

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal's total population is about 26 million out of this about 50% is the women's population (CBS, 2011). However the productivity of the food crops has remained stagnate and is even declining in some cases despite greater emphasis and efforts placed on the agriculture in almost all development plans. Farming is a labor-intensive work and both men and women have their contribution in production. But, women the excluded section plays major roles in various farm activities which is important not only due to their presence in large number but also because of the variety of activities performed slowly in farming. Furthermore, increasing migration of male family members of subsidiary occupation and education had further added extra task to the farming women. This migration has feminized the agriculture system and the numbers of female headed households have been increasing. In Nepal, like in other developing countries, the status of women is low. Male dominated family system provides very little scope for the females to assert their identity. They are marginalized from economic and social opportunities due to illiteracy, poverty and conservative social taboos (www.unescape.org.) The major concern of today is how to maintain equality and justice in the distribution of benefit from developmental activities among men and women and how to create an environment from equal participation of men and women in family decision –making process in agricultural development.

Of the total landholdings females own only 8.1% and the average size of land is just two thirds that of an average male holding. Only 4% of the households have female

ownership of both house and land. Marital status has determines female's asses to land & other property (NHDR2004:55). While in the case of agricultural land, the women ownership is hardly 4.4%. Regarding the land holdings, as high as 81% women own less than one hector of land (NPC 10'th plan), although women have little access to resources, they start working as an early age and in return get little property, i.e. dowry in their marriage time, they devote their whole.

Agriculture, livestock, poultry, manufacturing and trade etc are major economic activities for Nepalese people. Agriculture is the pre-dominant economic activities generating employment for 81% of the total economically active population for their livelihood and remaining 19% are engaged in manufacturing, trade, business service and other non agricultural activities

The crucial and important contribution of women to food security in developing countries is widely recognized. In most developing countries, rural –women are the mainstay of small-scale agriculture, the farm labor force and day to day family substance. Yet rural women are faced in the number of constraints. They have more difficulties than men in gaining access to land, credit and extension service. Development interventions to improve the economic roles of women have also limited success. Recently, the over raiding concern of such interventions of rural women remained one of welfare and home economics program, mainly through women specific projects or women's responsibilities, participation and priorities in their specific local conditions, constraining the achievement of the objectives of the program, or leading to negative effects on the women and families (Das,1995) Although there is a wide diversity in household estimated that significant proportion of women in developing countries of women in developing countries spent up to two-thirds of their time in traditional agriculture and marketing. Their working hours tend to exceed those of men. Women in rural areas grow at least 50% of the world's food. They work in all aspects of cultivation, including, planting, thinning, weeding, applying fertilizer and harvest activities and in livestock production. (Ibid, 1995)

It is almost more than two decades that the country has started giving consideration in addressing women's concern in it's development endeavor .For the first time, sixth five year plan (1985-90) stated the need to integrate the women in development planning .The seventh

plan women's role in general and women farmers in particular, has been accorded the priority. The government showed its commitment to the equal and meaningful participation of women in the development programs. Women farmer development division (WFDD) was established in 1992 as an apex body to look after the policy related matters concerning women farmers in the ministry of agriculture and co-operatives.

The role and responsibilities of women in the household depends on the composition of the household, social cultural and economic background. Within this context, the level of education, social norm, employment status influences the decision-making power of women.

This study deals with four key components. These four components are interrelated to each other in the context of Nepal. Agriculture is progressively recognized to feminism but female decision-making power is less appreciative. Male dominated decisions are highly practiced in Nepalese agrarian society that indicated that there is not equal and equitable relation between men and women in terms of socio-economic and cultural roles and status. Women decisions as well as involvement in vegetable farming is higher than men that is due to their high experience, knowledge and continuity of agriculture activities. Gender discrimination activities, oppression, subordination, difference and unequal atmosphere make to Nepalese society. Gender, a burning issues, is the most important concern in any types of arena whether in agriculture development or in forest or irrigation or in infrastructure.

Nepalese agriculture is becoming progressively feminized. Looking at the pattern of time allocation by gender in the selected districts, it is obvious that women, on an average, work four hours more than men both in agriculturally busy- season is 46.42 hours (Uprety, 2004). Similarly 96 percent women have been involved in agricultural work i.e. weeding, seed preparation, land preparation, digging, harvesting, transplanting, planting, manuring and fertilizer application etc where a little portion of men are involved in agricultural work such as planting from preparation. The livelihood of people maintained from sale distribution and share of the income obtained from the vegetable farming and services as well as in the capacity building. It draws upon the management of five different capitals: natural capital, social capital, financial capital, physical capital and human capital. Sustainable livelihood through the use of forest resources depends largely upon the socio-economic characteristics

of the user's group. Participation in management of common property resources is a key to a collective action; However participation is dependent upon socio-economic condition of FUGs because Nepal's social structure is still based on caste system, gender, wealth etc with prevalent discrimination. Do the elites and wealthier villagers tend to dominate the decision-making process? It is leading to neglect the needs of poorer sections, which are assumed to be investigated. Whether section of the FUG often has access and their livelihood is not so directly dependent on access to vegetable products, DAGs face particular difficulties as the main source for the a key input into their livelihood is closed (Paudel, 2002) cited from the contribution of community forestry on livelihood of poor and disadvantaged group.

However the domestic chores as well as agricultural work done by women are not considered in the national income estimation. Women access to economic resources and control over. It is less because of legal discriminatory property rights. The difference between average income ratio between men and women is 1:0.39. It is our fact that women work high but their income is very low. But it is difficult to say that they freely enjoy with this and it upraises their status in practical and Hindu dominated Nepalese society.

Kelkar (1987) stated that 'women continue to play a major productive role outside their work in the home as peasant cultivators or as agricultural laborers. There is history of institutionalized women subordination in Nepal as well as Asian countries .The ideal tradition family/kinship system was patriarchal, part focal and organized around men authority. Women occupied an extremely low status .A vast majority of them lacked economic independence. In our patriarchal Hindu dominated society, Manu mandates for instance, women were required to function within the framework of three obedience: "Before marriage, obey your father, after marriage obeys your husband. After your husband dies, obey your son."Women are becoming the main cultivators, food producers and on farm income earners but they also continue to play their traditional roles in households activities .Yet research has revealed that women's are under the represented in administrative and other roles, their importance is not recognized, and their specific needs, interests and expertise are largely neglected in agricultural and rural development (Songet.al.2006:134). Given the fact that women are playing crucial roles but still have an inferior status in many respects. This study is focused in many areas. Like gender aspects women empowerment, and access of

women in income and women's contribution in the household economy. Gender issues have been placed in centre in all aspects of this study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Agriculture perspective plan (APP) has also accorded gender issue a higher priority and recognized it as one of the important implementation strategies. One of its objectives is to bring women into the mainstream of agriculture growth.

Now a day's awareness and motive towards cash crop cultivation and economic activities among the farmers have remarkably increased. Many farmers have also commercialized their farming like vegetable production. It helps rural women in utilizing the local resources and spare time to earn cash income. Thus, it is necessary to integrate empowered them socially and economically. Farmers in the urban are responding by shifting their crops to vegetables that have a higher market value. For example, in the past study area, potato and cucumber were cultivated for home consumption only. Now, the potato and cucumber fields are expanding. So that some of the crop can be sold. Productions of tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, leafs etc are also increasing. In the same vein, the workload of women also have been increasing day by day.

Although Vegetable farming is not new topic but commercialization of farming is new topic and its impact of women's livelihood is really important and measurable. It is sure that it increases the workload of women but it is not sure. Actually, they are benefited. In the urban fringes where agriculture is the occupation for the livelihood and source of cash income, vegetable gardening appears as one of the productive enterprises for cash generation and is considered as cash crops. Vegetable growers get higher profit vegetable farming compared to that of cereals crops other economic activities. A study (Kunwar 2001) concluded that more women than men are active in vegetable production and selling purpose. But it is difficult to say, women and men are equally benefited.

Were women equally and freely enjoying benefit? How was their access to income generation whether the activity upraises their status whether it empowers them or not .The specific research questions are as follows:

-) Where do women spend income earned from commercial vegetable farming?
-) Who control the income from vegetable farming?
-) What is an impact of commercial vegetable farming enhanced by women on household economy?
-) What were the changes in women's livelihood brought up by commercial farming?
-) What is the major problem faced by women in commercial farming?

1.3 Research Objectives

The general objective of this study is to analyze and explore the position and assess of women's involvement in the commercial vegetable farming. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

-) To analyze the socio economic conditions of women involved in commercial vegetable farming.
-) To access the role of commercial vegetable farming in women's economic empowerment.
-) To compare the livelihood condition of women before and after improvement of commercial vegetable farming.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

The one of the main objective of Nepal agriculture perspective plan (APP) is to transform the subsistence in to a commercial one through diversification and widespread realization of comparative advantage. Thus, there is considerable need for research that deliberately involves women in every aspect of research that deliberately by relating to their specific socio-economic condition. Women play a vital role in the production of all high value

commodities, most notably in Seri-culture, vegetables, ginger and vegetable seeds. Prior to assessing gender impact of APP, this section has assessed how the APP viewed the gender. For this, the study has first brought together gender concerns of inputs and outputs.

The gender issues have become an interest and hot cake to the sociologists, politicians, planners, social workers, feminist and even everyone in the world as well as Nepal in order to balance & integrate women & men in development.

This study will focus Nepalese women's condition within commercial vegetable cultivation. Nowadays awareness and motive towards cash crop cultivation and economic activities among the farmers have remarkably increased. Many farmers have also commercialized their subsistence farming like vegetable production. It helps rural women in utilization the local resources and spare cash income. Thus, it is necessary to investigate. Whether it empowered the social and economic status of women. Farmers in the urban –fringes are responding by shifting their crops to vegetables that have a higher market value. For example, in the past study area, Potato and cucumber were cultivated for home consumption only. Now-a-days potato and cucumber fields are expanding .So that some of the crop can be sold. Production of tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, leafs etc are also increasing. In the same, the workloads of women also have been increasing day by day. Nepalese economy is largely characterized by disguised un-employment and substance farming with limited prospects for modernization and commercialization of agriculture, Nepal's (2004) entry into WTO marked an important event of change and is likely accelerate the trends.

This study provides the evidence of women' participation in commercial vegetable farming and also able to portrait real figure of the study area. It is expected that this study may also be useful for future research and researcher to carry out of sociological studies on the issues concerned with gender perspective. The study will be useful to planners and policy makers. Similarly the finding will be helpful in providing some information needed by agencies and NGOs\ INGOs concerned with similar problems. The study will contribute to the improvement of commercial vegetable farming as a whole.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study aims to analyze women farmers' participation in commercial farming, to explore the women access over income generation and to analyze the role of commercial vegetable farming in women's empowerment. No study can be free from limitation and this study is no exception. This is an academic research. This study has some specific limitations as follows.

-) The study was an academic research for the partial fulfillment of master's degree in Rural Development. This study is based on small sample thus the finding may not be generalized to the national level.
-) Only active women members of the clusters were the respondents of the study. So the finding of the study may not be equally applicable to other areas of the study.
-) The researcher used to sample only representative of women vegetable farmers in ward no. 7 and 8 from Sundarijal VDC. Therefore the results should be interpreted cautiously and generalization for the other areas should not be made from them.
-) The researcher has considered only active women respondents from that VDC's who involve in commercial vegetable farming.
-) Limitation of time and money.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This dissertations report is divided into five chapter .The first chapter discusses the introduction of the study including statement of the problems, research, objectives, definition of terms, limitation of the study and rational of the study along with organization of study. Pertinent literature has been reviewed in chapter two. This chapter deal about theoretical overview, gender perspectives, feminist perspective, the feminist thinking, GAD framework, status of Nepal women, vegetable and agriculture, empirical studies on commercial vegetable farming women's empowerment.

The research methods use including the rational for the selection of the study site, research design, nature and sources of data, sampling procedure, pre-testing, data collection technique,

problems of fieldwork, validity and reliability, and method of data analysis and presentation have been discussed in the third chapter. The fourth chapter deals about women's participation in commercial vegetable farming in study site including division of household chores and women's workload and chapter also examines the women's livelihood, income generation, including domestic chores and women's workload.

And the chapter also examines the women's access to income generation, including expenditure of women, family members/relative attitude and benefits besides financial. This chapter also discusses about women's empowerment and major problems faced by women farmers in commercial vegetable farming .In the last chapter summary, conclusion, major findings and recommendation are presented.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Concept

Now day's commercial farming is popular between male and female in rural and urban areas in Nepal to generate income to run their livelihoods. NGOs and INGOs are helping in their commercial farming and also micro finances are help through flowing capital.

Status of women is an important factor, which affects the socio-economic development of a country. As we know that status is not a fixed rigid concept, it changes with time. So the status of women also changes with time. Status has been defined in different ways. As cited by the population monograph- the United Nations has given the definition of women's status as "The conjunction of position a women occupies as a worker, students, wife, mother of the power and prestige attached to these positions and of the rights and duties she is expected to exercise" (CBS, 1987).

The situation of women in developing country like Nepal is much worst than in the developed ones. Still at the beginning of 21st century, due to conservatism, tradition, illiteracy, ignorance, poverty and superstitions, women have been treated as second-class citizens. They have less prestige, power and privileges than their male counterparts in the society (Upreti, 1988).

