

**ROLE OF MICROFINANCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:
(A CASE STUDY UNDER POKHARA FINANCE LIMITED)**

Submitted by:

Sushil Dhakal

Prithvi Narayan Campus

T.U. Regd. No: 7-2-39-628-2010

Roll No: 173/070

A Thesis Submitted to:

Office of the Dean

Faculty of Management

Tribhuvan University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Business Studies (MBS)

Pokhara

April, 2018



त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

पृथ्वीनारायण क्याम्पस
PRITHVI NARAYAN CAMPUS

520142
520143
520389
523462
526837
527440
531244

सं. संख्या :
क्याम्पस नं.

Faculty of Management
(.....)

भीमकाली पाटन, पोखरा, नेपाल
Bhimkali Patan, Pokhara, Nepal

RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis:

Submitted by:

Sushil Dhakal

ROLE OF MICROFINANCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: (A CASE STUDY UNDER POKHARA FINANCE LIMITED)

*has been prepared as approved by this department in the prescribed format of
Faculty of Management. This thesis is forwarded for examination.*

Supervisor

Name: Dhaneshwar Rakhali

Signature:

Head of Department

Associate Prof. Indra Prasad Sharma

Signature:

Campus Chief:

Signature:

Date:



त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

पृथ्वीनारायण क्याम्पस
PRITHVI NARAYAN CAMPUS



520142
520143
520389
523462
526837
527440
531944

पत्र संख्या .
संख्या नं.

(Faculty of Management)

भीमकाली पाटन, पोखरा, नेपाल
Bhimkali Patan, Pokhara, Nepal

VIVA-VOCE SHEET

We have conducted the viva-voce examination of the
Thesis presented by

Submitted by:
Sushil Dhakal

Entitled

ROLE OF MICROFINANCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (A CASE STUDY UNDER POKHARA FINANCE LIMITED)

*and found the thesis to be the original work of the student and written according
to the prescribed format. We recommended the thesis to be accepted
as partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Master's Degree in Business Studies (M.B.S.)*

Viva-Voce Committee

Chairperson, Research Committee

Member (Thesis Supervisor)

Member (External Expert)

Member:

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study is concern with the analysis of 'Role of Microfinance on Women Empowerment (A case study under Pokhara Finance Limited) I found myself fortunate enough to receive a help and inspiration from various persons and institution. So, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of them.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected supervisor for his valuable guidance and supervision for my study. I am thankful to my friends for their kind support during thesis writing.

I am hearty thankful to the staff of Pokhara Finance Limited who had provided me with required data and information. I am thankful to my friends who directly or indirectly supported me during my research. I am equally thankful to all Faculty members and staffs faculty of Management and Western Regional Library PNC Pokhara, for their kind cooperation.

Sushil Dhakal

Date April 2018

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
Acknowledgements	I
CHAPTER- I: INTRODUCTION	1-7
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Focus of the Study	3
1.3 Statement of the Problem	4
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Significant of the Study	5
1.6 Limitation of the Study	5
1.7 Organization of the study	6
CHAPTER– II: LITERATURE REVIEW	8-33
2.1 Conceptual Review	8
2.2 Review of Related Studies	24
2.3 Research Gap	33
CHAPTER- III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	34-36
3.1 Introduction	34
3.2 Research Design	34
3.3 Population and Sample	34
3.4 Nature and Sources of Data	36
3.5 Data Collection Procedure	36
3.6 Methods of Data Analysis	37
CHAPTER- IV DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	30-68
4.1 Presentation and Analysis of Data	38
4.2 Major Finding of the study	66
CHAPTER- V: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	69-71
5.1 Summary	69
5.2 Conclusion	70
5.3 Recommendation	71
<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	
<i>APPENDIX</i>	

LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
3.1 Name list of sample women Groups POFIL in Pokhara Lekhanth Metropolitan City	35
4.1 Age Structure of Respondents	38
4.2 Purpose of involvement in microfinance program	39
4.3 Ethnic Composition of Respondents	41
4.4 Educational Status of Respondents	42
4.5 Status of Health of Respondents	43
4.6 Involvement in saving of Respondents	44
4.7 Monthly expenses of respondents	45
4.8 Per-Month saving of respondents	46
4.9 Profitability status of business	48
4.10 Sector of Investment	49
4.11 Proper utilization of Loan from Respondents	50
4.12 Economic Condition of Group Members	51
4.13 Status of repayment of loan	52
4.14 Ownership over Land and Building of respondents	53
4.15 Medium of poverty reduction	54
4.16 Confidence in Entrepreneurship	55
4.17 Improvement in Living Standard	55
4.18 Status of Participation in Group Meeting	56
4.19 Decision Making Role in Household Activities	57
4.20 Leadership Capacity of Respondents	58
4.21 Children education of Respondents	60
4.22 Participation in Basic Training	60
4.23 Means of Communication	61
4.24 Awareness Status of Respondents	63
4.25 Happiness in the Family	64
4.26 Expectation to Improve in Microfinance Program	65

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
4.1 Age Structure of Respondents	39
4.2 Purpose of involvement in microfinance program	40
4.3 Ethnic Composition of Respondents	41
4.4 Educational Status of Respondents	42
4.5 Status of Health of Respondents	43
4.6 Involvement in saving of Respondents	44
4.7 Monthly expenses of respondents	45
4.8 Per-Month saving of respondents	45
4.9 Profitability status of business	47
4.10 Sector of Investment	49
4.11 Proper utilization of Loan from Respondents	50
4.12 Economic Condition of Group Members	51
4.13 Status of repayment of loan	52
4.14 Ownership over Land and Building of respondents	53
4.15 Medium of poverty reduction	54
4.16 Improvement in Living Standard	56
4.17 Status of Participation in Group Meeting	57
4.18 Decision Making Role in Household Activities	58
4.19 Leadership Capacity of Respondents	59
4.20 Participation in Basic Training	61
4.21 Means of Communication	62
4.22 Awareness Status of Respondents	63
4.23 Happiness in the Family	64
4.24 Expectation to Improve in Microfinance Program	65

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB/M	:	Asian Development Bank Manila
ADB/N	:	Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal
ASA	:	Association of Social Advancement
BRAC	:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRDB	:	Bangladesh rural Development Board
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CECI	:	Central for International Studies for Co-operative
CGAP	:	Consultative Groups to Assist the Poor
CGISP	:	Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project
CSD	:	Center for Self-help Development
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DEPROSE	:	Development Project Service Center
DSCP	:	Deprived Sector Credit Program
FINGO	:	Financial Intermediary Non- Government Organization
GBBs	:	Gramin Bikash Banks
IBP	:	Intensive Banking Program
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
LDCs	:	Least Developed Countries
LTD	:	Limited
MCPW	:	Micro Credit Project for Women
MDGs	:	Millennium Development Goals
MF	:	Micro Finance
MFDB	:	Micro Finance Development Bank
MFI	:	Micro Finance Institutions
MoAC	:	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operative
NBL	:	Nepal Bank Limited
NCD	:	National Co-operative Development Bank
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRB	:	Nepal Rastra Bank
NUBL	:	Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited
PCRW	:	Production Credit for Rural Women

PSCP	:	Priority Sector Credit Program
PSLP	:	Priority Sector Lending Program
RMDC	:	Rural Micro Finance Development Center
RMP	:	Rural Micro Project
RRDB	:	Regional Rural Development Bank
RSRF	:	Rural Self- Reliance Fund
SFCL	:	Small Farmer Co-operative Limited
SFDP	:	Small Farmer Development Program
SKBB	:	Sana Kishan Bikash Bank
TLDP	:	Third Livestock Development Project
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is a small and landlocked country in South Asia. Nepal is one of the 49 least developed countries of the world. Nepal being a land locked country between china and India is one of the countries that suffer from poverty. It is a country with least development and is highly relies in foreign aid. More than 80 percent of people in Nepal live in rural areas. These people do not earn enough to feed their families due to which everyday about 1500 Nepalese are leaving to abroad for betterment of job opportunities. There are various problems due to poverty so to overcome these problems, microfinance can be a pivot which aims of alleviation of poverty by providing micro loans and saving opportunities to the poor in sustainable way. Micro finance can be regarded as effective tools in spreading economic opportunity, fighting against poverty, giving poor people to freedom to earn and to uplift their living standard. Micro finance has proved itself a powerful tool for economic development of low income population. It is an effective approach for alleviating poverty through access to poor for operating their small enterprises. The term micro finance refers to the provision of financial services to low income clients, including the self employed, financial services generally including saving and credit. But some micro finance also provides insurance and payment services (Lamichhane, 2016).

Micro finance refers to an array of financial services, including loans, saving and insurance, available to poor entrepreneurs and small business owner who have no collateral and wouldn't otherwise qualify for a standard bank loan (Baranwal, 2016).

Microfinance is the provision of financial services such as loans, savings, insurance and trainings to the people living in poverty. It is one of the greatest success stories in the developing world in the last 30 years. It is widely recognized in the form of development goals. It is being a very effective tool for bringing up the economic and social status of people in the country. It is also recognized as a sustainable solution in

alleviating poverty and women empowerment. There are various experiences of microcredit in economic development of developing countries. Microcredit to the poor people has created a small business opportunity which helps to improve the socio-economic condition of deprived community especially in rural areas (Paudel, 2016).

Microfinance is coined as the financial service rendered to the deposit group of people and a small entrepreneurs to help them in developing self-employment opportunities and various income generating activities. A small size of loan, compulsory saving, small enterprise, diversified utilization and simple and fixed terms and conditions are the determining characteristics of its definition. Usually microfinance is a program that serves larger number of clients with reference to women / deprived people and works at grass level with the financial sustainability. The main objective of microfinance program is to provide quality service to the large number of deprived populations of the country and to ensure the availability of such services to their households.

The institutional micro-finance in Nepal was introduced in 1947 by Nepal Rastra Bank offered as the small sector lending facilities then after several multipurpose financial institutions and co-operatives were established in the country. These cooperatives had played an important lending roles to enhance the economic activities of them faced financial and managerial problems. An important milestone was achieved when the cooperative bank was established in 1986, later on converted into Agricultural Development Bank Limited (Adhikari, 2010).

Pokhara Finance Limited was established in 2053 B.S. Currently, the company has an Authorized Capital of NPR 940 million and Paid Up/Issued Capital of NPR 557.42 million. Its head office is situated at Newroad Pokhara Lekhnath- 9, Kaski. The company has an ownership of 60% with 40% shares owned by the general public. The company is among the oldest finance company currently operating in Pokhara.

The prime objective of the company is to render banking services to the different sectors like industries, traders, businessmen, priority sector, small entrepreneurs, deprived sections of the society and other people who need banking services. Pokhara Finance has granted loan in micro finance to poor entrepreneurs and small business owner who have no collateral and wouldn't otherwise qualify for a standard bank

loan. It has been successfully used as an anti-poverty and development tool by many countries. Its mission is to provide financial services to the poor and deprived people at their door through group approach in sustainable manner.

The general objectives are to facilitate the poor people with Credit for creating opportunities and generating income by mobilizing local resources. Micro saving program for creating financial resources and for strengthening the credit transaction capabilities of its clients. Extension services in the field of agriculture and small enterprises for modernizing their occupation and making their activities viable and sustainable. Opportunities for overall socio development together with raising their awareness about the undesirable socio-cultural and blind traditional practices.([http/ / www.pokharafinance.com.np](http://www.pokharafinance.com.np))

The topic itself seems clear about the focus of the study. The research aim is to figure out the effectiveness of microfinance institutions to help poor women to fight against of poverty and uplift the economic standard. The main objective of study is behind the MFIs providing 99 percent of microfinance loan to the women only and evaluates the socio-economic impact from the loan in life of these Nepalese women in reference to the Pokhara Finance Limited. The study also aims to analyze the performance and impact of the program by using descriptive, cross sectional and analytical research design. Thus the study is basically concerned towards livelihood of people of pokhara valley. More specifically the study focuses on impact of micro-credit loan, its proper utilization, women empowerment, impact of training and awareness program upon the standards of living of the people, perception of the participant's women towards the micro-credit program, repayment rate of loan etc.

1.2 Focus of the Study

The topic itself seems clear about the focus of the study. The research aim is to figure out the effectiveness of microfinance institutions to help poor women to fight against poverty and uplift their economic standard. The main objective of study is behind the MIFs providing 99% of microfinance loan to the women only and evaluates the socio-economic impact from the loan in life of these Nepalese women with reference to the Pokhara finance limited. The study also aims to analyze the performance and impact of the programs by using descriptive, cross-sectional and analytical research design.

Thus the study is basically concerned towards livelihood of people of Pokhara valley. More specifically the study focuses on impact of micro-credit loan, its proper utilization, women empowerment of impact of training and awareness program upon the standards of living of the people, perception of the participant's women towards the micro-credit program, repayment rate of loan etc.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The expectation and need of the people are increasing day by day, whether they live in rural area or in urban area. In the previous period most of the people were not aware about the facilities provided by various bank and financial institutions. In the present scenario various microfinance institutions has been emerged in order to raise the economic status of the women. Therefore this study is mostly dedicated to understand the role of microfinance launched by Pokhara finance limited on poverty reduction and women empowerment. Moreover the problem of the study can be pointed out as below:

-) What is the condition of economic empowerment of women?
-) What is the social empowerment status of women?
-) What is the awareness condition of women?

1.4 Objectives of the study

Poverty is not only the issue of least developed countries. It is a global issue where huge amount of investment is poured for reduction of poverty. Microfinance is one of the programs designed to hunt the poverty through generating economic opportunities in the local level. Microfinance supports the poor women and deprived groups to generate income. It provides micro savings, small credit, insurance, and transfer services including various capabilities building programs. How microfinance contributes in women empowerment and poverty reduction to its clients is the main objective of the study. Major achievements of micro finance is considered as enhancing income of the poor, enhancing their decision making capacities, fostering self-employment, uplifting empowerment level of poor and overall term increasing productivity and reducing the poverty in the economy. However some of the specific objectives of the study are as follows:

-) To identify the condition of economic empowerment of women.
-) To access the social empowerment status of women.
-) To analyze the awareness condition of women.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Nepal is least developing country in the South Asian region. Most of the people under this country are guided by vicious circle of poverty. Specially, rural women are more victim of this problem. So, women are searching to escape from the problems. In that time microfinance is only one way to solve the women's economic problems.

So, the present study focuses up on what does microfinance in the women empowerment and poverty reduction of women. The study also focuses on the role of microfinance in increasing the number of MFIs for the women empowerment and poverty alleviation. The study is based upon the customers of Pokhara Finance Limited around Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan of Kaski district. The significant of the study is that it analyses the impact of microfinance in women empowerment and poverty reduction. Also, it points out problems to women to get engaged in microfinance and consequences of women empowerment through microfinance. The present study provides the alternative way to women to get engaged in economic activities for empower themselves and reducing of poverty. The following points will justify the significance of the study:

1.6 Limitations of the Study

The study is only for the partial fulfillment of MBS Degree, so this purposed study will have certain limit. This study will be related only analyzing the economic impact of micro-finance on women on Pokhara Lekhnath 9.

The study has the following limitations:

-) The study is limited within the customers of Pokhara Finance Limited under Pokhara Valley. So the study may not represent the actual picture of the area of the country.
-) The study is based on the data of last five years annual reports, data collected during the field visit and secondary data. The analysis of short period may not give the image of significant image of the program.

-) Collecting information from all customers is not possible, so the study is based on sampling method.
-) The reliability of the study depends upon the information provided by Pokhara Finance and other published data.
-) Data of the study is collected with limited tools as field survey, interview schedule, focus group discussion, key information interview and observation.
-) During the interview the information is taken from those people who are available at home rather than the information obtained from field is based on their response. No verifications have been done after taking information. Some information is here based on the focus group discussion and key information views.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The study is divided into five chapters: introduction, review of literature, research methodology, presentation and analysis of data, and summary conclusions and recommendations.

Introduction chapter includes general background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study and limitation of the study. Chapter two includes, review of literature which deals with review of the different related literature. Therefore it includes conceptual framework, microfinance in Nepal, women empowerment and poverty reduction through microfinance, review of related studies and research gap. Research methodology includes research design, population and sample, nature and sources of data, sampling procedures, and data collection technique and data analysis method.

Data presentation and analysis consists presentation, interpretation and analysis of data which consists overview of study area, socio-demographic profile, microcredit in pokhara Lekhnath metropolitan city, loan borrowing, loan utilization and income, socio-economic impact of microfinance, empowerment of women and perception about microfinance service. Similarly this chapter also includes the major findings of the study. Final chapter is related to summary, conclusion and recommendations. This chapter includes summary, conclusion and the recommendation for the improvement of microfinance to empower women and poverty reduction.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of literature provides foundation to the study. This chapter is basically concerned with literature relevant for the Role of microfinance on women empowerment and poverty reduction of Pokhara Lekhnath. Clear concept of the subject matter and availability of past related study for study to go through right way. This study is based on research journals, published and unpublished reports, articles, books, websites and other relevant literatures. This chapter includes conceptual review and review of related studies.

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Microfinance

It is very difficult to find a universal definition of microfinance due to its variation on the basis of implementing location, institution and program. According to online oxford dictionary microfinance is defined as another term microcredit and microcredit is defined as the lending of small amounts of money at low interest to new business in the developing world. (<http://oxforddictionary.com/defination/english/microcredit>)

Microfinance is the provision of financial services to low income clients or solidarity lending groups including consumers and self-employed, who traditionally lack access to banking and related services. (<http://wikipedia.org/microfinance>)

In the simplest term microfinance is defined as the financial service provided to unemployed or low income individuals or groups who would otherwise have no other means of gaining financial support that means to give low income people an opportunity to become self sufficient by providing a means of saving money, borrowing money and insurance.

Microfinance refers to an array of financial services, including loans, saving and insurance, available to poor entrepreneurs and small business owners who have no collateral and couldn't otherwise qualify for a standard bank loan. Most often, micro

loans are working in a variety of different trades, including carpentry, fishing and transportation (Katuwal, 2014).

Micro-finance is termed as the financial services rendered to the deprived groups of the people and small entrepreneurs in savings, credit, remittance, micro insurance, etc. to help them in developing self-employment opportunities and various income generating activities. Small sized loan, group based lending, group savings, small-scale entrepreneurs, diversified utilization, quick repayment, close monitoring and simple terms/conditions on credit (without collateral) are the determining characteristics of micro-finance (Kharel, 2016).

2.1.2 Evolution of Microfinance

When we talk about microfinance, the credit goes to the Nobel peace prize winner Prof. Mohammad Yunus of Bangladesh. He was the first person who developed the concept and applied it. An Economist by profession, he established a microfinance bank in Bangladesh that came to be known as Grameen Bank. The Bank was, established in the Jobra village of Bangladesh in 1976 as a result of action research project on Chittagong University. The project later became a pilot project and covered throughout an entire district. This was undertaken with the financial support of the Central Bank of Bangladesh. In 1983, an independent financial institution, Grameen Bank was established under a special law passed for its creation. It is owned by the poor borrowers of the bank who are mostly women. It works exclusively for them. At present, 94% of the total equity of the bank is owned by the borrower of Grameen Bank and remaining 6 percent by the government of Bangladesh. Grameen Bank does not require any collateral against its micro-loans. The Bank neither wishes to take any borrower to the court of law in case of non- neither repayment nor it requires the borrower's signature. It needs group formation of at least five members and the members can get loan on group guarantee on payment. Responsibility solely rests on the individual borrower, while the group and the Centre oversee that everyone behaves in a responsible way and none gets into repayment problem. There is no form of joint liability i.e group members are not responsible to pay on behalf of a defaulting member.

