and men are found to be the highest which contribute 57.14 percent. In this activity the decision making role of men and women are found to be 25 percent and 17.86 percent respectively. Thus the table indicates that joint effort are made for making decision regarding ploughing field.

The above table shows that in planting activity participation of women in decision making role found to be 53.57 percent, men 14.49

percent and both men and women 32.14 percent out of 28 population. Thus the table concluded that women have the highest power in the decision making role for the planting activity as compared to men.

From the above table, 46.42 percent of the decision making role regarding spreading manure activity are made by men only. The remaining 39.29 of the decisions are made by both men and women jointly while 14.29 decisions are made by women. Thus it is clear from the table that maximum decision regarding spreading manure is made from men side.

So far the case of irrigation activity is concerned, very little decision goes in the hand of women 10.71 percent and maximum decision goes in the hand of men 60.71 percent. The remaining 28.58 percent decisions are done in the joint effort of men and women both. Thus the table shows that in the irrigation activity maximum decision goes in the hand of men rather than women.

By the same above table it is clear that out of the total population, 64.29 percent of the decision are made by both men and women in joint effort for harvesting activities. The remaining 21.42 percent decision are made by men while 14.29 percent decision are made by women. Thus table shows that maximum decision is made in joint effort of both men and women.

Hence from the table it is clearly seen that in ploughing, seed selection, spreading manure, irrigation and harvesting activities the decision making role of men is superior but in the sake of planting activity the decision making role of women is superior over men.

## ii. Livestock Management

Both men and women do play some important roles in livestock management. Income generating from agriculture is not sufficient and enough to service their family. So Tharu women do play very vital role for livestock management to give support in the family expenditure. It can be considered as an integral part of agriculture. Every households have different kinds of tempt animals such as goat, pig duck, chicken, pigeon, swan cow, buffalo, ox and so on. For the income generatin they sell above mentioned animals along with their products like milk, ghee, butter, curd, etc. Men and women both take part in the livestock farming such as men do care and herding while mainly women collect the grass and fooder, clean shed, feed the cattle and milk them. These are the major responsibilities of the livestock raising. Men as well as women both go to the market of dairy for selling livestock products to get money. Thus Tharu women contribute in generating the income and manage it in proper way.

This section deals with decision making role in farm management on various components such as livestock purchase and sale, sale of livestock products an its management of in come and expenditure.

**Table 4.11**

### **Decision Making Role in Livestock Management**

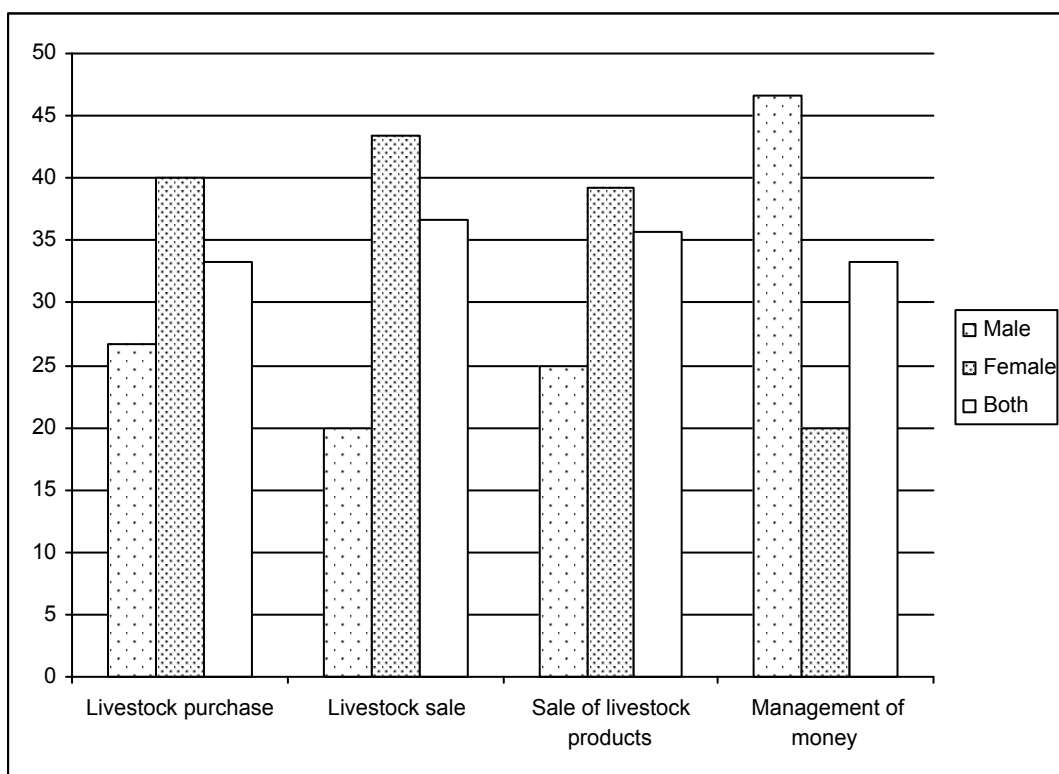
Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Livestock purchase	8	26.67	12	40	10	33.33	30	100