The paper has used the gender and development GAD framework in its discussion and analysis. The existing literature shows that the women in development WID approach prior to the emergence of GAD approach in the 1980s. The primary focus of the WID approach was on the inclusion/integration of women in the development projects embedded with the objective for making more efficient. But the GAD approach attempted to address inequalities in the social roles of men and women vis-à-vis development. It has also linked the productive and reproductive roles of women with the assumption that the social construction of the these

roles primarily triggers the oppression of the women. Understandably, gender is the system of socially ascribed roles and relationship between men and women, which are determined not by biology but by social, political, and economic context. Given the fact that gender roles are learned, they can change over time (Moser 1989, Seed 1991 and Regmi, 2000).

Basically sex is biologically defined, where as gender is socially defined. Thus sex refers to the biological fact that a person is either man or women. Gender refers to the biological fact that a person i.e. either man or women. Gender refers to socially learned traits associated with, and expected of, to be a men or women (Giele1988: cited in Regmi2003:130). Therefore to be a man or women is a matter of sex, but to be masculine or feminine is a matter of gender and attitudes, such as mannerisms. Style of dress and activities preferences (Regmi, 2003:40).

Gender refers to the societies distinguish men and women and assign them social roles. It is used as an analytical tool to understand social realities with regard to women and men (Bhasin 2003:40).

According to Hindu code Manu Smirti the first discourse, it has been stated that both men and women originated from god, men come out from one of half of this beings and women the other half. However a lot of discriminations had been made between men and women in a Manu Smirti age.

On the other hand "gods rejoice where women are worshiped "because Mahakali, Mahalaxmi and Maha-Saraswati are worshiped as incarnation of women and symbols of power. According to Manu, "however useless he may be a womanizer and bastard, the women must worship her husband as God "Thus women are traditionally deprived in our society.

Giddings's (2001) stated that in general, sociologists use the term sex to the anatomical and physiological differences that define men and women bodies. Gender, by contrast, concerns the psychological, social and cultural differences between men and women. Genders linked to socially constructed notions of masculinity and femininity; It is not necessarily a direct product of an individual's biological sex.

Gender differences are not biologically determined; they are culturally produced. Gender differences between men and women are caused by the psychological and social development of individual within a society.

Women and men may be physically different, but this does not mean that they are therefore innately different from each other. It is society and culture, which has decided that men and women possess different traits and attitudes. V. Geetha said that gender as an aspect of our everyday lives as well as a social, economic and cultural category that subsumes and re-writes the meaning of human sex, the fact of being masculine and female.

2.2 Women Participation in work Women and the Workplace

According to a study by Acharya and Bennett on the status of women in Nepal (1979-81) women spend on the average of 9.91 hours per day in domestic farm labour as opposed to 5.68 hours per day for men. Rural women generate more of the total household income than men 50% of the total income is contributed by women as compared to 44% by men and 6% children.

The aggregate data from this study depict women's contribution to the heavily focused on farm and domestic activities: 86% of all domestic work and 57% in subsistence agricultural activities. Their total contribution to the household income remains at 50% as opposed to only 44% for males and 6% for children between the ages of 10 to 14 (UNICEF 1992:91-92). The socio-economic status of women in Nepal is very poor. While 81.3% of the total population are dependent on agriculture women constitute 45.2% of the country's total economically active population. Labor participation of Nepalese women is the highest among SAARC countries (61:04%), despite their significant contribution to the economy, women constitute the major group of disadvantaged people in Nepal (UNICEF 1995:2).

According to Shrestha "Nepalese society which regards male members as an asset and those not object to women entering the labour market but expects to receive her traditional domestic role equally.

Women have always been given a secondary position on that of man in our traditional society. She is seen as a good housekeeper, and a good mother this shows that women had a very limited role to perform in the traditional society. However, in the modern times, especially in the urban areas, women have to perform dual role i.e. to take care of the whole household activities and to work outside the home for extra income to support the family (Upreti, 1988:13).

According to Pradhan, (1979) women have been traditionally regarded primarily as consumers and not producers. It is only with the advent of the 1970 that they have been regarded as a global resource for development and social changes. Women's limited role in the society reflects the secondary role given to them in the household nexus, which forms the deep core of almost all social relationships in traditional societies like Nepal.

More and more Nepalese women are entering into job market today either because economic necessity or in search of new career if one looks into the occupational distribution of families from 1971 to 1991 census, one would find a considerable increase in the proportion of women employed in services, professional and technical and sales services.

For majority of population in pre-industrial societies (many people in the developing world) productive activities of household were not separate. Production was carried on either in the home or nearby all the members of the family participated in work. Women often had considerable influences within the household as a result of their importance of economic processes, even if they were excluded from the male realm of politics and warfare. Wives of craftsmen and farmers often kept business accounts and windows quite commonly owned and managed businesses.

Much of this changed with the separation of the workplace from the home has brought about by the development of modern industry. The movement of production in mechanized factories was probably the largest single factor. Individuals hired specifically for the tasks did work at the machine's pace, so employers gradually began to contract workers as individuals rather than families.

With time and progress of industrialization, an increasing division was established between home and workplace. The idea of separate spheres- public and private became entrenched in popular attitudes. Men, by merit of their employment outside the home, spent more time in public realm and become more involved in local affairs, politics and market. Women came to be associated with 'domestic' values and with responsible for tasks such as childcare, maintaining the home and preparing the food for the family. The idea women's place is in a home 'had different implications for women at varying levels in society. Affluent women enjoyed the services of maids, nurses and domestic servant's. The burden for poorer women who had to cope with the household chores as well as engaging in industrial work to supplement their husband's income.

Rates of employment of women outside the home, for all classes were quite low until entering in to the 20th centuries. Even as late 1910,in Britain, more than one third of gainful employed women were maids or house servants .The female labor force consistence mainly of young single women, whose wages, when they worked in factories or offices, were often sent by their employers direct to their parents. Once married, they generally withdrew from the labor force and concentrated on family obligations. (Giden; 2001)

2.3 Some International Processes for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

International conferences, summits and declarations are conscious on women's empowerment and some programs were announced to improve women's status.

- a. The United Nations Charter was the first international treaty to enunciate the principle of equality in specific terms. It reaffirmed fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of human person, equal right of men and women, fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion.
- b. The International declaration of human rights (1984). The principle of equality and non-discrimination was formulated as central theme of declaration.
- c. Basic Women's Right Documents:

- i. CEDAW: In 1981 U.N. general assembly adopted the convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It is the first legally binding international treaty in which state assumes the duty to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.
- ii. International Conference on Women: In 1971 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 1975 International Women's Year (IWY) to be devoted to intensified action with a view promoting equality between men and women, to ensuring the full integration of women in the total development effort and increasing the contribution of women to the strengthen of world piece (U.N. 1976). In 1975 the General Assembly proclaimed 1976-85 as UN decade for women: Equality, Development and peace. The IWY, the decade for women and four women's international conferences (Mexico 1975, Nairobi-1980, Copenhegan-1985, Beijing-1995) so far were all inspired by the desire to end discrimination against women and to ensure their equal participation in society.
- iii) The Vienna Declaration: The conference in human right held in Vienna in June 1993, express deep concern about the various forms of Discriminations and violence to which women continue to be exposed all over the world and dealt extensively with the equal status and human rights of women in its conducting declaration.
- iv) ICPD plan of action: The Cairo consensus also placed great emphasis on development, education and employment but its greatest effect derived from the priority given to gender equality and new prospective of the family planning.

All major partners of international development community, multilateral and bilateral, have established priorities an specific policy guidelines to consider women as key-socio-economic actor to development and subsequently have placed the gender concerns in their assistance strategies as the integral component of respective co-operation frameworks.

2.4 Related Studies on Commercial Vegetable Farming and Women's Livelihood

Kawamura (2000) pointed out that vegetable farmers derive their livelihoods mostly from NR-based activities with a narrower range of income sources, specializing in vegetable farming. They do not only operate large-scale farming of marketable vegetables such as tomato and on higher income from it, but are also able to utilize land more profitably. They use higher proportions of their land for vegetable farming, but they still maintain larger food crop areas and greater food crop areas and greater food crop production and sufficiency. These strategies are considered to have been possible due to their higher status of assets and more advantaged access to them.

Uphadaya (2004) stated that majority of activities pertaining to vegetable farming under drip irrigation areas (Three village of Palpa District of western Nepal) is carried out by women. Men's involve in relatively limited. Data show that a total of 186 hours of labor is required for vegetable production in dry season, in which women's contribution is significantly higher (86%). The total mean hours used for irrigation in vegetable production is the highest (80 hours) in comparison with other activities. Interestingly, activities like harvesting, weeding, fertilizer application and marketing are completely dominated by women.

Women spent a total of 328 hours per annum for vegetable farming while men spent only 44 hours. Nepal remains one of the lowest ranking countries in terms of gender-related development indicator (GDI), which clearly illustrate the gender inequality prevalent in the country. It is also evident that those countries that are lower achievers in GDI are predominantly represented under low-income food deficient countries (LIFDC) and so is the case of Nepal.

Narko and Kikhi (2060) studied about the women vegetable vendors under the title "Strengthening Market Linkages for women vegetable vendors: Experience from kohima, Nagaland, India." Here they observed that 90 to 95 percent of the vendors were women. Women looked after the management, cultivation, harvesting and processing of the crops, although men sometimes helped to bring their products to the local markets. Although some

goods are sold in bulk to regular vendors, others were sold directly to consumers on a temporary site.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

The main focus of study is to analyze the women's involvement in commercial vegetable farming and its impact to them. To fulfill this study is concentrated on the following variables, in short the conceptual framework of this study is as follow.

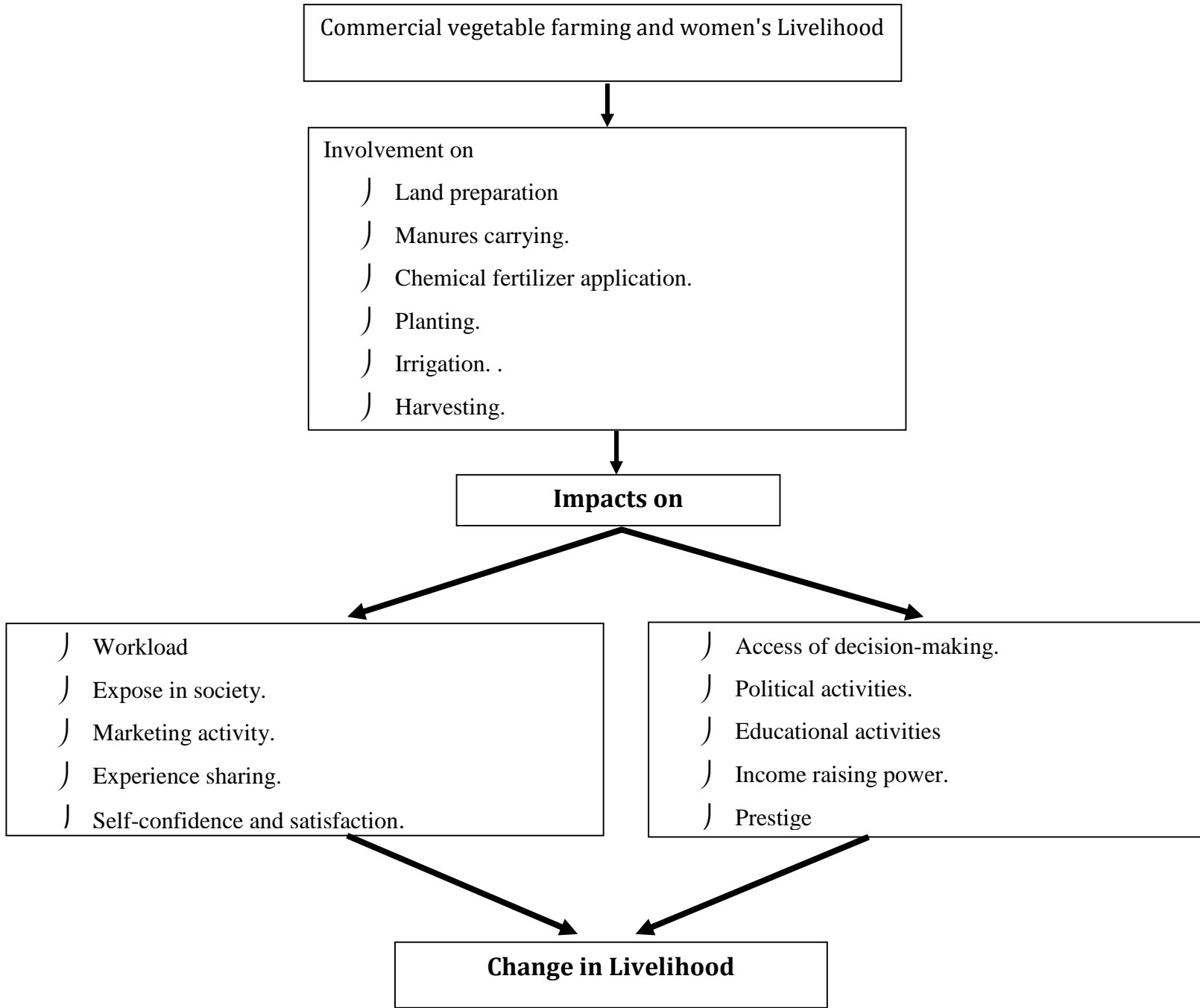


Fig. 2.1: Conceptual Framework on Women's Involvement in the Commercial Vegetable Farming.