Every country has its own history of evolution of microfinance. In Nepal, it started with the development of the informal sectors of microfinance like *dhikuti*, *vheja*, *pewa*, *perma*, *dharmabhakari*, user groups, and professional credit unions, mothers groups, lenders and shopkeepers. The formal history of microfinance of Nepal started in 1956 with the establishment of 13 cooperatives and it is the first approach on the part of the government to introduce rural credit. The cooperative was formalized with the enactment of the cooperative Act 1956. Similarly, development of Grameen Bank Model was introduced in Nepal with the establishment of microfinance program in different periods. Thus, it became the main supply sources of microfinance in Nepal (Aryal, 2007).

The agricultural development bank of Nepal (ADB/N) emerged in cognizance of the short fall in supply of funds for agricultural loans experienced by these credit cooperatives. A well structured and specialized program to cater the financial needs of the poor was provided further impetus with the launching of small farmer development program. (SFDP) in 1975 by ADB/N. over the past few years, a process has been stated to institutionalize small farmer groups formed under the SFCL. In 1974, one year before the launching of SFDP, Nepal Rastra Bank directed commercial banks. The Nepal Rastra Bank(NRB) introduced the intensive Banking program in 1981 to strength the priority sector program to promote group based lending and promote priority sector lending, addressing the issues of collateral requirements. The program was undertaken by two large commercial banks namely NBL and RBB (Branwal, 2016).

2.1.3 Microfinance in Nepal

In the early 1960s, the co-operative movement becomes the first vehicle of microfinance in Nepal. As 13 cooperatives provided flood victims access to financial services adapted to their specific needs. In parallel, rural finance institutions were established such as the Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal, which aimed at providing credit and marketing support to agriculture.

In 1974, the two state-owned commercial banks, Nepal Bank Ltd. and Rastriya Banijya Bank were directed by the central bank, Nepal Rastra Bank, to invest at least a portion (first 5% to increase as high as 12%) of their deposit liabilities in the ‘small

sector'. This marked the beginning of the directed credit system in Nepal. In 1976, the scope of the small sector was broadened to include agriculture, cottage industry and services, and has since then been called the 'priority sector'. The credit did not reach the poor as only influential and well connected people, with collateral, were able to access the program. This led to the development of targeted initiatives, such as the Intensive Banking Program in 1981, initiated by the government and the central bank, through partnerships with commercial banks. Under this approach, group guarantee for loan repayment were used instead of physical collateral.

Starting in 1975, the small Farmers Development Program, implemented by the Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal, mobilized farmers groups using a credit plus approach, and was the first experience of group-based lending in Nepal. Unfortunately, it failed due to political pressure for a fast expansion, overemphasis on credit, high delinquency levels and the overall not satisfactory performance of the system.

In 1982, the cottage and small Industries Project and the Production Credit for Rural Women all provided new directions to priority sector lending, focusing on project viability rather than collateral and therefore provided a financing window to the poor through commercial collaborating with local development organizations. The commercial banks perceived this program as more of an obligation to wards the central bank than a business interest.

In 1990, the government of Nepal established the Rural Self- Reliance Fund (RSRF), with the objective of providing wholesale loans to NGOs, cooperatives and financial intermediaries for on lending to the poor. The Microfinance Department of NRB acts as the secretariat of the RSRF and management committee headed by the NRB deputy governor oversees the fund.

In 1992, the government of Nepal, following a recommendation from the NRB, established Regional Rural Development Banks (RRDB) in each of the five development regions of Nepal, modeled on the Grameen Bank methodology. The majority of the ownership is in the hands of government, Nepal Rastra Bank (the central bank) and public commercial banks, while other private commercial banks have small equity stakes. During the same period, private initiatives led by NGOs,

such as Nirdhan and the Center for Self-help Development also used the Grameen Bank methodology, resulting in a generally more efficient and successful replication.

In 1990s, with technical assistance from GTZ, local branches of the ADB/N under the Small Farmer Development Program, started to be reorganized into federations of small farmer groups the 'Small Farmer Cooperatives Ltd. (SFCL)': each operating as an autonomous cooperative (Wagle, 2016).

With the promulgation of the Development Bank Act in 1995, Nirdhan was the first NGO (1998) to transfer its microfinance portfolio into an autonomous microfinance rural bank (Nirdhan Utthan Development Bank). Since 2000, Swabalamban Bikas Bank Ltd and Chhimek Bikas Bank in 2001, Acknowledging the poor performance of the RRDBs under public ownership, the central bank started a restructuring program, which will lead ultimately to the privatization of the five RRDBs.

With a view to provide a source of wholesale fund to regulated microfinance institutions the Rural Microfinance development Center (RMDC) was established in 1998 and later on opened its lending to other microfinance provider. In 2001, the Small Farmer Development Bank was established under the Development Bank Act to provide wholesale funds to Small Farmer Cooperatives Ltd. (SFCLs)

In Nepal agriculture based co- operatives were initiated in the 1950s as a first step in micro finance. Poverty alleviation rural based programs were initiated through the Small farmer development Programs (MFDP) on a pilot test basis in 1975 by the SDB/N. The success of the pilot tests in Dhanusa and Nuwakot districts encouraged policy makers to expand formal rural based micro finance programs.

The SFDP is now being transformed into several autonomous, self-help organizations called Small Farmers Co-operatives Ltd (SFCLs), which are managed by farmers themselves. Other microfinance development programs such as Priority Sector Lending Program (PSLP), Intensive Banking Program (IBP), Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) and Rural self-Reliant Fund (RSF) have been implemented. After studying the pros and cons of various MF development programs government began to rethink the delivery mechanisms of MF.

In 1992, government set-up two Grameen Bikash Banks as a replication of the Bangladesh Grameen model of MF delivery. Government also created a situation to

encourage participation in the MF by the private sector. Subsequently Nirdhan, CSD, Chhimek and other organizations came in to existence.

RMDC was also established to support MFIs by giving wholesale credit, initiating training and other necessary support to the MFIs. Some government directed Programs (TLDP, Bishweshwor with poor, PAPWT, Community Ground water project, etc.) have been implemented in co-ordination with NRB.

MFIs are depended on small saving from group members. As a definition MF is, as a part of development finance, rural or urban targeted towards specific group of people, male or female, falling in the lower bracket of society. Financial services include savings, credit and other services such as micro money transfer and micro insurance. This service is differentiated by types of service employment and income orientated objectives, target group, target community, target area and credit at home.

In the past decade, MF has been recognized as a particularly effective development intervention for three basic reasons. They are the services provided can be targeted specifically at the poor and poorest of the poor, these service can make a significant contribution to the socio-economic status of the targeted community and the institutions that deliver these services can develop within a few years in to sustainable organizations with steadily growing outreach (Ghimire, 2010).

Nepal has three decades of experience in MF. Although, many programs have been implemented for poverty alleviation in Nepal. Only MFPs are seen as pro-poor and rural based. In Nepal, Agriculture based cooperatives were initiated in the 1950s as a first step in MF. Poverty alleviation rural based programs were initiated through the Small Farmer Development (SFDP) on a pilot basis in 1975 by ADB/N. On the basis of the success of these programs, the SFDP was transferred into SFCLs which were managed by the farmers themselves. Later, other microfinance development programs such as Priority Sector Lending (PSLP), Intensive Banking Program (IBP), Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) and Rural Self-Reliance Fund (PSRF) were implemented (NRB, 2008).

2.1.4. Microfinance Models Practice in Nepal

During the 1970s, most of the low income countries of the Asia Pacific region and in Latin America countries incorporated the concept of microfinance within their mainstream financial system. Since the period, some pioneering microfinance institutions developed and applied a new set of methodologies in micro-lending business of poverty alleviation. Microfinance practices that became popular in different periods, demonstrate that they have contributed to the dynamism of this field evolving with various models. About three decades of Nepal experience have recognized microfinance as a poverty alleviation program focused towards raising the income level and social standard of the people living in poverty, particularly to women. The success of the microfinance program in bringing positive impacts towards poverty reduction, the microfinance practices of the organized sector those are prevalent in the country can be categorized broadly into seven microfinance models as follows;

2.6.1 German Model

A concept of Grameen bank was evolved in 1992 when the Nepal Government felt the need to establish a separate institution which could take sole responsibility for financing the rural poor and supplementing, to some extent the rural microfinance activities of the previously established institutions. The aim of the Grameen Bikash Bank (GBBs), established as a regional development bank in 5 development regions between 1992 and 1996 and operating on the Bangladesh Grameen model, is to engage the targeted rural poor with the appropriate credit delivery mechanism and on a group liability basis. These banks are the largest MF operators in Nepal. Training as an entry point of banking has been introduced, as a new specialized banking system by Grameen Bikas Bank.

The bank provides credit basically for micro level income generating activities on a group guarantee basis to the group members through 2+2+1 system. In a group, there should be 5 women and have less than 1 bigha (0.71 hectare) in Terai and 10 ropanis (0.55 hectare in hills). The interest charge in the disbursed credit is 20 percent and the bank recovers the credit in 50 weekly installments from the borrowers.

There are four institutions working as replaces of GBBs. According as the date of mid January, 2007 they have disbursed loans of Rs. 75million to 156,958 women covering 39,256 groups through 7,597 centers and have successfully spread their heterogeneous income generating activities to 45 districts country.

Swabalamban Bikas Ltd.: Swabalamban Bikas Bank (SB Bank) literally means Self-help Development Bank is a microfinance development bank which started its operation on January 14, 2002. Over 13 years ago Center for Self-help Development (CSD) an NGO, initiated the self-help banking program based on the Grameen Bank model with some adaptations in September 1993. The primary objectives of the institution is to provide the disadvantaged section of the rural poor with easy access to credit, which will help them to improve their socio-economic status and make full use of their existing skills and resource. SB Bank targets having per capita income not more than NPR 4,400 (US\$ 62) and serves women exclusively.

Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd.:Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited, (NUBL) "the bank of upliftment of the poor" is a microfinance bank established in November 1998 but was granted a license to undertaker banking activities in April 1993. Thought, legally established as a company in 1998, the operation of NUBL is a continuation of microfinance service provided by an NGO called 'NIRDHAN' which was providing microfinance services since March 1993. At that time it has limited resources and capacity to satisfy the demand of poor people in different part of the country. Hence, NIRDHAN was transferred all microfinance operation s to Nirdhan Utthan Bank. It provides microfinance services such as loans, deposits, micro-insurance, and remittance services. The lending methodologies are individual lending based on Grameen Bank, Bangladesh model and group lending based on self-help Group model through a few specific branch office.

Chhimak Bikas Bank Ltd.: Chhimak Bikash Bank limited is a microfinance service to the poor, the marginalized and the deprived with a main focus on women living below the poverty line. It was register with the company Register's office in December 2001 and obtained a license in January 2002 from Nepal Rastra Bank.

Deprosc Development Bank Ltd.: Deprosc Development Bank is a microfinance bank working in the central and western region of Nepal. The pioneer objective of the bank is to provide microfinance services, which are adaptable to local situation, cost

effective and financially viable and sustainable. The bank has been promoted by DEPROSC Nepal. (An NGO active in microfinance business). The other promoters are Agriculture are Agriculture Development Bank, Nepal Bank, NABIL Bank, Lumbini finance and Leasing Company, and former bankers having 15-20 year experience. This Bank was register in January 2001 (Acharya, 2007).

2.6.2 Small Farmers Co-operative Model

In order to provide microfinance service to small farmers, Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal. (ADB/N) introduced a newly developed financing concept on co-operatives known by the name of small farmers Co-operative Limited (CFCLs). It is also known as the convergent from of 3 decades old small Farmer Development Project (1976) of the Bank, considered the first poverty focused credit program in the country. ADB/N has also estimated Small Farmer Development Bank (SFDB) in 2002 meet the wholesale requirement of CFCL for on landing to small farmers.

The main objective of transformation of SFCL is to ensure the viability and sustainability of micro finance institutions (MFIs), which would be managed and administered by the members themselves. Many international organizations including IFAD, ADB/N CGAP have lent their support to this program in one way or other band GTZ has been continuously providing technical support to help upgrade these institutions. As of mid-July (2006), a total of 117, 094 members (18,365no. of small farmers groups) were associated with 200 members of CFCL in the country. During the same period, however, only 141 SFCLs have taken wholesale loan from SFDP for on-lending to the small farmers with the credit disbursement amounting to Rs. 1.347 million. In this model SFDB provides the wholesale lone to SFCL at 9.5 percent interest rate per annum. Whereas SFCLs disburse loan to their clients at the interest rate ranging between 12 to 16 percent per annum and the loan is repaid within 2 to 5 years from the date of disbursement (Dhakal, 2011)

2.6.3 Financial Intermediary Non-governmental Organizations (FINGOs) Model

This is the latest form of development in microfinance in term of financial intermediary process. It is believed that more than 10,000 unregistered NGOs are opportunity either in the field of micro-finance or in social and community based

development activities. However, only 47 NGOs (mid July 2006) have been permitted license for doing limited banking operation from NRB. Till, mid July 2006, 51 NGOs are associated with the Rural Self Reliance Fund (RSRF, 1991). After the promulgation of Financial Intermediary Act 1998(1st Amendment 2002), a broader scope has been created for the NGOs to function as financial intermediaries for mobilizing saving and promoting credit activities within the group. In this model, the NGOs disburse loans for microfinance on a group basis. The interest rate range between 18 to 25 percent per annum and repayment system of NGOs in MF is on a very short term periodic basis i.e. weekly, fortnightly and monthly.

2.6.4 Priority and Deprived Sector Credit (PDSC) Model

After knowing that large volume of people are directly related to certain sectors, priority Sector lending model was introduced in early 1974 through the mandatory credit requirement as put forward by the NRB in agriculture, cottage industry and services sector. This mandatory requirement is presently called Priority Sector Credit Programs (PSCP) and Deprived Sector Credit Programs (DSCP). PSCP was recognized as Intensive Banking Program (IBP) in 1981 while DSCP was introduced in 1991 by the NRB. Both the programs have provision of direct and indirect financing. Under the direct financing mechanism, commercial banks provide loans to the beneficiary directly as retail lending while under indirect financing, commercial banks act as wholesale micro financer and the loan able funds are channeled through MFIs, co-operatives, FINGOs and MFDBs for on lending to the beneficiaries. Notwithstanding the fact that Nepal is currently passing through a World Bank led Financial Sector Reform Program (FSRP, NRB has opted for a phasing out policy of this priority sector credit program within five years starting from 2002/003. It may be recalled mandatory requirement to flow funds in to priority sector credit program was 12 percent of the total credit outstanding, while for DSCP commercial banks are required to finance micro finance sector at least to the tune of 3 percent of their total credit outstanding. Thus DSCP is also a major source of fund for on lending purposes to MFISs. In priority sector credit program, the commercial bank charges 4 to 12.75 percent interest rate per annum whereas in DSCP the interest rate ranges between 4 to 11 percent per annum. Co-operative provides microfinance in the form of credit to individuals and groups with limited resources. Saving are the strong bases of co-

operatives to make them suitable and capable to fulfill both the economic and social needs of their members and the communities where they are operating. In co-operatives, the money that, comes from the members. So the members are not merely the clients but owners of the institutions. Co-operatives are autonomous association of the persons united voluntarily to organize and operate any business in the society. These associations are governed by some established principles, i.e. open membership, democratic control and equal contribution in the organization. (Pandey, 2016)

As of mid-April 2006, around 8,045 co-operatives have been registered with the Department of Co-operatives of which 2,692 are savings and credit co-operatives (SACCOs) and 447 or 5.55 percent of them are women SACCOs. Such SACCOs provide micro finance services to their members for running income generating activities. Out of 2,692 SACCOs only 19 savings and co-operative have received licenses from NRB for limited banking transaction. A separate legal framework called co-operative Act- 1998 governs co-operative societies.

Out of the 2,350 SACCOs, 199 savings and credit co-operatives are associated with the rural self-Reliance Fund (RSRF) as a partner organization (PO). These Pos of RSRF, all located at the remote and rural areas have been providing microfinance services to their members/clients to the tune of Rs. 30,000/ per scheme per borrower, which is in line with the upper limit of deprived sector lending as prescribed by the NRB. RSRF is providing wholesale loan to SACCOs at 8 percent interest per annum but there is the provision of a refund of 75 percent of the paid interest back to Pos having 100 percent repayment performance with the RSRF. So, net interest charged, in fact, comes to two percent only.

Financing from the RSRF is popular amongst SACCOs and FINGOs. SACCOs at the present juncture could be an alternative vehicle for micro finance service delivery to the rural targeted people. But in absence of proper regulatory framework and clear-cut supervisory jurisdiction, it may not be so easy to generate faith with financial co-operatives. The regulation on the job of micro financing may therefore be assigned to a separate institution like NEFSCUN and National Co- operative Development Board or new institutions such as Micro financing Regulatory and supervision Authority (Khatiwada, 2016).

2.6.5 Project-Based Micro-Financing Model

There are six major donor-funded project-based micro-credit programs. Some of these are still in inactive stage.

Production Credit For Rural Women: PCRW was the first donor supported micro finance program was initiated in 1982 and completed in 1997 under two phases covering 26,616 group and 82,416 poor women borrower from 75 districts of the country with the credit disbursement amounting to Rs. 933,812 thousand. Funded by IFAD with a loan amount of SDR 3.23 million, the project utilized the loan amount 100 percent. Two major commercial banks (NBL and RBB) and ADB/N were the participating banks and it was executed by Women Development Division of Ministry of Local Development. Nepal Rastra Bank was the main executing agency of the credit component.

Micro-credit Project for Women: This project was launched in 1994 by Ministry of Local Development in co-ordination with NRB, RBB financial assistance of ADB/Manila amounting to SDR 5.0 million. The distinctiveness of its approach lies in using NGOs as facilitator in micro finance. Under the project, 95 percent (87 NGOs and SACCOs) have been involved in 'financial and social intermediation' i.e. group formation, training and delivery of bank credit. By March 2002, the project covered 25,000 women clients from 14 districts and 14 municipalities. The participating banks such as NBL RBB provided micro credit amounting to Rs.135 million (outstanding balance) to the target beneficiaries through NGO and women associations. NRB was again the executing agency of the credit component of the project. The project was awarded best fund ADB funded project in Nepal by ADB in 2001. With the completion of the project, many NGOs associated with the program as a credit agent later converted or upgraded into FINGOs and SACCOs. That is, 82 women saving and credit co-operatives were organized and 25 of them were registered at the co-operative Department. 25 SACCOs have been able to become partner organizations of RSRF. Similarly, 27 FINGOs formed by women groups under the MCPW have received licenses for limited banking from the central bank.

Poverty alleviation Project in Western Terai: This project was funded by IFAD and launched in December 12, 1997 in selected Terai districts of western, mid-western

and far-western development resign. The project is to cover below poverty level clients of the MFIs through 16 branches of Garmeen bank and its replicating institutions from 8 districts of western, mid-western and far-western in Tarai. The project was completed in December 2004 and covered 29,000 small and marginal deprived sector borrowers. The project utilized 80 percent of total loan amount of SDR 2.57 million. The project was based on pre-financing model under which the selected branches were pre-financed by the NRB for on lending their branch viability plan. As usual, Ministry of Local Development (MOLD) was the major project implementing body for overall project management and NRB acted as a credit component implementing body.