Livestock sale	6	20	13	43.33	11	36.67	30	100
Sale of livestock products	7	25	11	39.29	10	35.71	28	100
Management of money	14	46.67	6	20	10	33.33	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The table shows that in the case of livestock purchasing activities participation of women in the decision making role are found to be 40 percent, men 26.67 percent and both men and women 33.33 percent out of the total respondents. Thus the table reflects that women play dominant role in the family for making decision in the live stock purchasing activities.

From the above table it is found that 43.33 percent decisions are made by women in selling livestock activities, 6.20 percent decisions are only taken by men and 36.97 percent decision are men and 36.67 percent decisions are made in the hand of both men and women in their joint effort. Thus it is found that in the selling activities of livestock women also plays a dominant role in decision making.



The above table also shows that in the activities of selling livestock products the majority of the decisions are made in the hands of women which contribute 39.29 percent while very few 25 percent decisions are made in the hands of men. On the other hand 35.71 percent decisions are made by both men and women in their joint effort. Thus it is clear from the table that important roles regarding decision making are played by women concerning the sale of livestock products.

The table also indicates that the highest decisions regarding the management of the money obtained from the sale of livestock and its

products goes in the favour of men 46.67 percent while the least decisions regarding this concern goes in the favour of women 20 percent. On the other hand both men and women 33.33 percent have the decision making power jointly.

Thus the above table concluded that women have higher decision making role in livestock purchasing, livestock and its products selling activities. But it has been also found that they have few decision making role regarding money management, which the get from the sale of livestock and its products.

#### 4.3.2 Decision Making Role in Health

In this section decision making in health aspect includes mainly two components seeking treatment of the family members and use of family planning method.

**Table 4.12**

#### **Decision Making Role in Health Management**

Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Seeking treatment	13	43.34	7	23.33	10	33.33	30	100
Use of family planning method	6	20	10	33.33	14	46.67	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The above table shows that 43.34 percent men have the highest score in the decision making role regarding seeking treatment activities



while very few only 23.33 women have least decision making role in concerning field. On the other hand 33.33 percent both men and women have their joint effort in the decision making role in seeking treatment. Thus the above table shows that men have the dominant role in making decision for seeking treatment on the family members as compared to women.

From the above table, it is found that 33.33 percent women have decision making power about the family planning few only 20 percent men have taken part in the decision making. But the majority of the decision goes in the hand of both men and women in their joint effort which contributes 46.67 percent. Hence the above table depicts that women are found to be more conscious and have more decision making power as compared to men about family planning method.

#### **4.3.3 Children's Education Management Aspect**

This section deals with the decision making role of men and women regarding schooling of children, purchase of education materials, uniform management and payment of fees activities.

**Table 4.13**

#### **Decision Making Role in Children's Education Management Aspect**

Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Schooling of children	14	46.67	6	46.67	12	40	30	100
Purchase of educational materials	15	50	5	50	10	33.33	30	100

Uniform management	5	16.67	12	5	13	43.33	30	100
Payment of fees	16	53.34	4	16	10	33.33	30	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

For the concern of schooling of the child, the above table shows that maximum decision goes in the hand of men 46.67 percent while the least decision goes in the hand of women 13.33 percent. On the other hand both men and women 40 percent have decision making role in the concerning activity.

In the context of purchasing educational materials, the same table shows that highest decision making power goes in the hand of men 50 percent and least decision making power goes in the hand of female 16.67 percent. But both men and women 33.33 percent have their joint decision making role.