The study is concerned with the gender role in land preparation, manure carrying, chemical fertilizer application, seed system, planting, weeding, irrigation, insecticides spraying, harvesting, and marketing, these activities improve farmer's household economy. When women farmer's actively involves in this farming and marketing, their access in and control over income generation from vegetable selling is increased. The study also concerned with the women workload and role of women's farmers, which is investigated within the social, economic and gender context of women's life style as a whole. Women involvement on these activities increased their mobility, expose in society, increased marketing and organizational activities. This also makes them self-confidence and independent too. The increment in family income has an impact on health, nutrition, education and conjugal life. Women's participation in vegetable farming and marketing builds their awareness toward organizational and communal activities. Likewise, these activities have effects on decision-making power in household as well as in community. These also induce power and awareness, training and capacity building, political awareness and bargaining power, which ultimately lead them to empowerment and upraise the livelihood of women.

Conclusion:

In this research various literatures have been reviewed. These literatures point out only change in women's livelihood due to be commercial vegetable farming. It concludes that various research studies have been made in the area of gender situation and discrimination between male and female. It is important to study that whether the farming women are suffering from the discrimination in our patriarchy society or not.

In fact only the discussed about gender situation the CVF major problems. It is very important to investigate and find out the condition of the gender situation in the case of women's commercial vegetable farming and marketing activities women in the country, which can play vital role to solve the problem of gender discrimination in our society and whole world.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The major emphasis in this study is to analyze and explore the position and access of women involving in the commercial vegetable farming. It analyze women's livelihood due to commercial vegetable farming. To explore the women's access to role of commercial farming in women's empowerment. Considering this work, exploratory research design was used to understand the access of women in income generation and their empowerment. Descriptive research design was also used to describe women's participation in commercial vegetable farming and their livelihood. Similarly, it was also used to socio- cultural situation of women vegetable farming

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of information. In order to fulfill the specific objectives of the study, the analysis is mainly based upon primary data. This primary data has been acquired from field surveys, observations and interviews. The secondary data has been collected from different published and unpublished materials such as research articles, books, journals, seminar papers, occasional papers, case studies, research reports and thesis etc. The methods of the study are basically qualitative and quantitative.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

According to the local villagers above 60 household's women are engaged in commercial vegetable farming using approximately 1 ropanies and more than 1 ropanies of land of each. Thus the universe of the study will be 60 households. Firstly the number of households in the universe will be listed and 25 households are purposively selected. Household selected as the elements of sample and was taken as unit of analysis.

Table 3.1: Sample Size According to Sundarijal VDC

Ward	Number of Respondent	Percentage
7	8	32.0
8	17	68.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

3.4 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

In order to obtain reliable information, it is very much essential that techniques used for data collection be precise and accurate. Therefore different tools and techniques such as interview schedule, case studies were used to collect the required information.

i) Household Survey:-In the first phase of the field work, household survey was conducted to rapport building; it also helps to find out the respondents. Moreover important basic information will be collected using this technique.

ii) Interview Schedule: - The semi-structured questionnaire was prepared and finalized through the discussion with advisor, callings, and experts. Mostly, close-ended questions were prepared. The 25 sampled women vegetable farmers (active women members of households) were interviewed individually by administering pre-tested and semi-structured interview schedule. Both open and close-ended question were used in the interview but mostly close-ended questions (44 questions) were used. This is the main techniques.

iii) Observation - During fieldwork, household survey, and case studies, focus group discussion, respondents will also be observed to triangulate the collected data to and ensure that the right information will be collected.

v) Key Informants Interview: - A checklist finalized by supervisor, was used to interview key informants. For getting special insights on certain aspects and for collecting more important qualitative data, key informant interview with key or resource persons were also

carried out. A checklist was administrated to different categories such as village ex-vice chairperson of Sundarijal and mother's group, Leader farmers DLGSP's staff, technical support staff of Mahankal Village, J.T.A and chairperson of different women groups.

VII) Focus Group Discussion

For the focus group discussion, a checklist was prepared and finalized by the help of Thesis supervisor and colleagues. The major contents of group discussion were the problem faced by the women farmers and the sole objectives of this study. Two focus Group Discussion (FGD) sessions were held with non-samples women vegetable farmers including JT, JTA and representative of VDC etc.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

All the collected data from field were analyzed both quantitatively as well as qualitatively as per their nature. The information collected from the field were coded, and entered to the computer program Microsoft Excel. Simple descriptive statistics will be used to analyze the data and necessary tables, graphs prepared and inserted under suitable headings. Some case studies included in thesis report. Similarly suitable photographs taken during field visit inserted for better illustrated and reinforce the evaluation aspects of the report. Much more qualitative data which was not quantifiable, we manually managed.

3.6 Problems of Fieldwork

During the fieldwork, researcher faced few problems; it was a peak agricultural season. So it became very difficult to meet women farmer in their homes. So it took long time to visit and revisit them. Even after I meet them, they were not ready to response to questions because they thought that they know nothing and recommended me to take interview to their male counterparts. They were reluctant to tell their problems and their men counterparts. It indicates the psychology of men dominant practical society. A few of them even thought that there is no point to share their problems. Even after I met them, they gave good response me because I already have worked in this place for 2 years. So I didn't bear other kind of problem.

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Study Site Description

Sundarijal is one of the 57 VDCs of Kathmandu District. It is situated about 15 km North-east of Kathmandu city. Sundarijal VDC consists of total 547 households & 2,552 populations in which 1,252 male and 1,300 female (CBS, 2012). The VDC is named after the Hindu goddess 'Sundarimai'. The temple of 'Sudarimai' is located about 3 km north from the headquarter of the VDC. The total area of this VDC is 10,752.13 ropanis (5.18 km²). Most of the land of the VDC is covered by hills and forests. Only some part is plain terrain. Shivapuri National Park covers a major portion of the VDC. The VDC is located west to Gagalphedi VDC and East to Nayapati & Baluwa VDCs. Towards its south lies Aalapot VDC and at its northern portion touches the boundaries of Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk districts.

The main villages of the VDC are Kune, Majhgaun, Chilaune, Okhani, Mulkharka, Mahankal, and Ghatte Khola gaun. Most of the people are Tamangs and Buddhists predominates the region (nepalstudycenter.unm.edu).

Climate

The climate is of temperate type. During summer, the temperature is 25.5 ° C in average and temperature drops down even to 0 ° C during winter. The buses ply up to the bus park situated at the main market of the VDC and other places are linked by the narrow earthen roads, link roads and foot trails.

4.2 Caste/Ethnicity Composition of the Respondents

History of Nepal is the history of synchronism of various cultural languages; religions castes .It is model of mosaic society. Nepal is a country inhabited by various caste/ethnic groups many of whom have a distinct language of their own as well different religious persuasions.

The collected data of the composition of caste/ethnicity has been shown in the figure 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Caste/ethnic Groups

	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Brahmin	5	20.00
Chhetri	4	16.00
Tamang	9	36.00
Newar	7	28.00
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

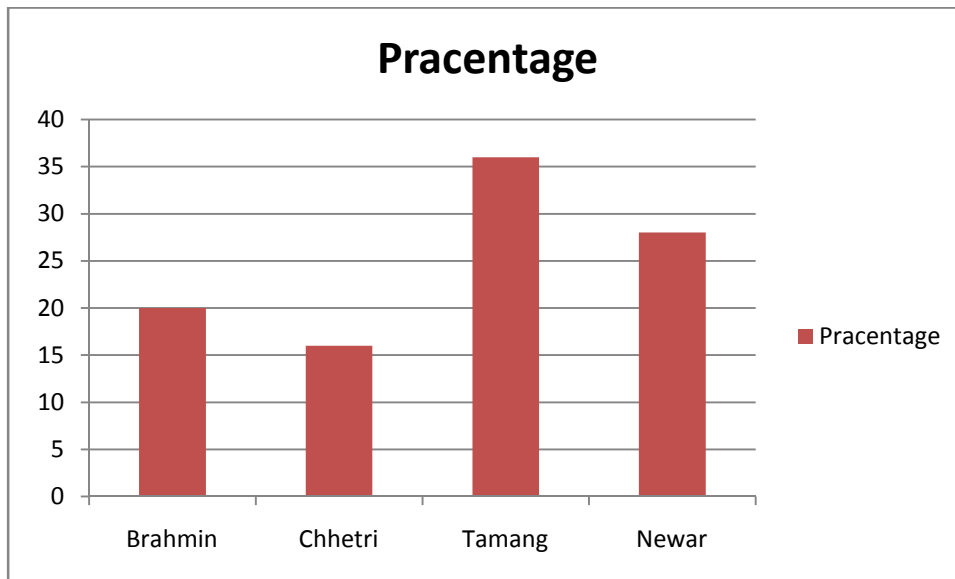


Fig. 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Caste/ethnic Groups

According to the above figure 4.1 the majority of (36%) is occupied by Tamang followed by Newar and Brahmin each by 28% and 20% respectively. Similarly Chheteri has 16% in the study area. The demography of the above figure represents mixed ethnic society ranging from 36% of the Tamang to the 16% of Chhetri.

4.3 Education

Education is the basic requirement and vehicle of change and development, which contributes the developments of social, political and economic betterment. Education not only improves individual skills, ability and awareness, but also arouse the sprits of struggle against poverty, gender based discrimination and inequality. It helps to raise the living standard of the people by well maintaining their economic activities day to day life.

Table 4.2: Education Level of Respondent

Caste/Ethnicity	Literate	Illiterate	Under S.L.C	SLC Passed	I.A. Above
Brahmin	5	-	1	3	1
Chhetri	4	-	1	1	2
Tamang	6	3	1	4	1
Newar	5	2	2	1	2
Total	20	5	5	9	6

Source: Field Survey, 2074

Above table exhibits the facts that the education level of women respondents was higher than national level. They were deprived of access to higher-level education. According to their caste/ethnic composition Brahmin women were more literate among other caste women. Among total number of literacy of Brahmin women only 5 are literate, no one is illiterate, 1 is under SLC, 3 are SLC passed and one is above I.A. Similarly 4 Chhetri are literate, one is under SLC, in study area among this other caste Tamang women were 6 are literate, and 3 are illiterate, one is under SLC in the study area. Similarly, 5 Newar women are literate, 2 are illiterate, 2 are under SLC and one is slc and 2 are above IA in this area.

This data clearly shows that Brahmin, Tamang and Newar women were leading education level in this area Tamang women were most sensitive in education than other caste women similarly Chhetri women were follow Brahmin women.

4.4 Economic Structure

Women contribute to development not only through remunerated work but also through a great deal of unremunerated work. Platform for action and Beijing Declaration (Cited in FWLD and TAF 2003). In the context of Nepal, where the most of the area is covered with a number of villages. So, the main source of village economy is based on agricultural activities. The main sources of livelihood of study are agriculture. The economic condition of VDC's of study areas consists predominately of the cultivation cereal production, seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable cultivation and livestock rearing and so on Primary crops e.g. paddy, maize, wheat and vegetables tomato, cauliflower, cabbage cucumber, radish, bean etc. Most of the household's women raising buffalos, cows, goats, ox, poultry etc.

4.5 Occupational Structure

The main source of livelihood in the study area is agriculture. The economy of study area consists predominantly of agro-farming, followed by only subsistence farming, abroad and very few in small scale business are some other jobs to maintain to their livelihoods.

Table 4.3: Occupational Structure of the household heads

Occupational Structure	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Only Farming	14	56.0
Abroad	5	20.0
Farming +Job	2	8.0
Business	4	16.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

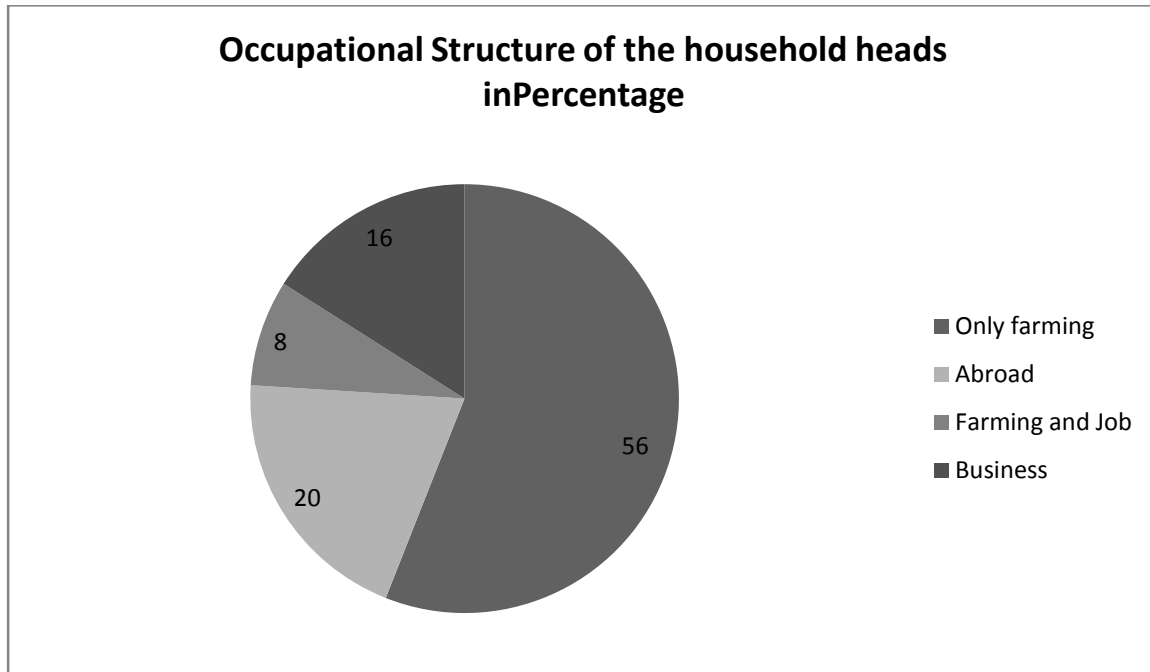


Figure 4.2: Occupational Structure of the household heads

Maximum numbers of the respondents reported the fact that 56% of the households are engaged in the subsistence farming.

