

# CHAPTER I

## 1.1 Introduction

It is an established fact that the development of a nation depends on maximum utilization of her man power. For any country, participation of women in the development process is of utmost necessity as they comprise of a half on the population percentage. Therefore, development of the nation in true sense cannot be achieved without proper development and empowerment of the women population. In a country like Nepal this becomes doubly essential as Nepal traditional has been a country which worships its women only it temples but its women are completely marginalized in all other sectors. Perhaps this philosophy was well accepted by Pandia Jawaharlal Nehru, he had given a brief statement that, "when a woman moves forward, then the entire family and village moves forward and when the village moves then the entire nation moves." Realizing that this constant marginalization has becomes a bane for the Nepal society that he hampered growth in very direction, both government and private organizations have taken measures to empower the women and develop their socio-economic status through various plans and policies.

Nepal's total population is 264,94,504 where 1,36,45,463 (51.50%) are female and 1,29,49,041 (48.50%) are male. In Nepal, the literacy rate of female is 57.4% where as the male is 75.1% (CBS, 2011). This shows low level of women empowerment in Nepal.

Nepali women have poor health condition, no property rights and no decision making power. That is the reason why women have no access to income and employment opportunities. Women in Nepal are almost the poorest and disadvantaged group due to social, legal and intra household. Its a result education, health, nutrition, status of women including girl child is much lower than that of men particularly. In rural areas, few women labor force is in formal sector job. And rests are informal jobs where the working condition is very difficult.

In Nepal, women consist of more than 51% of population women are heavily engaged in domestic Chores along with the socio-economic activities. Women have major role in household work management and more their childhood. In childhood women have no live under their children. Women have on liberty to decide freely even on their own.

The majority of women in Nepal where the choice for livelihood on limited to agriculture work on the farms which are owned in most cases either by fathers, husbands, landlords or brothers. Most of the females are economically dependent. Women have to ask to their male partners to spend their own income also. Gradually women are economically dependent and they have a little bit higher decision making power.

Prior to the UN declaration of 1975-1985 as the UN decade for women, only well defined women organization in Nepal was practically non existent. Those few women's organization which emerged as an outcome of the political upheavals of the pre 1950 and 1960's were primarily interest motivated designed to serve their own circle of families and friends instead of women at large, the focus of the Nepal women's organization (NOW), established in 1960, was directed more towards social welfare activities like knitting, sewing and weaving. Although, its interest was not purely in the upliftment of women, nevertheless, its efforts to indicate an interest and concern for women and their development cannot go unappreciated.

A large number of women in the South Asian Countries are affected by social evils, conservative traditions and blind folded culture. In these countries the birth of son is celebrated with a great joy but a girl brings a great disappointed and frustration in the family. In the rural area of Nepal women are fully dominated by men. Women's works are regarded as unproductive and considered as wifely duties. Their opinions are hardly sought for in household decision making. Without women's participation, goals of development activities cannot be fully attained. So men and women are the two main pillars of development. They are inevitable to fulfill the goals of development activities. It shows that if women do not capture the household sphere men cannot go outside to secure a job. The role of women and men are interdependent. The women's overall burden is higher than of men. Women spend on the conventional economic activities. This is because they depend on women as mediator with the outside world i.e. the market economy, legal system government, bureaucracy etc.

There are few women working in professional work in Nepal. Women may study the law, but few are able to enter the profession. Women's representation in the bureaucracy is also very low. Limited participations in politics, bureaucracy and judiciary does not stop women for making remarkable contribution in the decision making process at the household level. Socially and economically men are always considered as superior to women, bread winner, head of the family and care taker and this is major cause transitional phase even though

women are participating in the political field but it is not up to the level. In order to change the status of women in Nepal socio-cultural change is required which takes a lot of time.

Economically women of this area are contributing greater share of the farm workers. Besides, they have to take care of their children, cattle and manage family in preparing foods and serving males. Thus, women do not get chance for involvement in other economical activities due to the time constraints and their various role in society such as reproductive and community roles.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In the Dudilabhati VDC, women suffer from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. Relating to decision making women's representation is very poor in this VDC where women's activities are generally connected with inside the house and men's in the outside sphere. The role of men and women are inter dependents but women's overall burden is higher than of men. In this VDC women have poor health condition, no property rights and no decision making power on economic activities. Here, women have major role in household work management, agriculture and more their childhood. Most of the women are not given rights for decision making due to patriarchal norms and values constructed by the society. In the economic condition also women are poor then men so the research mainly focuses in Dudilabhati VDC.

The world is in 21<sup>st</sup> Century and at the same time it is shrinking into a global village; people are participating in the process of development globally. There is no national as well as international boundary in terms of development. But Nepal is a country where darkness is prevailing under the light.

The contribution of women to society cannot be ignored as they constitute almost one-half of the total population of the world that accounted for around 496 million as against total population of 1027 million. According to the world Scenario, 60 percent of the working hour in the world go to women's share, it makes up 30 percent of the official labour force, thus 50 percent share of world economy is contributed by them. (Department for International Development, 2013)

The status of women can be measured in terms of degree of equality and freedom enjoyed by them. Equal participation of women with men in decision making, free expression of their

views and participation in the community life help them to get recognized in the society. The power of expression and ability to solve problems through their views and ideas, make women capable of getting attention from everyone. The financial independence along with employment opportunity makes a women capable of asserting her voice in community as well as in the family.

In the Nepalese content women suffer from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. Relating to decision making women's representation is very poor in a developing country like Nepal where women's activities are generally connected with inside the house and men's in the outside sphere. The role of men and women are inter dependents but women's overall burden is higher than that of women. However, the government of Nepal has been giving a due regard to women development issue after the mid seventies. But, we are in no position to leave a sign of relief. Unfortunately, the condition of Nepalese women has not improved despite nearly three decades of efforts with various social and economic reform process.

After independence, the constitution of Nepal has provided a framework for equal opportunities to mean and women by granting them equal political, economic and social rights. Since then more than half a century have passed but have not produced results close to the desirable level. Women in Nepal still now are largely confined to the domestic chores of life.

The previous studies show that women movement internationally has gained lot of attention and various plans and policies are implemented by both government and non governmental institutional. Women are capable and have great potential and still then it is seen that the objectives the empower women has not been achieved. It also stated that various indicators were contributing to the status of the women, i.e. decision making role, control over resources, income and literacy being the prominent ones. But question arises how and to what extent these indicator influence their socio-economic status and why development programs are failure in increasing their status. Thus, the key area of this research is to find the problems of women and their role in decision making. Most of the women in Nepal are not given rights for decision making due to patriarchal norms and values constructed by the society. In the economic condition also women are poor then men so the research mainly focuses in these questions to find an exact problem.

