

**ROLE OF MARRIED WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD
DECISION MAKING**

(A Case Study of Tilahar V.D.C. of Parbat District)

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of Economics,
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal,
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Economics**

Submitted By

Nirmala Kunwar

Roll No: 214/068

Central Department of Economics

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

April 2017



TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Office of the Head of the Department

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **Role of Married Women in Household Decision Making (A Case Study of Tilahar V.D.C. of Parbat District)** has been prepared by Nirmala Kunwar under my supervision and guidance. I hereby recommended this thesis to the expert committee for acceptance.

.....
Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna
Supervisor

Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Nepal

Date: 04-04-2017 B.S.
22-12-2073 A.D.



TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Office of the Head of the Department

APPROVAL LETTER

This thesis entitled **Role of Married Women in Household Decision Making (A Case Study of Tilahar V.D.C. of Parbat District)** submitted by Nirmala Kunwar to the Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree Master of Arts in Economics.

Thesis Committee

Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Gyanwaly
Head of Department

.....

Prof. Dr. Ram Chandra Dhakal
External Examiner

.....

Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna
Thesis Supervisor

.....

Date: 12-04-2017 B.S.
30-12-2073 A.D.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis entitled “Role of Married Women in Household Decision Making (A Case Study of Tilahar VDC of Parbat District)” has been prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Arts in Economics.

I am extremely grateful and indebted to my respected and honorable supervisor Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu for providing me the valuable guidelines, suggestions and comments in the preparation of this study. Similarly, I am also grateful to Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Gyanwaly, Head, Central Department of Economics for his suggestion and timely support for completing this work. I would like to thank all the teachers and administrative staffs of Central Department of Economics for their help during the study period.

I appreciate the people of Tilahar Village and especially the women for giving me information on household decision making process. Without their cooperation, I could not have moved ahead in this project.

I am heartily indebted to my friends who encouraged me all the moment to complete this work in time.

Nirmala Kunwar

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Recommendation Letter	i
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
List of Acronyms	ix
CHAPTER–I: INTRODUCTION	1-7
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	6
1.5 Limitations of the Study	6
1.6 Organization of the Study	6
CHAPTER–II: LITERATURE REVIEW	8-24
2.1 International context	8
2.2 National context	15
2.3 Research Gap	23
CHAPTER–III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	25-28
3.1 Short Look in the Study Area	25
3.2 Research Design	25
3.3 Population/Sample Size	25
3.4 Nature and Source of Data	26
3.5 Primary Data Collection	27
3.5.1 Structured Questionnaire	27
3.5.2 Interview with Key Information	27
3.5.3 Observation	27
3.6 Secondary Data Collection	28
3.7 Tools of Data Collection	28
3.8 Data Analysis	28

CHAPTER-IV: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA	29-60
4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics the Respondents	29
4.1.1 Ethnic Composition of Study Area	29
4.1.2 Marital Status of the Respondent	30
4.1.3 Educational Status of Household Couple	31
4.1.4 Family Structure of Respondents	33
4.1.5 Occupational Composition of the Household Couple	33
4.1.6 Number of Children among the Different Household	35
4.1.7 Age at Marriage	36
4.1.8 Landholding of Household	37
4.1.9 Land Ownership	38
4.1.10 Use of Energy of Household	39
4.1.11 Health of Respondents	40
4.1.12 Banking Balance of Respondents	40
4.2 Role of Women in Household Decision Making	41
4.2.1 Household Activities	42
4.2.2 Decision in Division on Household Activities	43
4.2.3 Decision Making Role in Health	44
4.2.4 Determination of Children	46
4.2.5 Children's Education Management Aspect	47
4.2.6 Farm Management	48
4.2.6.1 Cropping Pattern	49
4.2.6.2 Livestock management	50
4.2.7 Household Expenditure	50
4.2.7.1 Small Expenditure of Household	50
4.2.7.2 Big Purchase of Household	52
4.2.8 Investment	53
4.2.9 Saving of Household Income	54
4.2.10 Participation on Social and Developmental Activities	55
4.2.11 Women's Mobility	55
4.3 Causes of Deprivation of women	57
4.4 Suggestion of Respondents to end Discrimination in Household Decision Making Process between Male and Female	58

CHAPTER-V: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION 61-67

5.1 Summary 61

5.2 Conclusion 64

5.3 Recommendation 65

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Population of Study Area	26
Table 4.1	Distribution of Household by Ethnic Composition	29
Table 4.2	Marital Status of the Respondents	31
Table 4.3	Educational Status of the Household Couples	31
Table 4.4	Family Structure of Sample Household	33
Table 4.5	Occupations of Sample Household	34
Table 4.6	Number of Children among the Different Household	36
Table 4.7	Age at Marriage of respondents	36
Table 4.8	Land Holding Respondents	37
Table 4.9	Distribution of Respondents by Land Ownership	38
Table 4.10	Use of Energy	39
Table 4.11	Beliefs on Medical Treatment	40
Table 4.12	Banking Balance of Respondents	41
Table 4.13	Daily Household Activities	42
Table 4.14	Distribution of Work	43
Table 4.15	Decision Making Role in Health Management	44
Table 4.16	Decision Making Role in Determination of Children	46
Table 4.17	Decision Making Role in Children's Education Management Aspect	47
Table 4.18	Decision Making Role in Cropping Pattern	49
Table 4.19	Decision Making Role in Livestock Management	50
Table 4.20	Decision Making on Small Expenditure of Household	51
Table 4.21	Decision Maker of Big Purchase	52
Table 4.22	Investment Made by Family	53
Table 4.23	Decision Making in the Investment Process	53
Table 4.24	Saving of Household Income	54
Table 4.25	Decision Making on Participation in Social and Developmental Activities	55
Table4.26	Decision on Travelling Short Distance	56
Table4.27	Decision on Travelling Long Distance	56
Table4.28	Distribution of respondents by the reasoning in case of Deprivation of Women	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1	Distribution of Household by Ethnic Composition	30
Figure 4.2	Educational Status of Household Couples	32
Figure 4.3	Occupation of the Sample Household	35
Figure 4.4	Age at Marriage	37
Figure 4.5	Distribution of the Respondents by Land Ownership	39
Figure 4.6	Distribution of Work	44
Figure 4.7	Decision Making Role in Health Management	45
Figure 4.8	Decision Making Role in Determination of Children	46
Figure 4.9	Decision Making Role in Children Education Management Aspect	48
Figure 4.10	Decision Making Role in Cropping Pattern	49
Figure 4.11	Decision Making Role in Small Expenditure of Household	51
Figure 4.12	Decision Making Role in Big purchase	52
Figure 4.13	Decision Making Role in the Investment Process	54
Figure 4.14	Decision on Travelling Short Distance	56
Figure 4.15	Distribution of respondents by reasoning in cause of deprivation of women	58
Figure4.16	By Women Oneself	59
Figure4.17	Role of Society	59
Figure4.18	Role of Nation	60

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	-	Agriculture Development Bank
CBS	-	Centre Bureau of Statistics
DDC	-	District Development Committee
FP	-	Family Planning
GDI	-	Gender Development Index
GDP	-	Gross Domestic product
GOV	-	Government of Nepal
HDI	-	Human Development Index
INGO	-	International Non –governmental Organization
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	-	Non-governmental organization
PPP	-	Purchasing Power Parity
SLC	-	School Leaving Certificate
TU	-	Tribhuvan University
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programm
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
VDC	-	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

If we look the total world population, it is evident that half of the population support by women. So women have special position in all societies. Women are an important integral part of every human society. The progress of any nation and society depends greatly upon women participation in all fields of life. Generally, in the developing countries they are considered dependent. Women are encircled by the low literacy level, under paid labor and an unbroken cycle of child birth. In urban and mostly in rural areas women are considered economically unproductive individual and their role in rural as well as urban areas is not recognized. Therefore, women need to make more concerted efforts to get their role recognized (Kharal, 2000).

Women now have more influence than ever before in the world, but for all their gains they are still struggling for parity with men. Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideas, getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary (Acharya, 1997). Women are involved in politics but they still do not have an equal influence in policy making. Men continue to hold the majority of parliamentary seats and key government positions throughout the world.

Women have different role such as mother, wife, daughter and sister which they perform at different stages of their lives. The women being a wife have only duty of bringing up children and they are forced to do everything (Batool 2002). There are various family matters on which men generally take decisions, women are often not consulted. This is because of the feeling among men that women are incapable of expressing their decision, due to illiteracy among them. It would mean if women are educated, they would acquire the capacity to participate in decision making (Mumtaz, 1982). The situation of Nepalese women is not different. Nepalese women are underprivileged and disadvantageous in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. However, the universal declaration of Human Rights has crossed a half century along with the global call for Gender Equity.

Nepalese women, who constitute half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their houses. Likewise the estimated literacy rate of men is 75.1 percent but that of women is only 57.4 percent (CBS 2012).

Nepal has amongst the highest indices of son preference in the world; sons are desired because they carry on the family name and represent the old age insurance. Moreover, property is transmitted through them from one generation to the next. They are required to conduct rituals, at and after the death of father to secure his spiritual salvation. Among orthodox Hindu group, the birth of boy is an occasion for rejoicing while the coming of a girl, especially a third or fourth one is case for disappointment. "To be born a daughter is a misfortune" and let it be later but is being a son is common saying in Nepalese society (Ghimire, 1991).

More or less male dominance is practiced in our society. Due to this, females are deprived from gainful social as well as economic opportunities. They are getting involved more in laborious and physical activities. Very few females are lucky, get opportunity to engage in white color job. Most are surrounded by household boundaries. They are mainly engaged in cooking, livestock caring, firewood collection, grass/fodder management child rearing, agriculture activities, household chores; they have low access to education, employment and medical facilities. Though status of female has been improved recently, still it is not satisfactory. It is essential to eliminate the gender disparity which is prevailed in our society. National development is not possible, if women are not brought into mainstream of development as well as in decision making process. In this situation, empowerment and enhancement of economic activities to females is essential to raise their status in society and bring them out from the household boundaries. (Thapa 2003)

Nowadays, Nepalese women are actively participating in the politics as well as economic and social sector. According to the Acharya et al. (2015) report, there has been a substantial improvement in women's visibility and voice in the public sphere, including in the CA, local governance and peace mechanism. A historical milestone was reached when 33 percent of the 2008CA/parliament that was sworn in was women. Representation of women in the cabinet has increased significantly since 2006. Women comprised 10.5 percent of civil service in 2014. Reservation for women in the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Force Police also have resulted in

increased number of recruits in recent year. Women currently constitute only 3.2 percent, 5.7 percent and 4.9 percent of the security organs, respectively. Similarly, there have been increased in the number of women in the judiciary. As of 2015 January, there were six female judges in the appellate courts (8.1 percent) and two (1.2 percent) in the district courts. However, this progress is unsatisfactory. In general, women have less excess to education, income, employment and health care than males. Females are 50 percent of Nepal's total population but they do not have the same percentage in other aspect of life as literacy. They have poor health condition and less decision making power. That is the reason why they have no access to income and employment opportunities.

According to the Acharya et al. (2015) women have increased access to economic resources, property and micro credit and the percentage of household in which women own land and house has increased considerably since 2001. The government has increased resources allocation to GEWE; it is directly gender responsive budget allocation increasing from 11.3 percent in 2007/08 to 21.93 percent in 2014/15, and allocated target budget to local communication, including a 10 percent allocation for women's leadership at the community level. Nepal's Human Development Index (HDI) has increased from 0.343 to 0.540 and gender development index (GDI) has almost tripled from 0.310 to 0.912 between 1995 and 2014. Along same lines, females and male earned income ratio in term of purchasing power parity dollar (PPP) has jumped from a third to 0.727 in that same period. By 2001, the percentages of household where women own land and house had also increased to 20% and 11 percent respectively. Women's access to and command over economic resources, plays a critical role in their access to education and health and provides the foundation for employment and equality in others field.

Socially and economically men are always considered as superior to women, as head of the family and the care taker. This is major cause for the low participation of women in civil services in Nepal which is in the transitional phase even though women are participating in the political field but it is not up to the level. In order to change the status of women in Nepal, socio-cultural change is required which takes a lot of time.

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

In our society, the status of women is very low due to the lack of decision making power. So decision making power of women should be increased. Decision making role within household system is an indicator of the status of women (Pradhan and Shrestha,1990).Women's decision making power at household level play important role achieving gender balance.(Sayad,2009)

Without active participation of women and incorporation of women perspectives at all levels of decision making, the goals of equality development and peace cannot be achieved. (Karl, 1995). By encouraging women role and status in society and providing them education, right to participate in decision making can be enhanced (Zafar,Batool and Bano,2005)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

If we talk about the population of the world, we found that the half of the population support by women. Thus a nation cannot development without also developing or raising the living standard of the women. Hence their equal participation in any developing activities is not only desirable but essential to speed-up the development process. So women play pivotal role in development of any country.

The world is in 21st century and in the context of Nepal, women suffer from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. Women in this country have been socially and economically handicapped. They have been deprived of equal participation in the socio economic activities of the nation. Especially the condition of women is worst in the rural and urban area. In the rural area of Nepal the women suffer from hard work and their social, economic and legal status is much lower in the society. The activities of women's are connected with inside the house and men's in outside house. Due to lack of women participation in development the country is suffering from different problems.

Discrimination towards women still exist in society and whole country. The rural women in Nepal could not have the decision making roles. In such case, Tilahar VDC of Parbat district also cannot be its expectation. The total population of Tilahar VDC of Parbat district 4614 where 2660female and 1954 male. There are the 1201 household in VDC (CBS 2011). Women in this study area of different ethnic group are living. However they all have similar type of social economic and education problem. Women are far more laborious, hardworking, honest and devoted to household works in comparison to men but still they are not being consulted or involved in decision making on important family matters. Decision-making in household is one way of women empowerments. So Role of women in household decision making one of important issue for women empowerment and development of society and nation. No past study has been conducted regarding women's role in household decision making in the study area. So, the study has been address the following research questions

The study has been guided by following research questions.

- What is the role of married women in decision making in the household?
- What is the socio economic status of married women in study area?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of study is to analyze the role of women in household decision making process, especially of those that are married in Tilahar VDC of Parbat District. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To study the socio economic condition of married women in study area.
- ii. To examine the role of married women in household decision making process.
- iii. To suggest appropriate measures to promote women's role in household decision making and empowering them.

1.4 Significance of this Study

This study has been important in findings out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio economic status and their decision making role. This study would help government and non-governmental organization agencies that are seeking information on women's decision making power in household. This study will be useful to develop awareness towards household decision making situation. It is also useful for planners, policy makers, NGO's and INGO's and other organization for development. Considering status of women they need to know the actual condition of the problems while making appropriate policies and programs added for women. It may be helpful for the researcher and person interested in gender studies too. This study will be a help for DDC and other local bodies to allocate budget and carry out different development activities in the VDC.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The study is mainly for the academic purpose, so it have certain limitations like time, budget. Therefore the major limitations of this study are as follows:

- i. This study is limited to the boundary of Tilahar Village Development Committee of Parbat district.
- ii. The study covers only married women.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study has been organized into three major chapters and each chapter contains some sections which are organized as below:

The first chapter contains the introduction part of the research. The background description of women status in world and Nepalese scenario with statement of the problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, Limitation of the study and organization of the study.

The second chapter deals with the literature review from the previous studies, publication, books, theories, research reports written in the "role of women in household decision making."

Research methodology has been presented in third chapter. This chapter contains the short look in study area, research design, populations/sample size, nature and source of data, primary data collection, and secondary data collection, tools of data collection and method of data analysis.