Whereas another largest no. of households heads 20% are evolved as a foreign employment followed by other job like business 16% is seen involving in the business sector like kirana shop, vegetable shop hotels etc. 8 % respondent are seen involving in both sectors like farming and governmental job in the study area. In the study are most respondents family member were seen involving in the farming.

4.6 Satisfaction with Commercial Vegetable Farming

The illustrates the fact that 68% of the respondents who were heavily involved in the commercial vegetable farming were highly satisfied by their business of farming. Here the level of satisfaction is compared is there order which is revealed. Similarly the largest numbers of 28% respondents were simply satisfied by their present profession. On the other hand very few 4% of the respondents they were not satisfied through their occupation of commercial vegetable farming.

Table 4.4 : Satisfaction with Commercial Vegetable

Satisfaction Level	Number of Respondent	Percent
Highly Satisfaction	17	68.0
Satisfied	7	28.0
Not Satisfied	1	4.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

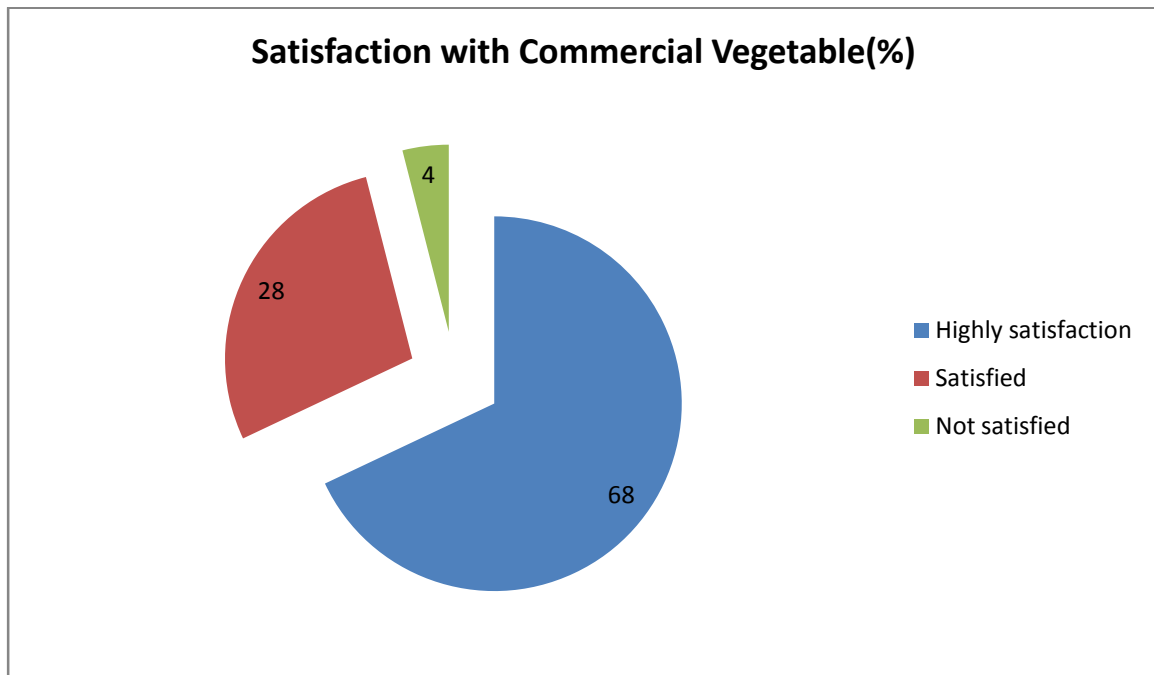


Table 4.3: Satisfaction with Commercial Vegetable

4.7 Land Utilized in Commercial Vegetable Farming

Land, in fact taken as the free gift of nature like water, air, etc. But, later on due to the possession of land as the means of private property. Anyway, land is considered as the main resource of production where the crops and vegetables are grown as per the demand. In the study site uniformity was not maintained in the case of using same size of land for cultivation purpose. Majority of the respondents 56% used 1-3 ropani of land for the cultivation of

vegetable follow comparatively by 4-6 ropani land used by 28% and 16% respondents use above 6 ropani of the land in study area for cultivation respectively.

Table 4.5: Land Utilized by Commercial Vegetable Farming

Utilized Land	Number of Respondent	Percent
1-3 Ropani	14	56.0
4-6 Ropani	7	28.0
above 6	4	16.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

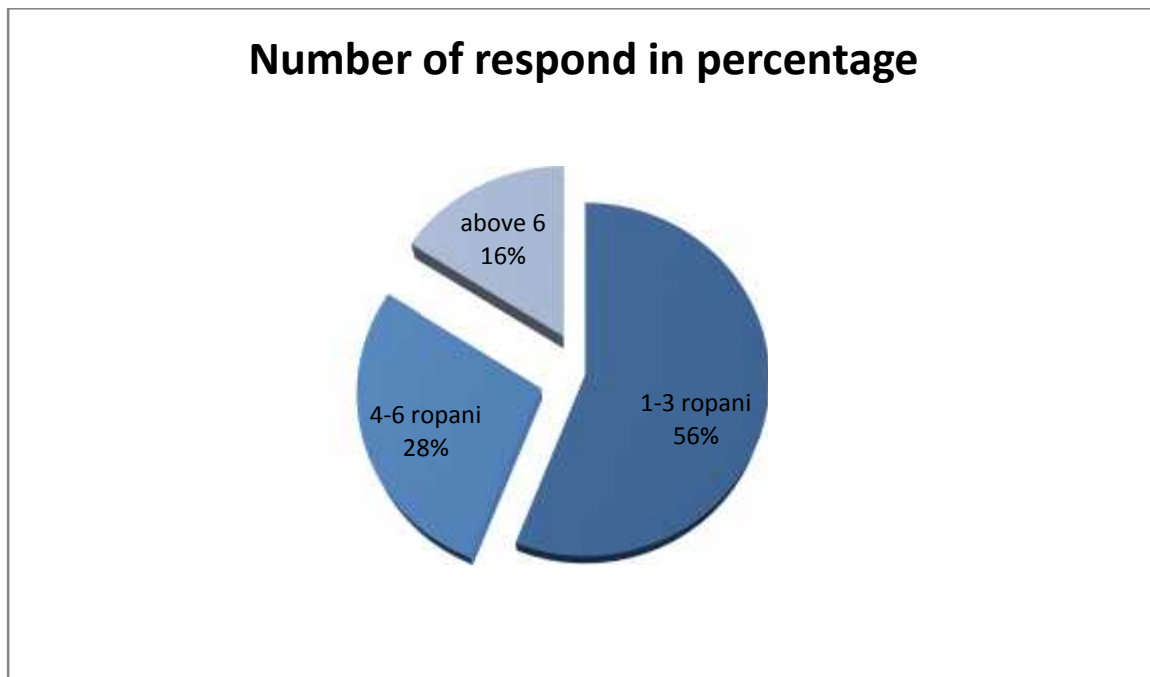


Figure 4.4: Land Utilized by Commercial Vegetable Farming

4.8 Market Management for the Products

Transportation is the main facility, which directly or indirectly affects in the village economy. Most of the people at the study site are engaged in agriculture and vegetable farming as well. In order to flourish this sector the provision of transportation and irrigation is the most.

Modern civilization leaves millions of people in a situation where, under normal conditions, they cannot grow vegetables or they find it preferable to buy their supplies to meet these needs. The commercial vegetable business has grown up with its local gardens (work 1997 cited in Kunwar 2001). Now days, in the study site, vegetable cultivators appear as one of the productive enterprises. The study site lies near Kathmandu and is linked by Chabhil near ringroad, which also links this site with other places of Kathmandu city.

Due to well transportation facility, most of the customers i.e. retailers and wholesalers come to village to buy their product. Almost all women farmers 52 percent mostly sell their product in Kathmandu and only 40 percent of the respondents sell their product to the local market and mediator buyer and only 8% respondent sell their product from their house.

Table 4.6 : Market Management for the Products

Market Place	Number of Respondent	Percent
Own community	2	8
Mandi/ kathmandu	13	52
Local market and mediator buyer	10	40
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

4.9 Period of Engagement in Commercial Vegetable Farming

The main vegetable crops grown in the study site are potato, tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, leafs, bottle gourd, beans etc. Period of engagement in commercial vegetable farming ranged from a minimum 2 years to maximum 20 years ago.

Table 4.7: Period of engagement in commercial Vegetable farming by Duration (years)

Duration	Number of HHs	Percentage
1-5	19	76.00
6-10	4	16.00
11-20	2	8.00
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

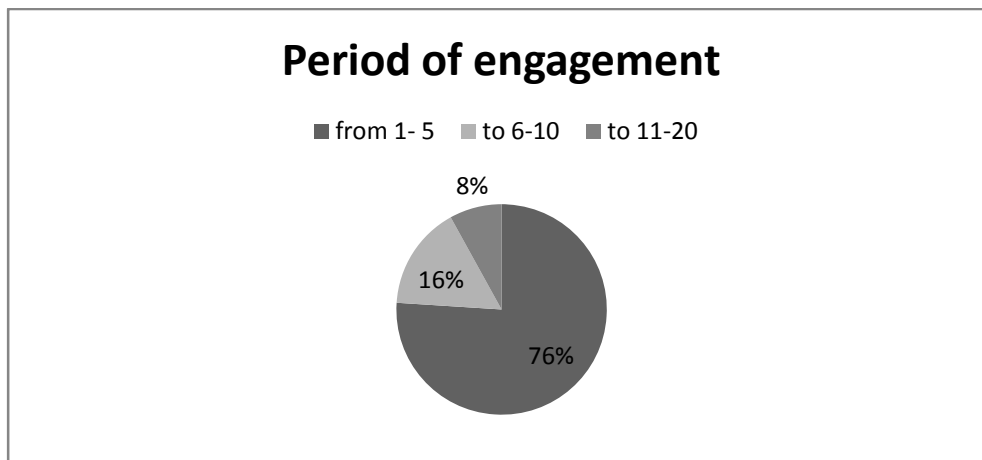


Fig. 4.5: Period of Engagement in Commercial Vegetable Farming by Duration (years)

76 percent of the respondents said that they started commercial vegetable farming between 1 to 5 years ago. 16.00 percent of the respondent started this activity before 6-10 years ago, 8.00% of them started 11-20 years. This information indicates that this occupation is very sound and good occupation especially in urban fringe. Women respondents who have no land

or small land for commercial vegetable farming for help marketing system. They earned only a little cash from commercial vegetable farming.

4.10 Types of Vegetable Farming

There are three types of seasonal vegetable viz. winter vegetables, spring vegetables and summer vegetables grown at study site. Generally broad leaf mustard, radish, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, potato etc. are mostly grown in the winter as well as spring seasons. In summer season sponge gourd, chilly, pumpkin, etc are commonly grown. Tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, cabbage, were main off-seasonal vegetables grown in study site

Table 4.8: Types of Vegetables Farming

Types of Vegetables	Number of Respondent	Percent
Seasonal	10	40.00
Off-Seasonal	15	60.00
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

Majority of the respondents cultivated off-season vegetable i.e tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumber, etc. 60% of them agreed with the statement that income from off-seasonal vegetables is higher than that of seasonal vegetables. The fig 9 reveals the fact that vast majority of the respondents are attracted to the off seasonal vegetable farming

So far as the agricultural crop-cycle and vegetable cycle is concerned there basically two types of vegetable farming. To be more specifically first are seasonal vegetables and second are off-seasonal vegetable. Within the seasonal vegetables three times come namely winter vegetables, spring vegetables commonly grown at the study site. Off-seasonal vegetable farming are highly emphasized in the study site where almost majority of the respondents 60% practiced this one cucumber, radish, cabbage, tomato, cauliflower, baronial etc are usually grown with major priority in the study site. Comparatively eligible 40% respondents are engaged is the seasonal vegetable farming.

4.11 Women's Involvement in Commercial Vegetable Farming.

Majority (48%) of the respondent reported that women themselves are involved as the key person who involved actively throughout the years in vegetable farming. Similarly about 36% of the women said that both wife and husband equally contributed the agricultural activities through the year. While very few 16% of the women respondents told that other family members in the house involved in the commercial vegetable farming.

Table 4.9: Key Person Involved in Commercial Vegetable Farming

Involved Main Person	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Self	12	48.0
Both (Husband +Wife)	9	36.0
Other	4	16.0
Total	25	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2074

4.12 Women's Workload

This chapter deals with the analysis of women's involvement in commercial vegetable farming. Further this chapter includes many other relevant issues like satisfaction with commercial vegetable farming. Types of vegetable farming, consultation regarding to seeds, fertilizers & diseases and market management for the products.