The table also shows that in concerning uniform management activities, 40 percent women have higher contribution in making decisions while men 16.67 percent possess the less decision making power. But the higher decision making role goes in the hand of both men and women 43.33 percent.

The above table also shows that for the payment of fees of children's education, majority of decisions were made by men 53.34 percent and very few decisions are made by women 13.33 percent. The role of decision making by the joint effort of both men and women contribute 33.33 percent.

Thus the table concludes that decision regarding schooling of children, purchasing of educational materials and payment of fees activities, the men have a dominant decision making role where as on the other hand for the uniform management the decision making role of women is the dominant one.

#### 4.3.4 Decision Making role in Household Management Aspect

In this sphere, women's role in household money keeping and marketing are obvious. Women involve in household activities such as coking, caring for children, regular house maintenance weaving, cleaning, milking, feeding to animals, collecting grasses and fodder etc. as extra work to male.

This section deals with purchase of goods, lending and borrowing, sale of agricultural products and pattern of income expenditure.

**Table 4.14**

#### **Decision Making Role in Household Management Aspect**

Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Purchase of goods	8	26.67	17	56.67	5	16.66	30	100
Lending/ borrowing	9	30	5	16.67	16	53.33	30	100
Sale of agriculture products	8	28.57	5	17.85	15	53.58	28	100
Pattern of income	17	56.67	7	23.33	6	20	30	100

expenditure								
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Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The table shows that in purchasing bazaar goods the majority of the decisions are made by women which 56.67 percent. The contribution of men in the decision making role in this concern reflects 26.67 percent and that of both men and women 16.66 percent of total population.

For the activities of borrowing and lending, the highest decision power goes in the hand of both men and women 53.33 percent and that of both men and women in this activity are found to be 30 percent and 16.67 percent respectively.

From the above table it is found that the highest decision about selling the agricultural products are made in joint effort by both men and women which reflects 53.58 percent. The role of decision making power of men and women in this concern are found to be 28.57 percent and 17.85 percent respectively.

The above table also indicates that the pattern of income expenditure is concerned, it is found that maximum decisions are in the favor of men 56.67 percent where as the least decision power are in the favor of women 23.33 percent. The decision making power in the joint effort by both men and women contribute 20 percent.

Thus the above table it is conclude that in the activities of lending and borrowing, sales of agriculture products and pattern of income expenditure the decision making role of men is the dominant one. But in

the case of purchasing bazaar goods there is dominance of women in the decision making role.

#### 4.3.5 Cause of Low Socio-economic Status of Respondents

The researcher asked some questions to know opinion of the respondents about the main reason of Tharu women's backwardness of their status the collected data from the study area is analysis with their reports.

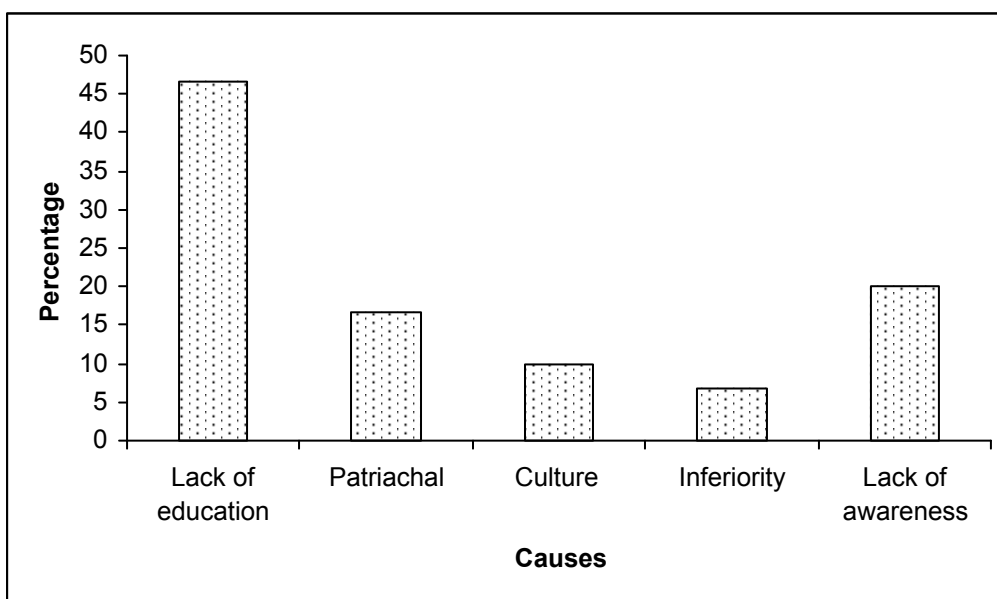
**Table 4.15**

**Distribution of Socio-economic of their Low Status**

S.N.	Causes	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Lack of education	14	46.67
2	Patriarchal	5	16.67
3	Culture	3	10
4	Inferiority	2	6.66
5	Lack of awareness	6	20
Total		30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

Figure distribution of sample respondents causes of their low socio-economic status.