In fourth chapter deals with socio-economic characteristics of the sample population and respondents and analysis of collected data regarding the household decision making process.

Chapter five provides summary and conclusion of the whole study. It is also includes recommendations on the basis of findings. At last, the end of the research, reference and appendix has been included.

CHAPTER–II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 International Context

Edgell (1980) reveals that males usually have power in economic resource. Males often decide how to manage the general financial affairs of the family. This is what determines the framework of many other aspects of family life. In an investigation about the males who have professional occupation and their wives, the decisions were divided into decisions which were very important and decisions which were considered to be important for both man and woman. A lot of very important decisions such as financial affairs were only made by husbands. Important decisions like children's education were often made by both. But women were just responsible for decisions which were considered to be unimportant and trivial by both husband and wife for instance, choosing the house interior decorations.

Patel (1982) focuses on the women's participation on development. The author presents the statistics about the women's contribution in various sectors. The women constitute the largest number of food producers (i.e. approximately 50 percent) in Africa, 30-40 percent in Asia, then in Latin America. The least qualified jobs are filled by women. Women get low wages in comparison to men counterparts. One billion women in the third world countries are illiterate. Education is one of the major factors of determining the decision-making role.

Jiggins (1982) highlighted on the condition of women who are involving mostly in household based agricultural activity. In sub-Saharan Africa, household-based agricultural activity remains the foundation of rural livelihood and women do most of the work. Their activities are labor, under increasing stress. Over all estimated 30 percent of rural households are headed by women, and women are estimated to contribute some 80 percent of agricultural, mainly unpaid family labor, they produce approximately 60 percent of the food that consumed by rural household .and they generate a third or more of all household income mainly through small scale agro industry, trading, credit work and casual labor. Despite women's contribution to household food security and economic viability, patriarchal family and social structures deny women real property right in land, limit women's access to control

over the proceeds of their own labor, and constrain their decision-making roles. The internal dynamics of household production separate female labor inputs and land use from male control over the returns the labor and land. Women have got government incentives, provision service and market support. They have less access to credit and social support. As Such male dominance and unequal responsibilities have worsened their position. Juggins has suggested strengthening women's position in labor process as independent wage earners with in the household.

Mumtaz (1982) revealed that there are various family matters on which men generally take decisions. Women are quite often not even consulted. This is because of the feeling among men that women are incapable of expressing their decisions, due to illiteracy among them. It would mean if women are educated they would acquire the capacity to participate in decision making.

Mengesha,(1990)concluded that the crucial areas in terms of decision are presented as the rights of disposal. Such major decisions are left to men. Despite the amount of work women perform, the amount of salaries and income they bring to the family, they are culturally deprived from making such important decisions. Author found that the power lies in the farms is in the area that the voices of the rural women are not heard. The right to purchase or sell land, the right to dispose of major property should be the right farming women as much it is the right of men. As long as this fact is not recognized and implemented; women farmers will be subservient to men.

Singh (1992) conducted a study on modernity and decision making in upbringing of the children, and the study revealed that 69.5 per cent of the respondents of all categories expressed that both husband and wife should take decisions on this matter. No respondent perceived that wife only should be a decision maker in giving education to the children.

Karl (1995) has mentioned that without active participation of women and incorporation of women perspectives at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality development and peace cannot be achieved.

Ingelhart (1997) has explained the increase of participation in the west world based on three factors: improving the level of education and political information, changes in governing norms of women's participation and changes in value priorities which

emphasize less on instant natural needs and emphasize more on the right. According to Ingelhart (1997), some variables such as formal education, socio-economic status, information and skill levels, job experiences, organized networks, and the reduction of gender differences in social and political duties have influenced the increase in woman participation

Roth (2001) found that wives tend to under-report their household decision-making power. In couples with both partners educated and in couples in which women work for pay, both partners were significantly more likely to report that both of them participate in the final decisions than was the case in couples without education or in which the wife did not work for pay. Marieke(2001) argued in study that perception of social support were based on part in the structural conditions of individual marital arrangements, specifically household decision of labor and decision perceptions of social support and that the closer couples come to equal labor and decision making in the household, the more supported each partner is likely to feel.

Mahmood (2002) revealed that women's involvement in domestic decision-making is recognized as a distinct aspect of their autonomy with implications for reproductive behavior. The author examines the extent of Pakistani women's participation in household decision-making relative to their husbands and other family members, and determines its effects on the demand for children and contraceptive use in both urban and rural settings. The findings reveal that women's decision-making authority is clearly related to the context in which they live, as urban women have a say in household matters, almost equal to their husbands', whereas most rural women report that their husbands and other family members have a predominant role in household decisions with regard to seeking medical treatment for a sick child or to make purchases of household items. The results also indicate that women with greater freedom to go outside home alone are also more likely to participate in domestic decisions, and the linkage is stronger for rural than for urban women. The multivariate analysis reveals that the effect of decision-making variables on measures of reproductive behavior is strongly, conditioned by socio-economic and demographic factors, implying that measures of women's empowerment give only a partial explanation of the likelihood of women's desire to have fewer children and to increase contraceptive use. The results suggest that Pakistani women's enhanced role in

household decision-making has an effect on achieving gender equality and fertility reduction outcomes—goals that are central to population and development policy.

Batool (2002) revealed that women have different roles such as mother, wife, daughter, and sister which they perform at different stages of their lives. The women being a wife have the only duty of bringing up children and they are forced to do everything. All these duties are a carry-over of the tribal cum-feudal society, in which the women are considered as property.

Zafar, Batool and Bano (2005) examined that women have a special position in all societies and no society can progress without women. Women's participation in every field of life is very important. But Pakistani society is conservative to some extent. Like many other third world countries, Pakistan has also a male-dominated society and women's participation in decision making process is very low. Authors concluded that by encouraging women role and status in society and providing them education, rights to participate in decision making can be enhanced.

Syad (2009) explored that the women's role in decision-making at household level in AJ&K. Researcher argues that participation of women in decision-making is different in rural than urban. In study the role of women in decision-making link to their empowerment. Data is collected through questionnaire. The analysis of variance reveals that with greater freedom to mobility & involvement in household purchases variables has greater effect in decision-making at household level & effect is greater in rural women. Men play dominant role in decisions regarding the marriages of children, sale & purchase of livestock especially in rural areas. The findings reveals that women with greater freedom to go outside are empower in decision-making. The study examines the contribution of women in decision-making at household level & its importance relative to their empowerment. The study indicates that women's decision-making power at household level play an important role in achieving gender balance.

Senarath and Gunnawardena (2009) conducted a study on women's autonomy in decision making for health care in South Asia. The objective of this study was to discuss the women's autonomy in decision making on health care. Findings revealed that mostly decision of women's health care were without their participation. Women

participation in decision making was significantly increase with the age, education and number of children. Women who were employed and earned were more powerful in decision making but those women who were not employed and earned were less participative in decision making. Rural and poor women were less likely to be involved in decision making than urban or rich women.

Kaur (2012) reveals that the women's involvement in decision making of household sector. Kaur identified the role of women in education and household decision-making and participation in household decision making process in the rural and urban area. This study showed that there is neither good nor bad women's participation in the household decision making. Similarly, there is important role of the particular place to increase the ability of women to take part in the household decision making process. The result possessed the urban women are more able to household decision making compared to rural women. And in the context of education, there is positive relationship between women's education and participation in decision making. So, educated women are more capable to take part in the household decision making than uneducated women.

Anwar, Shoaib and Javed (2013) concluded that many factor affect the ability of women to take part in the decision making process in the household. Some of these factors relate to the type of decision that is taken and some to the background of the women. Women autonomy has significant effect on the role in decision making at household level. Increased women's autonomy significantly enhances their role in decision making at household level. It is conclude that the majority of women had a high level of autonomy with respect to their access to resources, good communication with their husband, freedom from domestic violence, high level of personal autonomy and freely visit parental, friends and relatives home. They had a high level of movement. Women's autonomy in reference to economic resources had an average level because they were having relatively low level of access to family income but had a high access to their husband's income and to some extent had control over it. Mostly women had a significant role in decision making at household level. Majority of the respondents visits market for shopping or to buy items for family members and some other household needs and perform their role in the decisions about their children and health matters. Finding of the study shows that if women autonomy will

be higher, it will increase their role in decision making at household level. Autonomy of the women had a great link with the education, ages, access to resources and communication with their husband as well.

Mulugeta and Amsalu (2014) explained that rural women play a key role in the livestock management and household activities, however, it is often argued that their contributions are undetermined and their decision making power is highly limited. The study was carried out in Yilmana Densa district in Amhara Region, Ethiopia with the objectives to investigate the role of rural women in livestock and household decision activities and to examine the level of rural women participation in decision making. Authors found that the majority of rural women participated regularly in cleaning of animal, sheds preparing milk products, gathering dung, selling milk/milk product, selling egg/poultry and egg collection. In household management majority of rural women are regularly engaged in food preparation, looking after all family members preparing local beverages, cleaning the house, clean-up after meals, washing clothes, childcare, fetching water and embroidery. Capacitating rural women in all rounded developmental aspects can affect their livelihoods which enables them actively participate in various agricultural and nonagricultural activities. so, maximum attention should be given for rural women to build their capabilities in decision making. Moreover, appropriate ways and approaches to educate rural women should be given more emphasis to get equal access with rural women.

Baliyan (2014) concluded that women in study area do not enjoy a high degree of autonomy in decision making in the family in spite of their significant contribution to economy activities. Only in purely domestic matters like decoration of house, purchase of domestic goods, making of chulla/chakki, marriage of children etc. women are given freedom to take their own decision. But in matters related to children's education and occupation and money related matters they enjoy limited freedom. The movement of women outside home is also restricted. Thus, the patriarchic forms of decision making and dominance over women still continue in the study area. These attitudes have to undergo a change before women are able to fully enjoy the autonomy as an individual. Education and improvement in their economic independence will help in increasing women's involvement in decision-making in family.

Mehar and Prasad (2015) examined that women play a pivotal role in farm and non-farm activities in terms of labor contribution in the household, farm and animal production, and fuel wood and fodder collection. However, their role in rural families and farming is neither clear nor visible as they are seen as co-farmers, family labor or wage labor. The authors explore the gender based participation in household and farming decision as well as the differences in their access to resources. The results show that there are huge gender differences in terms of access to resources such as education, land entitlement, etc. Male farmer/member of the farming household has bigger say in household as well as farming decision and financial transactions. However, women's relative share in decision making is higher in low value added but arduous activities.

Neema (2015) explained that as part of decision-making, there are some 25 percent of married women who have stood their ground to control and own their earned resources within marital and family relations. However, this study found that the majority (about 80 percent) of married women in Ankore are resigned to accept their husbands' decisions in order to maintain their family relations, irrespective of the known exploitations. A small portion of separated women (0.2 percent) were opting to remain separate from their husbands. This study concluded that the traditional social systems and values that govern marriage and family institutions are still strong and binding. With the majority of women preferring to keep family relations over controlling and owning family resources, the empowerment of married women seems more of a vision than a reality. This study confirmed that in the case of Ankore families, improved discussion and conclusion 225 incomes as empowerment strategies have not enhanced or improved the position of married women in resource use, control, ownership and decision making relative to their husbands in family relations.

The author further stated that in study several contradictory shortfalls associated with the implementation of foreign legal Western-oriented approaches that are neither fully understood nor appreciated or appropriate in the secretive context and privacy attached to marital and traditional family relations. For instance, it was shared by leaders of family protection institutions that with little given information, there is never enough evidence as is required for the rule of law verdicts. Hence most reported

cases remain under investigation or are dismissed, which is a demoralizing factor for married women with family problems. With such incongruity in legal institutions with indigenous traditional practices, his study concluded that the increasing number of women in policymaking positions and the existence of intervening protective institutions as empowerment mechanisms have not necessarily improved married women's status to attain equality with men in decision-making nor have they granted them protection. The researcher study also revealed that certain individual women will in any given circumstance use any of the existing mechanisms that seem to offer them better solutions for their protection in solving marital and family conflicts. Furthermore, as a result of weaknesses in both traditional and Western approaches to conflict resolution, the frustrated party (husbands or wives) sometimes takes the law into their own hands (Wiki gender, 2008). Neema (2015) further noted that Ankore women seem to have been better positioned and protected in family relations in traditional pre-colonial times relative to subsequent times. Thus, despite the increasing number of women in policymaking positions and the existence of intervening legal institutions, his study concludes that women have not attained gender parity and equality in decision making possibilities at the household level.

Albert and Escardibul (2016) examined whether investment in the education of both women and men serves to empower wives resulting in more balanced household decisions being taken on matters related to consumption and financial management. They considered that household decision making could be made by mainly the wife, mainly the husband or couple acting jointly.

The authors concluded that education encourages joint decision-making. Thus education of both men and women helps wives to actively participate in the household decision making process.

2.2 National Context

Acharya and Bennett (1982) highlighted "decision making" from the multi-dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household they developed some model from the study of eight different village committees from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the villages were more conceived to be operating in much four spheres of subsistence

activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village. Nepalese women also play managerial role for decision making i.e. farm management, resources allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male/female input into the farm management decisions.

The authors argued that women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A woman has a greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women.

UNICEF (1990) explored that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information. For a large proportion of women, the written word still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, only 7 percent of gazette officer and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women in government services. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are men. The study shows about 50 percent of decisions are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female, which shows very low percent of decision making power on the part of women.

Pradhan and Shrestha (1990) found that the decision-making role within household system as an indicator of the status of women. The high status of women is expected to reduce fertility rate while opposite for those of lower status women. They found that in communities which encourage women to participate in economic gainful employment, women will have a higher status as compared to where those activities are restricted. Educational, economic, health and political status of women are discussed below.

Ghimire (1991) explained that Nepal has amongst the highest indices of son preference in the world; sons are desired because they carry on the family name and represent the old age insurance. Moreover, property is transmitted through them from one generation to the next. They are required to conduct rituals, at and after the death of father to secure his spiritual salvation. Among orthodox Hindu group, the birth of a boy is an occasion for rejoicing while the coming of a girl, especially a third or fourth one is cause for disappointment. "To be born a daughter is a misfortune" and let it be later but being a son is common saying in Nepalese society.

Limbu (1995) highlighted that importance of education as key factor for opening the door to women's life. Education is the most important tool to increasing aspirations, including economic development, awareness of rights and duties among the people that affect their education which permits the optional utilization of individual potential and enable women to reach decision making position in household as well as educational and administrative structure in the country. Limbu further showed that education provides employment opportunities for women on equal footing with men. So education is most important tools for household decision making power of women. Nepalese Society is regarded as the male dominated one. There is a wide gap between the status of male and female in terms of education, income, decision making and health concerns.

Tiwari (1995) found that women's decision-making role is determined by household economic status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebrations, greater freedom of choice at marriage, economics of women working in the household support in the absence of sons in the family, self-employment productive sectors.

Gurung (1999) explained that when daughter grow up, they will become wives. In other words, a labourer for another family sooner or later, moreover, if girls is not good at household and farm work owing to exposure to education, she might be looked down upon in her husband's family when she gets married. So, investment in a girl's education is discouraged. Generally, there has been more girls' dropout than boys at the primary level.

Singh (2000) argued that in patriarchal society, where the supremacy of men in every aspect of society and family life and men are recognized as a guardian and family

authority in decision making. In such society, one sided ruling of men exists in economic, social life and also in political arena. Motherhood, which is an enriching experience for many women and a key component of their self-identification often, become a terrible burden for women under current societal pressure. Too often young girl who are not yet ready for marriage are forced into marriage and early motherhood. Many women cannot even decided for themselves when and how many children to have, choice of contraception etc.