Third Livestock Development Project: The project was started in the year 1996 with an aim to improve the quality of livestock and its production along with other livestock related development. The project was funded by AND/Manila with a loan amount of SDR2.0 million. The project was launched in three different phases in 26 districts of western, mid-western and far-western region of the country for the targeted marginal and middle income people. Initially, the project was to be completed by July 30, 2003 but it was extended by one year to July 30, 2004. Besides, targeting marginal and middle income farmers, provision for high income level farmers was also made for raising livestock on commercial basis. During the project period, TLDP has disbursed Rs. 170million through its MFIs While NRB was the implementing agency for the credit component the overall executing responsibility was with the Department of livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operative (MoAC). The project had shown remarkable performance and as such has been rewarded three times (2000, 2002 & 2003) by ADB/M for its best performance.

Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project: With the objective of increasing agriculture productive of marginal and small farmers through community-based shallow tube-well irrigation system, government introduced CGISP in 12 district of eastern and central Terai in March 1999. CGISP is founded by ADB/M with a loan amount of DRS 9.93 million for the STWs installation and production credit and US\$ 3.5 million as a grant from CIDA as technical assistance. RSRF under (NRB) is the implementing agency for the credit component. As of mid-July 2006, RSRF under CFISP disbursed Rs. 134.98 million for 5365 STWs in group thereby benefiting altogether 21,262 marginal farmers (K.C, 2014).

2.1.5 Women Empowerment

As women empowerment has become the global concern and burning issue in these days, various scholars, academicians and other related organizations have learned and presented about the similar subject matters. The chapter, Review of Literature has been based upon various reports, manuals, workshops, papers, proceedings and studies Women empowerment through MFPs for poverty reduction and institutions undertaken nationally and internationally. The chapter has included only theoretical reviews both at national and international level.

Microfinance services lead to women empowerment for poverty reduce by positively influencing women's decision making power at household level and their overall socioeconomic status. There are various important approaches to women through microfinance. They are:

-) Women's involvement in decision making will be improved and affects their life and future.
-) Self-confident for women will increase.
-) Women's participation in income generating activities is assumed to strength women's bargaining position.
-) It will help women to earn independent and contributes the household's economy and social as well as political party participation.
-) Women are more likely than man to invest increased income in the household and family well-being.
-) Microfinance program seems to be highly effective in uplifting the women's economic and social conditions.
-) It will help to reduce domestic violence and family relationship appears to have improved.

(Pandey, 2016) has indicated that the microfinance plays a major role in gender and development strategies because of its direct relationships to both poverty alleviation and women. As women are the poorest of the poor so greater financial security allows the women to become more empower in household and community affairs. As women spend most of their income on their family needs particularly children's education, diet, health care and clothing. Proponents of targeting women argue that women

repayment record is good and their behavior is more cooperative than men. Access to financial resources does not alone empower women but also access to material (credit, property, and money), human and social resources (education, business). Empowerment is culturally relative term; it is itself not a western concept. Microfinance affect women's ability or decision making and self confidence which is closely linked with knowledge, women's status and gender relations at home. Microfinance program strengthen women's economic autonomy and gives them means to pursue nontraditional activities. Through these programs women escaped from abusive relationship. Purdah also confines their activities to their homes. Mobility has also increased. Microfinance programs impact also on political empowerment and women's right.

Rehman & Khan (2007) presented that microfinance is the provision of collateral free loans to poor people illiterate and don't know how to read or write. The multiple linear regression analysis technique was used to explore the effects of different determinants on women empowerment and role of microfinance in female empowerment.

The studies reviewed in this study more or less have similar views regarding the microfinance programs. However, with the help of the reviewed studies it can be concluded that MF is an effective development intervention tool and it has reached the poorest and the poorest of the poor families. Moreover, the women clients have improved self confidence, leadership, decision- making power and entrepreneurial skills after participating in the microfinance program. However, microfinance in different regions has different characteristics.

2.1.5 Microfinance in Poverty Reduction

Some people take poverty to involve a subjective and comparative terms while others take it to be moral and evaluative. Defining poverty involves the question of whether it is mainly about material needs involving measuring consumption by using income as the main determinant factor, or a much broader set of needs that includes factors of well-being. We use the term 'poorest of very poor' to refer to people living on less than \$1 per day. We also use the term 'poor' to mean those living in poverty above

\$1 per day or in the upper half of those living below their nation's poverty line (Hulme and Mosley, 1996).

The 1st Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. This has become an issue of concern both on the local and international levels since the MDG's was established. The World Bank defined poverty as the state of living on less than \$2 a day and this poverty continues to remain elusive to eradicate even for the billion in question (World Bank 2000/2001). They also have yet another definition as having a multi-dimensional nature consisting of vulnerability, powerlessness and social exclusion in addition to material deprivation. Poverty in many developing countries is largely a matter of not having enough on their tables to eat. Providing the poor with financial services is one way to increase their income and productivity, e.g. through self-employment and thus escape poverty, (Chaudhary, 2001).

The most-cited source of evidence on the impacts of microfinance is the early set of studies collected by Hulme and Mosley (1996). The findings of these studies are provocative: poor households do not benefit from microfinance; it is only non-poor borrowers (with incomes above poverty lines) who can do well with microfinance and enjoy sizable positive impacts. Vast majority of those with starting incomes below the poverty line actually ended up with less incremental income after getting micro-loans, as compared to a control group which did not get such loans (Chowdhury, 2009). Findings of the Hulme and Mosley studies imply that credit is only one factor in the generation of income or output. There are other complementary factors, crucial for making credit more productive. Among them, the most important is recipient's entrepreneurial skills. Most poor people do not have the basic education or experience to understand and manage even low level business activities. They are mostly risk-averse, often fearful of losing whatever little they have, and struggling to survive. This does not mean that they do not want to better themselves (e.g., as suggested by the so-called backward bending labor supply curve). Looking at the contribution of microfinance to rural poverty reduction asserts that a well coordinated, effective and efficient microfinance system in developing countries can contribute positively to the reduction of poverty among poor rural households. He argues that with easy access to finance, farmers will be able to acquire appropriate modern farming inputs such as high-yield variety seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, irrigation

systems and extension services, which will subsequently lead to increased agricultural productivity.

On the issue of women, ADB asserts that microfinance institutions have also brought, particularly poor women into the formal financial system and enabled them to access credit and accumulate small savings in financial assets, reducing their household poverty. Finally, it must be observed that there is general agreement among researchers and practitioners that the poorest of the poor are yet to benefit from microfinance programs in most developing countries partly because most microfinance institutions do not offer products and services that are attractive to this category (www.adb.org, 2000).

So, we can conclude that microfinance is such a instrument which can easily reduce the vicious circle of poverty by creating self employment.

2.1.6 Microfinance in Pokhara Finance Limited

Pokhara Finance Limited was established in 2053 B.S. Currently, the company has an Authorized Capital of NPR 940 million and Paid Up/Issued Capital of NPR 557.42 million. Its head office is situated at Newroad Pokhara Lekhnath- 9, Kaski. The company has an ownership of 60% with 40% shares owned by the general public. The company is among the oldest finance company currently operating in Pokhara.

The prime objective of the company is to render banking services to the different sectors like industries, traders, businessmen, priority sector, small entrepreneurs, deprived sections of the society and other people who need banking services. Pokhara Finance has granted loan in micro finance to poor entrepreneurs and small business owner who have no collateral and wouldn't otherwise qualify for a standard bank loan. It has been successfully used as an anti-poverty and development tool by many countries ([http : //www.pokharafinance.com.np](http://www.pokharafinance.com.np)).

2.2 Review of Related Studies

Although a lot of research has been done on microfinance, this role of microfinance in women empowerment and poverty reduction is new topic for MBS faculty. There are lots of paper and views related to microfinance activities which were presented in different seminars and functions. Several research work has been conducted on

microfinance practice in Nepal in case of women and relevance literature have been collected through different books, websites, papers, articles, journals, dissertation and various electronic devices.

The basic idea of microfinance is to provide credit to the poor people who otherwise would not have access to credit service. Micro-credit program extend small loans to very poor people for self-employment projects that generate income and allow them to take care for themselves and their families. This program is working in many development countries. There is no dearth of literature related to microfinance. In order to find the impact of microfinance program, impact assessment studies have been done by many authors. The literature on microfinance offers a diversity of finding relating to the type and level of impact of the program. There are various studies which confirm the microfinance program has significant positive impact in increasing employment and reducing poverty. A number of study shows that the participant households enjoy higher standards of living as compared to the non participants. The program reduces consumption as well as income vulnerability among its beneficiaries. Some of the studies also confirm that the program is helpful in attaining millennium development goals by reducing poverty, hunger, infectious diseases and through women empowerment. There are greater levels of women empowerment in terms of increase in knowledge, confidence, economic, social and political awareness, mobility, development of organizational skills etc

Poudel (2017) has conducted the study for M.B.S degree on the topic of “Women empowerment through microcredit in Nepal.” He concluded that microfinance programs have been potential to transform poor relation and to empower women. Although women access to financial resources has substantially increased yet loans given to women differ in sizes. In spite of this, just financial help not enough to empower women and improve well being but if they are properly designed then they make important contribution to women empowerment. The writer explains empowerment indicators and measurement techniques. The contribution of micro insurance, saving to empowerment, technology transfer through microfinance institutions, the relationship between microfinance program, empowerment, family planning and cultural norms are exist. He describes different theories of targeting women. Microfinance plays a major role in gender and development strategies because of its direct relationships to both poverty alleviation and women. As women

are the poorest of the poor so greater financial security allows the women to become more empower in household and community affairs. As women spend most of their income on their family needs particularly children's education, diet, health care and clothing. Proponents of targeting women argue that women repayment record is good and their behavior is more cooperative than men. Access to financial resources does not alone empower women but also access to material (credit, property, and money), human and social resources (education, business). Empowerment is culturally relative term; it is itself not a western concept. Microfinance affect women's ability or decision making and self confidence which is closely linked with knowledge, women's status and gender relations at home. Microfinance program strengthen women's economic autonomy and gives them means to pursue nontraditional activities. Through these programs women escaped from abusive relationship. Mobility has also increased. Microfinance programs impact also on political empowerment and women's right.

Dhakal (2011) had conducted a study for M.B.S. on the topic” Socio-Economic impact of Microfinance: A case study of small farmer Agriculture co-operative Limited”. This research study focuses on role of microfinance program in creation of enterprise and employment generation. In the Nepalese context various microfinance programs have been running with the aims of socio-economic empowerment, mobilization of internal resources, creation of awareness and generation of self-employment targeting the rural people. Microfinance has been one of the few effective tools for poverty reduction over the past years. It has been revealed that the loans have been mostly invested on small scale business livestock and other.

Sharma (2004) has written ‘The journal of Nepalese business studies’ about “Microfinance: A powerful tool for social transformation. Its challenges and principles”. This research article attempts to explore the role and importance of microfinance in reducing poverty by generating the income of the poor. Microfinance has been emphasized for poverty reduction in developing country through executing dual articles such as collection of domestic saving and investment of small loan. These article try to find the answers of different claiming by institution such as – Are these institution really delivering microfinance services to the poorest of the poor? Are they really sustainable in the long run? Are they finally efficient?

Wagle (2016) has submitted a thesis in partial fulfillment of their requirement degree of master of business studies on the topic of "Impact of Microfinance on Women: A Case study of Lekhnath Municipality Kaski under Paschimanchal Grameen Bikas Bank". She stated that microfinance has evolved as an economic development approach intended to benefit low income women. The term microfinance refers to the provision of financial service to low-income clients including the self-employed. Microfinance, a complete provision of financial services, intends to uplift the living standard of the poor, low income, marginalized, down-trodden and disadvantage people. It is an economic development approach that provides financial sources to low income and unemployed clients in groups. The purpose of microfinance is to provide financial services to the needy people in remote areas who do not have access to modern physical facilities.

Baranwal (2016) has submitted a thesis in partial fulfillment of their requirement degree of master of business studies on the topic of "Impact of Microfinance on women empowerment: A case study on Muktinath Bikas Bank Limited in Kalika VDC, Kaski" She stated that microfinance is coined as the financial service rendered to the group of people and a small entrepreneurs to help them in developing self employment opportunities and various income generating activities. A small size of loan, compulsory saving, small enterprise, diversified utilization and simple terms and conditions are the determining characteristics of its definition. Usually, microfinance is a program that serves larger number of clients with reference to women/ deprived people and works at grass level with the financial sustainability. The main objective of microfinance is to provide quality service to the large number of deprived population of the country to break the vicious circle of the poverty.

Kandel (2015) has written thesis on "Impact of microfinance on poverty alleviation: A case study of chartare youth club". He stated that microfinance is a complete provision of financial services, intends to uplift the living standard of the poor, low income, marginalized, down-trodden and disadvantage people. It is an economic development approach that provides financial sources to low income and unemployed clients in groups. The purpose of microfinance is to provide financial services to the needy people in remote areas who do not have access to modern physical facilities.

Acharya (2007) conducted research for MBS degree on the topic, “Impact of microfinance: A case study of microcredit programme for women in Bahadaure Tamagi VDC kaski”. The main objective of the study is to explore the role of microcredit programme for women of Bahadaure Tamagi VDC kaski. Other specific objective of the study are; to analyze the position of exiting credit, to analyze the relationship between investment and income, to measure the perception of users group towards the programme, to assess the effect of micro credit program on living standard of the people, to assess the financial sustainability of the program. From the research study she found that the overall impact of microcredit program for women’s earning beneficiaries and living standard is positive. The condition of loan recovery has a positive impact of loan payment.

Ghimire (2010) has conducted a study on microfinance practices and its impact on women: A case study of Chimek Bikas Bank Limited under Lekhnath Municipality, kaski. The objectives were to evaluate the modalities using by CBB, to analyze the saving and lending pattern of CBB, to highlight the socio-economic contribution of the program for women empowerment. And the major findings were CBB provides 5 types of saving account to its valuable clients. Among them highest saving amount is in optional saving account and lowest saving amount is in the unit fund saving in the last five fiscal year. 100% clients are involve in Monthly saving, disaster saving, unit fund saving and 68% clients are involved in pension saving. The main source of income generating and saving is through agricultural products, poultry farming, retail business and service business like small hotels, restaurant, tea shop, fruit and vegetable shop. Majority of women are engaged in animal husbandry and poultry farming. 50% of CBB has taken loan for business purpose, 30% for animal husbandry & poultry, 15% for goat farming and 5% for fishery purpose. The 80% CBB clients who enjoy the group loan are under S.L.C and 20% clients have passed S.L.C. same while 95% women don’t have the ownership over land and only 5% women have only the ownership over the land.

Katuwal, B. (2014) has submitted a thesis in partial fulfillment of their requirement degree of Masters of Business Studies on the topic of “Role of Microfiannce in Women’s Empowerment: An Empirical Study in kaskikot VDC, under Nirdhan utthan Bank.” The specific objective of the study were to describe the socio-demographic background of the microfinance users, to explore the income generating

condition of the respondents, to highlights the social empowerment of women, to evaluate the saving and credit status of Nirdhan utthan Bank Ltd, to analyze the loan disbursement recovery and loan outstanding condition of Nirdhan utthan Bank Limited. After the research is completed the researcher found that, the small amount of loan which is disbursed help to enhance the current business which results in upliftment of their entire family members. They are able to teach their son and daughters in prestigious school of Pokhara valley. Through group meeting on monthly basis they acquire the leadership capacity. They were able to express their views in a mass with confident. They start to talk about women entrepreneur. Through which we can easily conclude that microfinance has greatly helps to empower the women as well helps to reduce the vicious circle of poverty.

Deepa (2015) conducted dissertation of Master in Business Studies level on "Impact of micro-finance in women: A case study of Deprosc Development Bank in Lekhanth Municipality" This dissertation has analyzed the impact of Micro-finance in uplifting the economic condition of women and gives conclusion as follows:

- Involvement in the micro-finance program has empowered women in varying degree; it has offered opportunities for poor women to come out of their household confines, to organize themselves in group and to work in productive and social activities.
- The program puts its focus on group activities and poor generation.
- Training for improving farming techniques and micro-enterprises has helped members to shift from the traditional agriculture to cash crop production, which yields higher returns.
- Awareness of health care, including women and children's health, family planning sanitation and reduction in smoking, alcohol consumption.
- Women's mobility has increased due to their participation in monthly meetings.
- MFP should widen their area by appointing staffs to hear and understand their problem and to find out alternative as well as solution. So that they should not be victimized by excess burden of debt.

She gives some short comments in his thesis those are as follows:

) This program is said that it is the powerful instrument for poverty alleviation in Nepal but there is not clear strategy and policy of Government of Nepal.

Therefore, the government should design and implement policies that focus on the promotion and strengthening in rural hilly areas.

- Probably the most serious shortcoming of the program is the selection of the target group. There is some sound indication of the possible bias in favor of those who did not represent the poorest of the poor.
- There is difficulty to repay the amount (share of principle and interest) within a month those who are working in the field only. Mr. Thapa completed his research task in very good manner. He has explained about micro-finance programs and economic upliftment of women. But his research has split about saving status of the respondents. Economic impacts also affect the saving status. People can save only when their income is increased. In the whole study of economic impact of micro-finance, one should not forget the role played by saving and he did not clear about the entrepreneur of the client of micro-finance programs. So, this research will bridge to this gap.

Paudel (2016) who conducted research for M.B.S degree on the topic "Role of Microfinance in poverty reduction : A case study of microfinance program of NESDO in Pakuwa VDC of Parbat" by taking main objectives as follows:

To analyze the impact of microfinance on income generation to reduce poverty of rural women in the study area.

- To examine the change in socio-economic condition of the rural people especially women before and after participating in microfinance program.
- To analyze the impact and effectiveness of microfinance program to promote non-farm activities in study area.
- To suggest measures for more effective implementation of the microfinance program. His study gives following conclusions;
- The majority of women in Pakuwa VDC who are illiterate and have no other skill and means of generating income are engaged in agriculture activities. So, before borrowing 42.85 percent of the total borrowers were engaged in agriculture activities. But after borrowing only 20 percent of the total members were engaged in non-agricultural activities. This proves that the rural women, also, if encouraged, can show their entrepreneurial skill and change their activities from traditional to nontraditional activities.

- After the microfinance program intervention consumption pattern has significantly improved which shows that the living standard of rural poor is improving.
 - Education status of the rural poor women is improving which has a direct impact on the living standard, employment and income generating activities of those women and her family.
-) Before borrowing there were 80 percent of the total members that had income less than Rs. 2,000 per month but after borrowing 28 percent of borrowers had income in this group. This shows that their income level has increased after borrowing. Before borrowing there was not a single member having income more than Rs. 4500 per month while it has increased to 12 percent of the members after borrowing.
-) NESDO has helped the rural poor women in the study area to generate income and uplift poor women's economic condition through the bank credit. Being the major objectives to undertake an overview on income generation of rural women, Mrs. Joshi has used only the programs of NESDO although there are other financial institutions working in the field of micro-finance. She is silent about the new types of occupation. So, this research will bridge to this gap also.

