

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ON AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN NAWALPARASI DISTRICT :  
Case Study of Kawasoti VDC, Nawalparasi District**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis of **The Role of Women's Empowerment on Agricultural Development in Nawalparasi District: Case Study of Kawasoti VDC, Nawalparasi District** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this thesis. The result of this thesis has not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. No part of the content of this dissertation has been published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidence is found against my declaration.

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## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

The thesis entitled **The Role of Women's Empowerment on Agricultural Development in Nawalparasi District Case Study of Kawasoti VDC, Nawalparasi District** has been prepared by **Bishow Raj Lamichhane** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

The thesis **The Role of Women's Empowerment on Agricultural Development in Nawalparasi District Case Study of Kawasoti VDC, Nawalparasi District** submitted by **Bishow Raj Lamichhane** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Of course, the final responsibility regarding errors and omission is mine.

.....

Bishow Raj Lamichhane

## **ABSTRACT**

The study was conducted with the aim of analyzing the role of women in agriculture in Nawalparasi District. Based on the output of this study, the contribution levels of women were identified. The study result showed that women's contributes 46% of labor to agricultural activities. Men, boys and girls also participate in agricultural activities. However, women's work in the agricultural activities documented as marginal and they have been considered more as consumers than as producers. More than 89% of the Nawalparasi District population is residing in the rural parts and half of the population is women. According to the study analyzed that rural women spend their time in productive activities, which directly benefit their families and society in economic terms. The study showed that the average day for a rural women in Nawalparasi District involves food processing, water and fuel wood collection, assisting family farm, marketing and labor exchange for community services. Also the level of participation as women's labor is more participating in agricultural activities, community services and contributing more in securing their household members food demand than other household members do. But women receive no remuneration for their labor, no monetary or maternal gains and no benefits in leisure time and improved living conditions. Women suffer from discriminatory practices that prevent them from accessing land in the same way and extent as men. As such, men control land and women gain access to land mainly through either inheritance, their male relatives or in that of their husband. In general the contributing factors that influences women's role in agriculture depends upon the women's dependence on their husband. The other one is illiteracy, ignorance, low socio-economic status and traditional religious and cultural dominance and low political participation in the community. Also, in the study area there were few supporting organizations to promote women in agricultural activities and empower them. However, those that do not have a specific gender focus, but undertake some single or combined gender-related activities which are generally mother and child care, nutrition, water, girls' education, women savings and credit facilities. The study analyzed that those few NGOs and government organizations that have attempted to tackle gender issues have encountered serious problems of resource availability, limited technical capacity, poor organization and lack of coordination, which have made it impossible to streamline their gender concerns in a concrete way into effective programmed interventions.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

VDC	=	Village Develop Committee
GDP	=	Gross Domestic Product
US	=	United States
UNDP	=	United Nations Development Programme.
MDGS	=	Millennium Development Goals.
UN	=	United Nation
FAO	=	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	=	International Fund for Agricultural development
DFID	=	Department For International Development
NGO	=	Non-Governmental Organization
SADC	=	The Southern African Development Corporation
CEDAW	=	Convention for The Elimination Of Discrimination Against Women
GESI	=	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
NAP	=	National Plan of Action
CA	=	Constitution Assembly
USAID	=	United States Agency For International Development
CI	=	Constraint Index
PI	=	Participatory Index