Thapa (2003) argued that more or less male dominance is practiced in our society. Due to this, females are deprived from gainful social as well as economic opportunities. They are getting involved more in laborious and physical activities. Very few females are lucky to get opportunity to engage in white color job. Most are surrounded by household boundaries. They are mainly engaged in cooking, livestock caring, firewood collection, grass/fodder management child rearing, agriculture activities, household chores; they have low access to education, employment and medical facilities. Though status of female has been improved recently, still it is not satisfactory. It is essential to eliminate the gender disparity which is prevailed in our society. National development is not possible, if women are not brought into mainstream of development as well as in decision making process. In this situation, empowerment and enhancement of economic activities to females is essential to raise their status in society and bring them out from the household boundaries.

Pandit (2003) mentioned that women's participation at local level, especially village level in development activities as well as decision making process has increased though it is not satisfactory, women participation in the decision making activities has been less effective due to social structure and cultural norms, which assign women only secondary roles. Women are mostly confining to household chores. As a result they have very less time to spend in social and development activities. Furthermore, women are not getting opportunities to share their views and experiences in important forums. Women have to expose to income generation activities to make them dependent. Education is one of the successful tools to fight against all sorts of discrimination and injustice. So the future generation needs to the educated and their skills have to be promoted to make them politically conscious and take various important responsibilities.

ADB (2004) argued that Population and development programs are most effective when steps have simultaneously been taken to improve the status of women in the decision making process. In Nepal, as in most parts of South Asia, women commonly have less power and autonomy than men in making decisions about household and their health as well. Moreover, women often have unequal access to food, education, and health care, limited opportunities to earn incomes, restricted access to, and control over, productive resources, and very few effective legal rights.

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

Sharma (2005) explained that the Nepalese economy is still predominantly subsistence agriculture with 86 percent of the total population living in rural areas and 81 percent deriving their livelihoods from agriculture. National agricultural productivity is low although it accounts approximately 60 percent of GDP and 75 percent of exports. Women work relatively harder than the men. Production in the absence of women's participation is beyond imagination. Women reserve the grain, look after livestock, grow vegetables, the transplant crop saplings at the start of the plantation season and then again reap, thresh and clean the harvest. Such activities are not restricted to the village economy alone; they are also equally involved in the development works. They also play significant role in national economy. They currently constitute approximately 40 percent of the total work force in the country. However, women occupy the low status jobs and are paid less than men. The 1991 population census report shows that women still lag far behind men in high status jobs

Gurung (2007) argued that decision-making power of women is influenced by demographic, social and economic factors. Demographic variables such as age and marital status are important factors, which determine the social role and responsibilities of women. Job opportunities and mobility in society is determined by education and chances of participation in social activities which finally influence the decision-making. Economic variables as employment and economic status play important role to build up the self-confidence, which directly influences the decision-making power of women.

UNDP (2009) concluded that such constraints have been somewhat universal. It clearly states that, in spite of much progress in many developing countries in the preceding five decades, the structure and quality of growth has not been satisfactory everywhere. It has been very inequitable to women. In the same vein, the Beijing Platform for Action stated that most of the goals set out in the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the advancement of women have not been achieved. Barriers to women's empowerment remain as it was despite the efforts of government as well as NGOs and women and men everywhere. Highlighted, in particular, where the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; the related services; the violence against women; the unequal access to power and decision-making roles; the inequalities in economic structures and policies and in access to resources; the bias in the mass media and the communications system; and inadequate mechanisms at all levels to promote women's interest and advancement.

Acharya et al. (2010) concluded that many factors affect the ability of women to take part in the decision-making process in the household. Some of these factors relate to the type of decision that is taken and some to the background of the women. The third millennium development goal (MDG) aims to promote gender equality and empower women. It emphasizes to increase financial resources to accelerate the goal that equally benefit and empower women and girls. Many intervention programmes exist to improve women's household position in Nepal; however their situation still appears as bleak. Women from middle and richer class have the least decision-making power, which suggests involving them in education and decent employment to lessen their dependency on the family members and husband/partner. In the household, husband-wife relations are central to women's autonomy in decision making, and improved

communication between them can deserve sustained support. Women are excluded from decision-making by more than just lack of education. Employment and education have always empowered women and brought a positive impact on decision making, including reducing the inequalities among men and women. One effective method to do so is to incorporate the notion of empowerment in school curricula. Attention should also be given to those women who do not attend school, through non-formal education. A curriculum for such programmes should be developed with a clear policy framework to reduce differences in education and employment between men and women.

Karki (2011) conducted a case study of Kirtipur municipality about the women participation on the household decision making process. Focusing on the women's socio economic status and decision making power, this study make objective that to explore the women's capacity in the economic activities and social activities, to find out the women's capacity in the household decision making in different aspects like household related expenditure, social and other activities and other household related activities and to recommend the suggestion belonging person for uplift the women's role in household decision making and to access in socio-economic activities. This research is based on the primary and secondary data where primary data was collected on the basis of structured questionnaire, interview with key informants. And secondary data was bringing from article, previous thesis work, websites, and journal and so on. Keeping this objectives in the mind, this study comes to conclusion that most of the women were just literate, they were just passed S.L.C. women have low capacity in the household and economic decision making process. They were just follower of decision made by male head of the family. However literate women have higher decision making power compared to illiterate women. Majority of the people are engaged in the business as a main occupation. This study suggests that women should give education to increase decision making power. Education is one of the weapons of the women to show their capacity within the house and society.

Neupane (2011) concluded that research on the role of women in household decision making, there is dominate role of men in decision making process. Although the participation of female in decision making process is highly influenced by cast, age, group and women's educational status. This study concludes that female have lower

decision making power and women subordinate role in family and in society. Women are deprived from their right and responsibilities. Women have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. Female have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process. Unless female are brought into the main stream of development it is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this education and empowerment plays an important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making. Women have to report their male counterpart's decision in most of the cases. Thought women have responsibility to complete the work; women have no chance to decide for it.

Sushma Tiwari (2014) highlighted that a country's socio-economic growth cannot take place if half of its population is down-trodden. In Nepal of every section of society are excluded in one of other form. The identity of women comes from her own family and decision-making autonomy also should start from the household. The status of women in the household is one of most important indicators of women empowerment. The identity and status of women come from her own family and decision-making autonomy also should start from household. But an author concluded that very small proportion of women take household decision and thus has very low decision making autonomy.

Sapkota (2014) explained that women's role in household decision making in Damak VDC. This study is based upon the primary data collected from the field survey. The major objective of this study is to explore the role of women in household decision in economic, health and education sector. In this research researcher found that the religion also influences the women status and change must brought above by women themselves on the traditional values and customs which helps them to boost up their status in society they tanning programs should be innovated through the advanced studies. Cooperation from male counterparts belongs. Thus to remove the unnecessary women's activities of culture, various skill development will also increase the time for women can spend productively. If men help women even a little bit in their household work, women get relief from their backbreaking household activities and can get some rest, which will make them more alert and productive in other works.

2.3 Research Gap

Many national or international research related women's field shows that a lot of important decisions such as financial affairs were only made by husbands. Women were just responsible for decisions which were considered to be unimportant and trivial by both husband and wife for instance, choosing the house interior decorations. Women get low wages in comparison to men counterparts. In societies the women participation is an issue how they participate economically, socially etc. is considered. Women marry at the early age and they have the responsibilities of their family only and low opportunities to play public roles in societies. They have also the less power in the family. They are discriminated in every aspect of the societies. Women have faced hegemonic character from the male counterparts. In our societies the social status of the women is always thought to be that of subordinate to men. In most of the societies if the women get good opportunities of employments, the people thought that the women will become strong so all these things are restricted and they less participate.

Many studies have been carried out ever since the 1970s onward. These studies reveal that most of the decision making concerning activities are made by men and women are only engaged in domestic works like decoration home, caring children, making *Chula/chauki* etc. Decision making autonomy to women is much neglected in developing countries. Women play a great role in overall development and progress of the nation, but their participation in different fields either directly or indirectly is still behind many aspects. In the Nepalese context, the studies have been done related in the women's role in household decision making in various indigenous groups. The previous research in Nepal, many researchers found that women suffer from poverty, illiteracy and household burden; women in this country have been socially and economically handicapped. In most cases, women are considered inferior to men, and their life is restricted within the four walls of the houses, for taking any decision, less power is given to women as they have a right to take decisions regarding various items, as that of the men.

However no studies have been done in Tilahar VDC of Parbat district inclusive of all castes and groups. Such inclusion is quite new subject to the research. This study is very useful because it represents the population of typical hillside and thereby

resembles overall population of Parbat district. The total population is 1201 and the geographical topography for the population is all alike. Then the expected findings will be reliable in nature. The study is helps to fulfill the vacuum of the related issues of role of women in household decision making. Hence, the study has covered some important issues on the role of women in household decision making of mountain area of Nepal.

CHAPTER–III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Short Look in the Study Area

Present study has been conducted in Tilahar VDC of Parbat district which lies on Dhaulagiri Zone of centre Nepal. It is situated on western hilly region which is 45 km far from Pokhara in the west and 13 km far from Kushma in the east. According to National population and Household census 2011, there are 1201 household where the total population of the study area is 4614. Out of this population, the numbers of male members are 1954 and female members are 2660. The Tilahar VDC areas of different cast and ethnicities.

3.2 Research Design

This study tries to identify the role of women in household decision making of aged between the 15 to 59 years married women or economically active women, in terms of their health, educational, employment status, household decision making etc. although the national population census has included the population 10 years and above into economically active frame, only the years of 15 to 59 women were taken in this study since the labor of under 15 years children is considered illegal. Likewise the person of above 49 year is less active. This study is based on both exploratory and descriptive type research design.

3.3 Population/ Sample Size

According to Central Bureau of Statistics 2011 a total of 1201 household are found within the nine wards of Tilahar VDC of Parbat district. Although the prescribed VDC possess nine wards. This study is targeted to pick up only three wards. Those are 5, 6, 8 which contain 59, 350 and 141 household respectively. The total household among the wards 5, 6, and 8 constitute up of total 550 in number. But we have been take 10 percent of the every ward of the total household of three ward of Tilahar VDC. Therefore out of 54 households 5 house from ward 5. In the similar manner out of 350 and 141 household of words 3 and 4 the sample sizes of Household were selected 35 and 14 respectively. Therefore all together 54 household have been picked up as a sample size from target wards. Final from each household one married women

of age 15-59 has been selected as respondents through systematic random sampling. Unmarried women and below 15 year and above 59 years are not included in this study as a sample

Table 3.1 shows the population of study area:

Table 3.1: Population of Study Area

Ward No	Households	Male	Female	Total
1	77	148	153	301
2	109	175	248	423
3	108	176	256	432
4	82	118	199	317
5	59	103	140	243
6	350	584	731	1315
7	119	187	287	474
8	141	214	293	507
9	156	249	353	602
Total	1201	1954	2660	4614

Sources: National Population Census2011, Household and Population by Sex Ward Level. (CBS, GON)Retrieved from [cbs.gov.np/sectoral statistics/population]

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

Data for this study has been collected from the field survey. The study has been conducted mainly on the basis of primary data supported by secondary data. Primary data has collected through formal methods structured questionnaire, interviews, fields and observation. Similarly secondary data has been collected through various published and unpublished information by related organization. Publication of central bureau of statics, women's organization, various websites, and articles related to women, DDC and VDC profile/ reports, previous research were major sources of secondary data.

3.5 Primary Data Collection

The primary data have been collected from the field survey from 2016 AD., October 1 to October 20 through various techniques such as questionnaire, interview with key informants and observation method. The structured questions were asked directly to the married women of age 15 to 59, to get information about the women's education, employment, property ownership status and their decision making power.

3.5.1 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 sheds, buying household things, domestic expenditure, caring on health sanitation caring the children education, family planning etc

3.5.2 Interview with Key Information

The present study has been also conducted by discussing with the local teachers, VDC representatives, elder person, and 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.

3.5.3 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.

3.6 Secondary Data Collection

The secondary data have been collected from various published and unpublished materials by related organizations such as VDC profile of Tilahar VDC, DDC profile of Parbat district, CBS, 2011 profile etc.

3.7 Tools of Data Collection

Data for the study were collected with questionnaire by personal interviewing of the respondent women .The data, thus will be collected using questionnaire, observation, and key information interviews. The researchers will consult different sources such as VDC profile, journals, magazines, articles and statistical report from the advance of the advance of the adviser, experts and colleagues.

3.7 Data Analysis

All the collected data have been transcribed into excel texts to ease the data analysis. Then data has been edited, coded, tabulated and classified according to objective and hypothesis of study. The data has been analyzed by using simple and suitable mathematical and statistical tools like tabulation, frequency, pie chart, others presentation.

CHAPTER - IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Tilahar is a village Development committee in Parbat District in the Dhawalagiri Zone of Centre Nepal. It is situated on western hilly region which is 45 km far from Pokhara in the west and 13 km far from Kushma in the east. According to National Population and Household C ensus 2011, there are 1201 household where the total population of the study area is 4614. Out of this population, the numbers of male members are 1954 and female members are 2660.

It is well known socio-economic characteristics of the people explain many aspects of their lives. In this chapter the socio-economic status of women has been studied, especially of those that are married. It includes some socio-economic variables that directly or indirectly affect socio economic status of women like ethnic group, marital status, education status, family structure. Major occupation or employment, number of children, Age at marriage, land holding pattern, banking balances of energy, health of Respondents etc.

4.1.1 Ethic Composition of Study Area

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

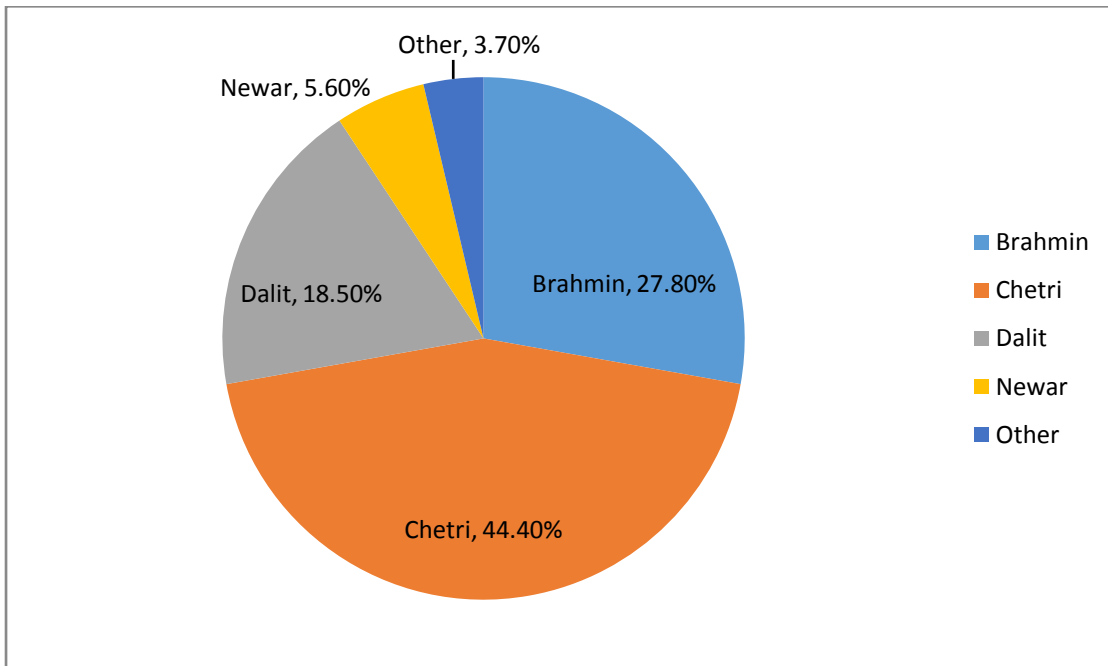
The table 4.1 and figure 4.1 reveal that ethnic composition of the respondents in the study area:

Table 4.1: Distribution of Household by Ethnic Composition

Ethnic Groups	Number of Household	Percentage
Brahmin	15	27.8
Chettri	24	44.4
Dalit	10	18.5
Newar	3	5.6
Others	2	3.7
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.1: Distribution of Household by Ethnic Composition



Source: On the basis of table4.1

This table 4.1 and figure 4.1 show ethnic distribution of respondents. Among the total respondents Chhetri are the highest contain 44.4 percent, followed by Brahmin 27.8 percent. The third position is occupied by Dalit 18.5 percent, 5.6 percent Newar, which is slightly greater than others 3.7 percent. It is due to the large population of Chhetri, Brahmin and Dalit in the study area.