Adhikari (2010) who conducted research for M.B.S degree on the topic” Microfinance in Pokhara: A case study of Bharatpokhari VDC, kaski”. In his view, the question “How important micro-finance is for poverty reduction and for peace in the world?” has been strongly answered by the award of the Nobel peace prize 2006 to the micro credit pioneer professor Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. This is a great moment for the micro-finance community of the entire world. And he described in his article; Nepal for some years has been implementing policy to reach to the poor masses through various programs but its institutional micro credit outreach to the total poor families. The reasons for this are many but the most prominent of them is the very limited number of quality and capable micro-finance institutions operating in the country. In addition, the past micro-credit programs, largely directed by the government, paid very little attention on the sustainability of the micro-finance systems and on the promotion of the effective micro-finance institutions. In recent years, the newly established micro-finance institutions, owned by the private sector or non government agencies, have shown encouraging results in terms of outreach growth and institutional as well as financial sustainability. Through

creating favorable policy and regulatory environment, a considerable number of private micro-finance organizations can be promoted and developed and this would help minimize the large gap existing between the demand supplies of micro-finance in the country.

Baral (2008). Conducted research for M.B.S degree on the topic” Impact of Microfinance: A case study of micro-credit program in Prithivi Narayan municipality, Gorkha district. He presents that micro-finance is a system of grassroots development finance. It deals with the poor people, low income group, the asset less, the marginalized, the exploited and the desperate. Micro-finance provides small loans to meet their diverse needs with simple procedure in homely atmosphere. It takes small and petty saving for safe keeping meeting their lump sum requirement in future. It offers other financial services such as micro-insurance. Shrestha focuses on the importance of Micro finance as a powerful instrument of poverty alleviation is as follows:

- It enables the poor to take advantages of existing opportunities
- It builds up their assets
- It generates self- employment
- It develops micro enterprises
- It raises their income
- It builds up their self-confidence and self esteem
- It improves their purchasing power and thereby consumption
- It empowers them (specially women) economically and socially
- It enhances overall economic growth
- It enhances domestic savings and improves financial market
- It provides escape route from poverty

In his opinion a successful micro-finance institution carries following features.

- Clear Vision, Mission, Goal, Objective and Strategy
- Progressive business plan
- Active and effective board of directors
- Commitment and honesty in management and board members
- Committed honest and dynamic leadership
- Motivated, honest, diligent and well trained staff

- Micro-finance friendly organizational culture
- Strong discipline among board members and staff
- Business culture and professionalism in organization
- Well established system: Loan operation, accounting book keeping,
) Reporting, MIS (Timely and accurate), auditing.

In this way different research papers who related to this research paper gives the conclusion that only micro-finance success to reduce the poverty and empower the women of the country.

2.2.4 Research Gap

Research is searching something new again and again. So, it is never ending process. Different scholars and researcher has given their different findings and conclusion in their field of microfinance and women empowerment. According to above literature review there are various studies has been done in the topic of microfinance program. They are focusing on women empowerment with the help of microfinance but they are not studying the parallel relationship between women empowerment and microfinance as a poverty reduction tool. This study is different from others in the case that is trying to find out the role of microfinance in women empowerment and poverty reduction in Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitancity under Pokhara Finance Limited. This research attempts to discuss about how the microfinance programme helps to empower the women and helps to reduce the vicious circle of poverty, how it helps to create self-employment, how to be a successful entrepreneur, how to built up the leadership capacity by handling a center having various member, how to speak in a mass, how to manage money etc. It also discusses about different profile of respondents. This study basically evaluates the influence of the microfinance on women empowerment and poverty reduction.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter is designed to fulfill the stated objectives as well as to make it easier in visualizing the study work clearly. The methodology is a series of underlying assumptions, theories, principles and philosophies relating to the conceptualization of material under study and the categories that will be used define, describe, analyze and talk about it. It is the process in which the data are collected, analyzed, evaluated and finally inference is drawn. Therefore, it is a specific way of performing an operation that implies precise deliverable and the end of each stage. Thus, research methodology simply describes the systematic way of one and different tools and technique to be followed by the researcher.

The main objective of the study is to analyze the role of microfinance on women empowerment and poverty reduction in Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan city, under Pokhara finance limited. This study aims to recommend necessary suggestions to achieve the targeted objectives. In line with this appropriate methods have been followed. This chapter has been divided into six sections. Research design, study area, population and sample, nature and sources of data, data collection techniques, data processing and analysis.

3.2 Research Design

This study simply focuses on the study of microfinance program. It is intended to find out the impact of microfinance program in the specific study area. This research is based on case study design.

3.3 Population and Sample

The study is based upon the female populations who have been using MF in Pokhara Lekhnath of Kaski district. There are many MFIs in the study area. Specially, the study is based upon Pokhara Finance Limited.

The selection of this MFI has been done by their number of members and size of transaction. Involving number of total female populations are 1173. The study uses about 170 respondent from total population for the sample size who are involving continuously before at least six years. Where, selections of respondents are done through by random sampling method.

Table 3.1: Name list of sample women Groups POFIL in Pokhara Lekhanth Metropolitan City

S.No.	Name of groups	Ward No.	Population No.
1	Prithivi Chowk Women Group	09	10
2	Tal Barahi Women Group	03	10
3	Ekata Women Group	02	10
4	Unnatishil Women Group	08	15
5	Lekhnath Women Group	27	10
6	Budibazar Women Group	26	11
7	Taxi Chowk Women Group	01	10
8	Deep Women Group	16	12
9	Pragati Women Group	10	15
10	Milijuli Women Group	05	10
11	Sakchham Women Group	12	12
12	Lakeside Women Group	06	6
13	Ratna Chowk Women Group	08	10
14	Ranipauwa Women Group	11	10
15	Kahundanda Women Group	12	5
16	Shishuwa Women Group	30	8
17	Gachhaphant Women Group	26	6

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The study uses both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Similarly, the study is based upon both primary and secondary type of data and information. Secondary data used in this study have been collected from different sources such as:

-) Primary data used in this study have been collected from different ways, they are:
 -) Questionnaire
 -) Personal interview
 -) Field observation
 -) Group discussion, etc
-) Likewise, secondary data are obtained through various research studies, article related to the study, books, pamphlet, website, bankers, NGOs/ INGOs, Journal Dictionaries and other relevant source of study.

3.4 Data Collection Procedure

This study is mainly based on primary data. However reference from secondary data is also obtained. Most of the relevant data information has been collected through primary sources. The primary data and information are gathered through questionnaires and discussion with the respondents who are involved in the microfinance program of Pokhara Finance Limited. For the simplification and convenience of presentation and analysis of those raw data, data has been processed by editing, classification and tabulation of information. It has been performed manually as well as with help of computer by using Microsoft excel program.

3.5 Methods of Data Analysis

After collecting data and information using primary sources and determining the sampling procedures, the next step of the study is to analyze the achieved data and information. Collected data are presented in the clear and effective from using different statistical and mathematical tools like percentage, ratio and arithmetic mean. Besides, tabulation, diagram and pie- chart are also being used to make the study more effective and accurate.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 Presentation and Analysis of Data

The chapter attempts to analyze the information received from the questionnaire, observations, case study, field survey and informal discussion with women who are engaged in microfinance programmed of Pokhara Finance Limited. The study mainly focuses to analyze process and contents are determined as per set of objectives. It attempts on purpose of involving in microfinance program, saving status, monthly expenses, monthly income, profitability status of business, economic condition of group members, participation in center meeting, repayment pattern of loan, children education, development in leadership capacity, status of ownership of land, means of communication, ethnicity status of group members, educational status, decision making in household activities, occupational status, utilization of loan.

General background consists of the following:

4.1.1 Background Information

4.1.1.1 Age Structure

In the field survey, the respondents of different age group which is presented in Table:

Table 4.1: Age Structure of Respondents

Age Groups	Number	Percentage (%)
16-25	15	8.83
26-35	35	20.58
36-45	44	25.88
45-55	56	32.95
55-65	20	11.76
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.1: Age Structure of Respondents

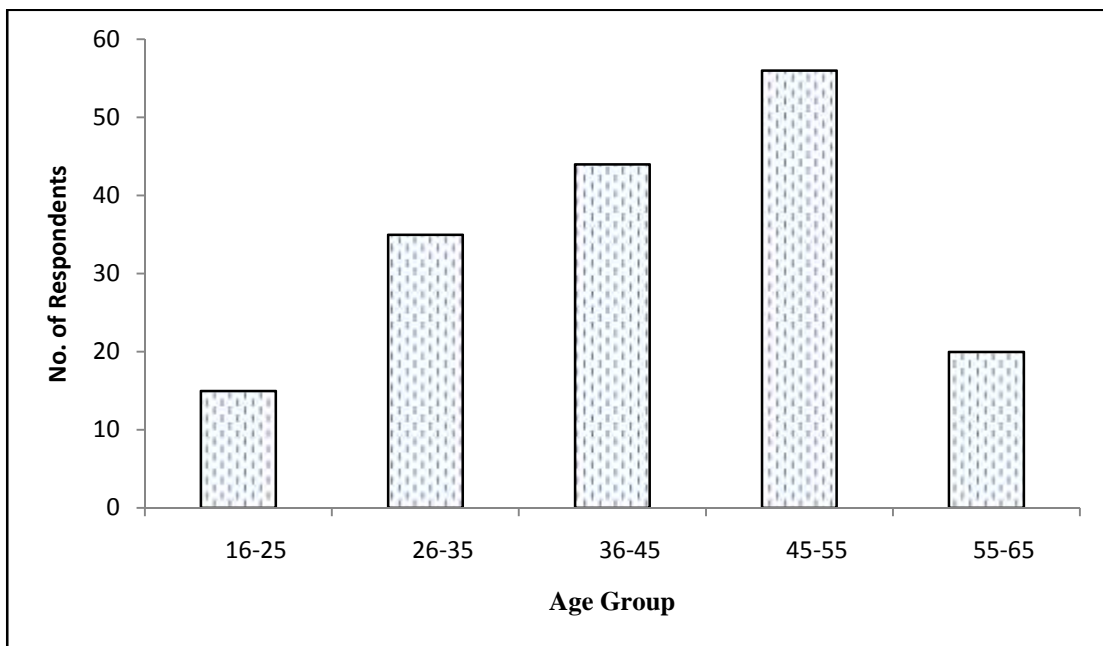


Table 4.1 and figure 4.1 shows that, 8.83 percent of the total respondents at POFIL in the study are of 16-25 age groups. In the same way, 20.58 percent respondents are in between 26-35 age. In the age group between 36-45 is 25.58%. Furthermore 33.295 percent of respondent falls under the age group of 45-55 and 11.76 percent of respondent are falls under 56-65 age group.

4.1.1.2 Purpose of involvement in microfinance program

Respondents having different purpose of involving microfinance program have been found while doing the field survey of respondents. The various purposes are to meet household expenses, to repay personal borrowing, to improve financial status and due to information provided by friend.

Table: 4.2: Purpose of involvement in microfinance program

Purpose of involvement	Number	Percentage (%)
Household expenses	4	2.35
Repay personal borrowing	6	3.53
Improve financial status	150	88.24
Information from friend	10	5.88
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.2: Purpose of involvement in microfinance program

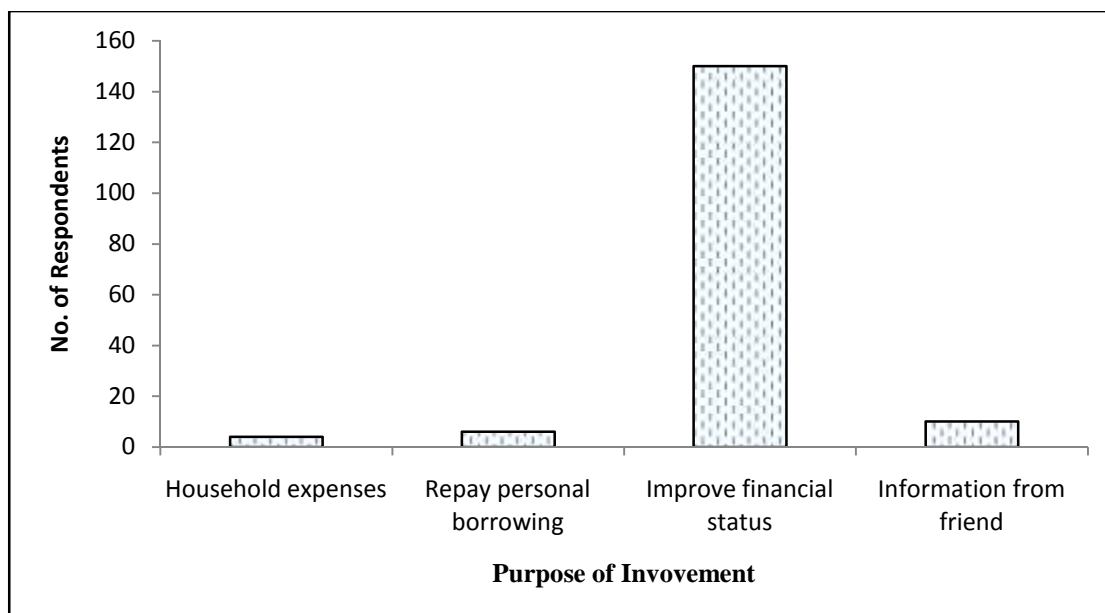


Table 4.2 and figure 4.2 shows that among the selected 170 respondents, the respondents 2.35 percent are involved in microfinance programmed to meet household expenses, where as 3.53 percent of women are involved to repay personal borrowing. Similarly, 88.24 percent of the respondents are involved to improve their financial status from microfinance program. Finally, 5.88 percent of the respondents are involved in this program due to information received by their friends.

4.1.1.3 Ethnic Composition

In the field work, different group of ethnicity of respondents have been found which is presented in table.

Table 4.3: Ethnic Composition of Respondents

Ethnic Groups	Number	Percentage (%)
Brahmins	40	23.53
Chhetri	30	17.65
Gurung	41	24.13
Tamang	10	5.88
Muslim	13	7.65
Damai	20	11.76
Magar	10	5.88
Chaudhari	3	1.76
Others	3	1.76
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.3: Ethnic Composition of Respondents

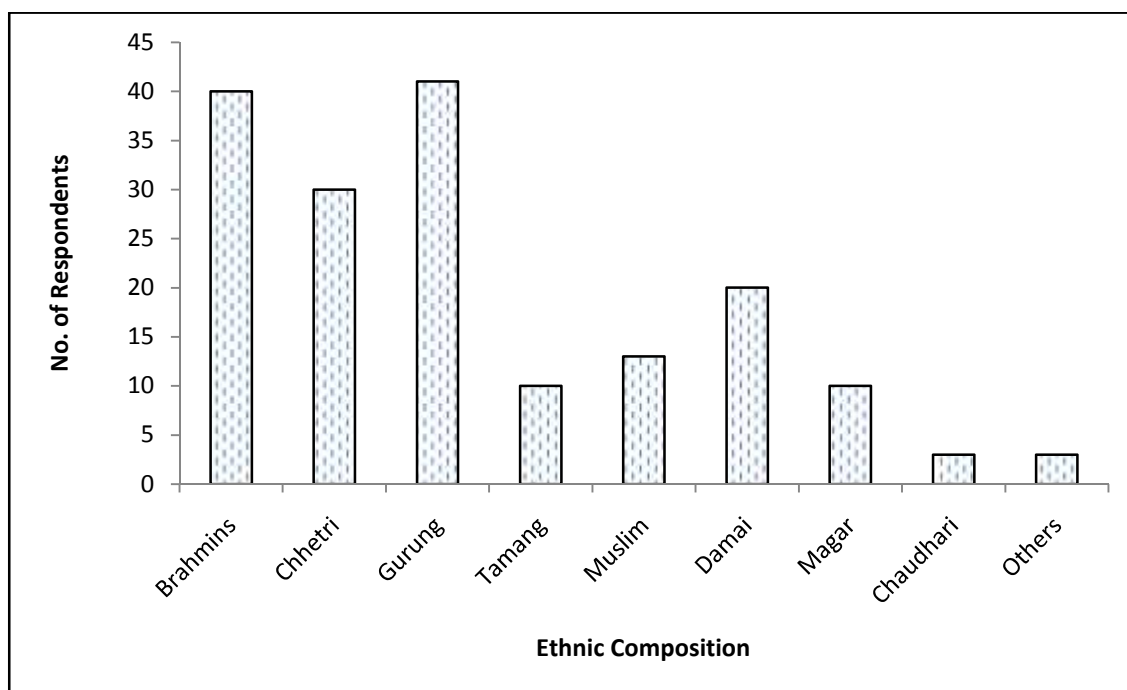


Table 4.3 and figure 4.3 show that, different ethnicity of group of respondent has been found during survey. Out of 170 respondents, 23.53 percent are found Brahmins, 17.65 percent are Chhetri, 24.13 percent are Gurung, 5.88 percent are Tamang, 7.65 percent are Muslim, 11.76 percent are Damai. Similarly, 5.88 percent out of total respondents are Magars whereas 1.76 percent out of total respondents are Chaudhari and 1.76 percent others caste like Kami, Newar etc. involve there.

4.1.1.4 Educational Status

Respondents having different educational status have been found while doing the field survey of respondents. Educational status of the respondents is presented in table:

Table 4.4: Educational Status of Respondents

Educational Status	Number		Percentage %	
	Illiterate	Literate	Illiterate	Literate
Illiterate	-	20	-	11.77
Literate	-	150	-	88.23
Under S.L.C.	160	-	94.12	-
Above S.L.C	10	-	5.88	-
Total	170	170	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.4: Educational Status of Respondents

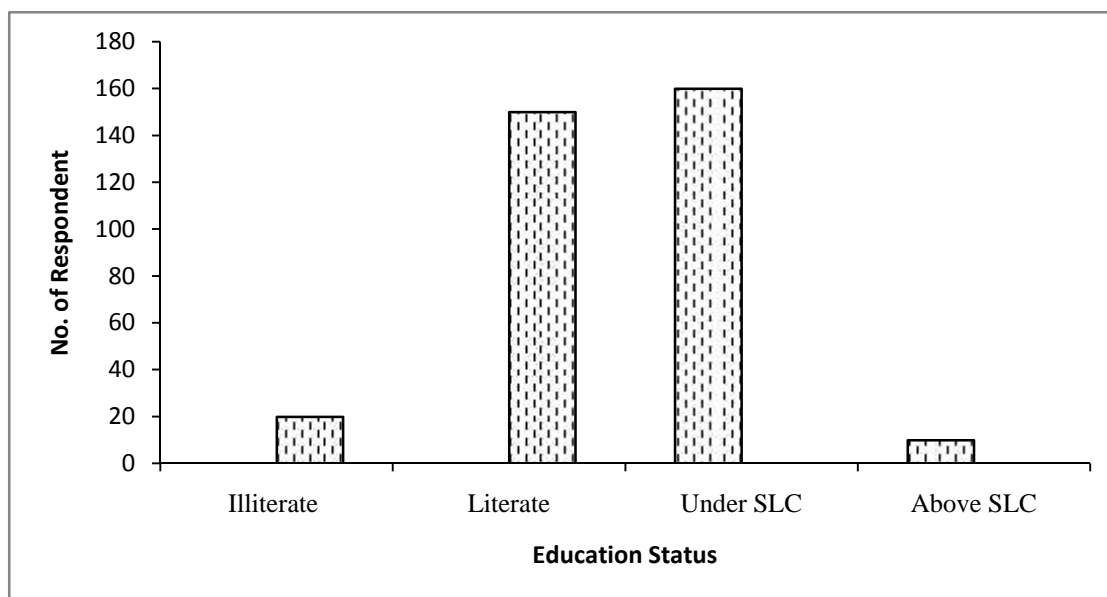


Table 4.4 and figure 4.4 present different percent of educational status of respondents from POFIL. Out of selected 170 respondents, 11.77 percent of respondents are illiterate and 88.23 percent of respondents are literate where, the respondents 94.12 percent are under S.L.C level and 5.88 percent of the respondents are above S.L.C level.