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

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The study will include very small area and the general objective of this study is to focus on women's participation in household decision of the age 15 to 60 years old residing in Dudilabhati VDC.

The objective indicated the Central thrust of this study is as follows:

- ) To access the household decision making on economic activities.
- ) To identify the household decision making on non-economic activities.

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

There have been numbers of the studies conducted at national level which are related to women. But no study has been conducted in Dudhilabhati VDC of Baglung district regarding socio-economic status of women so this study is an attempt to analyze the socio-economic status of women of this VDC through micro level study. The government of Nepal and other political parties always raised the problems of the women but they never initiated for the solution satisfactorily.

Women constitute about half of the world population and play a crucial role in socio economic context of the society. Therefore development of the nation in true sense can hardly be achieved without proper development and empowerment of women's. Modernization and development process is affecting both men and women life differently. Gender disparities is seen in each and every societies and it's the social and cultural norms which validates the status of women in a society. Culture is transferred from one generation to another, and so also the gender role. Therefore it is most essential in present context to know and identify the various factor that determines the status of women in society and role of these factor's in empowerment of women as no society can develop ignoring its half of the population.

Autonomy is the ability to often information and makes decision about one's own concerns. It facilities access to material resources such as food, land, income and other forms of wealth and social resources such as knowledge, power, prestige within the family and community. In Nepal as in most parts of South Asia women commonly have less power and autonomy then

men in making decisions about their own health care, limited opportunities to earn incomes, restricted access to and control over. Productive resources and very few effective legal rights.

Women's participation in household decision making is associated with her ethnicity, deprivation of living children. Nepalese women are further disadvantaged by a lack of awareness of opportunities and their legal right. Gender equity gives women decision making authority. The third millennium development goal (MDG) aims to promote gender equality and empower women. It emphasizes to increase financial resources do accelerated the goal that equally benefit and empower women and girls. Many intervention programmes exist to improve women's house hold position in Nepal, however their situation still appears as bleak.

With this study change in the future of women participation in household management. The economic system could be reviewed revaluated to increase the participation and involvement of women. This study aims to explore the links between women's household position and their participation in decision making.

### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

- ) This study mainly concerned to women living in Dudilabhati VDC of Baglung district.
- ) This study only concern domestic household decision making, occupational status, educational status, health status, involvement in farm and involvement in social and political activities only.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The study has been organized into five chapters and each chapter contains subsections.

The first chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study significant of the study, limitations and organization of the study.

The second chapter entitled "Literature Review" provides the review of studies, publications books, theories and research reports on the women's rights and status of women.

Research methodology has been presented in the third chapter. This chapter gives information about the research design, sample size and tools and techniques of data collection, presentation and analysis used in the study.

Chapter four deals with the analysis of respective data collected through questionnaire. Specially, it deals with the different scenarios representing the overall socio-economic and educational status of women in the sampled areas.

In the fifth chapter summary, conclusion and recommendation have been presented on the light of the analysis and findings some double recommendations have been forwarded.

## **CHAPTER–II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Background**

This chapter deals with the available literature about the role of women and men in decision making. In this section, efforts have been made to review researches, publication and documents pertaining to the area of study.

Society regards that husband is the god of wife and her only duty is to appease to him. The patriarchal family pattern continues and the prevalent social system requires women to be both projected and controlled by their male counter parts.

#### **2.2 Review in Developed Countries**

UNDP (2004) In many parts of the developed countries, there have been increases in women's economic activity rates over the past two decades. Women's highest shares in wage and salaried employment are in eastern Europe and the soviet union, something that that could change as new economic policies create wide spread unemployment there. Women tend to be in clerical, sales and domestic services, women hold a more 10-20 percent of managerial and administrative jobs worldwide and less than 20 percent of the manufacturing jobs (UN, 2004).

UNDP, (2008) Women are poorly represented in the ranks of power policy and decision making. Women up less than 5 percent of the worlds heads of state, heads of major corporations and top positions in international organizations. Women continue to be denied equal access to high status and high paying positions but there has been some progress since United Nations Decade for women began in 1976. Many countries have set up special offices to review parties, parliaments, unions and professional organizations. Women's political participation at the and economical level is very less even in highly developed countries such as American, Europe. The United practices of democracy, equality and human rights to the world, is very conservation regarding women's participation.

ILO, (1998), reported that female and male factory workers in Indonesia found that women where half as likely to be permanent or regular workers, that women were much more likely to be hired on a daily basis, that twice as many women as men were required to be obligatory



overtime and that two thirds did not receive maternity leave. Agriculture workers may work on someone else's land for a wage or they may work on their own family's land. Working on someone else's land should allow for greater mobility, but women are still paid poorly, work very long hours, have no access to land rights and no control over the work they do. Women working on their families land face even more limitations: their mobility is constrained by working in such close proximity to the home and their work often remains unpaid. Overall women in agriculture work are at a disadvantage relative to men because they work longer hours, they rarely own land, do not have access to financial or extensive services, and are less likely than men to have access to government-provided facilities under agriculture development programs.

Mason, K. (1998) found that the status of husbands and wives at marriage and the social context, in terms of family systems and household characteristics are important to financial arrangements, decision-making power and women's economic power overall. Younger women, less educated women, rural women, poor women and women of lower castes or classes are also less likely to be empowered and decision making power. Education and autonomy may be one of the most important influences women's employment and its link to empowerment because of its relation and life chances and outcomes.

Grasmuck and Espinal (2000) stated that women's wages may be a significant party of increasing women's empowerment and household decision making power by giving women a greater sense of control and value in their home. Women's wage contributions to their families can make them more valuable to the household and being able to control those wages could mean a greater say in decisions. This relationship between employment women's empowerment, specially, how much of her family's total earnings she contribute, is one aspect of women's participation in the workforce. The extent to which a family relies on the income of a woman can influence the power and control that the working woman can influence the power and control that the working women household because it increases her value in the her household and it improves her fall back position by decreasing her dependence on male family members. If a woman contributes only a small share of her family's total income the wages willnot translate into a greater say n important decisions; However, if a women contributes half or even all of her family's income, she may be able to assert herself more in her household and have a greater voice.