4.1.2 Marital Status

Only married women of age group 15-59 are the respondents of present study. Marital status is also a social indicator for understanding the socio-economic status of women. Marital status changes the women's status. It also changes 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 4.2.

Table 4.2: Marital Status of the Respondents

S.N	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Married	49	90.7
2	Widowed	5	9.3
Total		54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.2 shows that out of 54 sample household, 49(90.7%) of them are found to be married and only 5 (9.3 %) 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 is even worse. They have to face the curse and unnecessary blames of the society. .

4.1.3 Educational Status of the Household Couple

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision making process in the society. In most of the cases, it can be seen that higher educational status played dominant role in decision making field. It is a principal mechanism of fulfilling an agent for awareness and change. Therefore it is central to the process of empowering both men and women. The table 4.3 depicts the educational status of the women chosen in this study.

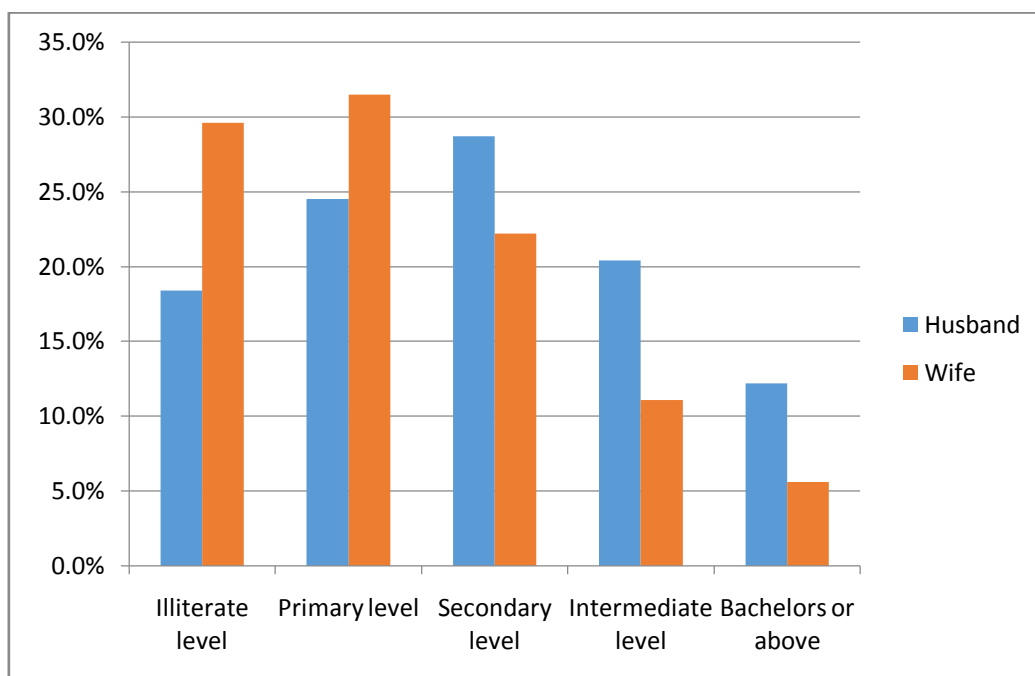
Table 4.3: Educational Status of the Household Couples

Education	No. of Respondents			
	Husband	percent	Wife	Percent
Illiterate level	9	18.4	16	29.6
Primary level	12	24.5	17	31.5
Secondary level	14	28.7	12	22.2
Intermediate level	9	20.4	6	11.1
Bachelors or above	5	12.2	3	5.6
Total	49	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Questions were put up to only married women during age of 15-59 this research. This above table shows that out of 49 male populations and 54 respondents female populations Greater percentage of female (29.6 %) is illiterate than male (18.4 percent). Out of 54 female respondents in primary level, 31.5 percent wife educated, 24.5 percent husband they studied primary level education. In the case secondary level 28.7 percent husband were educated but 22.2 percent wife. On the other hand, in intermediate 20.4 percent husband were educated and 11.1 percent wife were. And finally in bachelors or above 12.2 percent husbands were getting their education and only 5.6 percent wife was educated. In the area the female population of age group 35-59 is found to be more illiterate than 15-35.

Figure 4.2: Educational Status of the Household Couples



Source: On the basis of table 4.2

In the comparison we show that 29.6 percent wife were illiterate. The illiteracy rate of wife is higher than the husband. In the primary level wife rate is higher than husband. Most of the women leave their education after primary level that's why data shows the rate of wife is more in primary level. In aggregate the findings of secondary level, intermediate, bachelors and above the rate of husband's education are higher than the wife. Thus we safely conclude that the practice like daughters were only involved in household activities and sons were send to school still seems in the society.

4.1.4 Family Structure of Respondents

Family is the basic unit of the society and it is an institution which plays important role in building society. There are mainly two types of the families in the study area. One is nuclear and another is joint family .The family structure also affects the families and women’s socio-economic status. In nuclear family decision making role and socio economic indicator are higher than comparison in the joint family. The respondent area classified according to the family structure

Table 4.4: Family Structure of Sample Household

S.N	Family Structure	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Nuclear Family	31	57.4
2	Joint Family	23	42.6
Total		54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.4 shows that 42.6 percent of the sample households comprised joint family and the remaining 57.4 percent the households are nuclear family. Thus the table shows that the family structure of this area are more in nuclear type than joint in the study area.

4.1.5 Occupational composition of the Household Couple

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 Tilahar VDC. Besides agriculture they are engaged in income activities like small business which includes small shop, service, tailoring, wage labor, household works, foreign employment and others. The table 4.5 shows the occupational pattern of sample household.

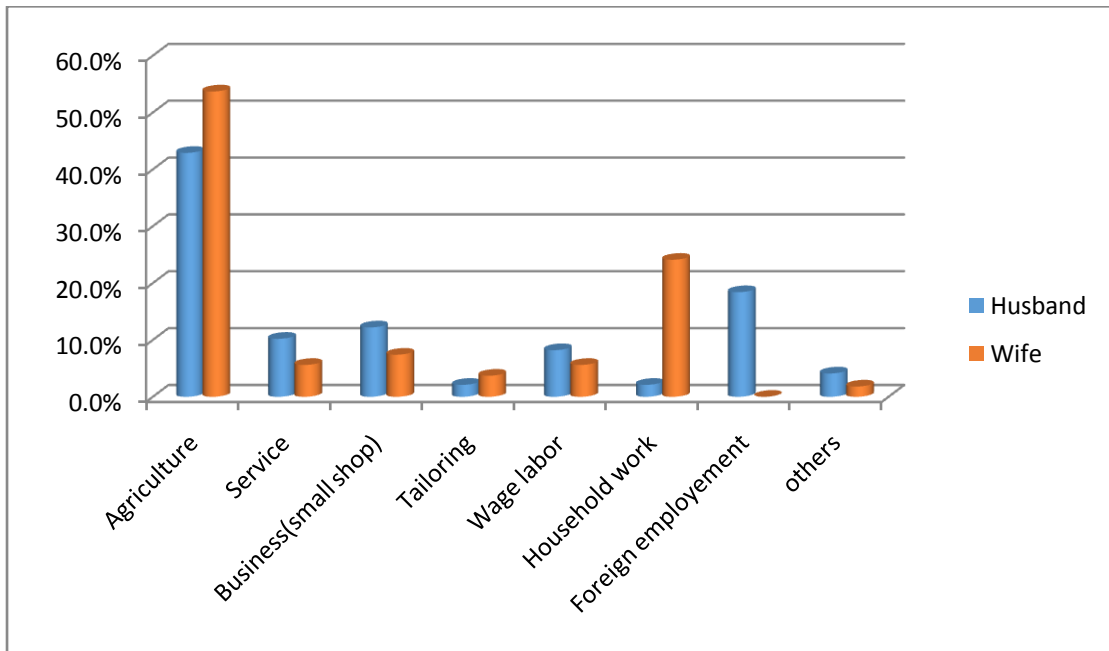
Table 4.5: Occupations of Sample Household

Occupation	Number of Populations			
	Husband	Percent	Wife	Percent
Agriculture	21	42.9	28	53.7
Service	5	10.2	3	5.6
Business(small shop)	6	12.2	4	7.4
Tailoring	1	2.1	2	3.7
Wage labor	4	8.2	3	5.6
Household work	1	2.1	13	24.1
Foreign employment	9	18.4	0	0
Others	2	4.1	1	1.8
Total	49	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.5 and figure 4.3 show that out of 49 male population 42.9 percent of them are found to be engaged in agriculture 10.2 percent in service, 12.2 percent in Business, 2.1 in percent in tailoring .8.2 percent in wage labor and 2.1 percent in households work and 18.4 percent in foreign employment, 2 percent others like grazing cattle etc. In the same way out of 54 female respondents 53.7 percent of them are found to be concentrated mainly upon agriculture. 5.6 percent in service, 7.4 in business(small shop), 3.7percent in tailoring, 5.6 percent in wage labor, 24.1 percent in household work, no one of them in foreign employment,1.8 percent in others like selling of livestock products, grazing cattle etc.

Figure 4.3: Occupation of the Sample Household



Source: On the basis of table 4.5

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

4.1.6 Numbers of Children among the Different Households

Most couples who get married generally plan to have children. Children are the property of parents. Small family having, only two children gets the best in everything, like better education, parents fulfil their every needs. On the other hand big family having more than two children, they have to compromise in all the things like in education, fooding, clothing and all the necessary things of their. It was clearly shown in the table 4.6 about the number of children among the different household.

Table 4.6: Number of Children among the Different Household

Number of children	Numbers of Household	Ethnic Groups					Total
		Brahmn	Chhetri	Dalit	Newar	Others	
							OF 54
0	2	-	1	1	-	-	3.7
1	7	1	5	-	1	-	13
2	13	4	6	1	1	1	24.1
3	16	5	8	3			29.6
4	12	4	3	3	1	1	22.2
5	4	1	1	2		-	7.4
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	54						100

Note: A dash (-) denotes nil in figure.

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The distribution of children among the 54 household and also among the different ethnic groups now is seen. There are two household without any children, one from the chhetri and dalit casts.16 households are found to consist 3 children each which show a highest of 29.6 percent out of the total. Thus the table shows that most of the household have three children.

4.1.7Age at Marriage

In legal minimum age at marriage for both girls and boys is 18. In Some societies, girls are still married at younger age. As shown in the table 4.7 age at marriage of respondents.

Table 4.7: Age at Marriage of Respondents

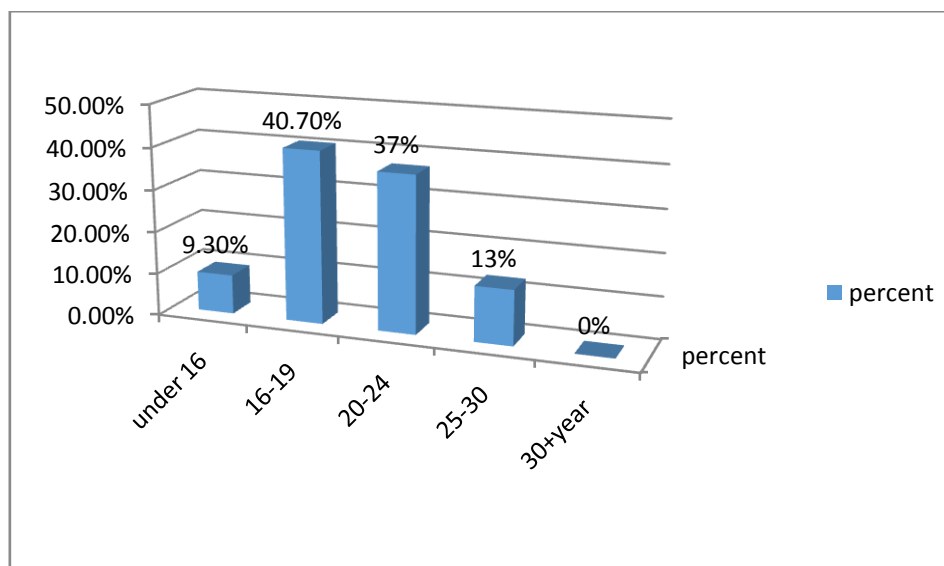
Age at Marriage	Number of Respondents	Percent
under16	5	9.3
16-19	22	40.7
20-24	20	37
25-30	7	13
30 +year	-	-
	54	100

Note: A dash (-) denotes nil in figure.

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Women who get married between the ages of 16-19 years is found to be maximum. They constitute of 40.7 percent and are followed by women who get married the ages under 16 is 9.3 percent. Thus we can safely conclude that early marriage are still practiced among these women

Figure 4.4: Age at Marriage



Source: On the basis of table 4.7

4.1.8 Land Holding

Land can be considered as the key resource. Nepal is an agricultural country where more than 80 percent people depend upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. As shown in table 4.10 land holding status of respondents.

Table 4.8: Land Holding Respondents

S.N	Land Holding(khet/bari)in ropani	No. of Household	Percent
1	No land	4	7.41
2	0-2	11	20.37
3	2-4	16	29.63
4	4-6	13	24.07
5	6-8	5	9.26
6	8-10	3	5.56
7	10+	2	3.70
Total		54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.8 and figure 4.5 show that out of the total 54 household 50 of them (92.59%) have their own land and the rest 4 household (7.41%) do not have their own land. most of the household have less than 4 ropani of land, 16 household have only 2-4 ropani, 11 household possessed 0-2 ropani of land .Similarly 13 household possessed 4-6 ropani, 3 household have 8-10 ropani of land and only 2 household have land more than 10 ropani. Thus, it can be concluded from the finding that most of the respondents have small land holding.