4.1.1.5 Health Status

Respondents having different health status have been found while doing the field survey of respondents. Health status of the respondents is presented in table:

Table: 4.5: Health Status of Respondents

Status	Number	Percentage (%)
Healthy	130	76.47
Unhealthy	40	23.53
Total	170	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.5: Health Status of Respondents

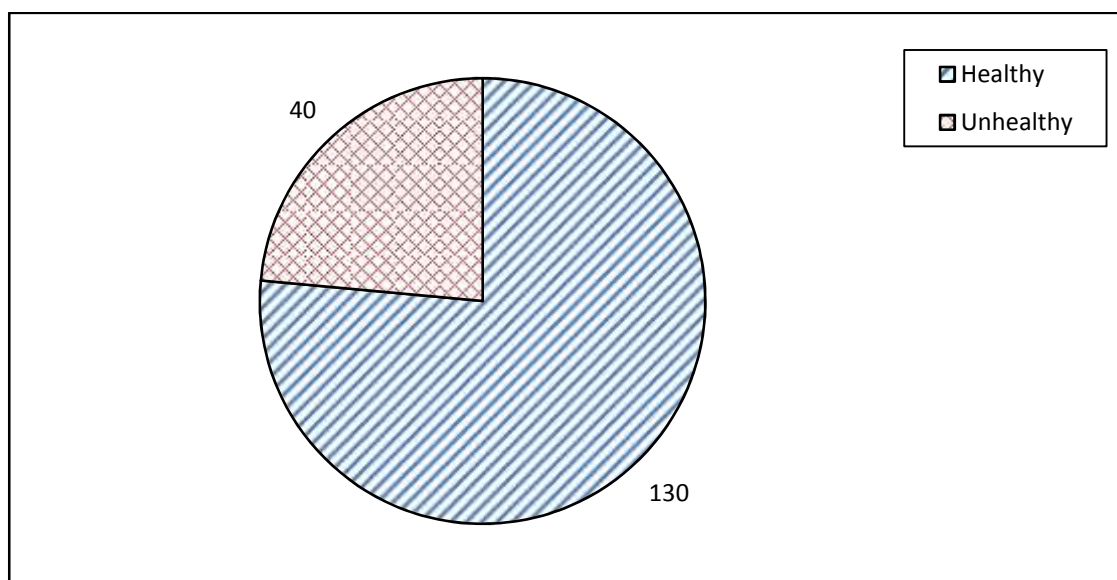


Table 4.5 and figure 4.5 present the health status of the respondents involving in the microfinance program of POFIL, out of 170 respondents 76.47 percent of the respondents seems healthy. Whereas, 23.53 percent of the respondent seems unhealthy.

4.1.2 Economic Empowerment

4.1.2.1 Involvement in saving program

Respondents involving in different saving program have been found while doing the field survey of respondents. Involvement in different saving program of the respondents is presented in table:

Table 4.6: Involvement in saving of Respondents

Purpose of involvement	Number	Percentage (%)
Compulsory Saving	170	100.00
Optional Saving	97	57.06
Other Saving	53	31.17

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.6: Involvement in Saving of Respondents

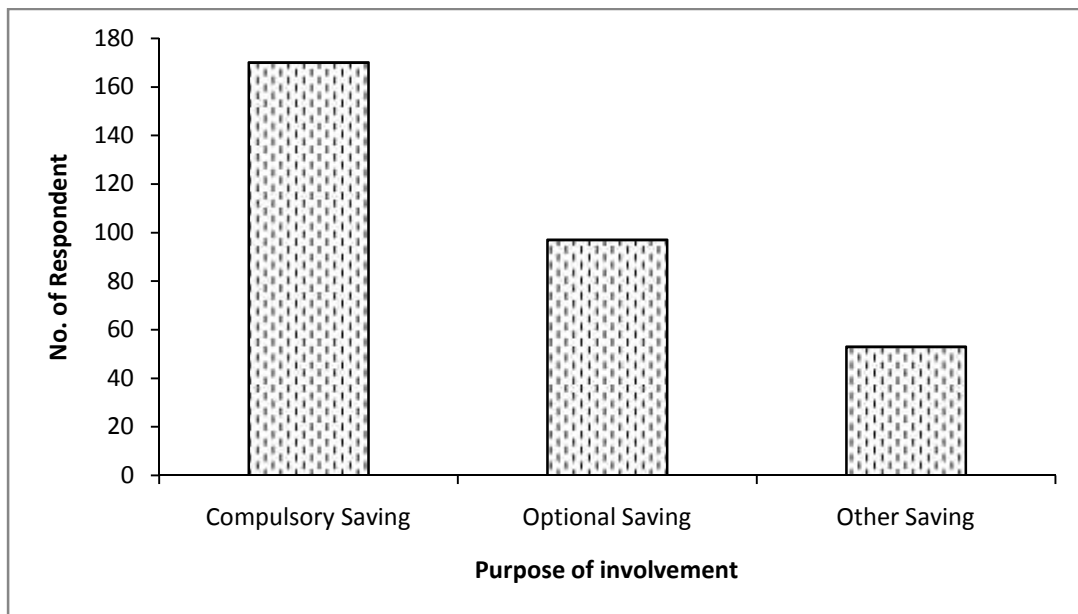


Table 4.6 and figure 4.6 present the different percent of involvement in saving program from POFIL, out of selected 170 respondents, 100.00 percent of the respondents are involve in compulsory saving, where as 57.06 percent of the respondents involved in optional saving. Similarly, 31.17 percent of the respondents are involve in other saving like pension saving, sunaulo saving etc.

4.1.2.2 Monthly Expenses

Respondent's monthly expenses status before and after involving in microfinance program is presented in table:

Table: 4.7: Monthly expenses of respondents

Monthly Expenses In '000'(NRS)	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
1-5	26	15.29	32	18.82
5-10	43	25.29	48	28.24
10-15	52	30.59	58	34.12
15-20	21	12.36	16	9.41
20-25	17	10.00	10	5.88
25 above	11	6.47	6	3.53
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.7: Per-month expenses of respondents

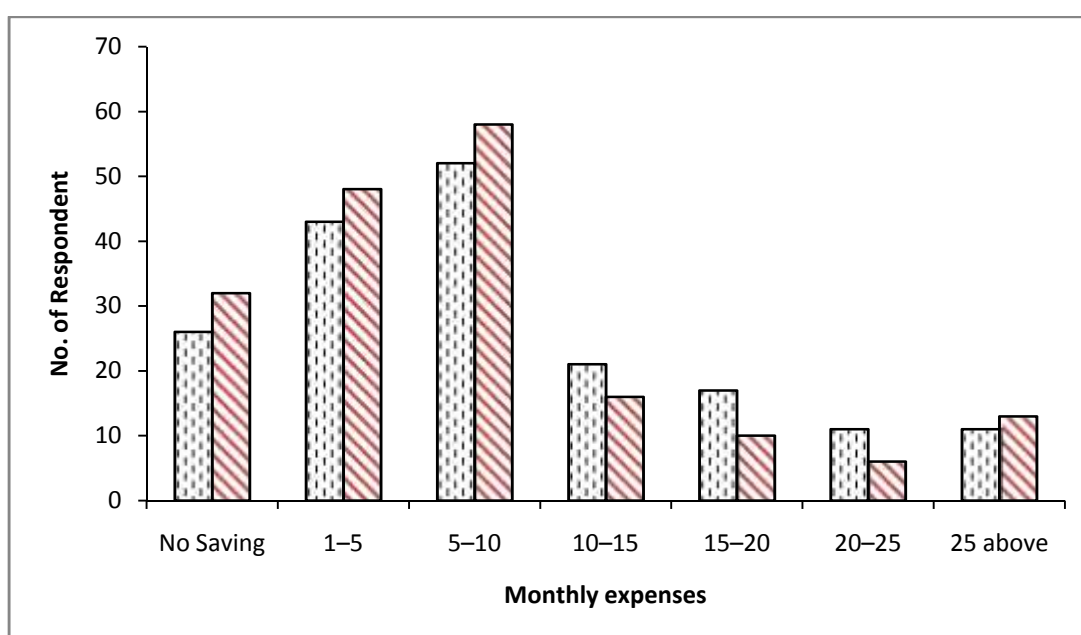


Table 4.7 and figure 4.7 shows that before joining MFP, 15.29 percent of respondent's monthly expenses was between the range of 1-5 thousand but after joining MFP the expenses was reduced to 18.82 percent. Likewise, the monthly expenses range 5-10 thousand was 25.29 percent but after joining MFP it was increased to 28.24 percent. In the same way, 30.59 percent of the respondents monthly expenses was between the range of 10-15 thousand but after joining the microfinance program it was increased to 34.12 percent. Similarly, monthly expenses

of the respondents between the range of 15-20 thousand per month was 12.36 percent which was reduced to 9.41 percent after joining the microfinance program. Likewise, the monthly expenses of the respondents between the range of 20-25 thousand was 10.00 percent but after joining the microfinance program the monthly expenses of the respondent has reduced to 5.88 percent. Accordingly, the monthly expenses of the respondents above 25 thousand before joining MFP were 6.47 percent which was reduced to 3.53 percent after joining the microfinance program.

4.1.2.3 Per-Month Saving of Respondents

Respondents involving in different saving program before and after joining microfinance program is presented below:

Table: 4.8: Per-Month saving of respondents

Saving in '000'(NRS)	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
No Saving	35	20.59	-	-
1-5	26	15.29	29	17.06
5-10	34	20.00	36	21.18
10-15	44	25.88	54	31.76
15-20	12	7.06	26	15.29
20-25	8	4.71	12	7.06
25 above	11	6.47	13	7.65
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.8 : Per-month saving of respondents

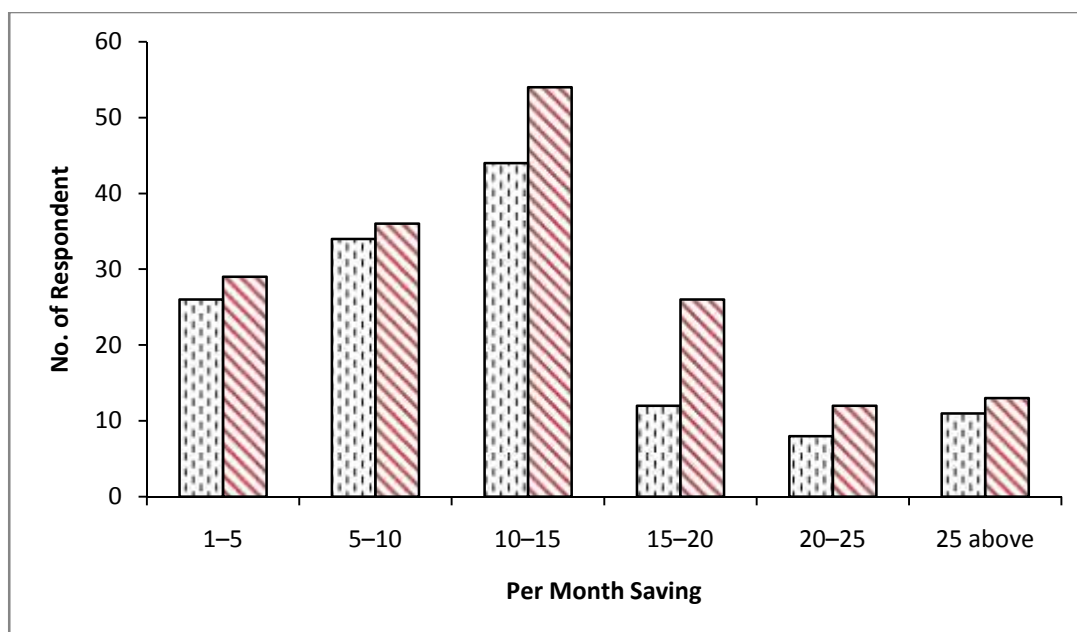


Table 4.8 and figure 4.8 shows that before joining MFP, 20.59 percent of respondents could not save per month any money but after joining MFP no saving percent of respondents is nil. Similarly, the saving range between per month 1-5 thousand before joining MFP 15.29 percent of respondents could saved but after joining MFP 17.06 percent of respondents have saved the money. Likewise, on the saving range between per month 5-10 thousand 20.00 percent of respondents saved the money but after joining MFP 21.18 percent of respondent have saved. In the same way, in the range between 10-15 thousand per month saving before joining MFP there were 25.88 percent of respondents after joining MFP the respondents 31.76 percent savings per month. In the same way, per month saving between the ranges of 15-20 thousand per month saving before joining MFP there were 7.06 percent of respondents after joining MFP the respondents 15.29. similarly, saving range between per month 20-25 thousand before joining MFP 4.71 percent of respondents could saved but after joining MFP 7.06 percent of respondents have saved the money. Finally, saving range more than 25 thousand per month before joining MFP 6.47 percent of respondents could saved but after joining MFP 7.65 percent of respondents have saved the money.

4.1.2.4 Profitability Status of Business

During field survey the profitability status of the business of the members involved in microfinance program is presented below:

Table 4.9: Profitability status of business

Status	Number	Percentage
Profit	97	57.05
Loss	16	9.45
Neither Profit Nor Loss	37	21.76
No Idea	20	11.77
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.9: Profitability Status of business

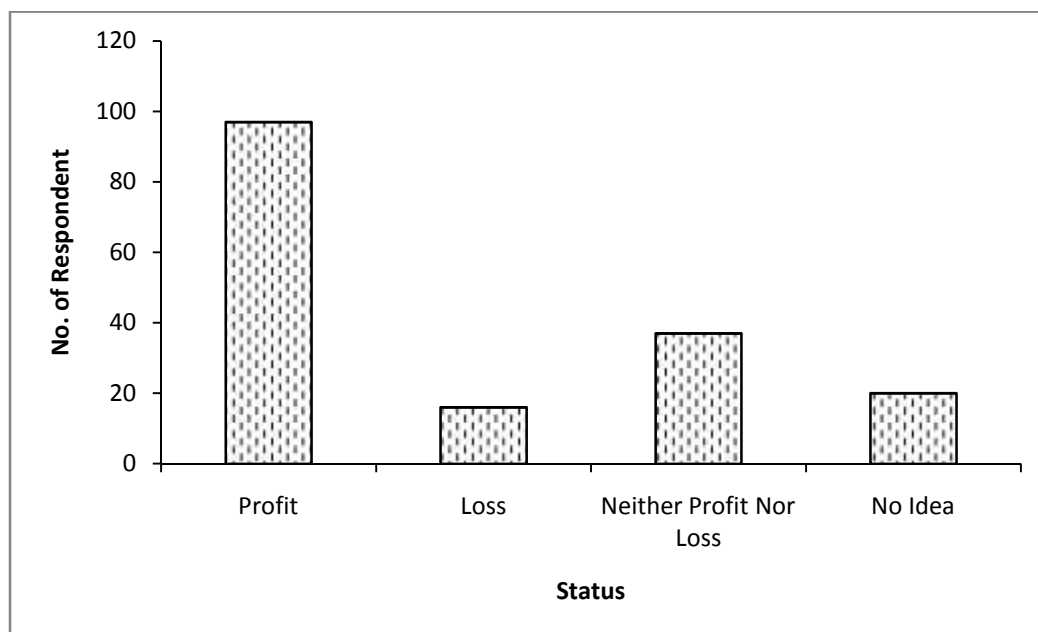


Table 4.9 and figure 4.9 shows that from 170 selected respondents in POFIL different profitability status of the business is found. Out of total respondents 57.05 percentage of the respondent said that their business is in profit. Whereas, 9.45 Percentage of business are in loss. Similarly, 21.76 percentage of the respondents said that the business is in breakeven point i.e. neither profit neither loss. Likewise, 11.77 percentage of the respondent said that they have no idea regarding the profitability of the current business as they does not used to maintain the record of transactions.

4.1.2.5 Sector of Investment

During field survey the various sector of investment made by the respondents from the borrowed loan is presented below:

Table 4.10: Sector of Investment

Sector	Number	Percentage
Small Business	93	54.71
Poultry Farming	26	15.29
Animal Husbandry	17	10.00
Fishery	7	4.12
Paddy cultivation	9	5.29
Others	18	10.59
Total	170	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.10: Sector of Investment

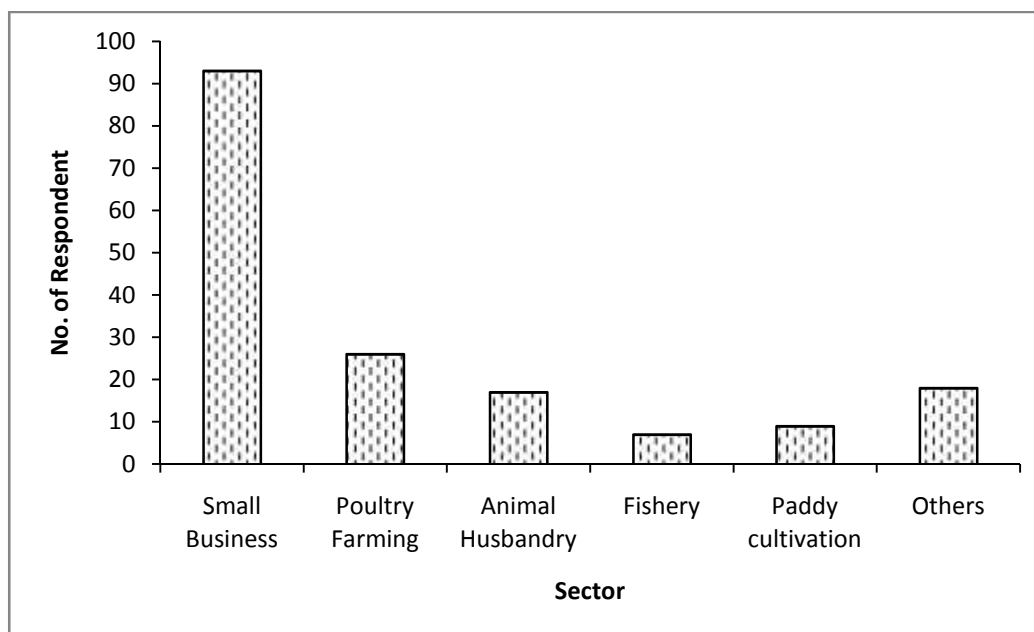


Table 4.10 and figure 4.10 shows that from 170 selected respondents in POFIL, 54.71 percent invested their borrowed loan in the small business sector like tailor, small retail shop, and fancy item, stationery etc. Likewise, 15.29 percent of the respondent utilizes the fund in poultry farming. Similarly, 10.00 percent of the respondent utilizes the borrowed loan on animal husbandry like cow farming, buffalo farming etc.

Accordingly, 4.12 percent of the respondent invested the borrowed loan on fishery, 5.29 percent of the respondent on paddy cultivation and rest 10.59 percent of the respondent invested the borrowed loan on pig farming, goat farming etc.