Carlsson, F. (2009) identified that several important factors that contribute to an increase in the decision-making power of wives, historically Chinese women have had very little say in household decisions, in particular in rural areas. They have also been discriminated against when it comes to access to education for example, educating sons had been regarded as more likely that sons will get paid work, therefore leaving women to work on farmland policy measures to improve the education and the labor force participation of women are key factors in increasing the power of women in households and ultimately putting them on equal footing with men, many important economic decisions eq. labor supply, residential location, buying insurance or a new car and investing in stocks and bonds or in children's education are determined in a bargaining process that leads to an efficient use of the available resources.

Sudan (2007) concluded in his studies that women have great potential and provided with assistance with micro financing, giving full autonomy in their work, has resulted in increased income and improved livelihood.

Aslam (2009) stated that women have major role in management of their natural, social and economic resources. But still they suffer a lot, they are backward due to a traditional outlook, illiteracy, superstition and submissive role in decision making, social evils and many other cultural factors.

### **2.3 Review in Developing Countries**

Acharya and Benneth (1983), highlighted upon the fact that women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The time allocation studies and decision making data reveal women's "major roles in agriculture production both as laborers and as managers of production process."

UN (1987), the decades of seventies expressed concerns towards women and became national economic and social goals was initially stressed at the United Nations & International Women's Year conference in Mexico City in 1975. The considerable interest in women thereafter and the drive for women's cause in recent years, has given rise to multitude of women intentioned, women specific projects and the welfare programs, both on governmental and non governmental or at local and national level.

Dangi (2003), it is revealed that women's contribution was genially found in two fields: at the household level and at the agricultural field. Their contribution is more than half to the

economy but as their contribution is indirect, it has been often ignored by the society from time immemorial. They are not engaged on other sectors due to lack of skills and training required for other sectors. Yet the women play a vital role and cannot be ignored.

Dhital (2005), mentioned that women in Nepal are inferior in their position than men in the social and political life. Women have less access to employment, income, education, health care and nutrition and skilled development and receive impressive record of social and constitutional guarantees and education. In spite of some improvements in education and health during last few decades, greater gap is noticeable in their economic opportunities and participation in public life and decision making.

World Bank (1995) disclosed the movement for women's status all over world has emphasized the role of education. It is believe that education will bring about the education in the inequalities between sexes and uplift women's subjugated position of society. In general educated women have a higher status in the society and the family size become smaller as the education level of the mother rises. In fact women's is low in Nepal, and the lowest in SAARC countries that is adult female illiteracy is 88% for Nepal compared to India 71%, Pakistan 81%, Bangladesh 78%.

Luintel (2000) has analyzed economically, women have no right to parental property as well as in the household's home. Women bear 70% of the household work burden and yet have no access to economic resources. Even doing the some work, they get lower wages than male as most of the women work as unskilled labor in carpet and garment factories and get low paid to illiteracy.

Neupane (1994) said that women's role in decision making processes is an important factor and needs to be considered for women empowerment. Mainstreaming of women through gender specific policies is a necessary pre-condition for meaningful development. There is a lacuna between gender specific policies and reform agenda. He pointed out the government polices like reservation of seats, can promote empowerment and women access to development projects numerically but not practically. The main reason behind low participation and decision making process are illiteracy, patriarchy, lack of clarity in government policies for empowerment. The meaningful participation can be ensured through awareness; monitoring of women status on regular basis; research activities on women

participating in social sphere, their voting right. Importance should be given to qualitative participation rather than quantitative representation.

NPC (2002) aimed to integrate women into development through gender quality and women's participation in the process of formulation, implementation and evaluation of sector policies and programmes, accelerating the process of multifaceted development of women's empowerment by uplifting their social, economic, political and legal status, projecting and promoting the rights and interests of women and gradually eliminating violence, exploitation, injustice and atrocities being concerted against women.

Pandit (2003) mentioned that community based development and welfare programs should focus on increasing women's participation in decision making procedures. Women should also be added in some relevant training in the community for money. It is necessary to implement effective programmes to increase their awareness, remove social mobility and enhance economic independence and confidence to make important decisions. Obviously, working for women's course but the situation has not improved education which helps to build confidence.

Dahal (1992) said that the female body is for sale even in marriage to the most respectable of social institutions. In fact, the paying cash along with the bride, her parents literally buy her responsibility, namely the protection of the groom and his family. The gain for women in exchange; catering to the man's sexual desires and providing heirs for the family. Women are a sex object. This is part of the role she plays in life.

UNDP (2007), Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by the government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making.

Achary (2010), Women's autonomy in household decision making is positively associated with their age, employment and number of living children. Women from rural areas and Terai region have less autonomy in decision making. Women from rural areas need specific empowerment programmes to enable them to be more autonomous in household decision making. Women's autonomy by education, wealth quintile and development region needs a further social science investigation to observe the variations within each stratum. A more

comprehensive strategy can enable women to access, community resources, to challenge traditional norms and to access economic resources. Thus, lead the women to be more autonomous in decision making in the due course.

CBS (2011) stated that in Nepal, 40.4% of women and 59.6% of men over the age of 10 are considered economically active. This includes the women's economic participation is lower than men's. This is due, to least in part, to the fact that subsistence agriculture work which is almost exclusively performed by women, is not considered to be economic activity and is excluded from surveys. The vast majority of the economically active population (81.2%), particularly in rural Nepal, is engaged in agriculture and allied industries. The proportion of the persons engaged in this sector is substantially higher among women (90.5%) than among men (74.9%).

Karki (2011), females have low socio-economic status and thus behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate in major decision making process. Unless females are brought into the mainstream of development it is impossible to develop society as well as nation. For this education and empowerment play an important role.

Bhattarai (2013) has analyzed in the world, even though women are the Major founders of society, they are yet to achieve and equal status with men. Women are considered as the creators of life, but they are still not treated equally when it comes to employment opportunities, political representations or other aspects. Gender studies have enabled us to realize that from the minut a baby is born, they are put on a different path simply because of their gender, And discrimination starts from home itself parents treat male and female children differently and have expectations from their offspring based on the cultural difference. They are taught to socialize differently and are expected to have different reactions and orientations to the world. Soviet favors men and gives them higher authority and this makes women vulnerable to crimes like rape, eve-teasing, sexual abuse etc. Freedom from the threat of harassment, battering and sexual assault is a concept that most of the use have a hard time imagining because violence is such a deep part of our culture and our lives. But we Nepali women are not alone; violence and discrimination against women are global social epidemics.