4.1.9 Land Ownership

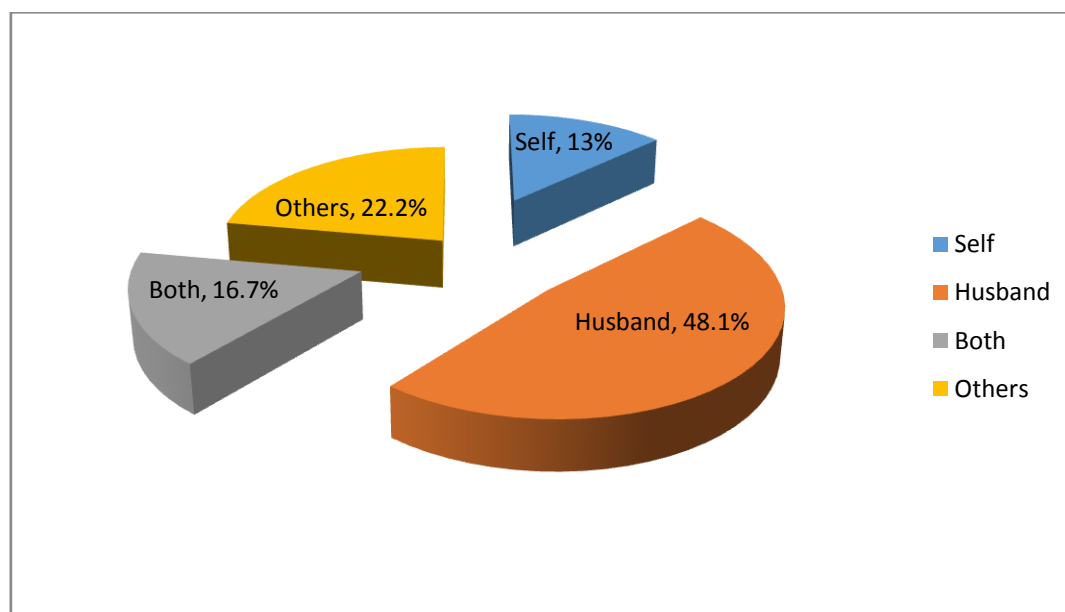
Ownership over the land, is observed one of the very important factors determining the women's status and correspondingly to their decision making participation within the family. The more land she has the more power to decision making authority in the family. As shown in table 4.9 distribution of respondents by land ownership.

Table: 4.9 Distributions of Respondents by Land Ownership

Land ownership	Number of respondents	Percent
Self	7	13
Husband	26	48.1
Both	9	16.7
Others	12	22.2
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.5: Distribution of the Respondents by Land Ownership



Source: On the basis of table 4.9

The study shows that only 13 percent of the respondents whose family has its own land are the legal owner of the land. In 48.1 percent cases husbands are the legal owner whereas, in 16.7 percent cases both respondents and their husbands are the legal owner of the land in their family. 22.2 percent, other members in the family are the legal owner. The other members in all the cases are either father-in-law or mother-in-law of the respondents.

4.1.10 Use of Energy

Energy is essential for cooking as well as burning light at house. Traditionally firewood was the only source of energy in Nepal. Even to this day in rural areas, firewood only is used for cooking. Presently the LP gas, Bio-Gas are used as source of energy.

Table 4.10: Use of Energy

Fuel	Number of Household	%(out of 54)
Firewood	41	75.9
Bio-Gas	3	5.6
Lp Gas	10	18.5
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Total Household (100%) is found to use firewood as their main source of fuel. Lp gas also found as widely used among them .Bio-Gas as fuel used follow with only 5.6 percent.

4.1.11Health of Respondents

The health status of Nepalese people is one of the lowest in the South Asian region and this is particularly true for Nepal. Nepal is one of the countries of the world where life expectancy for women is lower than of men

Women of the study area attempts were made to, which suffering from assess the various aspects of health problem

Table 4.11: Beliefs on Medical Treatment

S.N	Beliefs	No. of Household	Percentage
1	Doctors	34	63
2	Dhami/jhakri	3	5.5
3	Both	17	31.5
Total		54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the table 4.11, 63 percent household believed on doctor &only 5.5 percent believed on traditional witch doctors called dhami, jhakris. A large majority believed in doctors& 31.5 percent blieved in both (doctor &dhami/jhakri).

4.1.12Banking Balance

A bank balance is the amount of funds in bank balance. A habit of doing bank balance is good. It makes a women stronger physically or mentally in the society. Bank balance of women also shows the socio-economic status of women. Women have very less bank balance in their name in Nepal. As shown in table 4.12 banking balance of respondents.

Table 4.12: Banking Balance of Respondents

Activities	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	16	29.6
No	38	70.4
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

According to this research out of 54 respondent's women, there are few women 29.6 percent have bank balance in total. From in depth interview, women's husband migrates in India and other country working so they have bank account for transferring the money from other country.

4.2 Role of Women in Household Decision Making

Decision making power of Nepalese women is very low. Nepali society is characterized generally patriarchal. Accordingly, cultural values and social norms legitimize sex role, status customary behavior within and outside the households. Men enjoy disproportionate power, prestige and influence. The degree to which they decide on the major events of their family affairs and household activities is very low. Women's decision –making role in family is assessed in terms of the extent of their participation in making decisions on family affairs like; schooling of children, Family members treatment, determination of number of children and other issues. This chapter deals with the women's (especially of those that married) role in terms of decision making in different aspects of household activities, health, determination of children, children's education management aspect, household expenditure/purchase, saving of household income, cropping pattern, expenditure in children's family planning. In This chapter, concerted effort have been made to analyze women's status within the household with special emphasis on their decision making power as compared to their male counterpart. The information included is in consonance with its methodology used which was collected from women of four different ethnic communities, namely Brahmin, Chhetri, Dalit (Damai, Kami, Sarki), Newar and others.

4.2.1 Household Activities

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

Table 4.13: Daily Household Activities

Household daily activities	Sex	No of household total	%
Caring children and disable member	Male	9	16.67
	Female	39	72.22
	Both	6	11.11
	Total	54	100
Cooking for family	Male	5	9.26
	Female	46	85.18
	Both	3	5.56
	Total	54	100
Cleaning house	Male	7	12.96
	Female	38	70.37
	Both	9	16.67
	Total	54	100
Washing clothes for family	Male	2	3.70
	Female	47	87.04
	Both	5	9.26
	Total	54	100
Collection of fuel	Male	9	16.67
	Female	34	62.96
	Both	11	20.37
	Total	54	100
Welcoming and serving guest	Male	5	9.26
	Female	37	68.52
	Both	12	22.22
	Total	54	100
Other household activities	Male	7	12.96
	Female	34	62.96
	Both	13	24.08
	Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In the total 4.13, 54 sampled household 9 males & 39 females and 6 males and female both are engage the charring children and disable member daily household activities. 5 males & 46 females and 3 are male and female together cooking for family. 12.96 percent and 70.37 percent males and females respectively engage the cleaning house. Similarly, 16.67 percent male and female together engage the cleaning house. Only 3.70 percent males engage washing clothes for family and 87.04 percent females 9.26 percent males and females together engage washing clothes for family. Collection fuel are engage the 9 males, 34 females and 11 males and females both together respondent household, more than 50 percent female are engage the welcoming and serving guest activities. In the sampled respondent 7 household male are engage the other daily household activities and 34 female, 13 males and females both together. Thus we can conclude that more women concentrated mainly on household and kitchens chores.

4.2.2 Decision in Division of Household Activities

Usually distribution of household activities is duty of household head. In joint family parents in law is household head. In the single family female either male is head in house. They can distribute the household activities in both.

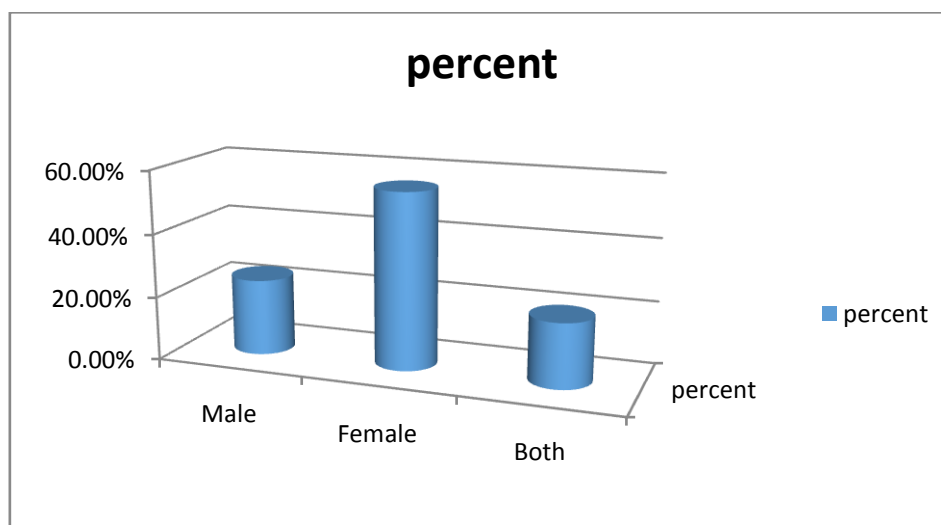
In this research aspect from sex to distribution of household activities, only female is 55.56 percent in distribution of household activities and only male is 24.07 percent. and 20.37 males and females both together.

Table 4.14: Distribution of Work

Decision Maker	No of household	Percent
Male	13	24.07
Female	30	55.56
Both	11	20.37
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure4.6: Distribution of Work



Source: On the basis of table4.14

Women have do all household activities but in distribution of work is not satisfactory. In the /focus group discuss many women say that women's participation in distribution of work in just domesticity. This area is not out of kitchen.

4.2.3 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 4.15: Decision Making Role in Health Management

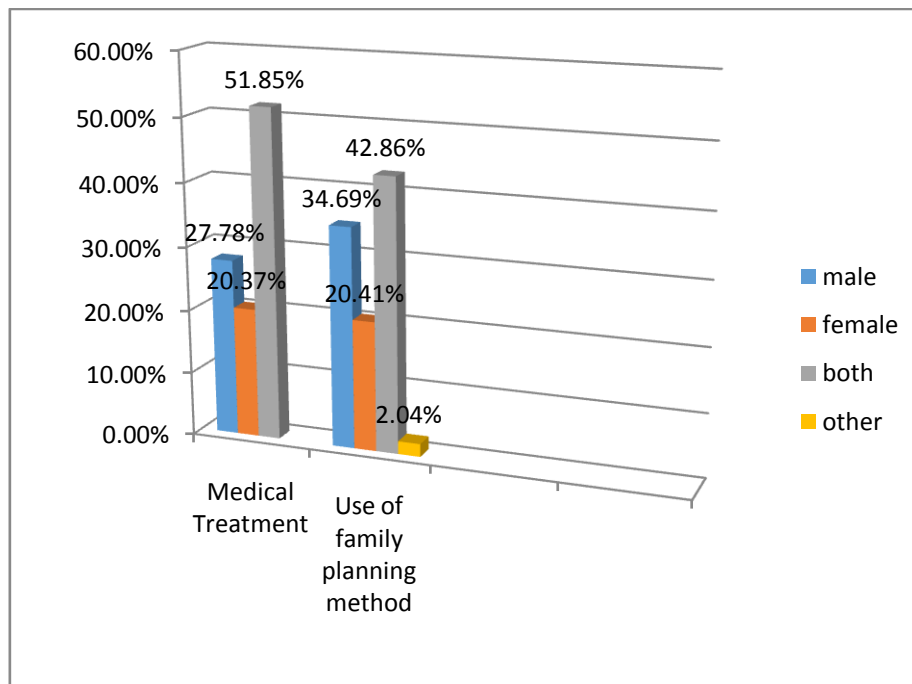
Decision maker	Sex	Number of Household	Percent
Activities			
Medical treatment	Male	15	27.78
	Female	11	20.37
	Both	28	51.85
	Total	54	100
Use of family planning method	Male	17	34.69
	Female	10	20.41
	Both	21	42.86
	Other	1	2.04
	Total	49	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.15 and figure 4.7 show that 27.78 percent men have in the decision making role regarding seeking treatment activities while very few only 20.37 women have least decision making role in concerning field. On the other hand 51.85percent both men and women have their joint effort in the decision making role in seeking treatment which is highest score in the decision making role regarding seeking treatment activities. 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 table 4.15 and figure 4.7, it is found that 34.69percent women have decision making power about the family planning few only 20.41 percent female 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 t which contributes 42.86percent. Hence the above table depicts that joint decision making is highest in use of FP method.

Figure 4.7: Decision Making Role in Health Management



Source: On the basis of table 4.15

4.2.4 Determination of Children

Determination of children are the human right with which every women is endowed with a basic right. Determination of children rest on the recognition if the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibility. In the table 4.16 shows the decision making role in determination of children.

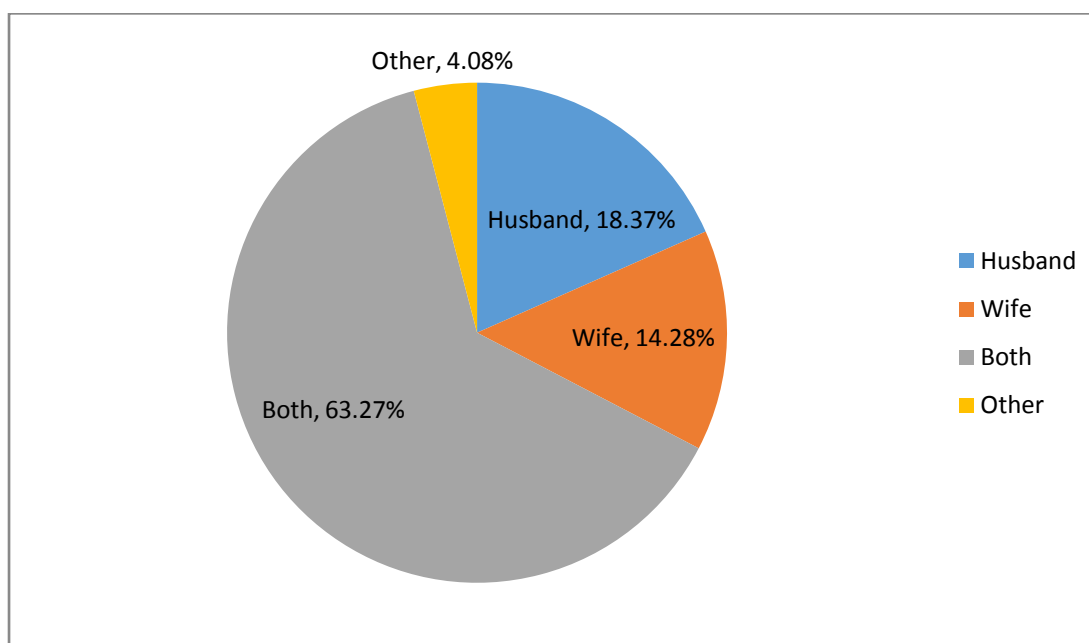
Table 4.16: Decision Making Role in Determination of Children

Household decision maker	No. of Household	Percent
Husband	9	18.37
Wife	7	14.28
Both	31	63.27
Other	2	4.08
Total	49	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Regarding the number of children to have the joint decision of husband and wife appear to be the strongest 63.27 percent among the 49 women who responded to the question. While the decision of the husband alone and respondents alone are also seen significant 18.37 percent and 14.28 percent respectively. And other decision is 4.08 percent.

Figure 4.8: Decision making role in Determination of Children



Source: On the basis of table 4.16

4.2.5 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, management and payment of fees activities.

Table 4.17: Decision Making Role in Children's Education Management Aspect

Activities	Decision maker	Total number of household	Percent
Schooling of children	Male	22	45.83
	Female	9	18.75
	Both	17	35.42
	Total	48	100
Purchasing education materials	Male	28	58.33
	Female	9	18.75
	Both	11	22.92
	Total	48	100
Uniform management	Male	8	16.67
	Female	37	77.08
	Both	3	6.25
	Total	48	100
Payment of fees	Male	26	54.17
	Female	12	25
	Both	10	20.83
	Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of total 54 respondent's household, 2 household have not children. Out of total household 48 household send their children to school.