4.1.2.6 Proper Utilization of Loan

During field survey, the Proper utilization of borrowed loan from respondents is presented below:

Table 4.11: Proper utilization of Loan from Respondents

Status	Number	Percentage
Yes	112	65.88
No	58	34.12
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Figure 4.11: Proper utilization of Loan from Respondents

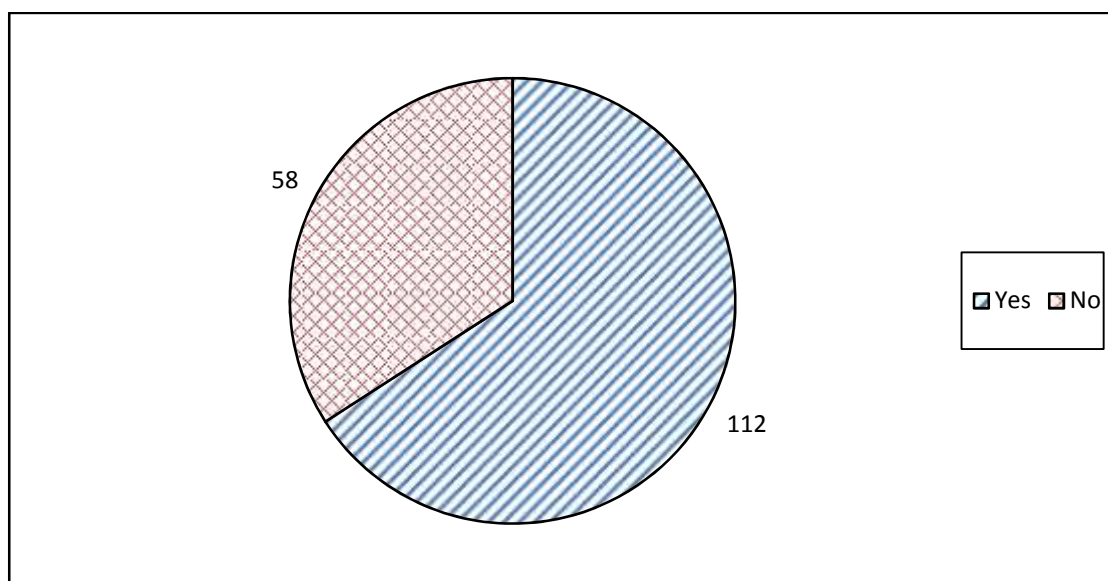


Table 4.11 and figure 4.11 shows that from 170 selected respondents in POFIL, 65.88 percentages of the respondents says that they have fully utilized the loan amount borrowed as per the prior objectives. Similarly, 34.12 percentages out of total respondents are found that, they haven't utilized the borrowed loan as per previous

objectives because they have utilized it to meet household expenses and to repay the personal borrowing.

4.1.2.7 Economic Condition of Group Members

According to field survey, the Economic condition of the group members after joining the microfinance program is presented below:

Table 4.12: Economic Condition of Group Members

Status	Number	Percentage
Good	97	57.06
Bad	23	13.53
Satisfactory	41	24.12
Don't Know	9	5.29
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.12: Economic Condition of Group Members

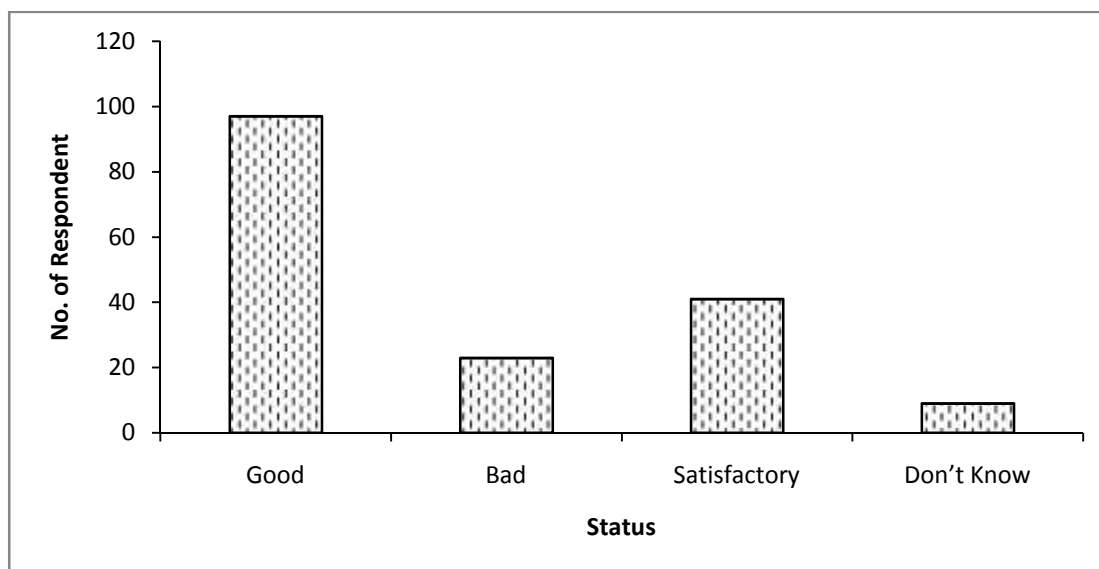


Table 4.12 and figure 4.12 shows, from 170 selected respondents in POFIL, it is found that 57.06 percentage of the respondents said that the economic condition of their group members are good. Whereas, 13.53 percentage of the respondents said that the economic condition of their group members condition is bad. Likewise, 24.12

percentage of group member's economic condition found satisfactory. Similarly, 5.29 percentage of the respondent replied that they have no any idea regarding the economic condition of their group members.

4.1.2.8 Repayment of Loan

According to field survey, the repayment status of the loan by the members is presented below:

Table 4.13: Status of repayment of loan

Status	Number	Percentage
Regular Pay	107	62.94
Irregular Pay	23	13.53
Delays	27	15.88
Don't Know	13	7.65
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Figure 4.13: Status of repayment of loan

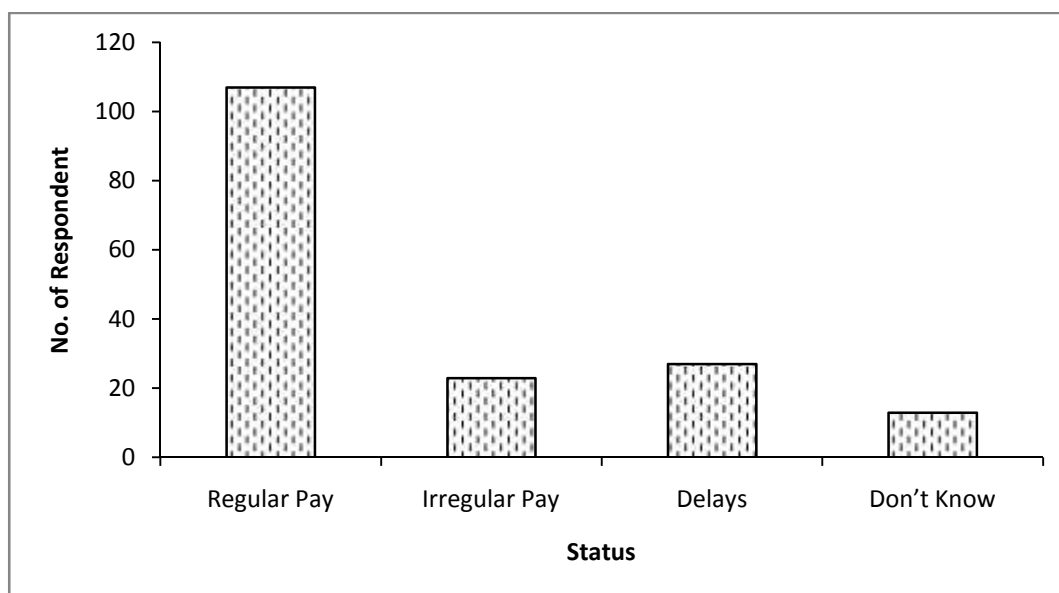


Table 4.13 and figure 4.13 shows that, from 170 selected respondents in POFIL, it is found that 62.94 percentages of the respondents used to pay the monthly installment regular. Whereas, 13.53 percentage of the respondent pays monthly installment

irregular. Similarly, 15.88 percentages of the respondent always delays to repay the monthly installment. Lastly, 7.65 percentage of the respondent doesn't know their repayment status.

4.1.2.9 Ownership over Land and Building

According to field survey, the ownership of the respondents over land and building before and after joining the microfinance program is presented below:

Table 4.14: Ownership over Land and Building of respondents

Ownership over land	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Yes	13	7.65	123	66.47
No	157	92.35	47	33.53
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.14 : Ownership over Land and Building of respondents

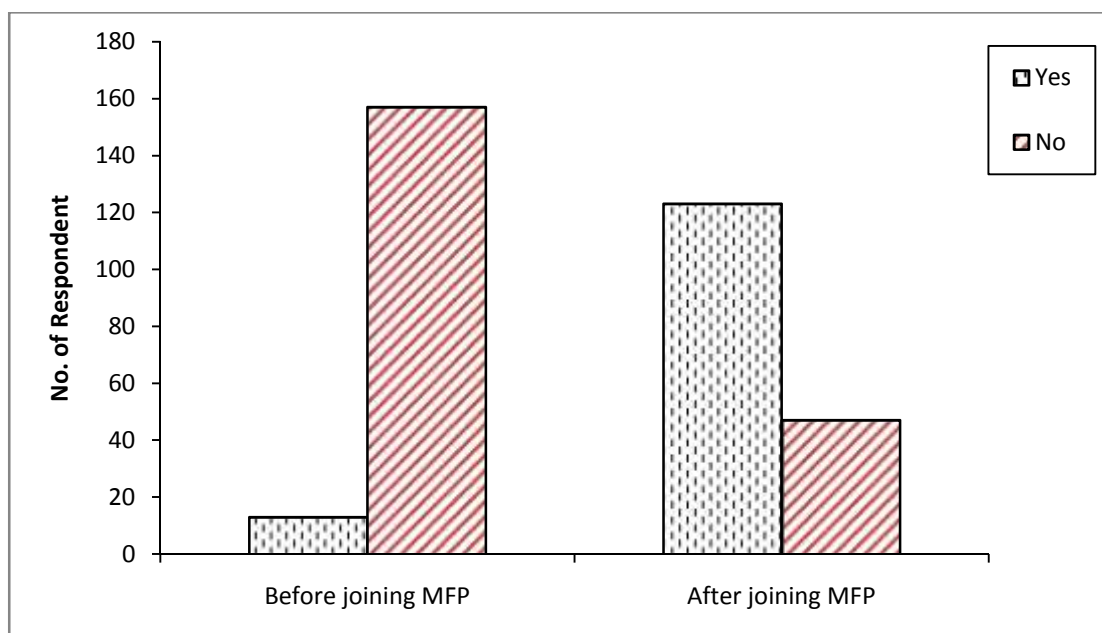


Table 4.14 and figure 4.14 shows that, before joining MFP, 7.65 percent of respondents said that they had no ownership over land building and before joining the microfinance program whereas the percentage increased to 66.47 after joining the microfinance program. Similarly, 92.35 percent of respondent have no ownership

over land and building which reduced to 33.53 percent after joining the microfinance program of Pokhara finance limited.

4.1.3 Poverty Reduction and Living Standard

4.1.3.1 Medium of Poverty Reduction

According to field survey, microfinance program can be a medium to reduce the poverty reduction of the respondents after joining the microfinance programmed is presented below:

Table 4.15: Medium of poverty reduction

Status	Number	Percentage
Yes	150	88.24
No	20	11.76
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Figure 4.15: Medium of poverty reduction

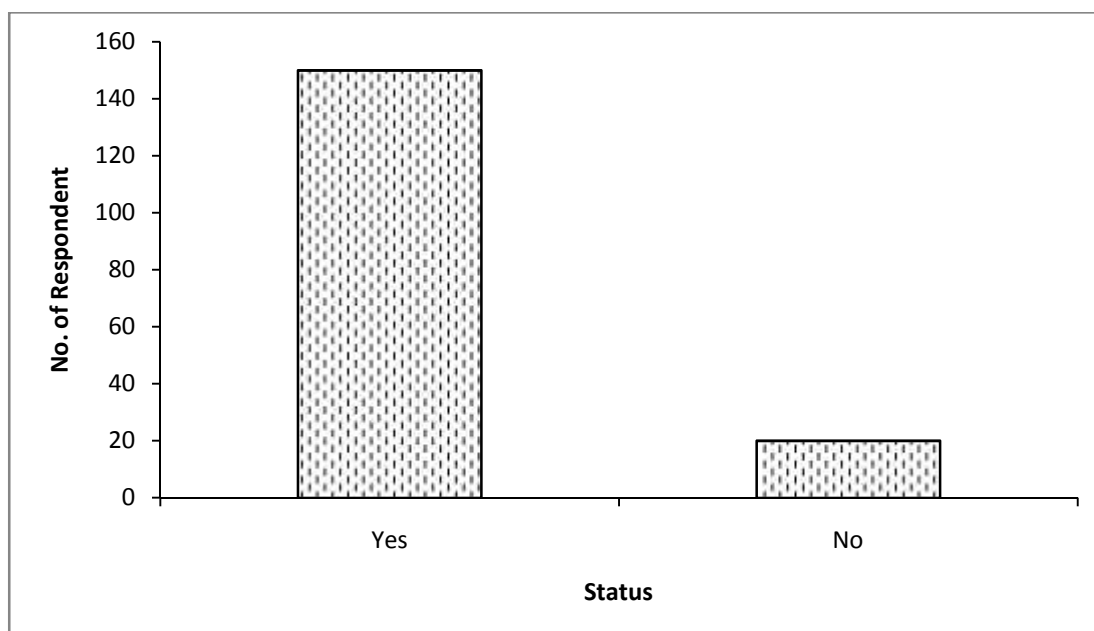


Table 4.15 and figure 4.15 shows that 88.24 percentage of the respondent had said that the microfinance can be a strong medium to reduce poverty in the country,

whereas, 11.76 percent of the respondent said that microfinance can't be the medium to reduce poverty.

4.1.3.2 Confidence in Entrepreneurship

According to field survey, the confidence level of the respondent to become a successful entrepreneur after joining microfinance program is presented below:

Table 4.16: Confidence in Entrepreneurship

Status	Number	Percentage
More	142	83.53
Less	17	10.00
Don't know	11	6.47
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.16 shows that 83.53 percentage of the respondent said that they are confidence enough to be a successful entrepreneur in coming future. Whereas, 10.00 percentage of the respondent replies that they are less confident to become a successful entrepreneur in future. Similarly, 6.47 percentage of respondent reply that they don't know to become successful entrepreneurship or not.

4.1.3.3 Improvement in Living Standard

According to field survey, can microfinance program helps to improve the living standard of the respondent is presented below:

Table 4.17: Improvement in Living Standard

Status	Number	Percentage
Yes	127	74.71
No	12	7.05
Don't know	31	18.24
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.16: Improvement in Living Standard

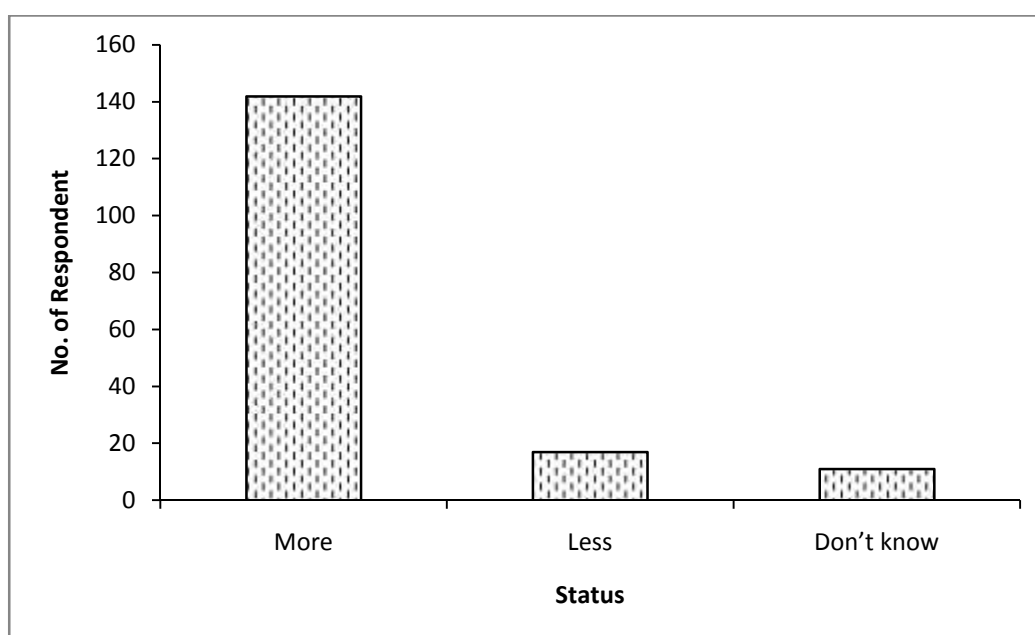


Table 4.17 and figure 4.16 shows that 74.71 percentage of the respondent reported that microfinance helps to improve in living standard. 7.05 percentage of the respondent reported that microfinance doesn't helps to improve in living standard Whereas, 18.24 percentage of the respondent replies that they are unknown regarding the improvement in living standard.

4.1.4 Social Empowerment

4.1.4.1 Participation in Group Meeting

According to field survey, participation status of group members in regular group meeting is presented below:

Table 4.18: Participation in Group Meeting

Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Regular	127	74.71
Irregular	43	25.29
Total	170	24.12

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.17: Participation in Group Meeting

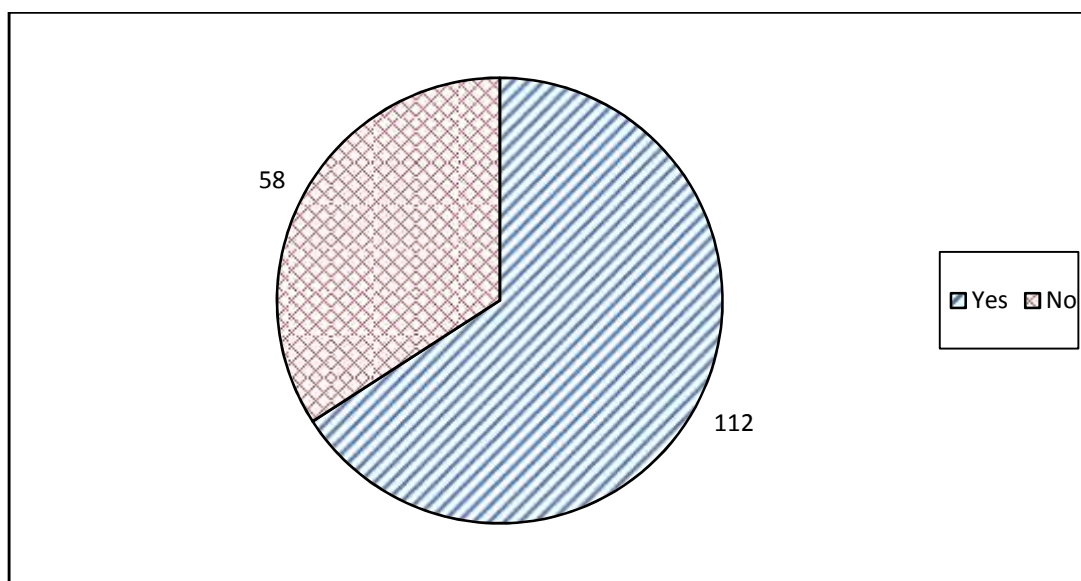


Table 4.18 and figure 4.17 shows that, from 170 selected respondents in POFIL, it is found that 74.71 percentages of the respondents attends the monthly center meeting regularly. Whereas, 25.29 percentage of the respondent does not used to attend the regular meeting held monthly due to various barriers like they do not have the installment to repay, they do not have money to save compulsory deposit, due to household works etc.