In the study area, the higher percentage 46.67 of respondents reported that the main cause of Tharu women's low socio-economic status is the lack of education 16.67 percent of respondents said that patriarchal system is the cause of their low status, 10 percent said inferiority, 6.66 said culture and 20 percent said that lack of awareness is the cause of their low socio-economic status.

#### 4.3.6 Suggestion to Improve the Socio-economic Status of Tharu Women

**Table 4.16**

**Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Suggest to Improve their Status**

S.N.	Suggestions	No. of respondents	Percent

1	Promote the education	8	26.67
2	Equal property right	4	13.33
3	Priority in job opportunity	7	23.33
4	Social and cultural attitude towards women	5	16.67
5	Skill promotion	4	13.33
6	Others	2	6.67
Total		30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

In the study area, the research asked the question to the respondents "What do you suggest to improve your status ? 26.67 percent respondents answered that education should be provided for Tharu women to develop their status. 13.33 percent respondents said that equal property right should be provided for women to develop their status. 23.33 percent said that giving priority in job opportunity, 16.67 percent reported that the traditional social and cultural attitude towards women should change for their development. Similarly 13.33 percent said that skill promotion should provide for to develop their status and left 6.67 percent respondents said they don't know or they have lack of knowledge about this.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this chapter, the summary of the findings generated from the data analysis and interpretation, conclusion and a few pragmatic recommendation have also been included.

#### 5.1 Summary

The entire analysis focuses upon the socio-economic status of women in term of their educational status, property ownership, occupational status and household decision making.

Gangoliya VDC of Rupendehi district is selected as a study area which lies 15 kilometers south of Butwal city and 5 km west to the Siddhartha highway. The rational Benin the selection of the study area because it possesses the highest population of Tharus. According to CBS, 2012, the total population is 3423 and that of female is 3543. This VDC comprises altogether 1172 household. The main tribes of Gangoliya VDC are Tharu, Pahadi Brahman, Yadavi, Magar, Teli Limbu, Muslim, Majhi, Chamar/Harijan/Ram Chhetri, Thakuri, Sarki, Kami, Baniya, Nuniya, Lodh, Hajam, Koiri, Mushar, Tarai Brahman, Newar and few others due to time and resource constraints, this study covers only 30 households of the Tharu community as the sample size. These households are picked up from only three wards, 2, 3 and 4 based upon heavily populated Tharu households. Finally from each household one married Tharu women of age group 20-60 years are selected for generating the information.



This study is based on descriptive as well as analytical technique. Both primary as well as secondary data have been used for the study. Primary data have been collected from collected from the field survey through various techniques. Such as structured questionnaire, interview with key informants and observation method. The secondary data have been collected from different sources of government and non-government organizations such as reports of Gangaoliya VDC office, DDC profile of Rupendehi, CBS, 2012 profile, Tharu Kalyankarni Office, National foundation of Development of Indigeneous nationalitics, web-sites sites, and various published and unpublished literatures.

Tharu are one of the indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal. Tharus are rich in cultural heritage and have their own costumers and dress. Their ornaments have a unique style and have handicrafts of their own style which are prevalent in domestic use.

The life of Tharu women is dominated in comparisons to their male counterpart in Nepal. But it just reverse in the case of Rana Tharus. That is to say that Rana Tharus maintain a female dominant society.

There is early marriage system and usually girls are younger than boys at marriage. Out of the total 30 respondents, 93.33 percent are found to be married and very few only 6.67 are widowed.

Two types of family, i.e. nuclear and joint are found in the study area. Among them 56.67 percent households are found to be joint which 43.33 percent household are nuclear.

The educational status of the Tharus in the study area are found to be not so poor. Out of total population 32.76 percent of them are

found to be literate and 31.03 percent are illiterate. Among the illiterate, 17.85 percent of them are found male and 43.33 percent of them are female. Thus the female population are found to be more illiterate as compared to male population.