The decision making power of women interfered by family status. Recently the power has shifted to the question of equality on the gender sensitiveness as male and females. Therefore the decision making power of female in household may be determined by these factors independent source of income, power of retaining income, power to use income at one's desire, power to save to income if the power for decision making in relatively higher. Likewise women's personal autonomy is also influenced by the degree of female participation which consists of household's labor allocation, marriage partner selection. Number of children and their gap year and freedom in mobility. The decision making on social affairs is determined by factors such as meeting involvement, social works, public voice and educational status.

## **2.4 Conclusion**

The literature that looks specifically at the affect of who the respondent works for on empowerment finds that working outside of the home is important to women's empowerment both in terms of mobility and because it expands women's opportunities interact with the market and in the public sphere. The available literature show that working outside the home is positively associated with an increased likelihood of full mobility, but where a woman works is not significantly related to either decision - making power or to women's views on wife-beating other studies suggest that working independently or male family member's and outside of the sphere of family increases women's control over their labour and wages and is important to women's empowerment.

## **CHAPTER–III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Methodology**

Research is systematized body of knowledge. It is marketed by accurate classification of facts, discovery of new facts and logical conclusion. The reliability and validity of research findings depend upon methodological framework employed. Therefore the present chapter has been planned to elaborate methodological procedure adopted and various analytical techniques employed in achieving the set objectives of the present study on "women's participation in household decision making in Nepal: A case study of Dudilabhati VDC, Baglung district:"

#### **3.2 Selection of Study Area**

The research was carried out in Dudilabhati VDC. The reasons to select this site for the study are as follows:

- ) The area being occupied by various ethnic groups like Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Magar, Kami, Damai, Sarki etc. having poor social, political, educational and economical status so to investigate the real problem of the women of various ethnic groups.
- ) Due to lack of any research or study carried out about the women of this area.
- ) Due to lack of the participation of various NGOs, and INGOs as well as government sector in development of this area and the researcher being the social person (teacher) of study area so to investigate the miserable reality of the people.

#### **3.3 The Research Design**

The research design that has been adopted for this study can be said be exploratory and descriptive in nature. In other words, this research tries to explore and investigate the socio-economic and family based Dudilabhati VDC or study area worth special emphasis on the participation in household decision making process of the women as compared to the men. It enquires and inquisitions made exploratory nature of the research.

However, this particular feature of research design is translated into a descriptive analytical form which has been utilized during this data analysis process. This means that the data interpretation has been supported by tabular analysis followed by their explanations.

### 3.4 Nature and Source of Data

In the present study, both primary and secondary data have been used. The primary data were collected through questionnaire, interviews, field survey and observation from the study area. From this purpose, a brief and intensive field work was conducted in the months of Aswin, Kartik and Mansir 2072. During the field work primary data were collected from the sample respondents and key information. The secondary data are taken from various published and unpublished literature by related organization, publication of CBS, women's organization, various websites, articles related to women, DDC and VDC office profiles/report and different sources.

### 3.5 The Households and the Sample Size

According to the Dudilabhati VDC office record 968 households were recognized which is given below.

Ward No.	H.H.	10% of each H.H.	Approximately No. of Household
1	63	6.3	6
2	144	14.4	14
3	100	10.0	10
4	128	12.8	13
5	99	9.9	10
6	146	14.6	15
7	94	9.4	9
8	74	7.4	7
9	120	12.0	12
Total	968	96.8	96

Thus sample size that it has selected for our present study is more than 10% of the total numbers of households, which comes out to be 96 households.

### 3.6 The Sample Procedures

Keeping in view its sample size of 96 households, this research proceed to the sampling procedure conducted during this field survey which is namely the "Random sampling" using the lottery method.



This listed down the 96 households corresponding do the 96 numbers in the randomly selected papers then compared this list of 96 households with the earlier list of 968 households to identify the 96 households that out study sample size.

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

In order to obtain necessary and reliable data from this study the researcher has used traditional methods such as direct participation observation, structured questionnaire and some interview.

#### **3.7.1 Observation**

Observation method was used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day-to-day activities, their role in household activities and their relationship with the members of family. The data collected through observations have been used to support the structured data in relevant place in the text.

#### **3.7.2 Structured Interview and Questionnaire**

An interview questionnaire was structured so as to meet the purpose. The questionnaire was divided into 8 sections. The first section deal with purpose of getting information about general information which includes age, caste, literate. Illiterate, the second section deals with economic aspect which includes cropping pattern while third section comprises of information regarding livestock management. The fourth section deals with energy use and maintenance, fifth section includes labour utilization pattern, the sixth section includes family borrowing, cash and king expenditure the seventh section deals educational aspect and the last of eight section includes miscellaneous questionnaire about community activities and the structured questionnaire are include in the appendix.

### **3.8 Data Generation and Data Analysis Procedure**

The entire procedure for data generation and its analysis begins with the formation of a structured questionnaire. It comprises of the all relevant questions concerning the decision making in household affairs such as farm management, domestic expenditure and transactions, education, labor utilization and so forth. Besides, questions pertaining to the socio-economic characteristics of the respondent have also been included. Therefore, the questionnaire has been designed in such a manner so as to give an overall picture of the

relative status of the female in terms of household decision making as well as a glimpse of the socio-economic situation of the selected households within study area.

The questionnaire was then pre-tested so as to test its credibility. Accordingly, some additions and deductions of questions were made to suit our purpose and were eventually finalized. Then the dissertant conducted the entire questioning within the 96 households which were earlier selected via the random sampling using the lottery method as mentioned above. The dissertant made sure that the other female members such as daughters, daughters in law and so forth were not interviewed. There have strictly limited ourselves to the wives or female hands of the family as respondents.

However, the data, thus generated was grouped into mainly two categories all tables containing the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and the tables consisting of the decisions making by different household members on different household matters. Finally, the data generated in this manner was prepared for analysis as seen in the fourth chapters.

### **3.9 Tools used for Data Analysis**

We have mainly relied upon tabular analysis for data interpretation. However, simple tools like percentage, ratio and averages have also been used during the analysis.

## **CHAPTER-IV**

### **SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ECONOMIC AND NON ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The area in which this study was undertaken reveals a marked diversity in the ethnic composition among its population. However, it has included selected ethnic groups such as Brahmin/Chhetri, Magar, Gurung, Newar and Occupational castes viz, Tailors (Damai), Iron Smith (Kami) and Cobbler's (Sarki) in accordance with our random sampling.