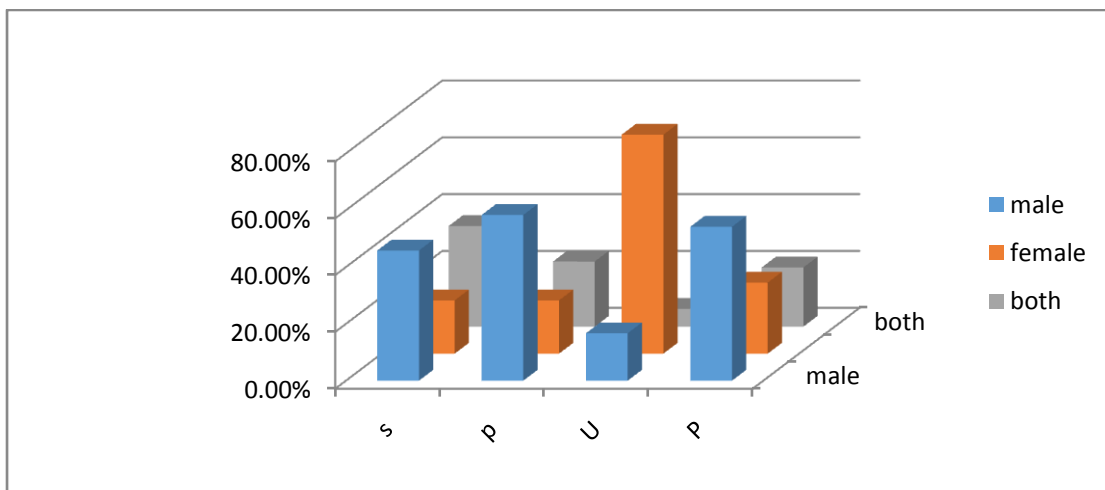
For the concern of schooling of the child, the above table shows that maximum decision goes in the hand of males 45.83 percent while the least decision goes in the hand of females 18.75 percent. On the other hand both males and females 35.42 percent have decision making role in the concerning activity.

In the context of purchasing educational materials, the same table shows that highest decision making power goes in the hand of men 58.33percent and least decision making power goes in the hand of female18.75 percent. But both men and women 22.92 percent have their joint decision making role.

The table 4.17 and figure 4.9also show that in concerning uniform management activities, 77.08percent 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 6.25 percent.

The table 4.17 and 4.9 also show that for the payment of fees of children’s education, majority of decisions were made by males 54.17percent and very few decisions are made by females 25percent. The role of decision making by the joint effort of both males and females contribute 20.83percent.

Figure 4.9: Decision Making role in Children Education Management Aspect



Source: On the basis of table 4.17

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

4.2.6 Farm Management

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

4.2.6.1 Cropping Pattern

The cropping pattern includes the decision making role of women in various farm activities such as seed selection, plunging planting. Spreading manure, irrigation activities and harvesting. The decision making role of sample household is cropping pattern has been presented below.

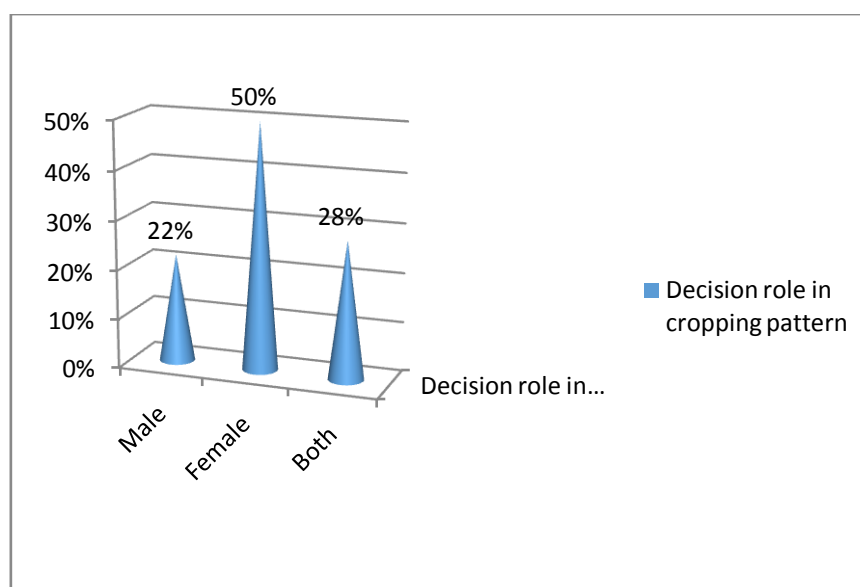
Table 4.18: Decision making Role in Cropping Pattern

Decision maker	Number of household	Percent
Male	11	22
Female	25	50
Both	14	28
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the table 4.18 and figure 4.10, it is clearly evident that the female of the household have a greater inputs in the cropping pattern decision making process, scoring a 50 percent of the total. The husband decision in cropping pattern is only 22 percent. The joint decisions both the male and female member 28 percent out of total 54 household , we found that 4 household have no land.

Figure 4.10: Decision role in Cropping Pattern



Source: On the basis of table 4.8

4.2.6.2 Livestock Management

Table4.19: Decision Making Role in Livestock Management

Activities	Decision maker	Total no. of household	Percent
Livestock purchase	Male	8	21.05
	Female	19	50
	Both	11	28.95
	Total	38	100
Livestock sale	Male	6	24
	Female	11	44
	Both	8	32
	Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In the table 4.19 see that only 38 out of the 54 household are involved in a recent livestock purchase. The table shows that in the case of livestock purchasing activities participation of female in the decision making role are found to be 50percent, male 21.05 percent and both male and females 28.951 percent out of the total respondents. Thus the table reflects that women play dominant role in the family for making decision in the livestock purchasing activities.

It should be noted that only 25out of 54 household were engaged in a recent sale of livestock. From the above table it is found that 44 percent decisions are made by female in selling livestock activities, 24 percent decisions are only taken by males and 32percent decisions are made in the hand of both men and women in effort. Thus it is found that highest percent of women in the selling activities of livestock.

4.2.7 Household Expenditure

4.2.7.1 Small Expenditure of household

It has been found out that all the household activities like food, clothing and Bazaar purchase etc. considered as unproductive activities in our society and are mostly done by female. The table 4.20 shows the decision maker on small household expenditure in the sample household.

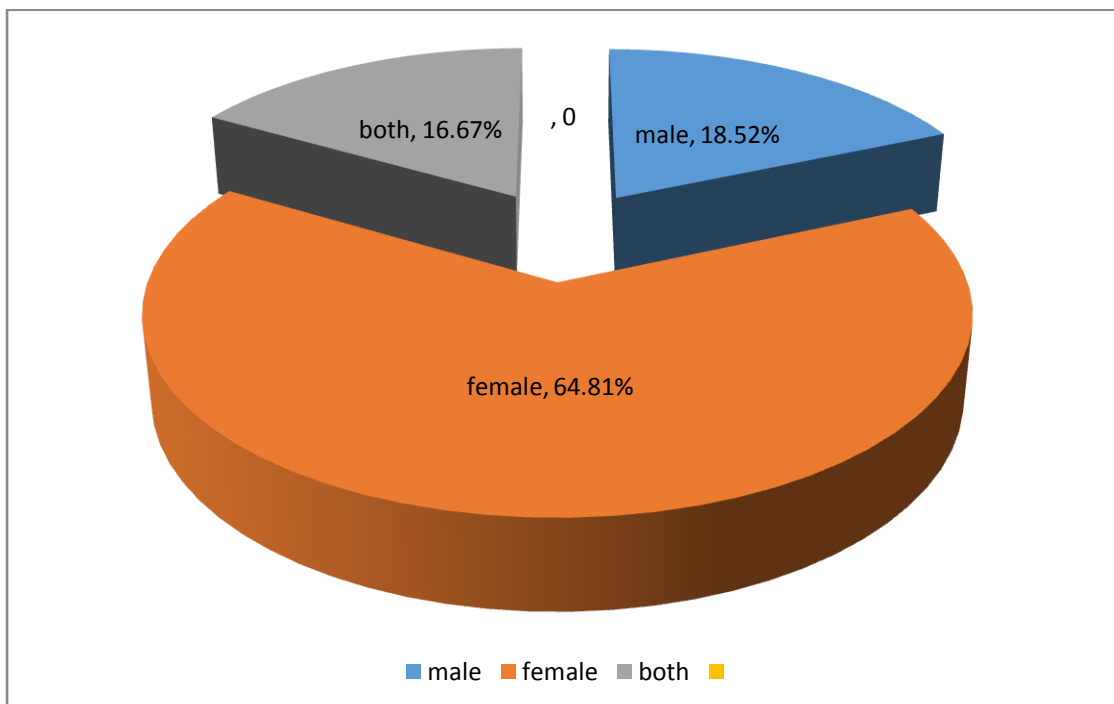
Table 4.20: Decision Making on Small Household Expenditure (Food, Clothing and Bazaar Purchase etc.)

Household decision maker	No of Household	Percentage
Male	10	18.52
Female	35	64.81
Both	9	16.67
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.20 and figure 4.11 show that out of 54 respondents 35 female made decision household expenditure, however 10 males are involved of small household expenditure. And 9 both involved in small household expenditure.

Figure 4.11: Decision Making on Small Household Expenditure



Source: On the basis of table 4.20

This shows women have dominant role in small household expenditure. The women have major role in purchasing those household goods because men mostly are not interested and are less familiar of purchasing such household goods. Men normally

leave it to their wives to make these kind of decision and do not want to be bothered by it.

4.2.7.2 Big Purchase of Household

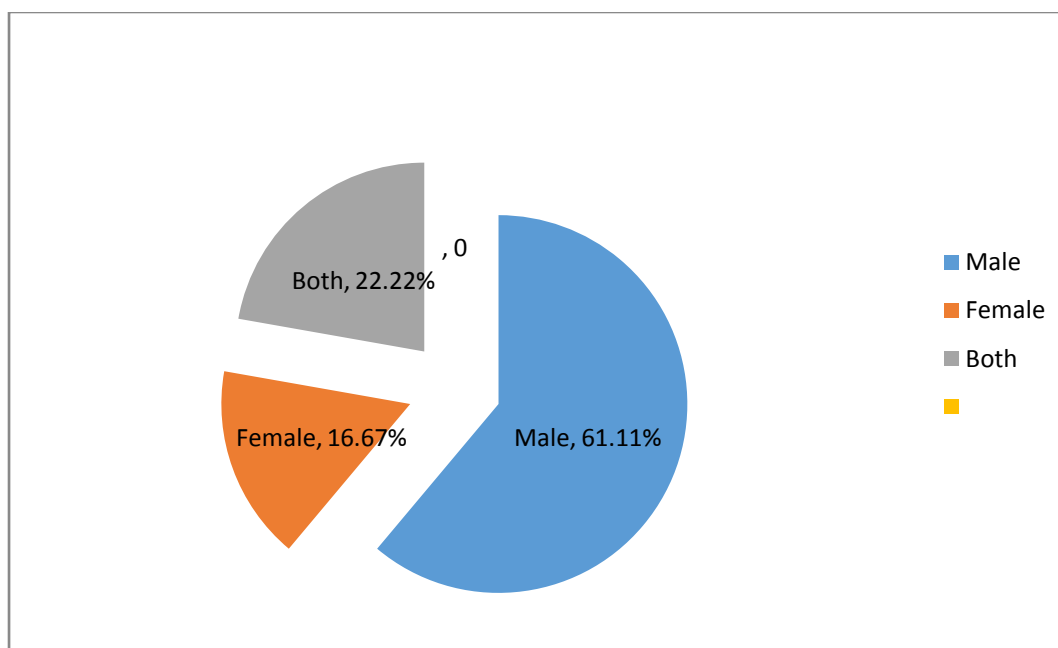
The table 4.21 shows the role of women in the decision making of big expenditure like electronic item, luxury item, automobile etc.

Table 4.21: Decision Maker of Big Purchase

Household decision maker	No of HH	Percentage
Male	33	61.11
Female	9	16.67
Both	12	22.22
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.12: Decision Maker of Big Purchase



Source: On the basis of table 4.21

Table 4.21 and Figure 4.12 show that the role of women in the decision making of big expenditure like electronic item, luxury item, furniture, automobile etc. has lower power to decide it. Only 9 female decide it. Women in this matter only play a

supportive role. More male are exposed to outside world and take information regarding different activities happening. So they take dominating role in decision making of big purchase.

4.2.8 Investment

Investment activities determine the economic maturity of people. Those people who have more property participate in the investment activities. Therefore, investment is affected by many things like money, skill, capacity to take risk, education. This study wants to identify the role of investment in the decision making capacity of the women.

Table 4.22: Investment made by Family

Investment	No of respondents	Percent
Yes	36	66.67
No	18	33.33
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

This table shows that 66.67 percent women's families have invested in the different areas and 33.33 percent women's families have not made any investment in any areas.

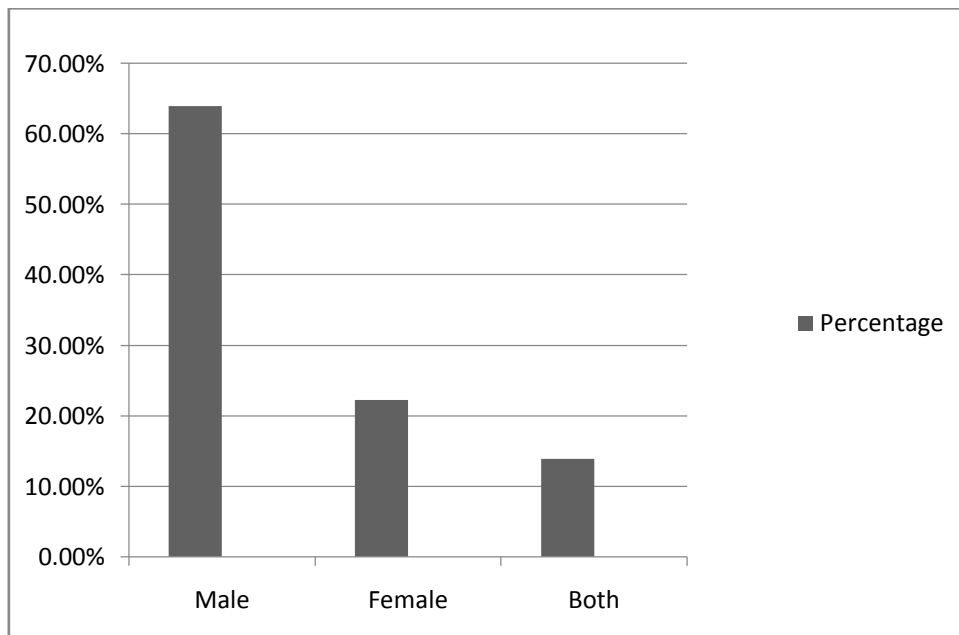
Table 4.23: Decision making in the Investment Process

Activities	Decision maker	No. of Household	Percentage
	Male	23	63.89
	Female	8	22.22
	Both	5	13.89
	Total	36	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From table 4.23, only 36 out of 54 household are found in some kind of investment. Table 4.23 and figures 4.13 shows that 63 percent male is involved in the investment process. Only 22.22 percent women is involved in investment process, and 13.89 percent both together equally decision in investment matter. So we concluded that women have lower participation or lower decision making in investment matter.

Figure 4.13: Decision making in the Investment Process



Source: On the basis of table 4.23

4.2.9 Saving of Household Income

Income is a key factor of happy life, and saving is a way of thinking for future. Saving is more prominent for living happier life. Thus, each and every family wants to save. The saving is crucial to control the family disputes. Similarly, the family can satisfy with the needs and necessities only if there are saving in the family. So, it is very important to save at least a bit amount from their income.

The table 4.24 presents saving of household income of the target informants:

Table 4.24: Saving of Household Income

Sex	No of Household	Percent
Male	30	55.56
Female	16	29.63
Both	8	14.81
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.24 shows the data on saving of household income. There were 29.63percent women are self-keeping for household income. Where 55.56percent

household for male decides and keeping for household income and then 14.81percent both male and female are keeping the household income.