Concerning the occupation pattern of sample population of the study area. Out of 28 male population 28.58 percent of them are found to be engaged in agriculture, 14.28 percent in service, 14.28 percent in business, 17.86 percent in carpentry, 10.72 in wage labour, none in tailoring and household works and 14.28 percent in other occupation like foreign employment, grazing cattle etc. In the same way out of 30 female respondent 33.33 percent of them are found to be concentrated upon agriculture, 6.67 percent in service, 3.33 in business 20 percent in tailoring, 13.33 percent in wage labor, 16.67 percent in house hold works, 6.67 in others like selling of livestock products. Grazing cattle handicraft etc. and none of them are found to be engaged in carpentry and foreign employment. Only two households are not found to be engaged in agriculture besides other occupation while the remaining other population are engaged in agriculture besides other occupation in the study area.

Majority of two households of the study area hold land up to 15 Kattha and the households having more than 3 bigha. The Tharu who is land less or who have less than 1 bigha they cultivate other land in adhiya basis. Most of the Tharus in present VDC cultivate other land in adhiya basis i.e. 50 percent product of each (owner and worker).

The households have a moderate production of paddy as the summer crops and wheat mustard, maize, potato, onion, etc. as winter crops.

Concerning the occupational status of married sample population of the households 28.58 percent of the male population and 33.33 percent of female population are engaged in agriculture while the remaining male and female populations are engaged in other occupation such as service, tailoring. Carpentry, business, household work wage labor and others besides agriculture. It is found that female population have no contribution in business and carpentry while male populations also have no contribution in household work and Tailoring. Thus, the majority of economically active populations of the study area are found to be engaged in farming which proves to be agriculture as the main occupation.

Majority of male and female in the study area have good handicraft skill such as weaving fishing net, making bamboo products, mats, etc. but they do not contribute it to the economic activities.

Only 16.67 percent women have land ownership in small size and 13.33 percent house ownership, and most women 66.67 have livestock as their own property, 50 percent have bank or their financial institution like women saving groups deposit or saving, 16.67 percent have no ownership in any types of property.

Out of 13 illiterate sample respondents only 38.47 had been participation in adult literacy classes and 61.53 percent of respondents did not participated in that classes.

Out of 30 sampled respondents 10 percent prefer hospital for treatment whereas 50 percent prefer private clinic, 20 percent health center and 20 percent women visiting Shamans and local healers during health problems. Due to lack of knowledge low economic status, and old mentality they believe on superstition in this modern era.

Women participation in the decision making is low as compared to men in the farm management. Women's decision is higher in planting scoring 53.57 percent but quite low in seed selection 17.86 percent ploughing 17.86 percent, spreading manure 14.29 percent, irrigation activity 10.71 percent and harvesting 14.29 percent. Men's decision making role is found to be highest in the case of seed selection, spreading manure and irrigation activity which contributes 42.86 percent, 46.42 percent and 60.71 percent respectively. Mutual decision by both men and women holds the highest in the case of ploughing 57.14 and harvesting 64.29 percent.

Women have the highest decision making power regarding livestock purchasing 40 percent, livestock selling 43.33 percent and selling livestock products 39.29 percent as compared to the male counterpart. On the other hand men have the highest decision making role for the management of money obtained from the sale of livestock.

For the decision regarding seeking treatment of the family members, the highest score goes in the hand of men 43.34 percent the second highest in the favor of both men and women 33.33 percent in the joint effort and finally the least decision goes in the favor of women 23.33 percent. Similarly the highest decision making power for the use of family planning are made by both men and women 46.67 percent

while second highest decision making power goes in the size of women 33.33 percent and the least goes in the hand of men 20 percent.

Majority of the decision regarding schooling of children 46.67 percent, purchase of educational materials 50 percent and payment of fees 53.34 percent are in the favor of men while for the uniform management both the men and women take the greatest decision role scoring 40 percent. Thus women have very low decision making power in the educational management aspect. But for the uniform management women's decision are found quite higher than men.

In household management, women 56.67 percent have the highest decision making power for purchasing goods from market and have least decision making power in other activities like lending and borrowing and sale of agriculture products. Similarly men 56.67 percent have higher decision making role for the pattern of income expenditure where as mutual decision made by both men and women are found to be highest for the sale of agricultural products and unding/borrowing activities. scoring 53.58 percent and 53.33 percent respectively. Thus in the activities of lending/borrowing, sale of agricultural products and pattern of income expenditure, the decision making role of men is the dominant one where as for the purchase of good from market there is the dominancy of women in the decision making role.