Women carryout majority of activities pertaining to commercial vegetable farming in the study area. Men's involvement is relatively limited. The average time spend by women respondents in commercial vegetable faming 5 hrs and a minimum 1 to a maximum 10 hrs per day. Only 24% respondents spend 1 to 3 hrs per day most women 60% work 4-7 hours per day. Interestingly, activities like manure carrying and dispersing chemical fertilizer application, seeds, planting, weeding and marketing and done by women. Women's time spent in other agricultural activities and household activities has been counted in these working hours.

Table 4.10: Working hours of Women in Commercial Vegetable

Working hours	Number of HHs	Percent
1 to 3 hours	6	24%
4 to 7 hours	15	60%
8 to 10 hours	4	16%
Total	25	100%

Source: Field Survey 2074

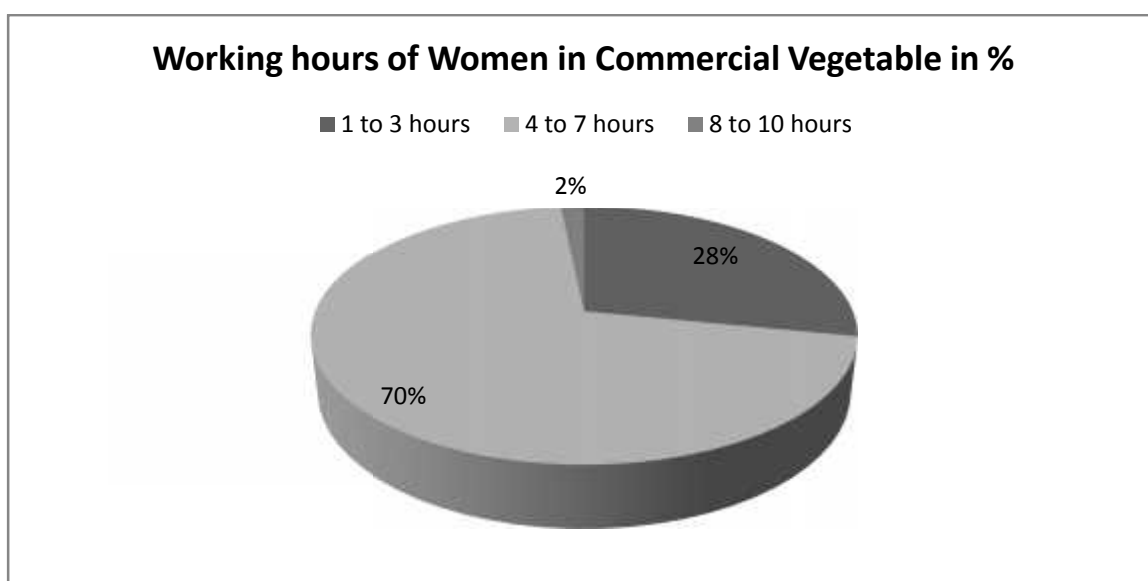


Figure 4.6: Working hours of Women in Commercial

4.13 Frequency of Sale

The vegetable cultivated needs to be sold in the market as soon as possible because they are the perishable things, which can't be kept fresh for longer time. Keeping this into considerations the vegetable grower of the study sells their products as soon as possible by the table presented below reveals the frequency of sale of the vegetable produced at the study site.

Table 4.11: Frequency of Sale

Frequency of sale	Number of Respondent	Percent
Daily	7	28%
Twice/thrice of week	12	48%
Weekly	3	12%
Once in a season	3	12%
Total	25	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2074

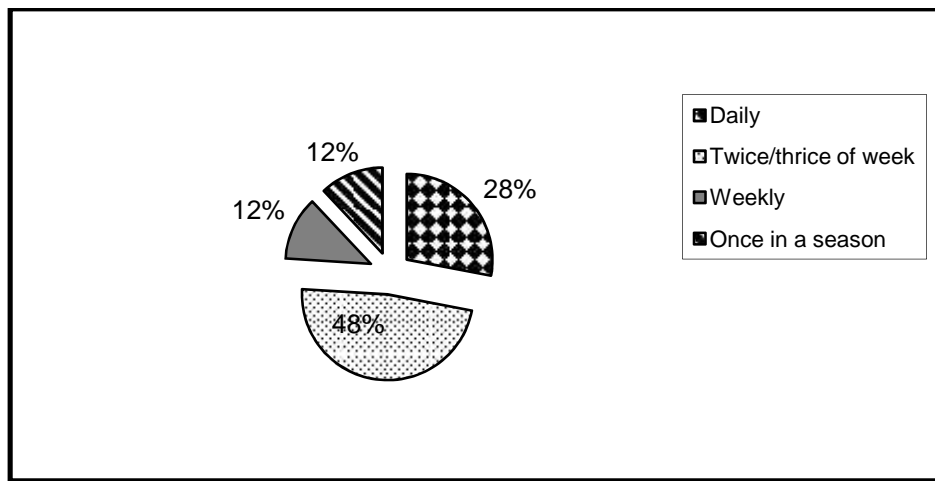


Fig. 4.7: Frequency of Sale

According to the above Fig4.7 is clearly seen that they sale their vegetable production in the regular frequency per day. The great majority 48% of the respondents told that they sold their products twice or thrice in the week at the market either in home or outside the home. Whereas 28% second largest majority admitted with the fact that they sold their products daily. But 12% of the each respondents which is the least percentage reported they sold their vegetable production weekly and once in every season.

4.14 Consultation Regarding Seeds, Fertilizer Diseases

For the better vegetable production it is necessary to have the knowledge about the selection of seeds, fertilizer and types of diseases those troubles in the different kind of vegetables.

Table 5.12 : Consultation Regarding seeds, Fertilizer Diseases

Consultation	Number of Respondent	Percentage
JTA officials	7	28.0
DADO	2	8.0
Local group	8	32.0
Private aggravates	8	32.0
Total	25	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2074

Majority of the respondents (32%) reported that they consulted with the both technician of private aggravates and Local group. Similarly another 28% respondents said that they got the suggestions from J.T.A. officials followed 8%of the respondents fold that they had the consolations with DADO.

4.15 Training Received

Training is considered as the main tool and technique to make an individual more empowered and skillful. Once women are involved in vegetable farming they fell more convenient to deal with the problems regarding vegetable affiliated diverse and market management and so on. The fact about their involvements in training or not shown in following figure.

Table 4.13: Training Received

Training	Number of Respondent	Percent
Involved	19	76.0
Not Involved	6	24.o
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

The table 4.13 demonstrates the fact that only 76% of the female respondents were involved directly in the training program, which enhances their capacity and skills. Whereas the largest number 24% of the respondents were not having the chance of participating in such kind of training organized and run by various sources. Most of the respondents who were not involved in such kind of training told restlessly that they were not even informed intentionally about the training which was likely to take place.

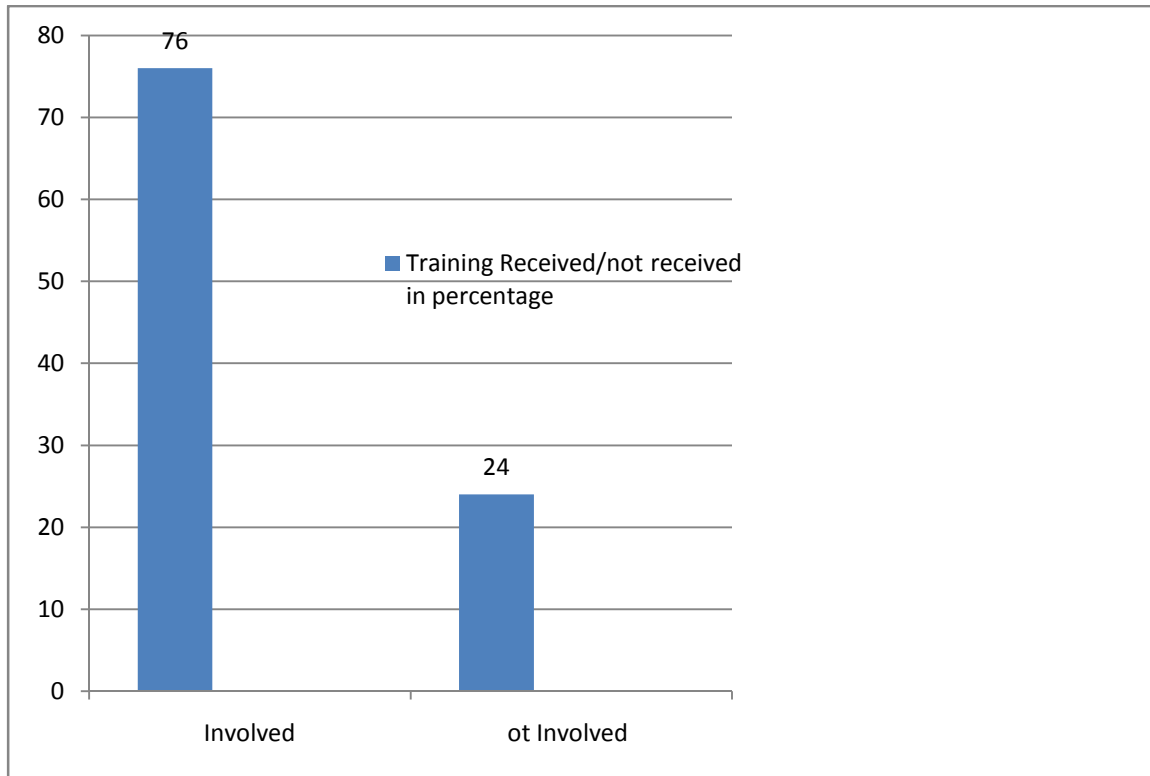


Figure 4.8: Training Received

4.16 Decision Making on Selling Vegetable by Gender

Nepal is, although labour and land allocation are grounded in cultural construction of rights and responsibilities, income distribution is largely governed by patriarchal ideologies favoring men prerogatives. But this occupation provides an opportunity to generate income for rural women. This eventually helps them in terms of capacity building and decision making at both household and community level. In other world male dominancy is seen in every sphere of human, social, cultural and economic life. But, so far as commercial

vegetable farming occupation is concerned. People have more or less contributed in farming to some extent. Majorities of farming decision makers are minority in both categories of farmers. More than three quarters of vegetable farmers are men less than a quarter women. However, only slightly more than half of non-vegetable farmers are men and less than women. However, only slightly more than women. It implies that men favoring decision makers are more likely to run commercial vegetable farmers than those women ones. It can be considered that this is due to gender difference in the hills of Nepal which allows men to have more decision making power on matters which involve risk and a large sum of money such as commercial vegetable farming (Kaumare 2000). Before adopting this occupation, most of the women farmers in the study site did not have any income source. Now they have not only access to financial resources but ask control over it. Because they hold the purse strings and expose in society, they command greater bargaining power in both household and community level decision-making. Data shows that before adopting this farming women were not much consulted by their male counterparts when deciding to household and community level. But now, in constraints to Kaumuras (2000) conclusion, women in study site are being increasingly consulted by their men counterparts before making a decision both in household and community level.

Table 4.14: Decision-making on Selling Vegetable by Gender

Decision Making	Number of Respondent	Percent
Self	13	52.0
Both	9	36.0
Husband	3	12.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

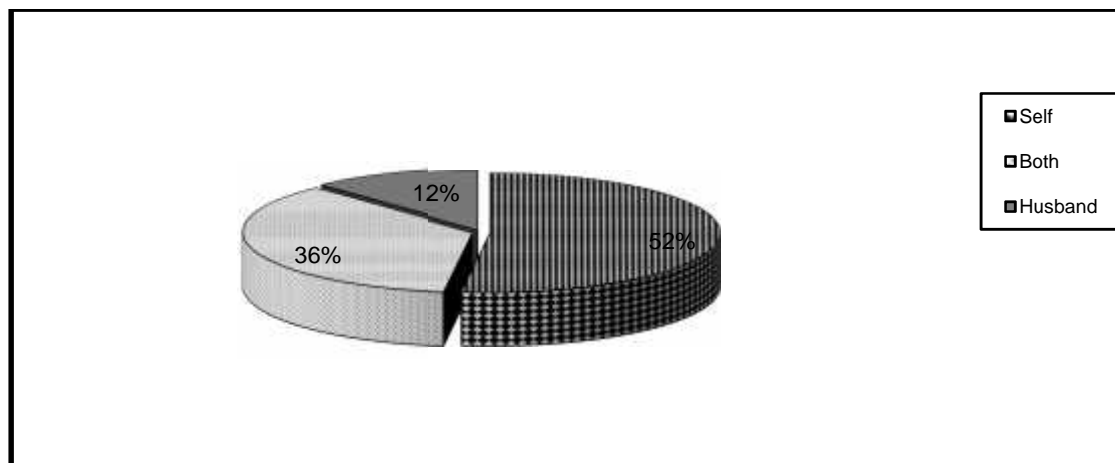


Fig 4.9: Decision Making on Selling Vegetable by Gender

According to the fig., Illustrated above exhibits the fact that a considerable 52% of the women vegetable farmers respondents reported that they themselves and organized choose the place and fix the rate for selling the vegetable to be sold in the desired place like co-operative. 36% respondents told that self and husband have decided to sell the vegetable. Their men counterparts make only 12% of the decisions. Thus, the level of decision making of women is very high in study site.