4.1.4.2 Decision Making Role in Households Activities

During field survey, decision role in Households activities of the respondent and their family member before and after joining the microfinance program is presented in table:

Table 4.19 : Decision Making Role in Household Activities

Decision Making Role	Before Joining MFP		After Joining MFP	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
Husband	98	57.65	67	39.41
Wife	34	20	56	32.94
Both	38	22.35	47	27.65
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.18: Decision Making Role in Household Activities

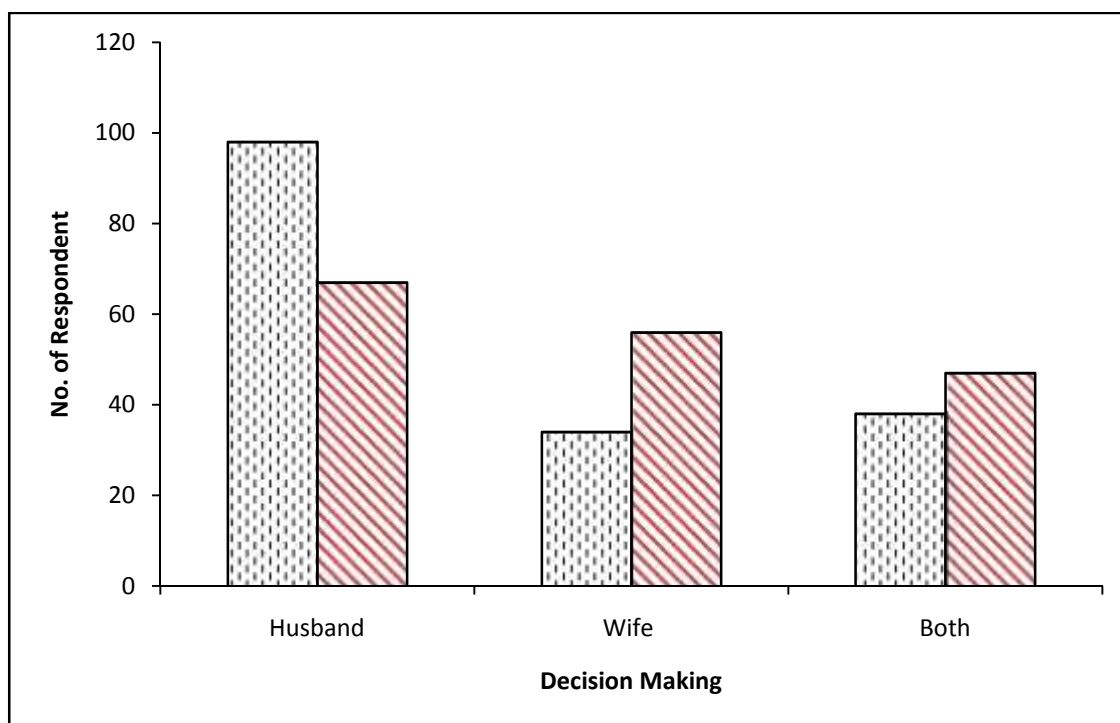


Table 4.19 and figure 4.18 shows that among the 170 respondents from POFIL where, the percentage of decision making on the household activities before joining microfinance program made by the husband was 57.65 percent, whereas after joining the microfinance program it was reduced to 39.41 percent. Likewise, the percentage of decision making on the household activities before joining microfinance program made by the wife was 20.00 percent, whereas after joining the microfinance program it was increased to 32.94 percent. Similarly, the percentage of decision making on the household activities before joining microfinance program made by both husband and wife was 22.35 percent, whereas after joining the microfinance program it was increased to 27.65 percent.

4.1.4.3 Leadership Capacity

According to field survey, the development in leadership capacity before and after joining the microfinance program of the group members is presented below:

Table 4.20: Leadership Capacity of Respondents

Leadership Capacity	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	17	10	113	66.47
No	153	90	57	33.53
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.19: Leadership Capacity of Respondents

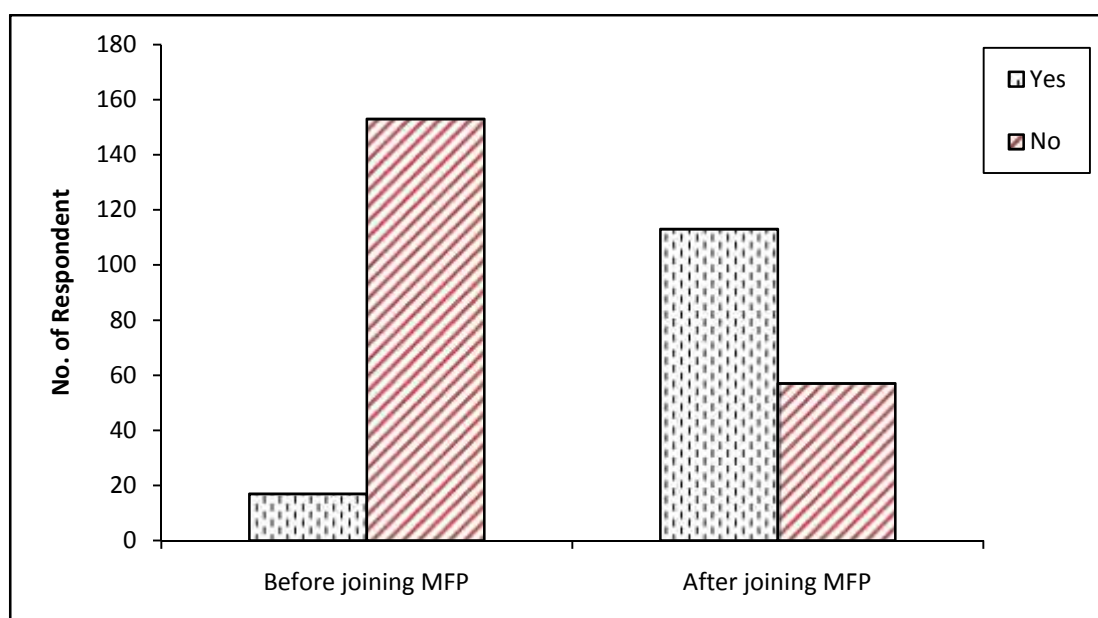


Table 4.20 and figure 4.19 shows that before joining MFP, 10 percent of respondents said that they have no leadership capacity before joining the microfinance whereas the percentage increased to 66.47 after joining the microfinance program. Similarly, 90 percent of respondent have no leadership capacity which reduced to 33.53 percent after joining the microfinance program of Pokhara finance limited.

4.1.5 Awareness Condition

4.1.5.1 Children Education

According to field survey, the education status of the group member's children before and after joining the microfinance program is presented below:

Table: 4.21: Children education of Respondents

Children education status	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Private	37	21.77	97	57.06
Government	133	78.23	73	42.94
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.21 shows that before joining MFP, 21.77 percent of respondents used to send their children in private school for education whereas the same percentage increased to 57.06 after joining microfinance program that means respondent are aware and ease to access their children in quality education. Whereas, before joining microfinance program 78.23 percent of the respondent used to send their children in government school, the same has been decreased to 42.94 percent after joining the microfinance program.

4.1.5.2 Participation in Basic Training

According to field survey the participation of the respondents in basic training organized by the Pokhara finance is presented below:

Table 4.22: Participation in Basic Training

Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	135	79.41
No	35	20.59
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.20: Participation in Basic Training

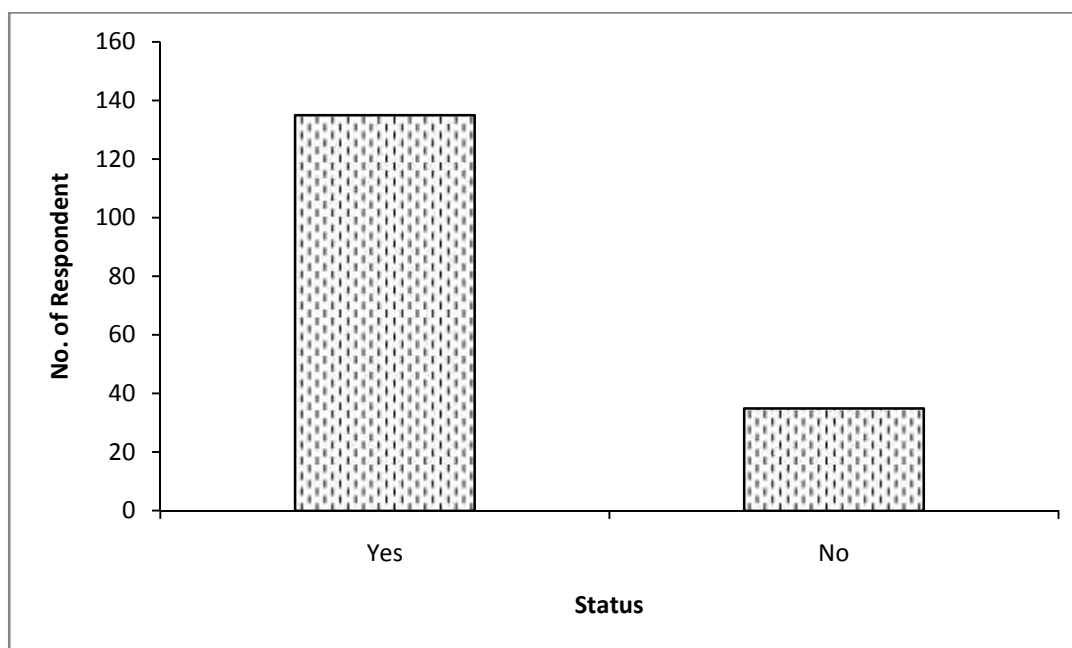


Table 4.22 and figure 4.20 shows that 79.41 percent of the respondent had attended the basic training organized by Pokhara finance limited, whereas, 20.59 percent of the respondent have not attended the basic training due to their personal problems.

4.1.5.3 Means of Communication

According to field survey, the means of communication used by the respondent before and after joining the microfinance program is presented below:

Table: 4.23: Means of Communication

Means of communication	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Radio	43	25.29	21	12.35
Television	71	41.76	82	48.23
News Paper	27	15.88	33	19.42
Internet	29	17.07	34	20.00
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.21: Means of Communication

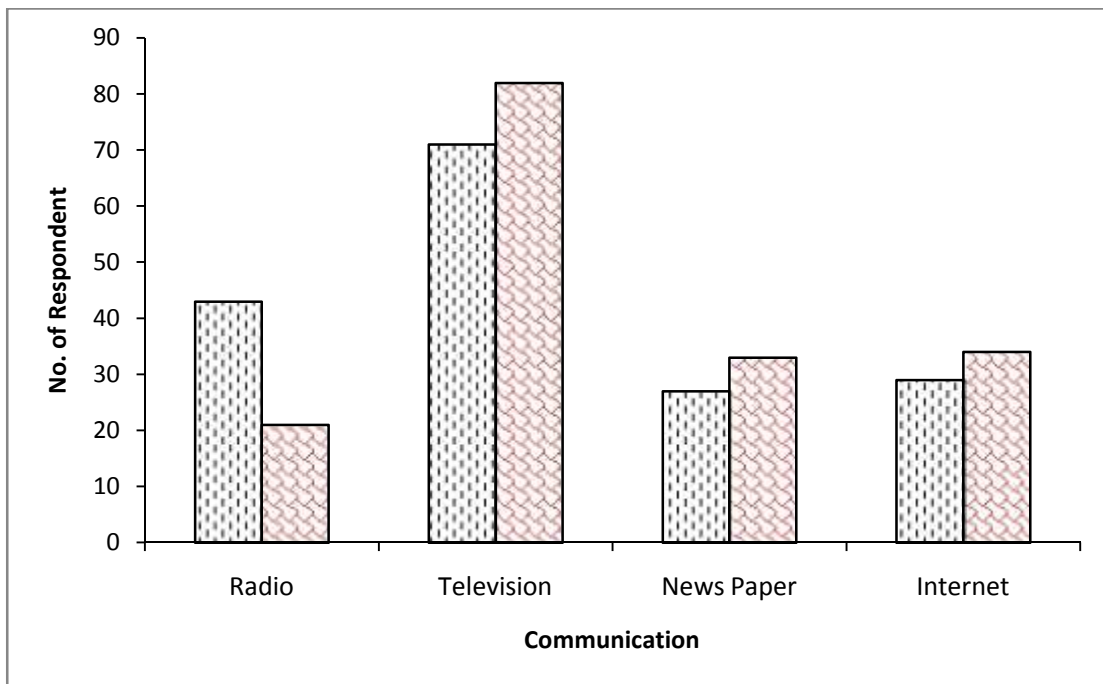


Table 4.23 and figure 4.21 shows that before joining MFP, 25.29 percent of respondents used radio as the means of communication whereas the percentage was reduced to 12.35 after joining the microfinance program. Similarly, 41.76 percent of the respondents were using Television as the means of communication which was increased to 48.23 percentages after joining the microfinance program. Likewise, 15.88 percentage of the respondent were using Newspaper as a means of communication before joining the microfinance program which was increased to 19.42 percentages after joining microfinance program. The percentage of using internet as a means of communication before joining the microfinance program was 17.07 which were increased to 34.00 percent after joining the microfinance program.

4.1.5.4 Awareness Status

According to field survey, the awareness status of the respondents after joining the microfinance program is presented below:

Table 4.24: Awareness Status of Respondents

Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	137	80.58
No	33	19.42
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure: 4.22: Awareness Status of Respondents

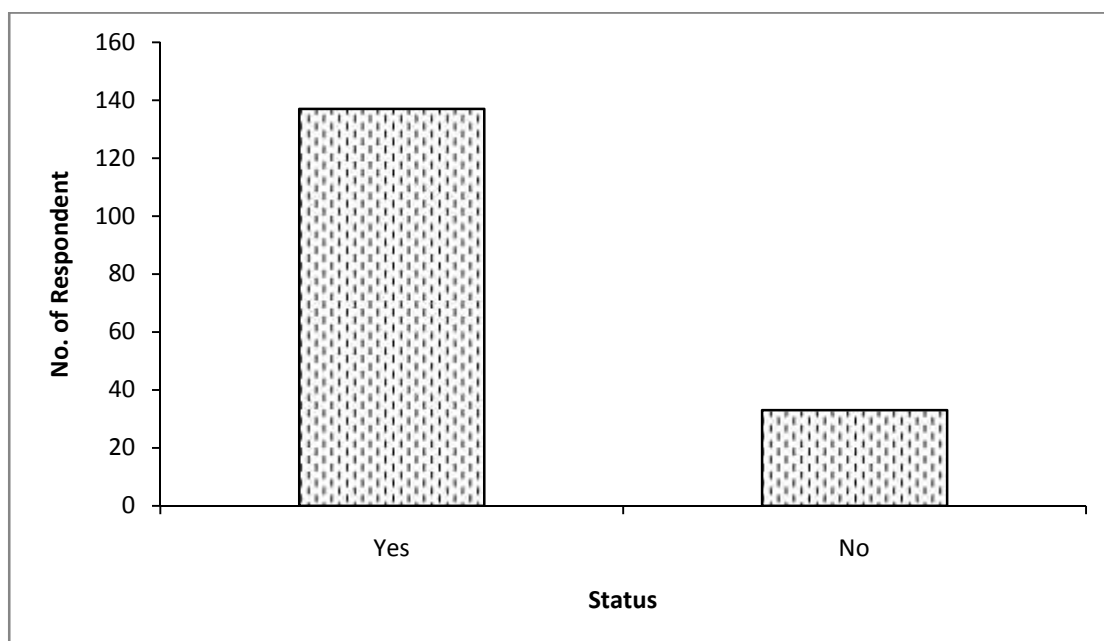


Table 4.24 and figure 4.22 shows that 80.58 percentage of the respondent had said that the awareness in the women has been increased after joining the microfinance program whereas, 19.42 percent of the respondent said that awareness has not been increased as expected.

4.1.5.5 Happiness in the Family

According to field survey, the level of happiness status in their families before and after joining the microfinance program is presented below:

Table 4.25: Happiness in the Family

Happiness in Family	Before joining MFP		After joining MFP	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Yes	47	27.65	127	74.71
No	123	72.35	43	25.29
Total	170	100	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4-23: Happiness in the Family

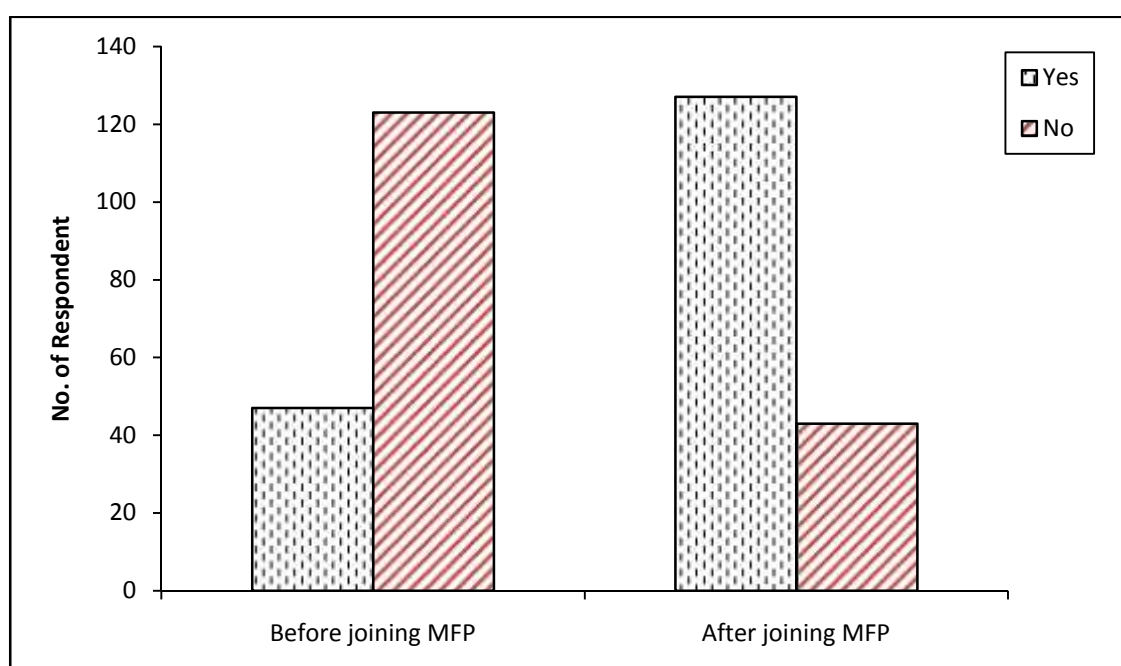


Table 4.25 and figure 4.23 shows that before joining MFP, only 27.65 percent of respondents said that they were happy but after joining the microfinance program the same percentage increased to 74.71. Similarly, 72.35 percent of respondents said their family member were unhappy but after joining microfinance program the same percentage was reduced to 25.329 percent due to availability of fund to fulfill the basic needs.