The higher percentage 46.67 of respondents reported that the main cause of Tharu women's low socio-economic status is the lack of education, 16.67 percent said patriarchal system, 10 percent said inferiority, 6.66 said culture and 20 percent said that lack of awareness or knowledge is the cause of their low socio-economic status.

For improve of the socio-economic status of Tharu women them 26.67 percent respondents answered that education should be provide for Tharu women to develop their status, 13.33 percent answered equal property right 23.33 said priority in job opportunity, 16.67 percent said traditional social and cultural attitude towards women should change for their development. Similarly 13.33 percent answered skill promotion and left 6.67 percent answered they didn't know or they have lack of knowledge about this.

## 5.2 Conclusion

Through this study, it is known that Tharu women have multidimensional role and responsibilities in their families. Their work burden is higher but most of their time is spent in their household activities. Then they should spend more time in agriculture which is not counted as income generating works. They work only for the purpose of family use. The literacy rate of Tharu women is moderate but they are not well educated and higher education status of women is very low. They are deprived from acquiring the higher education due to the various social, personal, economic factors which are directly related to them is not getting outside job. Therefore, only a few numbers of Tharu women are engaged in outside jobs.

Only few Tharu women have land ownership house ownership, bank and other financial institutions like women saving groups, sahakari et deposit and most Tharu women have livestock as their own property. But very few women have property rights.

Due to lack of higher education most of the Tharu women have to work more in agriculture but have a comparatively less decision making power than the male counterparts. The Tharu women have high decision making power in few activities, but the decision making role of men is superior in most of the variables. Only few activities have equal contribution of men and women in household decision making. The major factors responsible for these phenomena are the tradition. Male dominated culture and lack of education.

Thus, it can be concluded that the socio-economic status of Tharu women is low.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Some recommendations are listed below raising the socio-economic status and the household decision making power of women which will also assist policy makers and local development practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programmes in this regard.

- Illiteracy is a major factor that affect. Tharu women's socio-economic status and decision making power of women. Informal education classes should be extended for the illiterate women with some incentives and scholarship of any kind opportunities should be provided to the women for higher education. Government NGOs and INGOs should encourage the women for higher education. Efforts are necessary to be made to develop women's social prestige, self-confidence and feeling of equalities by educating them.
- The widespread poverty is the most threatening constraint on the improvement of women's socio-economic status. Various programmes such as vegetable farming, goat farming etc. should launch to increase the living standard of community, which minimizes the existing level of poverty should be more effectively conducted. Trainings for income generation need to be conducted in several areas.
- Employment is another major factor which assists to empower women in decision making and socio-economic condition. Opportunities for employment in different sectors should be given to women as equally as men. The government has to create



employments in this area. Employment quotas for educated Tharu women should increase to ensure greater participation in national building process.

- Government should take policy to increase ownership of female on economic resources by providing different incentives such as exemption on land ownership by females, higher interest on female's deposit in bank etc. which increase not only the ownership of women on economic resources, but also their role (decision making community participation).
- Agriculture covers large share of occupation in the study area. However, the system of agriculture is old. Agricultural training on seeds, harvesting fertilizers etc. should launch for the improvement of agricultural system. Modern techniques should implement. Besides these, farmers should encourage to produce cash crops. Irrigation facility should provide so that people can produce various crops in winter season too.
- Marketing mechanism for the products of handicrafts is not well established. So that the demand statue of the product is decreasing. Hence support to the households in terms of marketing and advertising their products is recommended because this work act as incentive for them to produce more. So that proper goal of income generation activities can be met.
- It is also essential to empower the women who are not capable and involve in decision making, providing them employment, encouragement and education. for, this government should make

female base programs such as education, free health, and incentives for higher and employment based programs etc.

- Promotion of joint-decisions within the household should be stressed upon through informal education program. These joint decisions by both the male as well as female members seem more favourable to reach to effective decisions.