Generally observations reveal Brahmin/Chhetri, Magar, Gurung, Newar as the most economically advanced group in terms of livestock and landholding. The major source of income for almost all the selected households was from agriculture and remittance. No significant inclination towards industry and entrepreneurship could be depicted among these households.

Women undoubtedly showed a greater input into the domestic and subsistence sector, their activities ranging from household chores, Fuel wood and fodder collection and childcare down to all kinds of agricultural higher than that off their male counter parts.

Greater confinement of women to the domestic sector is probably one of the reasons for a very low literacy rate evident among them as compared to the male literacy rate.

#### **4.1 Socio -Demographic Characteristics**

Besides these general observations efforts have been made to include all possible socio-demographic aspect of respondents in to our present study. Tables have also been illustrated to support this findings.

#### 4.1.1 Ethnic Composition of the Study Area

**Table 1 : Ethnic Composition of the Study Area**

<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Brahmin/Chhettri	52	54
Magar	15	16
Gurung	9	9
Occupational Casts	18	19
Others	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

The ethnic groups reveal a tendency to stay clustered among own communities. However, people from different groups are also found to be living together in certain areas of settlement.

The Brahmin/Chhettri, Magar community is seen as dominating the overall population. But the Gurung and occupational groups remain equal in the population composition. Table 1<sup>st</sup> shows 54% of Brahmin/Chhettri, 16% Magar, 9% Gurung, 19% Occupational Groups and only 2% of others. This clearly depicts the Brahmin/Chhettri domination over the other communities.

#### 4.1.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

**Table 2 : Marital Status of the Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Number of Household</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married	85	88.5
Unmarried	1	1.1
Widowed/Separated	10	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Out of the total 96 female respondents 85 of them were found to be married, 10 of them widowed/separated and only 1 unmarried.

The married women, therefore, constitute a large majority of 88.5%, the unmarried a small minority of 1.1% out of the total number of respondents.

#### 4.1.3 Educational Status of the Household Couple

**Table 3 : Educational Status of the Household Couple**

Education	Husband	WIVES (Widowed/Separated) Females	Total	Percentage	
				Husband	Wife
Illiterate	26 (30.6)	66 (68.7)	92	28.3	71.7
Literate	59 (69.4)	30 (31.3)	89	66.3	33.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>53</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

(The figure in the parenthesis of column 2 and 3 are percentages out of 85 and 96 respectively.

The household couple here does not strictly mean husbands and wives. Since, questions were put up to only women during this research, women of different marital status, married/unmarried and separated/widowed are included. However, the number of husband among the 85 husband 26 of them are found to be illiterate while 59 of them literate. Similarly, out of the 96 female respondents 66 of them are illiterate and 30 of them are literate. The total illiterate husbands and female respondents amount to 92 out of which the husbands constitute 28.3% and the female 71.7 of it. In the same way the total number of literate women and husbands are 89 out of which 66.3% are husbands and only 33.7% are females. This as a clear indication that the literacy rate among the women is negligible as compared to that of them, considering the fact that the men (husband) constitute only 47% as opposed to 53% of females out of the total number of 181 persons.

#### 4.1.4 Sex Composition of the Children

**Table 4 : Sex Composition of the Children**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>No. of Children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	172	52.9
Female	153	47.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

The total number of children within the 96 households is 325 (172 male children and 153 female children) with male children taking a large chunk of 52.9% and female children only 47.1% out of the total aggregate. The higher number of children is, therefore depicted.

#### 4.1.5 Age-Sex Composition

**Table 5 : Age-Sex Composition**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male %</b>	<b>Female %</b>
0-9 years	38	46	84	45.2	54.8
10-14 years	49	49	98	50	50
15-59 years	92	96	188	48.9	51.1
60-64 years	8	25	33	24.2	75.8
65+ years	3	9	12	25	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>54.2</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Female children of the 0-9 age group (54.8%) exceed the male children of the same age group who constitute only 45.2%. But the children between the ages of 10-14 years show an equal distribution among both the sexes with 50% each.

Female in the prime working age group of 15-59 years constitute a higher 51.1% than the men from same group who constitute only 48.9%. In the same way, 75.8% of the women and only 24.2% of men lies in the age group of 60-64 years while 75% of the women and 25% of men lies in the age group it. This shows that there are more economically inactive women than men.

#### 4.1.6 Occupational Composition of the Household Couple

**Table 6 : Occupational Composition of the Household Couple**

Occupation	Male	% of 85	Female	% of 96
Agriculture	46	54.1	48	50.0
Business	15	17.6	15	15.6
Service	18	21.2	8	8.3
Household Work	-	-	22	23.0
Others	6	7.1	3	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

It shows that 46 out of the 85 male are involved in agriculture, 15 in business (small shops), 18 in services, non in household work and 6 in others like carpentry and masonry. Out of 96 females 48 of them concentrated mainly upon agriculture, 15 in business, 8 in the service sector, 22 in household work and only 3 in others. Therefore, find a comparatively higher rate of men in agriculture (54.1%) business 17.6%, service 21.2% and others 7.3% as compared to women. But we also see no involvement of men in the household activities. While the women score 23% out of the total in this particular activity.

#### 4.1.7 Working Hours among the Male and Female Groups

**Table 7 : Working Hours among the Male and Female Groups**

Working hours/Day	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
up to 2 hours	26	-	26	100	-
3-5 hours	34	16	50	68	32
6-8 hours	13	52	65	20	80
9-11 hours	7	18	25	28	72
11+ hours	5	10	15	33.3	66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

The female input in terms of working hours per day is definitely higher than that male counter parts. This can be attributed to their involvement in both domestic as well as the agricultural sphere of activities.

Only men in the category where the working hours per day are 2 hours. On the other hand women constitute a 66.78 and 33.7% within the category of the highest number of working hours/day (viz 11+ hours). Our overall findings is that men comprise a larger position of the lesser number of working hours where as women constitute a greater percentage of the higher number working hours. For example, in the category of 3-5 working hours/day, men constitute 68% and the female only 32%. But for the category of 6-8 working hours/day, women constitute 80% as compared to only 20% for men. Therefore, women have longer working hours as compared to men.

## 4.2 Economic and Non Economic Characteristics

Besides these general observations efforts have been made to include all possible economic and non -economic aspect of respondents in to our present study. Tables have also been illustrated to support this findings.