4.17 Affiliated to Groups/Institutions

The community members have strongly realized the fact that they need to organize them and work in a group. They realized that those farmers who do not belong to any groups and therefore have less opportunity to build social network and participating any programmers such as credit facilities, technical skill training etc. In case of participation mainly men are involved in various intuitional activities. But, after the incessant continuation of various awareness and awaking campaign and program the level of women's involvement in institution sector has been increased which is related in the table

Table 4.15: Affiliated to Groups/Institution

Affiliation	Number of Respondent	Percent
Affiliated	21	84.0
Not affiliated	4	16.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

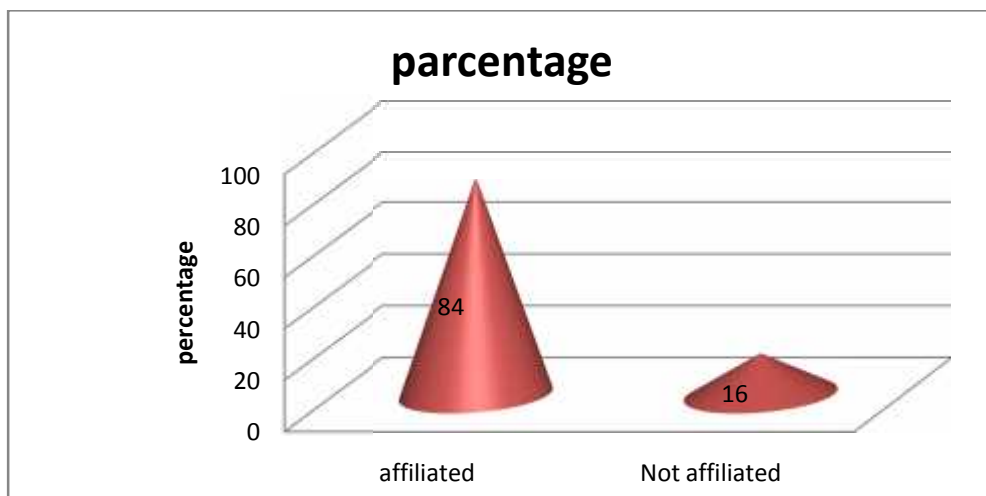


Fig 4.10 Affiliated to Groups/Institution

The table above demonstrates the fact that higher percentage of 84% respondents told that they are actively and regularly involved in the various kinds of intuitions and organization in order to enhance them self and their occupation and their community as a whole. On the other hand comparatively very few 16% of respondents told that they did not involved in any kind of intuition and organization as a whole.

4.18 Empowerment and Awareness

Empowerment enhances the ability and quality of person in different sector. The person is empowered if he or she becomes independence in the concerned sector. Awareness, enlightenment and frequent training are the bases for paying towards empowerment .In other words, empowerment and awareness are two inseparable entities they go hand in hand and he in order to mark the process of empowerment and awareness various data have been analyzed

and presented here under table 7.3.mentioned earlier made it clear that 52% i.e. vast majority of the women are independent to make the decision regarding their occupation which supports us to observe the level of their empowerment which is very high. On other hand huge number of respondents responds that they are independent to make use of earned income independently. This is also supporting evidence of empowerment.

Table 4.16: Empowerment and Awareness on Commercial Vegetable Farming

Empower	Number of Respondent	Percent
Yes	22	88.0
No	3	12.0
Total	25	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2074

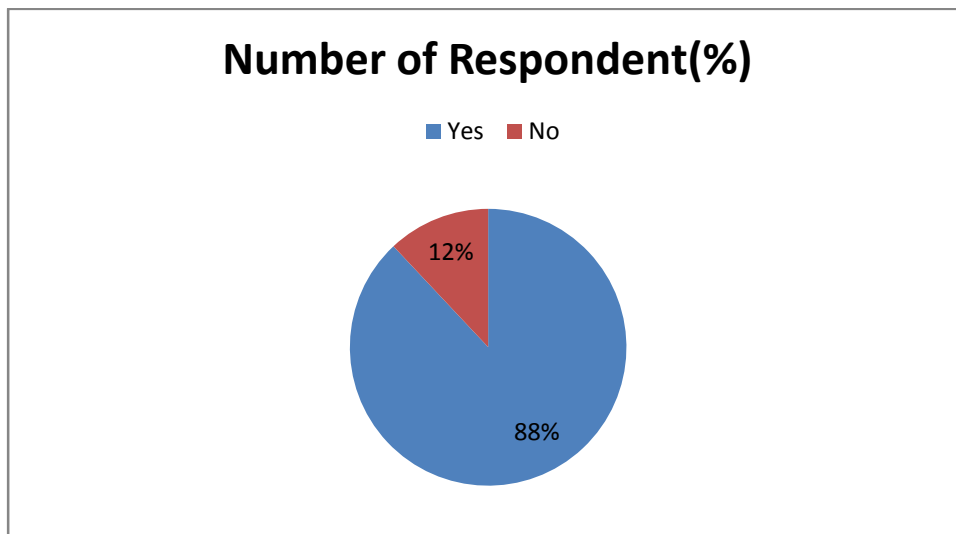


Figure 4.11: Empowerment and Awareness on Commercial Vegetable Farming

The table above displays the facts that a vast majority 88% of women respondents are independent through commercial vegetable farming where as very less 12% are not empowered through commercial vegetable farming. Most of the women respondents told that they have utilized the saving achieved from commercial vegetable farming in different productive sectors. It also increased their social prestige, decision making power, group and intuitional activities, exposure visit and marketing activities.

4.19 Investments and Income from C.V.F (Annually)

C.V.F. is the easiest means, which can enhance the village economy of Nepal. Economic status is an important and determining component of social, cultural change and development. Positive changes in economy, health, education and women's status are regarded as the hallmarks of social development of a country Table 6.1 below shows investment pattern in commercial vegetable farming and annuals income from accrued vegetable farming among the population of sampled household's in the study area.

Table 4.17: Investment in Income from the Vegetable (In annually)

Investment in Vegetable Farming (Annually)(000)			Income from vegetable farming (Annually) (000)		
Investment	H.H.S	Percent	Income	H.H.S.	Percent
1-30	4	16	1-45	3	12
30-60	8	32	45-75	7	28
60-90	7	28	75-105	11	44
Above 90	6	24	105-125	4	16
Total	25	100%		25	100%

Source: Field Survey 2074

The annual investment in commercial vegetable farming of sampled household ranged from 2 to 90 thousand where, as annual income from vegetable farming is 2 to 125 thousand. The average annual investment in study site is 25 thousand and average income is 62.5 thousands. The highest percent of the households 32% invested 30 to 60 thousand followed by 28%

invested less than Rs. 60-90 thousands and 24% responded invested above Rs. 90 thousand annually in vegetable farming and only 16% invest 1-30 thousands annually. The highest percent 44% of the households earned 75 to 105 thousand annually followed by 28% households earned Rs. 45 to 75 thousand and 16% respondent earned 105 to 125. At least 12% respondent earned 1 to 45 thousand per year. The value of vegetable consumed by the respondent household and labour used the commercial vegetable farming have not been included in this calculation.

4.20 Independent to the Saving

In fact, Nepal is a patriarchal society where the supremacy of male is seen in every aspects of socio-economic life of Nepalese society. In many cases ownership of the land and property is achieved by male in larger number than that of female. Due to the impact of male domination their influences and activities is seen mostly in the day-to-day economic affairs of their life.

Table 4.18 Independent to Saving

Respondent in saving	no of respondent	parentage
Dependent	10	40
Independent	15	60
Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2074

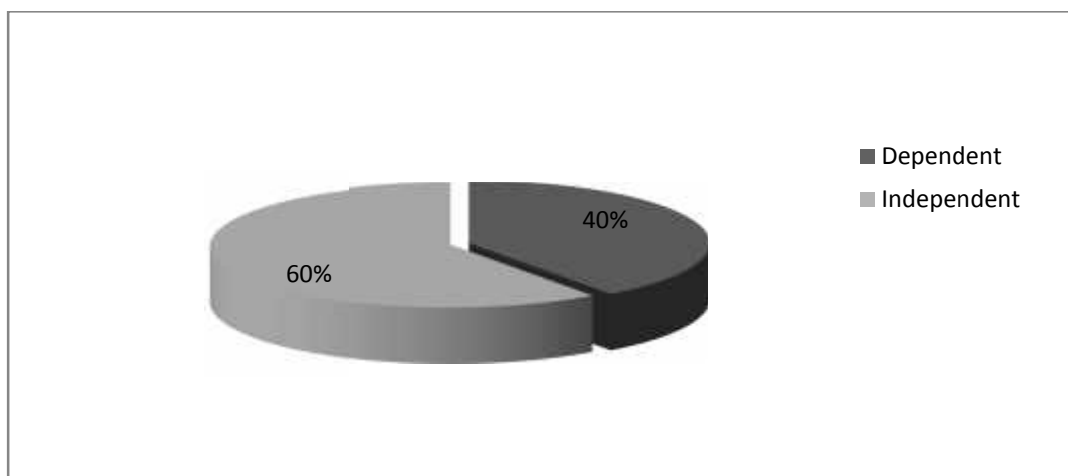


Fig. 4.12: Independent to the Saving Money from C.V.F

The figure 4.12 has made the fact crystal clear that vast majority of the women farmer respondents 40% are dependent to use their saving from farming. In other word they are not free to utilize and handle the money, which they have accumulated through their hard labor and incessant efforts. On the contrary to this only 60% of the respondents reported that they almost independent to make the use of money as according to their will and interest.

4.21 Noticeable Change in Livelihood after Involvement in C.V.F.

In the study demonstrated that commercial vegetable farming had significant changes in women vegetable farmers. They have a lot of changed at many goods as soon as they involved in C.V.F. Some of their changes are judged in term of monetary value while other are invaluable southing as their name, fame, self them, self dignity etc which they have considered as invaluable changes in their life. There have been positive changes in the economic status health condition education situation and position of women in study site.

Table4.19: Noticeable Change in Livelihood after Involvement in C.V.F.

Noticeable change	Number of Respondent	Percent
Toilet Construction	8	32
Management of home	13	52
Made shelter for cow& goat	2	8

Other	2	8
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

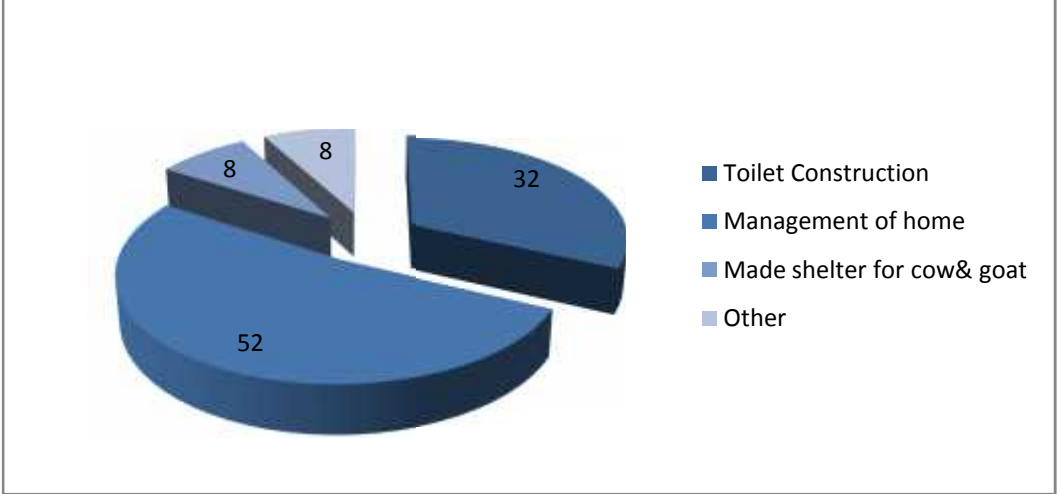


Fig. 4.13: Noticeable Change in Livelihood after Involvement in C.V.F.

The table 4.19 above status clearly that 32% reported the facts that they have constructed toilet at their home for hygienic environment through the money they achieved and saved from the vegetable farming, where as a considerable amount of 52% respondent told that they have well managed and reconditioned their house. Similarly 8% another largest number told that they constructed the seltzer for cow and goat. At lastly 8% of them narrated that they have utilized their saving in other works like buying utensils, decorating things, jewelers and in the investment of their children education.

4.22 Accumulation of Savings

A vast majority of the respondents 59% of the respondents told that they have saved some amount of money as a surplus after fulfilling the economic demand of their day-to-day life. While, on the country to this very few number of respondents (41%) responded that the money they earned from the vegetable farming is enough to their daily basic needs .On the other hand out of 59% respondent who have managed to save some money for future purpose .32% of them told that they have accumulated saving amount of the Saving & credit groups.

While 16% of the respondents reported that the accumulated saving amount in Agricultural Development bank. Here 40% a huge number of respondents told that they accumulated in the co-operative bank and very lest 12%respondent that they saved their money by themselves at home.