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6. Your Occupation

a. Agriculture [ ]                      b. Business [ ]                      c. Service [ ]

d. Wage labour [ ] e. Carpentry [ ]                      f. Tailoring [ ]

g. Household work [ ]                      h. Others [ ]

7. Husband's Occupation

a. Agriculture [ ]                      b. Business [ ]                      c. Service [ ]

d. Wage labour [ ] e. Carpentry [ ]                      f. Tailoring [ ]

g. Household work [ ]                      h. Others [ ]

8. Land holding area : \_\_\_\_\_

9. In your house female member have ownership in any property ?

a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]

If yes, what types of asset is registered.

i. land                      ii. Livestock                      iii. house

iv. Bank or financial institution deposit                      v. other

10. Please help me with detail information of your family.

S.N.	Name	Sex	Age (Years)	Education	Occupation	Marital Status


11. How many children do you have ?

- a. Son [ ]      b. Daughter [ ]      c. None [ ]

12. Please inform about your cropping pattern.

Area	Summary	Winter
Crop		
Production		

13. Who decides this cropping pattern ?

- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

14. What types of seed do you use ?

- a. Hybrid [ ]    b. Local [ ]

15. Who decides for seed selection ?

- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

16. How do you plough your field ?

- a. Tractor [ ]      b. Ox/Buffalo [ ]    c. Others [ ]

17. Who decides for ploughing your field?

- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

18. Who decides for harvesting your crops?  
a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
19. Do you use qualitative fertilizers?  
a. Yes [ ]    b. No [ ]
20. Who plays vital role for managing irrigation facility?  
a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
21. Who decides for spreading manure?  
a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
22. Are you engaged in livestock rising? Please inform me with the number of livestock's.  
a. Cow [ ]    b. Ox [ ]    c. Buffalo [ ]  
d. Goat [ ]    e. Pig v    f. Chicken [ ]  
g. Pigeon [ ] h. Others [ ]
23. Do you sell livestocks and its products?  
a. Yes [ ]    b. No [ ]



24. Who decides about the purchase of livestock's ?
- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
25. Who decides about the sale of livestock's ?
- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
26. Who decides to spend the money obtained from the sale of livestock's ?
- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
27. Where did you get treatment when you suffered from illness?
- a. Health center [ ]    b. Private clinic [ ]
- c. Hospital [ ]    d. Dhama/Jhakri (Guruwa)
28. Who decides to take care for treatment ?
- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
29. Do you use family planning ?
- a. Yes [ ]    b. No [ ]
30. If yes, who decided to use family planning method?
- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]
31. Where did you deliver your first baby ?
- a. Home [ ]    b. Hospital [ ]
32. Who made this decision ?
- a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

33. Do your children go to school?  
 a. Yes [ ]                      b. No
34. Are boys given priority over girls to go to school ?  
 a. Yes                      b. No [ ]                      c. Equal [ ]
35. Do you think that girls should go to school ?  
 a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]
36. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_
37. Who decides whether your children go to school?  
 a. Self [ ]                      b. Husband [ ]                      c. Both [ ]
38. Are participating in adult literacy rate classes?  
 a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]
39. If yes, who made this decision?  
 a. Self [ ]                      b. Husband [ ]                      c. Both [ ]
40. Who decides to provide educational materials and fees for your children?

	Self	Husband	Both
Books/copies			
Uniform/dress			
Payment of fees			

41. Do you spend your income in your family (if any) ?

a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]                      c. Sometimes [ ]

42. If yes, where do you spend your income?

a. Purchase of land [ ]                      b. Purchase of jewelery [ ]

c. Household expenditure:

i. Health [ ]                      ii. Food [ ]                      iii. Clothing [ ]

iv. Festival [ ]                      v. Others [ ]

43. Who decides to spend your income?

a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

44. Who generally keeps the household money ?

a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

45. Who usually goes to the bazar purchase?

a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

46. Do you lend/borrow your money?

a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]

47. Who decides to lend/borrow money?

a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

48. Do you sell your agricultural products when it is surplus?

a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]

49. If yes, who decides to sell the agricultural products?

a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]

50. What are the main causes to make low socio-economic status of women in the Tharu community?
- a. Lack of education [ ]
  - b. Patriarchal [ ]
  - c. Culture [ ]
  - d. Inferiority [ ]
  - e. Lack of awareness [ ]
51. What do you suggest to improve socio-economic status of women in Tharu community?
- a. Promote the education [ ]
  - b. Equal property right [ ]
  - c. Priority in job opportunity
  - d. Skill promotion [ ]
  - e. Social and cultural attitude towards women [ ]
  - f. Others [ ]