### 4.2.1 Farm Management

This section is subdivided into two parts namely.

- i. Cropping Pattern and
- ii. Livestock Management

#### i. Cropping Pattern

Cropping pattern is known as how and which seeds, lands and technology are used in agricultural process. Due to foreign employment of husband in Dudilabhati VDC, women have a greater input in the cropping pattern decision making process.

**Table : 8 Decision Making for Cropping Pattern**

Decision Makers	Number of Household	Percentage
Husband	20	20.8
Wife	62	64.6
Male Member	4	4.2
Joint	10	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015



Corresponding to these tables, now analyze to what degree the different household members contribute in the decision making of such a cropping pattern.

It is clearly evident that the lives of the households have a greater input in the cropping pattern decision making process, scoring a 64.6% of the total. The husbands then follow with only 20.8% with only 4.2%. The joint decisions both the male and female members, however, rank third with 10.4%.

## ii. Livestock Management

- a. Livestock Purchase
- b. Livestock Sale

**Table 8 (a) : Livestock Purchase**

<b>Decision Makers</b>	<b>Who first thought No. of Household</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted No. of Household</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final Decision maker No. of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	32	42.1	28	36.8	28	36.8
Wife	32	42.1	30	39.5	29	38.2
Male members	12	15.8	-	-	7	9.2
Female members	-	-	-	-	3	3.9
Jointly	-	-	6	7.9	9	11.9
No one Traditional	-	-	12	15.8	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Note : Here the decision making process has been divided into three stages.

1. The initiators of the idea.
2. The person with whom the particular idea was consulted and
3. The final decision maker.

In table 8(a) see that only 76 out of the 96 households are involved in a recent livestock purchase. Both the husband and wife of a household have an equal share of 42.1% each as the initiators of the idea of livestock purchase. But wives score the highest (39.5%) as the persons consulted as well as the

final decision makers for these purchases (38.2%). But the other female members score a lower percent than the male members as the final decision makers in these matters.

**Table 8 (b) Livestock Sale**

<b>Decision makers</b>	<b>Who first thought number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision makers number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	12	54.6	5	22.7	14	63.6
Wife	7	31.8	10	45.3	-	-
Male Member	3	13.6	5	22.7	6	27.3
Female Member	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jointly	-	-	2	9.1	2	9.1
No one/Traditional	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

It should be noted that only out of 96 households were engaged in a recent sale of livestock.

The husband shows the greatest input as initiator (54.6%) and final decision makers (63.6%) livestock sale. Among the persons consulted, the wives score the higher percentage (45.5%) but none as the final decision makers. The female members do not appear in any stages of the decision making process. Overall, the male members of the household appear to have a stronger hold over the decision making of livestock sale.

#### **4.2.2 Livestock Maintenance**

**Table 9 : Livestock Maintenance**

<b>Grass collector</b>	<b>No. of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Overall caretaker</b>	<b>No. of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	4	4.7	Husband	4	4.7
Wife	56	65.9	Wife	62	72.9
Male Member	-	-	Male Member	-	-
Female Member	22	25.9	Female Member	16	18.9
Jointly	3	3.5	Jointly	3	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Only 85 households are found to keep livestock. Among them the wives are seen as the major grass collectors 65.9% for the livestock with the other female members following with 25.9. Both make up a significant portion of the household members as the overall caretakers of livestock. The male members, however, show the least input in this respect.

### 4.2.3 Resource Procurement

It has included energy (fuel) and household cash/transaction as household resources. Therefore, women's decision making in this particular area would be analyzed under two categories.

- i. Energy procurement
- ii. Control over household cash/expenditure/transaction

**Table 10 : Firewood Procurement**

Source	Number of HH	%	One who brings firewood	Number of HH	%
Forest	25	26.0	Husband	15	17.6
Bari	45	46.9	Wife	52	61.2
Bought	26	27.1	Male Member	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	Female Member	12	14.1
			Jointly	6	7.1
			<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

All 96 households are found to use firewood out of which 45 of them (46.9%) procure there is from Bari and 25 (26.0%) of them from forest. The remaining 16 households buy it from others out of the 45 households, who procure firewood from the forest and Bar, there are 64 households were wives and other female members are involved in such procurement. Together, it constitutes 75.3% of the total [The male members excluding the husbands appear to have no input in this respect.]

**Table 11 : Energy Use Decision Maker**

Decision Maker	Number of Household	Percentage
Husband	30	31.3
Wife	57	59.4

Male Member	3	3.1
Female Member	-	-
Jointly	6	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Corresponding to the pattern of energy. We need analyze the degree of input from different household members in the decision making of this patter. Wives are found to be largely responsible for the decision making of energy use. This decision making process.

**Table 12 : Control over Household Cash/Bazzar Purchase**

Control over household Cash			Control over Bazzar Purchase	
Person	Number of Household	%	Number of Household	%
Husband	18	18.8	29	30.2
Wife	72	75	46	47.9
Male Members	6	6.2	16	16.7
Female Members	-	-	5	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

In wives make the highest percent (75%) among the other members of the households as the ones keep the household money however, the other female members appear to have no such control as compared to their comterpart.

The wives along have a greater control over purchases required from the bazzar as compared to the other members of HH.

The other female members, however, show very titly control in this matter (5.2%), which is infect the least among the real of the household. While the husband alone make up 30.2% for control over Bazzar purchases and male members make up a considerable 16.7%. This is much higher than the combined control of both wives and other female members which contribute only 52% of the aggregate total.

Control Over Family Expenditure

- a. Food Items
- b. Small Gifts and Loans to friends
- c. Clothing
- d. Medical Treatment
- e. Social/Religious Ceremonies
- f. Investment

**Table 12 (a) Food Items**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	19	19.8	55	57.3	18	18.8
Wife	65	67.7	28	29.2	62	64.6
Male Member	3	3.1	7	7.3	4	4.2
Female Member	6	6.3	-	-	3	3.1
Jointly	3	3.1	4	4.2	9	9.3
No one/traditional	-	-	2	2.1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

The wives appears to have a greater input as initiators (67.7%) and as final decision makers (64.6%) for the expenditure on food items as compared to the other members of the households wives as the major final decision makers may be attributed to their greater concerns for providing sufficient food without the family.