Table 4.20 : Accumulation of Savings

Accumulation	Number of Respondent	Percent
Group	8	32.0
Agriculture Bank	4	16.0
Co-operative	10	40.0
Home	3	12.0
Total	25	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2074

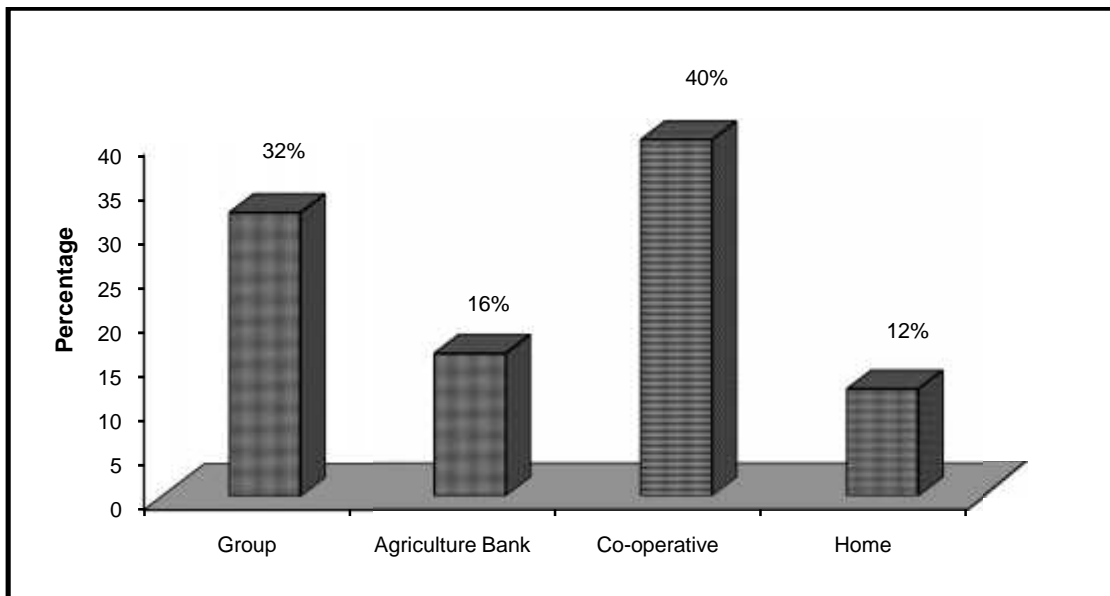


Fig. 4.14: Accumulation of Savings

4.23 Major achievements after involvement in C.V.F.

In the study site farmer respondents narrated that they have achieved a lot of things as soon as they involved in C.V.F. Some of their achievements are judged in term of monetary value while other are invaluable as their name, fame, self-teem, self-dignity etc which have considered as invaluable achievements in their life. The fig 4.15 below unfolds such major achievement, which they have achieved after their involvement in C.V.F.

Table 4.21: Major Achievements after Involvement in C.V.F

Major Achievement	Number of Respondent	Percent
Social Prestige	7	28.0
Economic Prosperity	12	48.0
Self Dependent	6	24.0
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2074

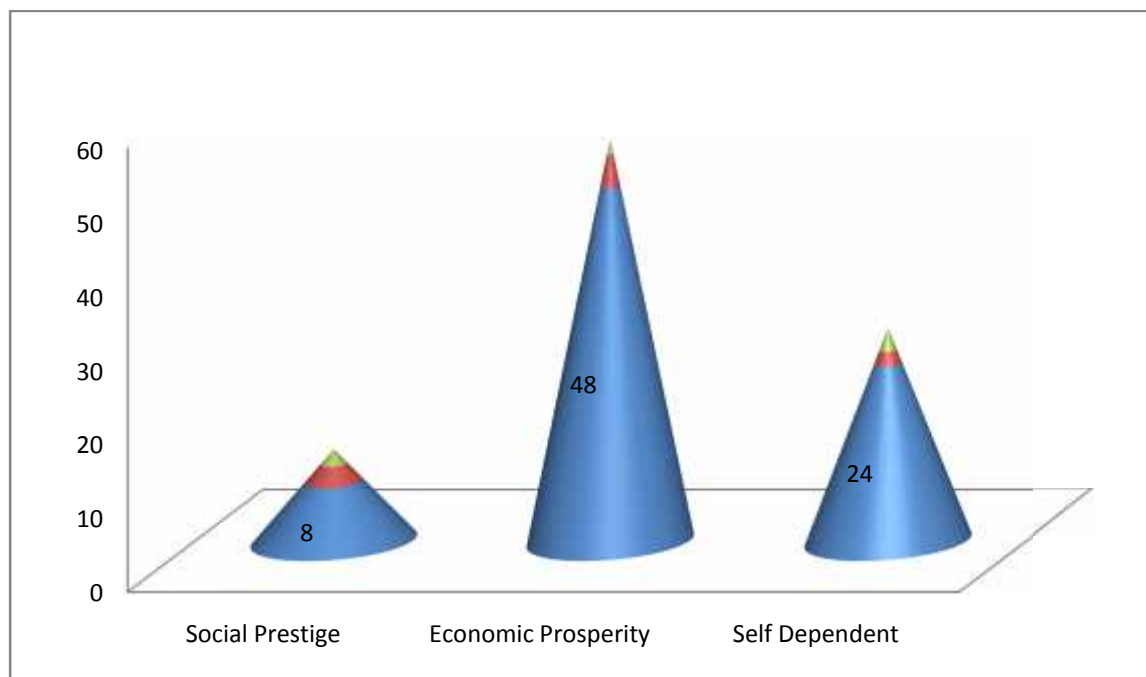


Fig. 4.15: Major Achievements after Involvement in C.V.F

Majority of the respondents 48% were found to be fully economy prosperity which they proudly shared that it is the greatest and major achievement we have made in our life. These group of women enthusiastically told that we are no longer burden to our husband rather we support in the family affairs. Another largest group of 24% respondents stated that they achieved social prestige as the vital achievements in their life. They were quite pleased to say that they have helped to manage their house economically. Whereas 24% reported that they have achieved self dependent, all these achievements acquired from the respondents exhibit the fact that they are quite satisfied to have their own status and place economic sector of homely affairs and prestige in their social sector.

4.24 Major Problems Faced by Women Farmer in Commercial Vegetable Farming

Majority of the people involved in agricultural sector are heavily dependent on the traditional tools and techniques .In spite of scientific advancement they are bound to depend on monsoon for irrigation water.

Table 4.22: Major Problems faced by Women Vegetable Farming

Problems	Number of Respondent	Percent
Technical problems	9	36
Lack of irrigation	5	20
Lack of Training	6	24
Lack of investment	5	20
Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2074

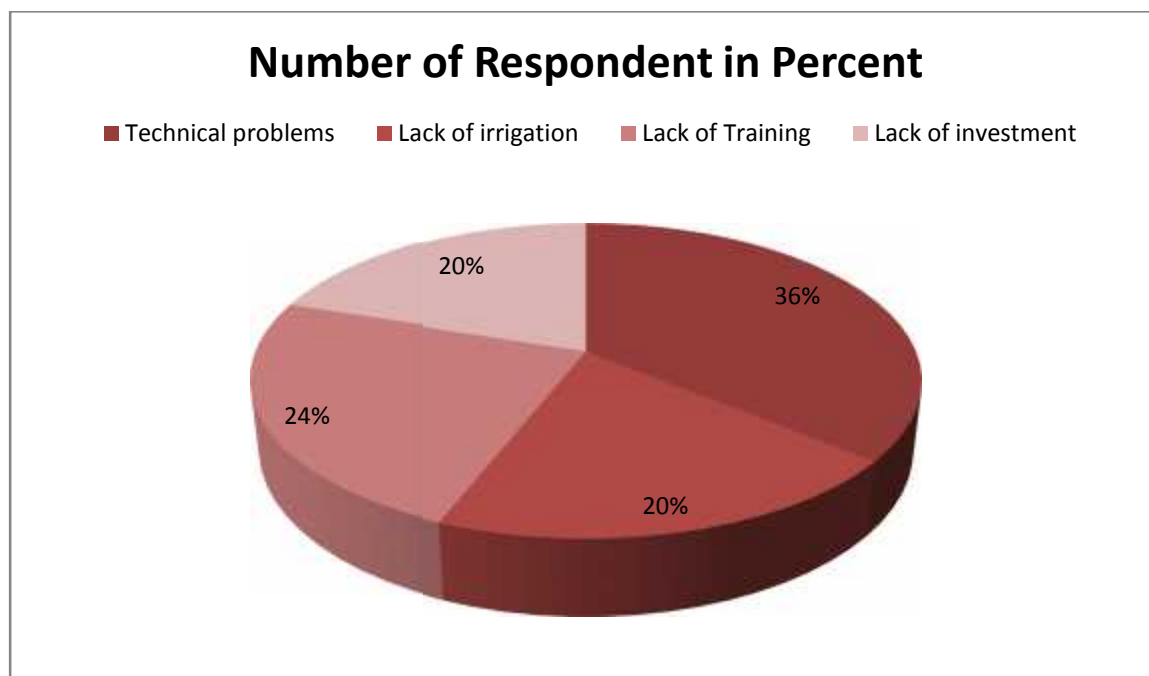


Fig. 4.16: Major problems faced by women Vegetable Farming

Table no 4.22 Presents various problems faced by women farmer in commercial vegetable farming. According to the above table different problems faced by women farmers have been exposed 36%, which is, considerable amount have been shared that they are facing technical problems .In the absence of technical assistance they are suffering from various problems regarding commercial vegetable farming. Similarly 20% of them reported that although they are located in the village near by the Kathmandu city, they are suffering from the traditional facility .In addition to that 20% of the women farmers reported that they are suffering from irrigation problems .On the other hand 24% told that the absence of proper agricultural training they are suffering a lot for e.g. lack of proper knowledge about use of chemical fertilizer and spraying insecticides have negative aspects on their health. 20% of them told that in the absence proper and well facilitated investment they are bound to investment to produce their products.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis and discussion of above information, the summary, conclusion and recommendations and suggestions were deduced and are presented as follows.

5.1 Summary

Sundarijal VDC consists of total 547 households & 2,552 population in which 1,252 are male and 1,300 are female (CBS, 2011). Here, we have considered one household to count as one woman commercial vegetable farmer.

Women have been able to uplift the economic and social status by selling the vegetable production as compared to the previous situation. Increase in total family income had a positive impact on health, education, nutrition and livelihood.

The majority of the respondents are Bhramin 20% followed by Chhetri 16%, Tamang 36%, Newar 28%. Among the four caste women, the problems are more serious among some poor women. Most of them have small or no. If cultivated land is remained, they didn't have encouraged anyone. It encourages someone who lacks of land, capital for investment. Their choices are extremely limited, both by lack of assets and powerlessness to negotiate with both formal and informal institutions. All the respondents speak Nepali language. The main source of livelihood in study area is agriculture. The household heads main occupation was agriculture. Almost 56% respondents reported that their household head's occupation was only farming, 20% reported that their occupation was abroad 8% reported that their household heads engage in governmental and non-governmental job and farming. Some of them (16%) told kinds of business were done.

Period of engagement in commercial vegetable farming by respondents ranged from a minimum 1 years to maximum 20 years ago. 68% of the respondents were highly satisfied with their commercial vegetable farming activities and 28%. Respondents were satisfied to some extent and few of 4% respondents were not satisfied because of many causes. This

information indicates that this occupation is very sound and good occupation for rural and half -literate women, especially in urban fringes. Out of 25 respondents 60% percent of the respondents cultivated off-seasonal vegetables. All of them agreed with the statement that income from off-seasonal vegetable is higher than seasonal vegetables. Vast majority of the respondents 60% agreed with the statement that they were full time farmers 48% percent of the respondents mentioned that they were key person involved in commercial vegetable farming activities herself.

In study site, there is still gender inequality in involvement on farming. Men worked as a part timer and gets more wages with one time meal and breakfast in a day where as women worked as a full timer (weeding, planting) and being as women, she gets low wages with only breakfast in a day. The average time spent by women respondents in commercial vegetable farming is minimum Spend 2 hours to maximum 10 hours per day for vegetable farming. Also women farmers were able to manage healthy and balanced food for family consumption.

Majority of the respondents, key informants agreed with the statements the participation of the women in vegetable farming and marketing is greater than that of men. Thus, women participation in commercial vegetable farming is very high. Majority of them play a vital role in marketing and market related decision-making. Women play a pre-dominant role in almost in all activities. The study revealed that women extensively contributed to vegetable farming and marketing. The total work done by women in commercial vegetable production is significantly higher than those done by their male counterparts. Women had played a major role in manure carrying and dispersing, chemical fertilizer application seeding, planting, weeding and marketing. Women and men both involve equally in land preparation and harvesting.

Previously, men rarely helped their women in household's chores but men co-operation have increased in domestic chores after adopting this farming. The preparation of food as a monopoly for women in all communities of Nepal including studied area, now in study site men also prepare food for their family and help in all activities. Majority of the respondents

reported that their husband help them in household's chores. The scenario has been changed after adopting this occupation. Women have a cash earner and take part in other activities in the community. Data suggest that men have started to consult their female counterparts before making a decision to some extent; these changes have brought changes in gender division of labor. Majority of the respondents explained that their workload had been increased because of commercial vegetable farming. Data carry out triple work responsibilities such as productive reproductive and commercial work. In other hand, quantitative and qualitative data suggest that their workload has been decreased slightly in household's chores. Women's have played a major role in manure carrying and dispersing, chemical fertilizer application, seeding, planting, and marketing activities. Women and men both involve equally in land preparation and harvesting. Thus, this data indicates Women's role has been diverted from productive as well as cash earnings work in some extent. Less drudgery and time saving rarely reported as benefits of commercial vegetable farming. Women have collectively utilized their time to carry out innovative works, such as forming self-help groups and co-operative, saving –credit groups, livestock raising groups in study site. This kind of innovation will help illiterate rural women to move forward; aware their rights and realizing their potentials and raise voice wherever necessary. Unpaid women laborers have become commercial vegetable producers.