4.2.10 Participation in Social and Developmental Activities

Participation on social activities indicates women stating with reference to their literacy and involvement in different sectors. Education plays significant role in taking part in community activities. Women who have higher education have more knowledge about different sectors than women who have only primary education.

Table 5.10 shows the situation of the respondents on decision-making about the participation in social and developmental activities. It is seen that out of 54 respondents, only 16 have ever participated in the social and developmental activities.

Table 4.25 Decision-Making on Participation in Social and Developmental Activities

Yes/No	No. of Household	Percentage
Yes	16	29.63
No	38	70.37
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

As shown in table 4.25, we see that 16 women out of 54 households participate in community activities. They score only 29.63percent as opposed to 70.37percent of the women who do not participate in such activities. Similarly, we found that most women have greater freedom to participate in the community activities; however, their participation in community activities is found less because of their low level of education as well as their overload of household activities.

4.2.11 Women's Mobility

In this study mobility means covering of long either short or long. In the short distance women can move freely and enjoying alone but felling difficulty in long distance and they have to take permission or assistance of husband or family members. Overall women's mobility level is not satisfactory. But short term travel is not problems.

Table No.4.26 and table No. 4.27 show the detail of mobility of women in short and long.

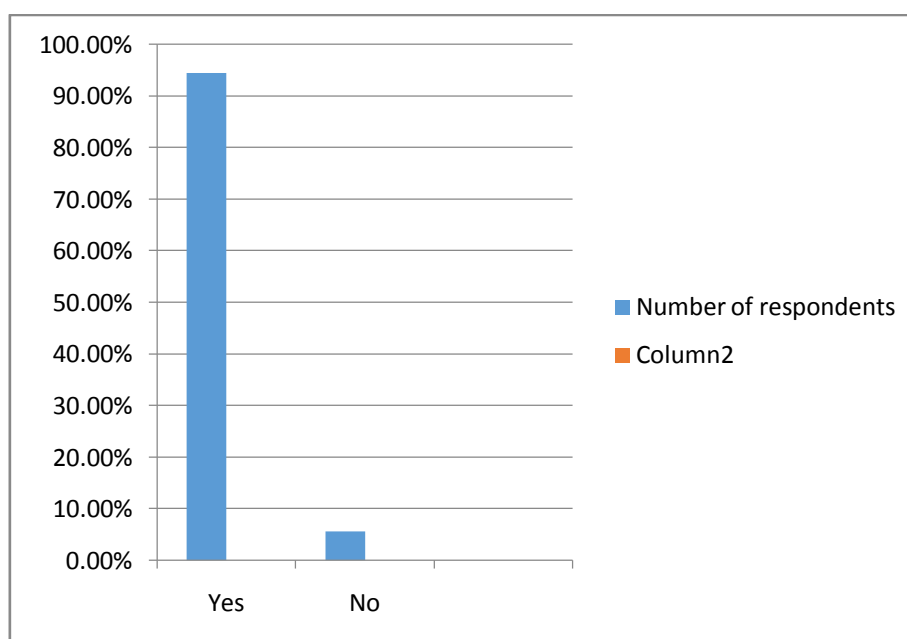
Table 4.26: Decision on Travelling Short Distance or Marketing

Activities	Number of Respondents	Percent
Yes	51	94.45
No	3	5.55
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the table 4.26 and figure 4.14 show that in total 54 respondents 51 women (94.45%) can take free decision on travelling short distance or marketing but 5.55 percent are not allowed to take self-decision.

Figure 4.14: Decision on Traveling Short Distance



Source: On the basis of table4.26

Table 4.27: Decision on Traveling Long Distance

Activities	Number of household	Percent
Yes	9	16.67
No	45	83.33
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.27 shows that out of 54 respondents only 16.67 percent take the self-decision on travelling long distance and 83.33percent women can't take the self-decision on travelling long distance.

From the table 4.26, 4.27 it is clear that females are enjoying traveling short distance and they have not take permission go for short distance and marketing in comparison to long distance travelling in all caste.

4.3 Causes of Deprivation of Women

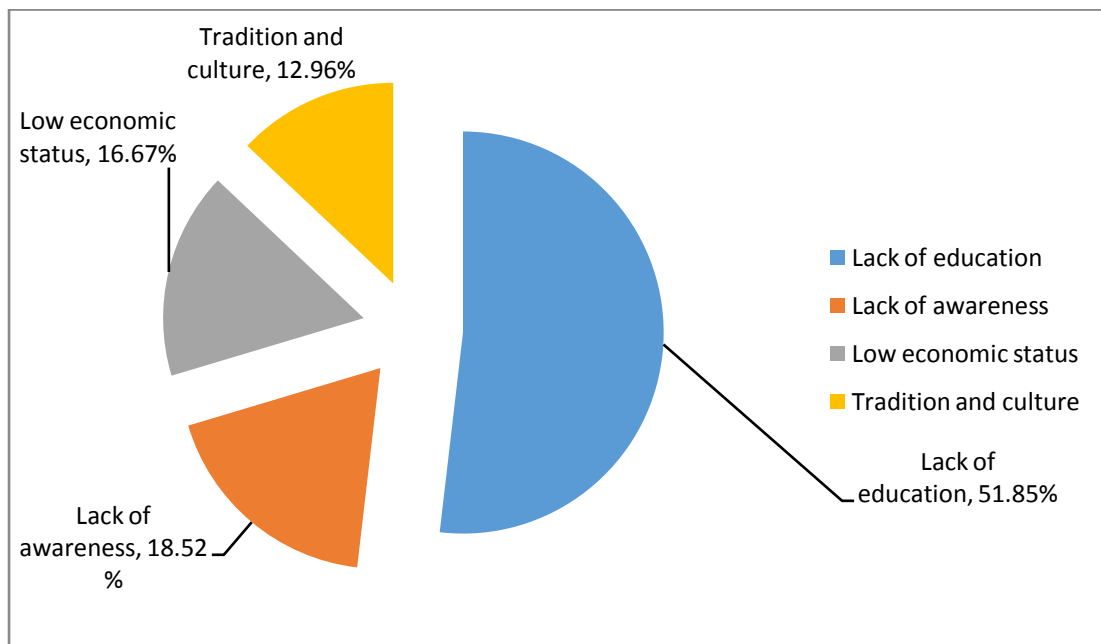
In Nepal females are found deprived from their rights and responsibilities. They have low access to education, employment and decision-making. They are dominated by males in each and every step of life. The respondents were asked what they think to be the main cause for the deprivation of Nepalese women. The main reasons as given by them are presented in table 4.28 and figure 4.17

Table: 4.28 Distributions of Respondents by the Reasoning in Cause of Deprivation of Women

Cause of deprivation of women	Number	Percent
Lack of education	28	51.85
Lack of awareness	10	18.52
Low economic status	9	16.67
Tradition and culture	7	12.96
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.15: Distribution of respondents by reasoning in cause of deprivation of women



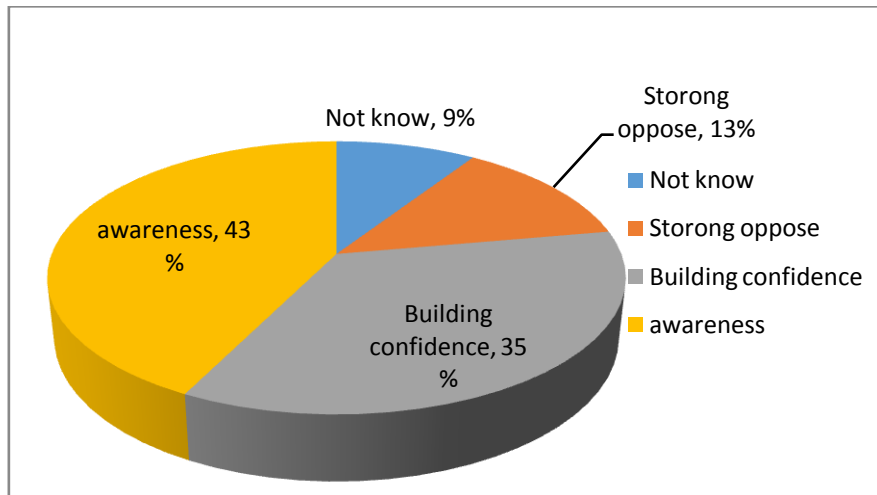
Source: On the basis of table 4.28

From the table 4.28 and figure 4.15, as reported by the respondents, the main reason of female's backwardness is lack of education 51.85 percent followed by lack of awareness 18.52 percent. The stated third reason, which makes female as backward is low economic status 16.67 percent. Only few respondents 12.96 percent believe tradition and culture as the reason behind deprivation of women.

4.4 Suggestions of Respondents to end discrimination in household decision making process between Male and Female

- a) Having asked about the role of women to build the parallel role of male and female in household decision making, 5 respondents replied didn't know anything, 19 respondents said they develop or build self-confidence about what they should do, 23 respondents said awareness in society to receive the women role in house hold decision making and rest 7 percent respondents said they should strongly oppose the discrimination. The figure 4.16 shows more:

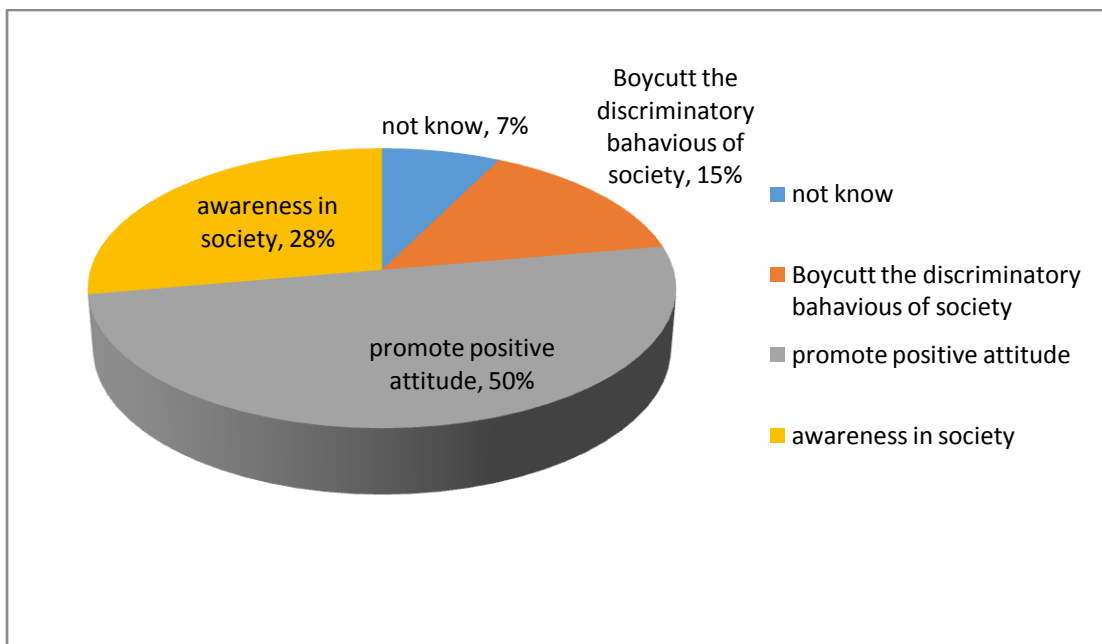
Figure 4.16: By Women oneself



Source: Field Survey, 2016

- b) Having asked about role of society to build the parallel role of male and female in household decision making 27 (50%) respondents said awareness in society should promote positive attitudes 15 (27.78%) percent respondents replied that awareness in society, 8(14.81%) percent respondents said the society should boycott the discriminatory behaviors of society, 4(7.41%) respondents said they didn't know anything about what society should do, and activities towards the widows ensuring social inclusion. The figure 4.17 shows more:

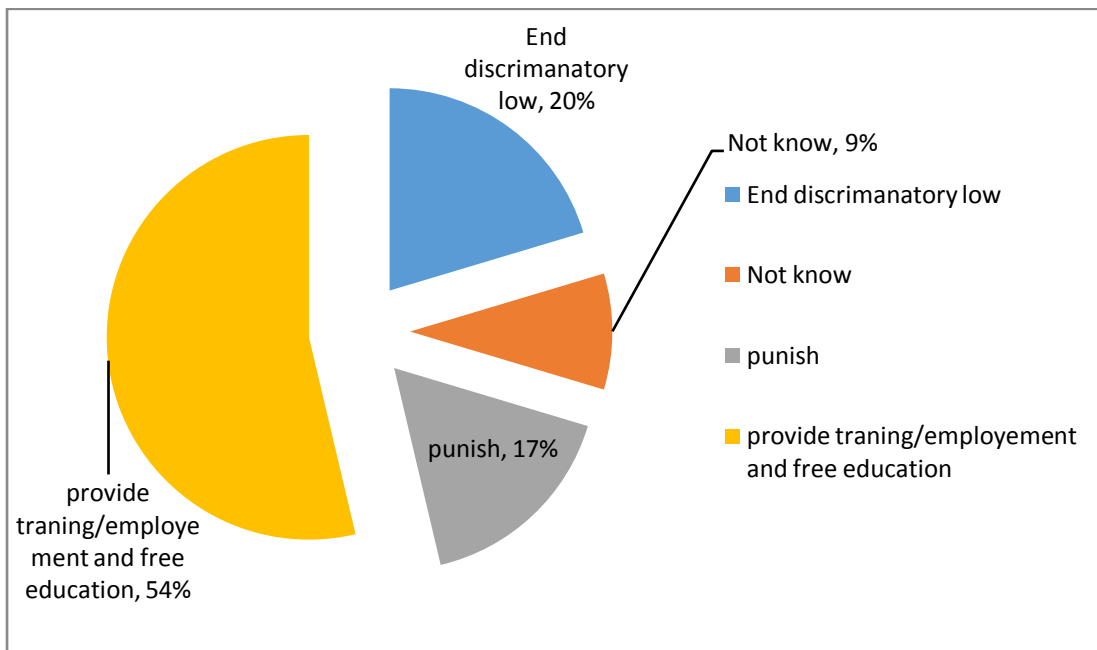
Figure 4.17: Role of society



Source: Field Survey, 2016

- c) Having asked about the role of nation to build the parallel role of male and female in household decision making, 11(20%) percent respondents said the state should end the discriminatory laws fostering women, 5(9%) percent replied that they didn't know anything about what the nation should do, 9(17%) respondents said the government should punish the discriminatory behaviors of people and rest 29(54%) respondents said the state should provide training and free education. The figure 4.18 shows more:

Figure 4.18: Role of Nation



Source: Field Survey, 2016

CHAPTER–V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this chapter is to summarize the major findings of the study related to household decision-making status of married women a case study of Tilahar VDC in ward no. 5, 6 & 8. It also includes conclusion and recommendation of the study.

5.1 Summary

True human development is possible only when in every community everyone is respected equally. Women in all over the world especially in developing countries, are lagging behind and dominated by men in every aspect of life. Women are also excluded from most of the development activities. It is usually the men who interact with the outside world and the women slips back into her traditional roles as housewife within the household. Nepal is no different in this matter. In the Nepalese context, women's role in decision-making process is very low though their population covers more than half sky of the country. They daily spend their most of the working time in household activities. This study is an attempt to analyze the socio-economic status of women's. The main objective of the present study is to analyze the role of women in the household decision-making in Tilahar VDC of Parbat district. It also present socio-economic status of women.

The decision-making in household is one of the ways of the female empowerment. Participation in decision-making process in household matters considers that a female is accounted for in the family. In all societies, the issue of women's participation and how they participate economically, socially and culturally is considered to be important. Household decision-making has changed over the last several decades. Changing roles of women, increasing women's education, and increasing participation of women in the labor force are important keys for family decision-making change.