**Table 12 (b) : Small Gifts and Loans to Friends**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	16	16.7	57	59.3	18	18.8
Wife	66	68.7	19	19.8	60	64.5
Male Member	7	7.3	14	14.6	5	5.2
Female Member	7	7.3	-	-	5	5.2
Jointly	-	-	4	4.2	8	8.3
No one/traditional	-	-	2	2.1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>		<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

All of 96 households have expenditures on small gifts and loan to friends. Among them, the wives reveal the greatest input as initiators (68.7%) and final decision makers (64.5%) for such expenditures. While the husbands are consulted the most in these matters, the other male and female members appear to have a low but equal input as initiators and final decision makers.

**Table 12 (c) : Clothing**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	20	20.9	58	60.4	22	22.9
Wife	63	65.6	24	25	61	63.6
Male Member	3	3.1	8	8.4	7	7.3
Female Member	7	7.3	-	-	3	3.1
Jointly	3	3.1	3	3.1	3	3.1
No one/traditional	-	-	3	3.1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

The same pattern of wives as the major initiators (65.6%) and husbands as the persons consulted the most (60.4%) in the decision making process is repeated. However, input from male members in all three stages of decision making is higher than that of the other female members. But, the joint and traditional decision for expenditure on clothing score is least, similar to that of the previous items.

**Table 12 (d) Medical Treatment**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	25	26.0	54	52.2	35	36.4
Wife	62	64.6	18	18.8	52	54.2
Male Member	5	5.2	18	18.8	2	2.1
Female Member	4	4.2	-	-	2	2.1
Jointly	-	-	3	31.1	5	5.2

No one/traditional	-	-	3	3.1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Wives are again seen as the primary initiators and final decision makers from expenditure on medical treatment among the 62 households. Such decision making depicts women's greater concern for the health of the family members. The husbands, however, are consulted the most of the such matters, as they score the highest (56.2%) in the second stage of the decision making process. The other male members have a greater input than the female members in all three stages of decision making. The joint decisions appear to be low but are still higher than the traditional decisions.

**Table 12 (e) : Social/Religious Ceremonies**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	35	36.5	42	43.7	25	26.1
Wife	54	56.2	42	43.7	58	60.4
Male Member	2	2.1	8	8.4	4	7.2
Female Member	5	5.2	-	-	3	3.1
Jointly	-	-	4	4.2	6	6.2
No one/traditional	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Wives are mainly responsible for the two stages of decision making process namely as initiators and final decision makers for expenditure on social/religious obligations. But their input as persons consulted equal that of the husbands. While the male members show greater input as final decision makers than the other female members, the latter show greater input as initiators than the former. While joint decisions, although low, are found the second and third stages of decision making. The traditional decisions, however, are nil all three stages.

**Table 12 (f) Decision Making in Investments**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>Number of HH</b>		<b>Number of HH</b>		<b>of HH</b>	
Husband	16	28.6	27	48.2	25	44.6
Wife	30	53.6	18	32.2	18	32.2
Male Member	5	8.9	7	12.5	4	7.1
Female Member	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jointly	5	8.9	-	-	19	16.1
No one/traditional	-	-	4	7.1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Only 56 (58.33%) out of the 96 households are involved in some kind of investment or the other. Although wives have a greater input as initiators (53.6%), however, the husbands appear as the main persons to be consulted (48.29%) and as final decision makers (44.6%) as well. The other male members have some kind of contribution in all three stages of the decision making process, while the other female members appear to have no in all these stages. While joint decisions in the final stage score 16.1%, the traditional decision makers in the final score haven't from it.

#### **4.2.4 Labor Utilization Pattern**

Two distinct types of labor were found to be practiced in the other area where our study was under taken, such labor was either an alternative means to compensate deficit household production or performed for social humanitarian reasons. This different labor can be listed as:

- a) Exchange Labor (Locally Known as Parma)
- b) Wage Labor

Therefore, our data for household decision making would now be analyzed under these two categories of labor. The decision making process would again be studied under the three stage process which has been mentioned before.



**Table 13 (a) Exchange Labor (Parma)**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	27	32.1	44	52.4	44	52.4
Wife	51	60.7	21	25	14	16.6
Male Member	2	2.4	8	9.5	4	4.8
Female Member	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jointly	4	4.8	8	9.5	18	21.4
No one/traditional	-	-	3	3.6	4	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

Exchange labor, which is usually known as "Parma" among the communities is practiced by 87.5% (84 of the 96 household).

Here, the wives are seen as the major initiators for exchange labor. However, the husbands are the ones to be consulted the most (52.4%) among the other household members. The joint final decision makers remark second with 21.4%. A much lower input from traditional decisions is depicted. Although, the other male members have little input in all three stages of decision making while the other female members appear to have no say at all in the stages.

**Table 13 (b) Wage Labor**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Who first thought Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who was consulted Number of HH</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Final decision maker of HH</b>	<b>%</b>
Husband	29	35.4	37	45.1	52	63.4
Wife	45	54.9	26	31.7	11	13.4
Male Member	3	3.6	9	11.0	5	6.1
Female Member	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jointly	5	6.1	5	6.1	9	11.0
No one/traditional	-	-	5	6.1	5	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey, 2015

This type of wage labor is strictly restrict to agricultural activities where husbands hire people to work in their land and give wages (in cash or in kind) in return. Such labor can be an alternative means of income to compensate difficult households production. Only 85.4% (82) out of 96 households are involved in wage labor. Among them the husbands are seen as the primary final decision markers (93.4%) and as persons consulted the most (45.2) for this particular kind of labor. The wives again are seen as the main initiators (54.9%) for wage labor and second in final decision making process. Joint and traditional decisions in the final storage score 11% and 6.1% respectively while the other female members appear to have non in all these stages.

## **CHAPTER-V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

In this chapter, women have included a summary of our findings generated from the data analysis and interpretation. The major conclusion drawn are strictly based upon our assessment of women's education status, and participation in the household decision making process. The findings regarding the participation of women in economic activities of the selected 96 households have also been listed. But we have to keep in mind that this conclusion drawn can be applicable only at the Micro level with the VDC households.

A few pragmatic recommendations have also been included with the intend of raising women's status in terms of their decision making powers in our present area of study. These suggestions, we hope, would initiate policy makers and local development practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programmers regarding the upliftment of women and their status within the household.

#### **5.1 Summary**

This analysis focus on the relative status women in terms of women's participation in household decision making powers viz-a-vi their male counterparts. However, decision making is envisaged to be a strong indicator of the different powers and positions held by the deferent members within the household.

This study includes households from four different ethnic communities comprising of Brahmin/Chhettri, Magar, Gurung and Occupational cast groups.