4.1.5.6 Expectation to Improve in Microfinance Program

According to field survey, the expectation of the respondent to improve the microfinance program of pokhara finance limited is presented below:

Table 4.26: Expectation to Improve in Microfinance Program

Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less Interest	98	57.65
More Loans	26	15.29
Long Duration Loan	34	20.00
Training	12	7.06
Total	170	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.24: Expectation to Improve in Microfinance Program

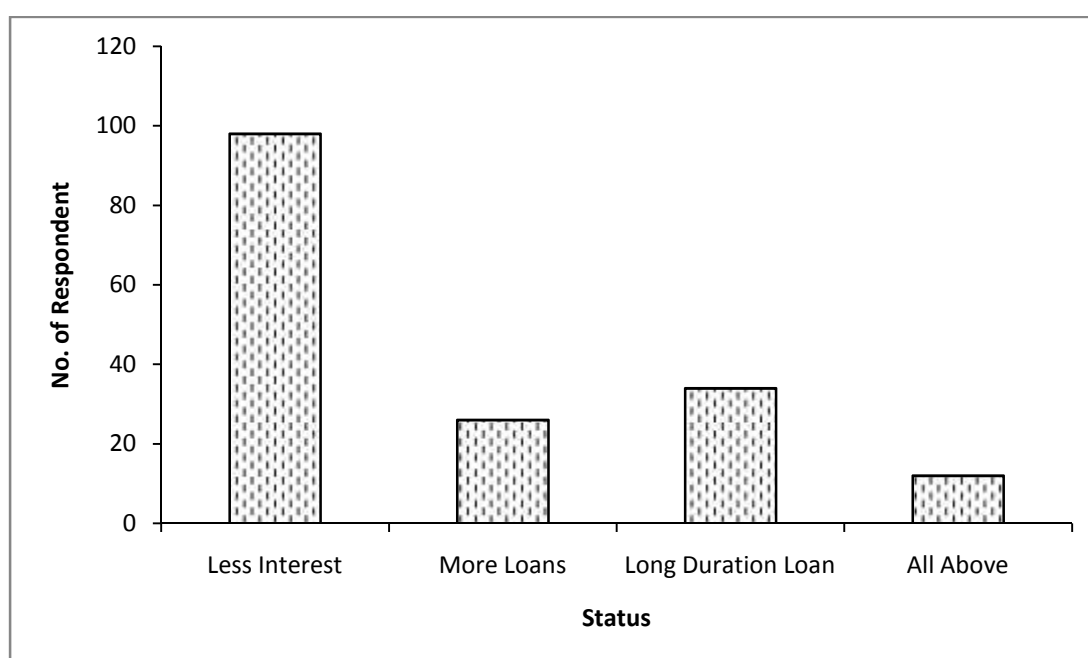


Table 4.26 and figure 4.24 shows that 57.65 percentage of the respondent said that they expect the loan in low interest rate. Likewise, 15.29 percent of the respondent wants more limit of loan. Similarly, 20.00 percentage of the respondents wants long tenure of loan. Whereas, 7.00 percentage of the respondent wants training and development program.

4.2 Major Findings of the Study

-) The age group between 16-65 years of women are involved in microfinance program of Pokhara finance limited, where the age group between 45-55 are highest around 32.95 percentage.
-) The major purpose of involving in microfinance program is to improve the financial standard of family members. From data, 88.24% out of 170 respondent involved in microfinance program to improve financial standard.
-) The various ethnics like Brahmin, chhetri, Gurung, Tamang, Muslim, Damai, Magar, Chaudhari etc are involved in microfinance program. Among them 23.53% are Brahmin, 17.63% are chhetri, 24.13% are Gurung, 5.88% are Tamang, 7.65% are Muslim, 11.76% are Damai, 5.88% are Magar, 1.76% are Chaudhari and rest from various caste like kami, rai etc are of 1.76% .
-) From the 170 respondents 88.23% women are literate whereas 11.76% women are illiterate. Among the literate respondents, 94.12% are under SLC and 5.88% are above SLC.
-) There are 100.00% respondents involved in compulsory saving program whereas, 57.06% are involved in optional saving and 31.17 % are involved in other various saving program like pension saving, sunaulo saving etc.
-) Monthly expenses between the ranges of 1-15 thousand of the respondent has been increased whereas, monthly expenses more than the range of 15 thousand has been decreased after joining the microfinance program.
-) Monthly saving of every respondent has been increased after joining the microfinance program.
-) Decision making role in the household activities was done by husband, wife and jointly was 57.65%, 20.00% & 22.35% respectively which was changed to 39.41%, 32.94% & 27.65% respectively after joining the microfinance program.
-) Regarding the profitability status of business of the respondents after joining microfinance program, 57.05% of the business are in profit, 9.45% of the business are in loss, 21.76% of the business are in neither profit nor loss and 11.71% respondent are unaware regarding the profitability of their business.

- J The proper utilization of the loan by the respondent was 65.88% and rest of the respondents 34.12% has misuse the loan.
- J Out of 170 respondents 57.06% respondent's economic condition was good, 13.53% respondent's was bad, and 24.12% of the respondent's economic condition was satisfactory whereas, 7.65% of the respondents are unknown regarding their economic condition.
- J In group meeting 74.71% of the respondents used to attend the group meeting regularly whereas, 25.29% of the respondent used to be irregular in group meeting.
- J Out of 170 respondents, 62.94% of the respondents used to pay the monthly installment regular, 13.53% of the respondents make irregular and 15.88% of the respondents delays in repayment of loan.
- J Regarding children education 21.77% of the respondents out of 170 respondents used to send their child in government school and 78.23% of the respondents used to send private school but after joining the microfinance program 57.0678.23% of the respondents used to send their children in government school and 42.9478.23% of the respondents used to send their children private school for study.
- J Out of 170 respondents before joining microfinance program only 10.00% of the respondent has leadership skill whereas 90% of the respondent hasn't leadership skill but after joining the microfinance program the figure was turned into 66.47% and 33.53% respectively.
- J Out of 170 respondents before joining microfinance program only 7.65% of the respondent has ownership over land and building whereas 92.35% of the respondent hasn't ownership over land and building but after joining the microfinance program the figure was turned into 66.47% and 33.53% respectively.
- J out of 170 respondents 79.41% of the respondents has participated the basic training program organized by Pokhara finance program where as 20.59% of the respondents didn't attend the basic training program.
- J The use of various means of communication like radio, television, newspaper and internet was 25.29%, 41.76%, 15.88% and 17.07% respectively which was changed to 12.35%, 48.23%, 19.42% and 20.00% respectively.

-) The awareness status of the respondent after joining the microfinance program was found to be 80.58% of the respondent reported YES and 19.42% of the respondent reported No.
-) From 170 respondents 88.24% reported that microfinance program can be the medium to reduce the poverty whereas, 11.76% of the respondent say microfinance program only can't be the medium to reduce the poverty.
-) Out of 170 respondents, 83.53% are confident more to be a successful entrepreneur, 10.00% of the respondents are less confident and 6.47% of respondent reported that they are not sure to become successful entrepreneur.
-) Out of 170 respondents, 74.71% reported that the microfinance program helps to improve the in living standard, 7.05% respondents reported no and 18.24% of the respondent is unknown to improve the living standards.
-) All sample respondents are agreed with the positive role of MFP in women empowerment.
-) As a respondent suggestion for MFIs, majority of respondent i.e. 57.65% were reported to reduce interest rate, 15.29% reported to increase loan limit, 20.00% reported long tenure of loan and 7.06% reported to conduct various training program for the improvement of this program.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION AND COLLUSIONS

5.1 Summary

In the view of growth or micro finance program as one of the major poverty focused development activities in the country, it is imperative to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in reducing poverty. The present study aimed to evaluate the impact of such program on poverty reduction through women empowerment.

In present context of Nepal, women do occupy more than half of the total population women just used to be locked inside the house in ancient period. Women were not given opportunity to involve in economic activities. Women used to remain busy in their household works to preserve of vicious circle of poverty. There was very miserable condition of women in the past.

With the continuous flow of time, this every trend has been changed to the great extent. Women have become able to stand on their own foot and have become provide economic contribution towards their family and nation. Microfinance is one of the vital factors which have been assisting women to boost-up and uplift up.

The present study has been based upon the members of Pokhara Finance Limited within Pokhara Lekhnath Valley. The findings of the study can be summarized in to following mentioned points:

1. After being involved in microfinance program, women participants themselves have realized that their confidence level has been increased to great extent. Women clients are happy that they have become able to earn by themselves and becomes independent.
2. Women, after involved in micro finance program have become able to improve to their living standard. Their living style has been changed towards positive

direction. They have become able to create good image in their family and in the society.

3. After being participated in microfinance program, their income has been increase in comparison to before being involved in microfinance program. Together with the increment in the level of income, they have also become able to increase their saving rate than before. Due to this, their living standard has also being uplifted and their poverty status has been reduced to great extent.
4. Most of the women do have access towards earned money to utilize in needed sectors. Women can make decision about where and how to utilize the money amount.
5. It has been found that after joining microfinance programs women have developed self-respect towards themselves. Women are confident to do work and to tackle with existing household and social problems. Women have become strong.
6. Also, it has been found that after joining MFP women improve their economic status. Where, their child could go in private school, they could change their good house figure and they could change their traditional fuel for cooking purpose etc.
7. Although women used to get limited inside the house, Women have become able to come out of the house and learn new things after being involved in MFPs. Women have become able to know and learn about the world by coming out from the house.
8. It has been found that after joining MFP, Women have become more skill full comparatively.

5.2 Conclusion

Microfinance program has been playing vital role for the up lift of economic status of women. Due to this program, women have been socially and economically empowered. They are providing economic contribution towards their family, society and towards their nation as well. In spite of their good achievement due to their involvement in MFP, it has been realized that different necessary and skillful trainings should be given to them by such MFPs and loan should be provided to MF clients at low and favorable rate of interest. Besides this, loan should be provided at demanded time. Women clients should be provided with income generating employment opportunities due to which they can uplift their living standard and economic status. Furthermore, different awareness related programs should also be frequently held in order to make women clients aware.

5.3 Recommendations

-) It has been found that skillful and useful trainings should be given by microfinance institutions so that the participants do not find any difficulty and confusion about where and how to utilize the money to improve their living standard and present economic status. Through the help of skillful trainings, women can make themselves busy in money generating activities as well as improve their economic status.
-) Together with trainings, women clients should be provided with employment opportunity by microfinance institutions. If proper way to earn money is shown by such institutions, they can get economically empowered.
-) In the field study, some women were found to be illiterate. In present days also, some women were such that they could not read and write. It was found that they feel difficulty in working due to illiteracy. It is really difficult to work in society without being literate in present context. So, it has been realized that there should be conduction of literacy class for such women by microfinance related institution. Such classes should be conducted at favorable time for those women.
-) Pokhara Finance Limited should adopt the policy to grant loan to the participants at favorable or lower rate of interest. Also, for the welfare of clients there should be the system of giving loan without security deposit. .
-) There should be the system of reward (either financial or non financial) from microfinance related institution to the progressive female clients in order to motivate them to do better works.
-) From the study it is found that even the limited access of the households on the credit market is skewed against the target groups and communities. So it is recommended that the government should extend the financial institutions with appropriate policies and products to promote the government's agenda of inclusive growth and equity.

To wrap up, microfinance program has been playing crucial role in uplifting of economy and empowerment of women. Many women have become able to stand on their own and have started to engage in economic activities actively through the assist of microfinance programs. Microfinance institutions should conduct its work and program more effectively in order to attract more female members towards it and to empower them.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Acharya, R. (2007). *Impact of microfinance: A case study of microcredit programme for women in bahadaure Tamagi VDC kaski*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Adhikari, S.R. (2010). *Microfinance in Pokhara: A case study of bharatpokhari VDC, Kaski*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Aryal, S. (2007). *Microfinance: Production credit for women at Rajahar VDC in Nawalparasi*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Baral, S. (2008). *Impact of microfinance: A case study of micro-credit program in prithvi narayan municipality, Gorkha*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Baranwal, S. (2016). *Impact of microfinance on women empowerment: A case study on Muktinath Bikas Bank in kalika VDC, kaski*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Chaudhary, J., & Nosheen, D. (2001). Women, microfinance and savings: Leasson and proposal. *Development in Practice*, 12(5), 602-612. Retrieved From: [//www.jstor.org/stable/4029405](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4029405).
- Chowdhury, N., & Bhuiya, A. (2009). The wider impact of BRAC poverty alleviation program in Bangladesh. *Journal of international Development*. 16(3), 369-386.
- Deepa, K. (2015). *Impact of micro-finance in women: A case study of Deprosc Development Bank in Lekhanth Municipality*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Dhakal, L. (2011). *Socio-Economic impact of microfinance: A case study of small farmer Agriculture co-operative Limited, Phedikhola, Syangja*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.

- Ghimire, P. (2010). *Microfinance practices and its impact on women: A case study of Chimek Bikas Bank Limited under Lekhnath Municipality, kaski*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Hulme, D. & Mosley, P. (1996). *Finance against poverty*. Vol.1 & 2. London: Routledge .
- Kandel, G. D. (2015). *Impact of microfinance program on poverty alleviation: A case study of charttare Youth club*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Katuwal, B. (2014). *Role of Micro Finance in women's empowerment: An Empirical study in kaskikot VDC Under Nirdhan Utthan Bank*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Kharel, S. (2016). *Microfinance and women empowerment under village development program: A Case study of parewadanda VDC, Lamjung District*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Khanal, B. (2013). *Impact of sreejana Bikas Kendra in poverty reduction: A case study of lamachaur VDC kaski,Nepal*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Khatiwada, S. (2016). *Impact of paschimanchal Gramin Bikas Bank on women empowerment in dulegaunda VDC, Tanahun*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- K.C., B. (2014). *Role of microfinance in women's empowerment: An empirical study in kaskikot VDC under nirdhan utthan bank*. Master's thesis, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Lamichhane, A. (2016). *Impact of microfinance on women: A case study of putalibazar Municipality Syangja under Grameen Bikas Bank Limited*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Lamichhane, G. (2016). *Impact of microfinance on deprived class: A case study of women Small farmer development program of saragkot VDC. Pokhara*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.

- Pandey, N.P. (2016). *Microfinance practice and impact on women empowerment under Nepal Grameen Bikas Bank in Tillottama Municipality*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Paudel, H. P. (2016). *Role of Microfinance in poverty reduction : A case study of microfinance Program of NESDO in Pakuwa VDC of Parbat District*, (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Poudel, K.P. (2017). *Women empowerment through Microcredit in Nepal: A Case Study of Community Based Co-operative in Bhanu VDC, Tannahun*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.
- Reshman, J., & Khan P. (2007). *Long term impact of microcredit programs: Preliminary findings from “The impact of households: An analysis of panel data from Bangladesh”*. The World Bank.org/IQIMNBYADO.Bangladesh”. The World Bank.org/IQIMNBYADO.
- Sharma, P. R. (2004). Microfinance: A powerful tool for social Transformation, Its Challenges and principles. *The Journal of Nepalese Studies*, 1 (1): 69-74.
- Sharma, P. R. (2007). Microfinance and women empowerment. *The journal of Nepalese Business Studies*, 4 (1), 16-27.
- Wagle, S. (2016). *Impact of microfinance on women: A case study of Lekhnath municipality Kaski under paschimancal grameen bikas bank*. Master’s thesis, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Tribhuvan University.

Web Pages:

- www.microfinance.com
- www.microfinanceinfo.com
- www.nrb.org.com
- www.economist.com
- www.adb.org,2000
- www.microcreditsummit.org
- <http://www.rmdcnepal.com>
- <http://www.grameenbanknepal.org>
- www.pokharafinance.com.np

७. तपाईको मासिक खर्च कति हुन्छ ?

क) पहिला ख) अहिले

८. तपाईले यस संस्थाबाट ऋण लगेर कुन क्षेत्रमा लगानी गर्नुभएको छ ? ()

लगानीका क्षेत्र	उत्तर
साना व्यवशाय	
कुखुरापालन	
गाईभैशीपालन	
माछापालन	
बालीनाली	
अन्य	

९. तपाईको व्यवशायको आर्थिक अवस्था कस्तो छ ?

क) नाफा ख) घाटा ग) बराबर घ) थाहा छैन

१०. तपाईले यस संस्थाबाट कति ऋण लिनुभएको छ ?

रु. अक्षरुपी

११. तपाईले लिएको ऋण रकम उद्देश्य अनुसार गनुभएको छ ?

क) छ ख) छैन भने किन ?

१२. तपाईको लगानी कस्तो अवस्थामा छ ?

क) राम्रो छ ख) ठिकै छ ग) राम्रो छैन

१३. तपाईको समूहका सदस्यहरुको आर्थिक अवस्था कस्तो छ ?

क) राम्रो छ ख) राम्रो छैन ग) थाहा छैन घ) ठिकै छ ।

१४. समूह बैठक नियमित रुपमा हुन्छ ?

क) हुन्छ ख) हुँदैन

१५. समूहका सदस्यहरुले नियमित रुपमा किस्ता बुझाउँछन् ?

क) बुझाउँछन् ख) बुझाउँदैनन्

ग) कहिलेकाही ढिला हुन्छ घ) थाहा छैन

१६. तपाईं आफूलाई कस्तो आर्थिक अवस्थाको महिला ठान्नुहुन्छ ?
 क) अति गरिब ख) गरिब ग) मध्यम घ) धनी

१७. तपाईंले आफ्नो बाल बच्चा कस्तो स्कूलमा पढाउनुभएको छ ?

पहिला

क) सामुदायिक/सरकारी ख) प्राइभेट

अहिले

क) सामुदायिक/सरकारी ख) प्राइभेट

१८. घर परिवारमा खुशि छाएको छ ?

पहिला : क) छ ख) छैन

अहिले : क) छ ख) छैन

१९. समूहमा आवद्ध भएर नेतृत्व गर्न सक्ने क्षमता बढेको छ ?

पहिला : क) छ ख) छैन

अहिले : क) छ ख) छैन

२०. तपाईंको नाउँमा जग्गा जमिना थियो ?

पहिला : क) थियो ख) थिएन

अहिले : क) थियो ख) थिएन

२१. समूहमा आवद्ध भएपछि कुनै आधारभुत तालिम लिनुभएको छ ?

क) छ ख) छैन

२२. घरमा सञ्चारका सामग्रीहरु के के छन् ? ()

सामान	पहिला	अहिले
रेडियो		
टेलिभिजन		
पत्रपत्रिका		
इन्टरनेट		

२३. घरका महत्वपूर्ण विषयमा क-कसले निर्णय लिन्छ ?

पहिला : (क) श्रीमान ख) श्रीमती ग) दुवै जना

अहिले : (क) श्रीमान ख) श्रीमती घ) दुवै जना

२४. लघुवित्तले महिलाहरुको चेतनास्तर वृद्धि गरे जस्तो लाग्छ ?
 क) लाग्छ ख) लाग्दैन
२५. लघुवित्त गरिबी न्यूनिकरणको उपयुक्त माध्यम हुन सक्छ ?
 क) सक्छ ख) सक्दैन
२६. भविष्यमा एउटा सफल उद्यमी हुने कुरामा कतिको विश्वस्त हुनुहुन्छ ?
 क) धेरै ख) थोरै ग) छैन घ) थाहा छैन
२७. पोखरा फाईनान्सको लघुवित्त कार्यक्रमले तपाईंको जिवनस्तरमा सुधार भएको छ ?
 क) छ ख) छैन ख) थाहा छैन
२८. गरिब महिलाहरुको आर्थिक अवस्था सुधारका लागि पोखरा फाईनान्स लघुवित्त विभागले के गर्नुपर्ला ?
 क) कम व्याजदर ख) बढी ऋण रकम प्रदान गर्नु
 ग) लामो समयका लागि ऋण प्रदान गर्नु घ) माथिका सबै
२९. अन्त्यमा सोध्न छुटेको र हजुरले भन्न चाहेको केही कुरा छ ? छ भने उल्लेख गर्नुहोस् ।

.....