Tilahar VDC of parbat district is selected as a study is which lies 45 kilometers far from Pokhara city in west and 13 kilometer far from Kushma in the east. This study covers only 54 household of Tilahar VDC as a sample size. The data are picked up from only three wards 5, 6 and 8. The study includes household from different ethnic

communities comprising Brahmin, Chhetri, Dalit, Newar. Finally from each household one married women of age group 15-59 years are selected for generating the information.

The followings are major findings of the study;

A. Socio-Economic Characteristics.

- The Chhetri/Brahmin community dominates over the other ethnic groups in their population distribution.
- A large majority of women surveyed are found to be married
- All the respondents are married women of age from 15-49 years.
- About 57.4 percent of the respondents have nuclear family.
- The population is engaged and depends mainly in on the agriculture and small business activities are in rise.
- Early marriage for women is still practiced.
- Illiteracy rate is 18.4percent of women. Higher education among the literate women is found to be very low.
- Out of 54 household 7.41percent of the households do not own any land, almost all of them own some land. Most of the respondents have small lands.
- As in the case of land, only 13 per cent of the respondents themselves are the legal ownership of land by women to be very low.
- 100 percent households use firewood as their energy 18.5percent use LP gas and 5.6 percent use Bio Gas as the alternative sources.
- Most of the household believe in medical science, however 31.5 percent believe in both treatment (*Dhami/Jhakri*) and 5.5percent believe in *Dhami/Jhakri*.
- According to this research out of 54 respondent from women, there are few women 29.6 percent have bank balance in total.

B. Women's role in household decision making

- Women are found to have concentrated mainly on household and kitchens chores.

- Women have do all household activities but in distribution of work is not satisfactory. In this research aspect from sex to distribution of household activities, only female is 55.56 percent in distribution of household activities and only male is 24.07% percent and 20.37 percent males and females both together.
- For the decision regarding seeking treatment of the family members, the highest score goes in the hand of both men and women 51.85percent in the joint effort, the second highest in the favor of men 27.78 percent and finally the least decision goes in the favor of women 20.37 percent. Similarly the highest decision making power for the use of family planning is made by both men and women 42.86 percent while second highest decision making power goes in the size of male 34.69 percent and the least goes in the hand of women 20.41 percent.
- Regarding the number of children to have the joint decision of husband and wife appear to be the strongest 63.27 percent among the 49 women who responded to the question. While the decision of the husband alone and respondents alone are also seen significant 18.37% and 14.28% respectively. And other decision is 4.08 percent.
- Out of 54 household only 64.81women are the decision maker regarding expenditure on small household purchase. It is found that men do not like to bothered by these matters.
- 61of male are the final decision maker in household work regarding the purchase of expensive items like furniture, automobile, electronic item etc. However it is observed that women only support them.
- Majority of the decision regarding schooling of children 45.83 percent, purchase of educational Materials 58.33 percent and payment of fees 54.17 percent are in the favor of men while for the uniform management women take the greatest decision role scoring 77.08 percent. Thus women have very low decision making power in the educational management aspect. But for the uniform management women's decision are found higher than men.
- Women have lower participation or lower decision making in investment matter.

- The respondents are low on decision-making about the participation in social and developmental activities. It is seen that out of 54 respondents, only 16 respondents have ever participated in the social and developmental activities
- Females are enjoying traveling short distance and they have not taken permission to go for short distance and marketing in comparison to long distance travelling in all cases. From data 94.45 percent take free decision on traveling short distance but only 16.67 percent women take self-decision on travelling long distance.

5.2 Conclusion

If we look total world population, it is evident that half of the population is covered by women. Hence their equal participation in any developing activities is not only desirable but essential to speed-up the development process. So women play pivotal role in the developing of any country. Women have a special position in all societies and no society can progress without women's progress. Women's participation in every field of life is very important. But from this study it can be concluded that females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate in the major decision making process.

It appears that women in the study area do not enjoy a high degree of autonomy in decision making in the household. Their power of making decision is restricted to domestic matters like caring children, cooking, cleaning house, welcoming and serving guest, children's uniform management, cropping pattern, small household expenditure, travelling in short distance for marketing etc. However in major household activities, man plays a dominant role in decision making. Children's education, big household expenditure, investment process, women's mobility of long distance, children's determination in which they enjoy limited freedom. We can say that though women still suffer from the discriminatory practices in their household and society. So it is indeed necessary to empower the women to change the whole status of women at all. To empower the women of Nepal, first of all it is important to create awareness in the society in terms of code of behaviors towards women. Lack of education, lack of awareness, low economic status, and tradition and culture are main

cause of deprivation of women. If they are educated and economically independent then they can make their position strong in terms of decision making in their household and in the society as a whole. So it is concluded that by encouraging women's role and status in society we can enrich them in education, employment training and right to participate in decision-making.

Although education and occupation have increased among women, the traditional style of household chore division and decision-making are still dominant in the family because according to Collins' approach, human beings live in the world created by themselves in which they have the power to influence or even control others' mental experience and try to dominate the people who are against them. Men also try to control women experiencing the participation in important family decision, based on that created world.

5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following recommendations can be suggested to improve the women's status and to raise the decision making power of women within the household.

- It is evident that educational qualification of women helps to play significant role in family decision-making. Therefore, proper educational faculties should be provided for female without discrimination in the rural areas. It is essential to take comprehensive programs to enhance women's education status. Government, NGOs and INGOs should encourage the women for higher education. More efforts should be made to develop women's social prestige, self-confidence and feeling of equalities by educating them.
- 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.
- There should be income generating training for them so that they can earn their livelihood.

- Steps should be taken to make men and the society to self-aware regarding the capabilities of women as effective decision maker on important issues as well.
- The concept of gender equity and attitude towards women need to be modified in patriarchal society to boost up the women's status in family as well as in society.
- Joint decisions by both male as well as female members seem more favorable to reach at effective decision. So promotion of joint decision within the household should be stressed via: educational programmers.
- Women should be develop or build self-confidence about what they should to do.
- Males have to participate in household chores
- Low age of marriage tends to be cause of lower education. The government should be launched awareness programs to remove under legal minimum age for marriage of women.
- Encourage should be done to provide them opportunities to female's participation in social and development activities.
- Priority should be given to the woman in society in various opportunities. Woman should participate in social activities.
- Mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities should not be restricted by male members of the family.
- One of the most important measures to empower the rural women should be give to them their ownership right on land along with their husband. This will not only make them economically empowered but will also help them to get credit for productive work.
- Integrating of right and role of women with national and international organization should be done through advocacy, training, workshop and meeting.
- Government should have made a long term strategy on social and economical inclusion of women to empower them in sustainable way.
- Reforms should be made regarding various women related government policies and programs. The existing laws, customs regulation and

practices should be improved which are discriminatory against women to establish adequate legal protection for equal right of men and women.

- Agriculture covers large share of occupation of women in the study area. However, the system of agriculture is old. Agricultural training on seeds, harvesting fertilizers etc. should be launched for the improvement of agricultural system. Modern techniques should be implemented. Besides these, farmers should be encouraged to produce cash crops. Irrigation facility should be provided so that people can produce various crops in winter season too.

REFERENCES

- Acharya, D.R., Bell, J.S., Simkhada, P., Van Teijlingen, E.R., & Regmi, P.R.(2010). Women's autonomy in household decision-making: a demographic study in Nepal. *Reproductive Health*.7 (1), 15.
- Acharya, M. (1997). *Gender equality and empowerment of women in Nepal*. A status report submitted to NNFP, Kathmandu.
- Acharya, M., & Bennet, L. (1981). *The rural women of Nepal: An aggregate analysis summary of eight village studies; the status of women in Nepal*. Field Studies, Vol-II, Part 9. Kathmandu: CEDAW.
- Acharya, M., & Bennett, L. (1982). *Women and the subsistence sector, economic participation and household decision making in Nepal*. Washington: The World Bank.
- Acharya, et al, (2015). *Report: progress of Nepal (1995-2015) Substantive-Equality/Non-negotiable*. Supported by UN Women Nepal.
- ADB, (2004). ADB to promote greater empowerment for Nepal's most disadvantaged women 2004.
- Agrawal, B. (1994). *A field of one's own, gender and land rights in South Asia*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Albert, C., & Escardibul, J.O. (2016). Education and the empowerment of women in household decision-making in Spain. *International Journal of consumer studies*.
- Anwar, B., Shoaib, M., & Javed, S. (2013). Women's autonomy and their role in decision making at household level: A case of rural Sialkot, Pakistan. *World Applied Science Journal* 23(1):129-136. ISSN 1818-4952
- Baliyan, K. (2014). *Factor affecting participation of women in household decision making: Implication for family welfare and agriculture development*. Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow.
- Batool, A. (2002). *Socio religions determinants of women status: A case study in rural areas of district Faisalabad*. MSC thesis, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.
- CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics) (2011). *Statistical year book of Nepal 2011*. Kathmandu: CBS.
- CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics) (2012). *Population monograph of Nepal*. Kathmandu: CBS.
- Collins, R. (2002). *Black's contributions to a general theory of conflict*. *Contemporary sociology* 31:655-58.

- Edgell, S.R. (1980). *Middle-class couples*. London: Allen and Unwin.
- Ghimire, D. (1991). Girl child and family, *Journal II* Kathmandu: NEFAS.
- Gurung, J. (1999). *Searching for Women's Voice in the Hindu Kush Himalayan*. ICEMOD, Nepal.
- Gurung, M. (2004). *Women and development in the third world: A case study from Ggandruk, Nepal*. WWF: Nepal office.
- Gurung, R. K. (2007). *Role of women in household decision making a comparative study of Dalits, Janajati and Khas married women in Vyas municipality, Tanahun*. An Unpublished Master's dissertation in Population, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur.
- Ingelhart, R. (1997). *Modernization and post modernization: Cultural, economic, and political change in 43 societies*. Princeton University Press.
- Jiggans, J.(1989). *How poor women earn income in sub-saharan Africa and what work against them*. World Development, Vol.17 No.7 Pergamon Press Plc.,Great Britain,1989pp953-963.
- Karki, S. (2011). *Role of women in household decision making: A case study of Kirtipur municipality ward No 13*. An Unpublished Master's thesis of Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur.
- Karl, M. (1995). *Women in empowerment participation and decision making*. New Jersey: Zed Books Publishing House.
- Kaur, M. (2012). A study of women participation in household decision making. Vol.3 Issue, No.29 published by *International Referred Research Journal*.
- Kharal, R.Z. (2000). *Women and Rural Development in Pakistan*.pp. 25–6. Published by Kisht–e–Nau, Magazine of Agriculture University Faisalabad– Pakistan
- Krishna, A.P. (1982). Another development with women development dialogue. A *Journal of International Cooperation Publishing by the Hammarskjold Foundation*, Uppsala.1982 (1-2):17-28.
- Limbu, L. (1995). *The status of Tamang women of Mulkharka area*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Limbu, L. (1995). *The status of Tamang women of Mulkharka area*. Unpublished M.A Thesis. Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Mahmood,N. (2002). *Women's role in domestic decision-making in Pakistan: Implications for reproductive behaviour*. Vol.41, No.2 (summer2002).pp121-148 published by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad
- Marieke, V. W. (2001). Benefits of Equitable Relationship. *A Journal of Research, from Regional Office for Latin American and Caribbean*, 17(2)pp 1169-1173

- Mehar, M. & Prasad, N. (2015). Gender participation in rural farm household decision making: A case of Vaishali district, Bihar. *Indian Journal of Economics and Development*, 2015, vol.11, issue: 3, pp755-760.
- Mengesha, A.G. (1990). *The role of women in agricultural production and household decision making: A cross cultural comparison between India and CAMEROON*. Retrospective theses and dissertations, paper 11206, Iowa State University
- Mihiret, M., & Tadesse, A. (2014). Women's role and their decision making in livestock and household management. *Journal of Agriculture Extension and Rural Development*. Vol.6 (11), pp.347-353, November 2014
- Mumtaz, K.A., & Aysha, N. (1982). *Status of rural women in India*. New Delhi: Ashish Publishing House, 16-34.
- Neema, M. (2015). *Women's empowerment and decision making at the household level: A case study of Ankore families Inuganda Tilburg*. Tilburg University.
- Neupane, D. (2011). *Role of women in household decision making: A case study of Kunchha vdc Lamjung district*. An Unpublished Master's thesis submitted to the Central Department of Economics, Kathmandu: T.U. Kirtipur.
- Niraula, N. (2013). *Women's participation in household decision making: A case study of Urlabari vdc Morang*. An Unpublished Master's thesis in economics, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur.
- Pandit, B.R. (2003). *Women's participation in decision making activities: A case study RUIW program in Doti district*. Unpublished Master's thesis Submitted to the Central Department of sociology/Anthropology, Kathmandu: T.U. Kirtipur.
- Pradhan, B., & Shrestha, R. L. (1990). *Reproductive behavior of women*. Center for Women and Development, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Retrieved from [<http://www.adb.org/Documents/News/2004/nr2004177.asp>].
- Roth, D.M., & Mbzyo, M.I. (2001). *Promoting safe motherhood in the community*. New Delhi: Afry Reprod. Health
- Sapkota, K. (2015). *Role of women in household decision making process: A case study of Damek vdc of Banglung district*. An Unpublished Master's thesis Submitted to the Central Department of Economics, Kathmandu: T.U. Kirtipur
- Senarth, U., & Gunawardena, S., (2009). Women's Autonomy in Decision Making for Health Care in South Asia. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health*, vol. 21 no. 2 137-143.
- Sharma, P. (2005). *Role of married women in household decision-making: A case study Tanglaphant, Kirtipur municipality Kathmandu district*. Unpublished Master's thesis Submitted to the Central Department of Population Studies, Kathmandu: T.U. Kirtipur.

- Singh, C. (1992). *Indian women challenges and change*. New Delhi: Common Wealth Publishers.
- Singh, S. (2000). *Property rights of women in the perspective of gender equality in Nepalese law: A study in the light of legal Reform in India doctoral dissertation*. University of Delhi
- Thapa, D. (2003). *Gender disparity in Nepal*. An Unpublished Master's Dissertation in Population Studies, CDPS, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur.
- Tiwary, N. (1995). *Study of women and fertility: A case study of Brahmin communities in Chity VDC*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur.
- UNDP-Nepal (United Nations Development programme) (2009). *Nepal human development report 2009: State transformation and human development*. Kathmandu, Nepal: UNDP.
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) (1990). *Situation analysis of children and women in Nepal*. Kathmandu: UNICEF.
- Zafar, S., Batool, Z., & Bano, S. (2005). Female Participation in Decision Making Process in Family matters in District Faisalabad-Pakistan. *Journal of Agriculture and Social Sciences* 1813-2235/2005/01-3-285-287

9. Age at marriage
 a. Under 16 [] b. Age (16-19) [] c. Age(20-24) []
 d. Age(25-30) [] e. Age (30+) []
10. Land holding area: _____
11. Who is the land ownership?
 a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both []
 d. others[]
12. Energy use:
 a. firewood[] B. Bio[] c. LP gas[]
13. Which health treatment you belief?
 a. Doctor [] b. Dhami/jhakri[] c. both[]
14. Do you have bank balance?
 a. Yes [] b. No []
15. Who can involve at your house for the daily household activities?

Household daily activities	Sex	No.
Caring children and disable member	Male	
	Female	
	Both	
Cooking for family	Male	
	Female	
	Both	
Cleaning house	Male	
	Female	
	Both	
Washing clothes of family	Male	
	Female	
	Both	
Welcoming and serving guest	Male	
	Female	
	Both	
Other	Male	
	Female	
	Both	