Women who used to stay at a home during the off-season of farming have effectively utilized in income generating activities such as vegetable production. Income generation had a positive impact on the investment in food, clothing, medicine, education and livestock. This implies that women have successfully broadened their roles and responsibilities from those of domestic to productive.

The annual investment in commercial vegetable farming among sampled household ranged from minimum 1000 to maximum 90,000 thousand where as annual profit from vegetable farming is 1000 to maximum 125,000 thousand. The study shows that majority of the respondents kept money earned from vegetable selling. Majority of the respondents 60% mentioned that they have own ownership in saved money. In the case of control over income and 40% Percent of them jointly controlled over it with their male counterparts. Earned money was spent on different household's members. This farming had created employment

for women and men. Some of the women have successfully demonstrated that the landless can also be involved in agricultural activities like vegetable production and also able to earn more cash income. The income from vegetable selling was mainly spent on food, clothing, medicine, education, housing, purchasing land etc.

Majority of the respondents 60% were found fully independent to spend money earned from vegetable selling and 40% Percent of the respondents were found in dependent to some extent. Majority of the respondents (15 respondent) spent money for themselves and women members of the households on the clothes and ornament, medicine, education, traveling/visit, cosmetics etc. Due to this farming, women vegetable farmers' production and marketing skills and knowledge has been increased. The trend of vegetable consumption increased among the farmers after adopting this occupation. This farming has also brought improvement in their cereal crops production because of maximum use of poultry manure in their land.

They have become cash earners and independents. It has also reduced women's dependency to men. Before adopting this farming, women were not much consulted by men while making household and community level decisions. But, now men have started to consult their female counterparts before making a decision both in household and community level. Their involvements in decision making on selling vegetables is very high almost 76% percent of the respondents had received different kinds of training.

Many respondents 32% were engaged in farmer's organizations/groups. Vast majority of them 16% were affiliated to bank and some of them (40%) were engaged in co-operative ltd. and saving/credit facility became vary easier to women. Family members and relative's attitudes towards women involvements in commercial vegetable farming activities are very positive. They became self-reliant. They were satisfied with their occupation. They took part in every kind of village level meetings and raise their voices. Due to commercial vegetable farming, domestic violence against women had been decreased in study site. Some of the respondents who used to send their children to government schools are now sending them better of schools due to increased income from vegetable selling. The income from vegetable

selling was mainly spent on different household's activities by mutual understanding of household members. This farming has increased women access to and control over resource. It has also increased social prestige, decision-making power, group and intuitional activities, exposure visit and marketing activities. These, in aggregate, have empowered them significantly. Although women farmers of the study site faced many problems viz, lack of technical knowledge, lack of men co-operation in farm, lack of improved seeds and fertilizer, lack of irrigation, lack of investment so on.

5.2 Major Findings

On the basis of results and discussion of the study the following major findings were derived.

-) The rural setting is typical with all the households followed Hinduism. They speak Nepali language as well as own mother language. They were 20% Brahmin, 16% Chhetri, 36% Tamang, 28% Newar so on.
-) The main source of Occupation was agriculture as well as abroad job, business and INGO's/NGO's and governmental job.
-) The average time provided by individual female contributed minimum 1 hrs to maximum 10 hours per day.
-) Area of land ranged from 1 to 6 ropani, it's per area.
-) The government, NGO, INGO's had significant playing roles for providing subsidies for seeds, fertilizer and equipments.
-) Period of engagement in commercial vegetable farming by respondents ranged from a minimum 1 year to maximum 20 years.
-) Only 68% respondents were fully satisfied, 28% satisfied and 4% respondents were unsatisfied with their commercial vegetable farming.
-) Vast majority of the respondents 60% agreed with the statement that they were full time farmers.

-) The total work done by women in commercial vegetable production is significantly higher than those done by their male counterparts.
-) Women's role has been diverted from household work in some extent.
-) Women have collectively utilized their time to carry out innovative works, 72% respondents were engaged in many kind of organization, and self- help groups.
-) The annual investment in commercial vegetable farming among sampled ranged minimum 1000 to maximum 90000 thousand where as annual profit from vegetable farming is 1000 to maximum 125,000 thousand in year.
-) Majority of the respondents 60% mentioned that they have own ownership in saved money in the case of control over income and 40% jointly controlled over it with their male counterparts.
-) Vast majority of the respondents spent money for own family of the households on clothes and ornament, medicine, education, traveling etc.
-) Due to this farming, women farmers production and marketing skills has been increased.
-) Due to commercial vegetable farming, domestic violence against women had been decreased.
-) This farming has increased women access to and control over resources .It has also increased social prestige, decision-making power, group institutional activities, exposure visit marketing activities and so on these, in aggregate have empowered them significantly.
-) Almost 76% respondent had received different kind of agricultural trainings.
-) Commercial vegetable farming has also brought improvement in their cereal crops production because of maximum use of poultry manure in their land.
-) In the study site, women farmers faced many kinds of problems viz, lack of advance

technical knowledge, lack of improved seeds and fertilizer, lack of irrigation, lack of investment and so on.

5.3 Conclusion

This study demonstrated that commercial vegetable farming had a significant positive impact on women farmers. Women participation in commercial vegetable farming activities is very high than their male counterparts in almost all activities. Women carry out majority of the activities pertaining to commercial vegetable farming in studied area. Men's involvements are relatively limited. Women are able to contribute for the betterment of their family both socially and economically. They have been only contributed to domestic duties but also earned money for the support of their families. Due to the lack of proper land, few women were expected regularly to seek paid work for the support of their families. There have been positive changes in the economic status, health condition, education situation and the position of women in the study site. This farming has helped to raise women's status, health condition, education condition and the position of women in the study site. This farming has helped to raise women's status in the society through the social and economic empowerment. This occupation provides an opportunity to generate income for rural women. This eventually helps them in terms of capacity building and decision-making at both household and community levels. Women in the study site, now, can raise their voice and opinions clearly. Women ownership and control over saved money was very resonance in study site. They have gained social prestige from vegetable production. Women position in decision-making and other activities in their household and community have become sound.

Previously, the women farmers have to ask for money and their husband for fulfill their needs. But now they became independent themselves due to their high participation in vegetable farming and marketing processes. Now, women farmers living conditions have been improved. The increased income level of the women had changed the lifestyle and thinking pattern. The self-help saving groups and mother groups provide a plate from to women for sharing experiences, making plans, increase social network, improve self-esteem,

raise -confidence and ultimately empower them. Solving problems through collective actions became a kind of activity that the women favored most. Particularly in terms of curbing gambling and alcoholism, regulating domestic violence, undertaking the improvement of trails, roads and drinking water facilities, temple and public cold setting place. Marijuana destroying programs have become popular initiatives recognizing local as well as national level. This has raised their status in family, community and village life.

There was high competition in vegetable growing and marketing activities among women farmers in study site. Women have more frequent contacts with a wider range of sources of information, which ultimately increase their awareness. Benefits brought out by commercial vegetable farming have triggered positive developments in the economic condition, education situation, health condition and the up -liftmen of women's status.

A greater participation of women in commercial vegetable production has increased food security, including improved access to, and control over resources. Since women are more involved in vegetable farming and marketing. They have access to the cash generated from the vegetable selling. This improves their bargaining power and decision-making roles in household and village. Their participation in meetings and interactions among various agencies and groups has helped them build their capabilities. It has increased social prestige, decision-making power, group and intuitional activities, exposure visit and marketing activities were ultimately empowered them. The women who used to be shy talking with outsider are now found bargaining and selling their products in the market. This is obviously a positive situation. Therefore, we can conclude that women were empowered socially, technically and economically through the commercial vegetable farming activities.

5.4 Recommendations/Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, following recommendations /suggestions are made:

-) As the study revealed problems of commercial vegetable farming viz; lack of technical knowledge, they should be given technical, operational and management trainings for vegetable cultivation. Co-operation of men should be increased.
-) Women farmers are not properly aware of harmful pesticides and fertilizers and the gradual disowning traditional fertilizer and insecticides have brought previously unknown disease in the studied site Use of chemical fertilizer and harmful pesticides should be reduced and use of compost and other farmers made fertilizer should be increased.
-) JT.JTA and other field staff of INGO's and NGO's sectors should provide technical and pesticides suggestions.
-) Women farmers could not get real price of the vegetables because of malpractice of broker in the market. To stop such kinds of activities they should be provided direct access from farming to market, Broker should be prohibited.
-) There should be proper management of vegetable store cooling center.
-) Information, education and communication are very important to increase awareness among women. So awareness raising and social strengthening activities are necessary to encourage creativity, initiatives and to develop entrepreneurship among them. Non-formal education women's right and legal awareness classes should be run in suitable time for adult women to make them literate and facilitate them marketing and empowerment.

- J Women farmers want to visit different vegetable growing areas in different parts of the country to improve their knowledge, skill and capacity. So field visit /exposure visit programs should be organized by NGO's sectors.

- J Gender sensitive programs and seminar, skill development training and programs should be launched and access of not empowered women should be increase in these programs.

- J Economically and socially poor women need special concern for their livelihood and empowerment. So, skill development and cash earning programs should be launched in their community. The landowner should be encouraged to provide land for landless farmers, especially to these women farmers in potato farming time.

- J The community members have strongly realized the fact that they need to organize and work in a group. However, their abilities related to leadership and developing relationship with different line agencies and other organizations are minimal. Therefore, the organizational capacity of these farmers and groups should be bolstered through appropriate training packages such as organizational and leadership development.

J

REFERENCES

Bhasin, K. (2003). *Understanding gender*, New Delhi: Women Unlimited.

CBS, (2011); *Statistical pocket book Nepal*. Kathmandu. CBS.2011.

CBS, (2012); *Statistical pocket book Nepal*. Kathmandu. CBS.2012.

Giddens, Anthony(2001); *Sociology polity press is association with blackwell publisher Ltd.*, UK.Geography

Himalayan journal of sociology/anthropology 2004; Vol.1&2.PNC, Pokhara. Department of Soc/Ant.

Kawamura, Masahiro(2000); *Adoption of Vegetable Farming in the Western Hills of Nepal: A Livelihood Analysis of Vegetable Farmers in Nepal*, Baglung Municipalities, Unpublished MSc Dissertation Reading: Agricultural Extension..., <http://www.uea.ac.uk/~d039497/MSc%20Dissertation>.

Kelkar, (1987);N.A

Kunwar, A.B.(2001); *A Prospect of Vegetable Farming in an urban fringe*. A Thesis Submitted to the Department to the Department of Geography, PNC (T.U.), Pokhara.

Labor Review, Special Issue; Women's Labor Force Participation.Vol.144/4.switzerland :International Labor Office (ILO), pp-391-392.

- Moser,(1989);N.A
- Narko, V. and Kikhi c.(2006); “***Strengthening Market Linkages for Women Vegetable Vendors: Experience from Kohima, Nagaland, India***”. In Ronnie Vernoooy (ed). *Social and Gender Analysis in Natural Resources Management*. New Delhi-Thousand Oaks-London: Sage Publication, pp.75.
- NPC, (2064); ***Three Years Plan***. Kathmandu Nepal.
- NPC and ADB, (1995); ***Agriculture perspective Plan*** (1995/96-2014/2015 A.D.), Summary Document Kathmandu, Nepal.
- NPC and APROSE,(1995); ***Agriculture Perspective Plan***, Nepal (main document). Kathmandu: APROSC.
- NPC, (2002); ***Tenth Plan 2059-2064 B.S***). Kathmandu Nepal.
- Regmi, H. N. and Shrestha, D. S.(2005); ***Horticulture science Horticulture Research Division***, Nepal: NARC.
- Shrestha, N.(1982); ***Women in Teaching***, Center for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA). Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Songet,al(.2006:134);N.A
- Thapa, B.B.(1987); ***A study of Vegetable Farming of Parsyang Malepatan Area of Pokhara***. PNC Pokhara, Department of Geography.
- UNDP, (2004); ***Nepal Human development Report 2004: Empowerment and poverty Reduction***. Kathmandu :UNDP.
- UNDP, (200); ***Nepal Human Development Report***. 2004.
Empowerment and Poverty Reduction. Katmandu. Nepal. Published by UNDP.
- UNICEF, (1992); ***Women and Children in Nepal: A Situation Analysis***, Kathmandu. UNICEF.
- UNICEF, (1996); ***Women and Children in Nepal, A Situation Analysis***. Kathmandu. UNICEF.
- Upadhaya, B.(2004);
Gender Aspect of smallholder Irrigation Technology: Insights from Nepal. In journal of Applied Irrigation Science,Vol.39. Number 2/2004, pp-315-327.....,http://www.vi-irrigation.org% sakia.org.

Upreti, S.(1988); “*Changing Status of Working Women: A Case Study of Kathmandu*”. Unpublished MA Dissertation, Submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, T.U. Kirtipur.

Uprety, L. P. (2004); “*Gender and Development: A Micro-level Sociological Study of the Institutional Effort for Gender Mainstreaming in the Agriculture Sector development in Nepal.*” In Parajuli B.K.(ed). Himalayan Journal of Sociology. Vol.I. Pokhara, Nepal: Department of Sociology and Anthropology PNC (T.U.).

Websites:

<http://www.nepalstudycenter.unm.edu>

<http://www.unescape.org>