However, our issue in question has been limited only within the households irrespective of castes and inter class relationships within the prescribed limits. Women's participation in households decision making have been perceived mainly from three different aspects of household affairs, farm management and its use and the labor utilization pattern. Further the three stage decision making process comprising of initiators, persons consulted and final decisions makers, how of decision making.

It finds a distinct pattern of women as the main initiators and final decision makers of many aspects of the household affair. This can be attributed to their role as the basic providers and mangers of the domestic sector. But a point to be considered here is that, women may have a

greater say in the many issues but which may be of less importance for e.g. decision making in food, clothing etc. They might also have a significant contribution in the decision making of important issues, but women heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husband for the execution of both important as well as unimportant matters on the other hand the husbands are found to be the final decision makers regarding only crucial issues such as household investments, the labor utilization patterns and so forth.

Another interesting pattern which emerged from a derivation is that the other females members (comprising of daughters, daughters-in-law etc. excluding of wives or female household heads) have a comparatively low power of decision making vis-a-vis their male counterparts. The underlying implication here is that, women holding the status of "mother's or rather, the female household's heads have a greater control over the powers of decision making. Therefore, once the daughters are married off and the daughters-in-law as female households heads, they then become worthy of greater power of decision making which was earlier enjoyed by their mothers-in-law.

This research revealed that only 33.7% of the female household heads were literate, in the sense that they can at least read and write. In other words, females heads approximately out of the 96 households were literate. In which the small minority of literate female household heads answered the questions from that by the remaining illiterate ones. The literate women showed greater confidence in their approach and seemed to command a greater power within the household as compared to the illiterate female household heads.

The conclusion derived from the analysis of educational and economic characteristics and subsequently the conclusion of women's participation in household decision making process is as follows:

## **Major Findings**

### **A. Economic and Demographic Characteristics**

- ) The adult literacy rate among the women are a negligible 33.9% as compared to be 66.3% of the husbands among the aggregate total of literate husbands and females.
- ) The % of male children 52.9% are found to dominated over the female children constituting 47.1% among the 96 households.

- ) The women have much longer working hours than men, their average working hours being 6-8 hours per day for men.
- ) The total population of the 96 households is 415. Therefore, their average household size is 4.3. The overall dependent persons constitute 23.13% of the total population of 96 households. The economically inactive or dependent men are found to be more than women.

## **B. Women's Participation in Household Decision Making**

- ) The wives have a greater input in the decision making of the cropping pattern scoring a 64.6% as compared to only 20.8% by the husbands.
- ) The wives are the main persons consulted and the final decision makers for its sale. The other male members have a comparatively greater say in both these issues than their female counterparts. But the other male members including the husbands show the least input in the overall livestock maintenance as compared to the women.
- ) The wives have the highest contribution in the decision making reordering fuel/energy use, scoring a 59.4% of the total as compared to only 31.3% by the husbands. They may be deny the responsibility of the wives to utilize energy/fuel. However the other female members have no say regarding this issues as compared to the 3.1% scored by the other male members.
- ) The wives make up the highest percent (75%) among the other members as the ones to keep the household money. Accordingly, they have a greater control (47.9%) over the required purchases from the bazaar. However, the other female members have the least input in both respects as compared to the other household members.
- ) Regarding family expenditures, the wives are seen as the main initiators and final decision makers for items like food, clothing, medical treatment, social religious ceremonies and gifts/loans to friends. This is due to their closer association to such mundane matters than the rest of the family. However, these wives rely upon the approval of their husbands even for such unimportant items since the husbands figure as the main persons to be consulted regarding all these expenditures. But the husbands are the main final decision makers for a crucial issue like investments.

The other male members usually have either a higher or equal input to that of the other female members in the three stages of the decision making process. This clearly indicates that these female members are thought incapable of making any decision.

The joint and traditional decisions are found to be very low among the households. However the joint decisions are found to exceed the traditional ones in most items of family expenditure.

) The labor utilization pattern is sub-divided into two aspects, viz, wage labor and exchange labor. The wives are seen as the main initiators for the labor utilization pattern while the husbands appear to be the main final decision makers. Regarding the persons to be consulted, husbands score the highest in few cases while the wives do the same in others.

) While the other male members appear in most of the decision making, however, they show a low input in them. On the other hand, the other female members have no contribution at all in any of the decision making of the entire labor utilization pattern. While joint decisions are quite strong in some cases, the traditional decisions, however, are found to be very low.

Therefore, the women have the least or rather no power over the decision making of issues that solely concerns them.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

We can conclude from the findings of the study that there is a dominant role of male in the decision making process. Although the participation of female in the decision making process is highly influenced by caste, age group and women's educational status.

As the study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities, it can be concluded that females have lower decision making power and a subordinate role in family and in society. Women are deprived of their rights and responsibilities. Women have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. As our society is male dominated, males have superior status. In most cases, both male and female have to follow them. Every woman cannot for child birth and treatment of illness.

It can be concluded that females have low educational and economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process. Unless to develop society as well as the nation. For this education and empowerment plays a important role. This study shows that females have to work more in households having less decision making. Women have to reports their male counterparts decision in most of the cases. Though women have responsibility to complete the work, women have no chance to decide for it.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

We have listed a few relevant recommendations based upon the conclusion and findings that have been derived. The purpose here is to make significant steps towards raising the decision making power of women within the household.

- ) The overall literacy rate should be increased with special emphasis upon promoting higher it literacy rate among the women. This could be achieved via adult literacy classes and providing incentives to encourage greater enrolment of girls in schools. This is suggested wit the view that educating the women implies empowering them and conferring them a greater status within the households. Their educational status would also earn them the household decision making powers on important issues since they would then be thought capable of making effective decisions by their main counter parts.
- ) Bringing the women into the market economy is another approach to increase their decision making powers. Policies and programs intended to encourage entrepreneurial skills among the women, should be promoted. This women could them be mobilized the engage in income generating activities such as weaving, knitting, petty shops, small scale cottage industries and so forth. The income added by them into the overall household income would earn then the respect and the power to decide upon expenditures on important matters like investments and so forth.

Further, labour saving village technologies should be devised to release enough time off for women for their daily chores.

- ) In Lieu to the above view of drawing women into the market economy credit program such as Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) and Small Farmers Development Programme (SFDP) should be provide credit facilities.

Such credit facilities at women would act as incentives for them to provide in income generating activities and eventually become self respect.

- ) Late marriages among the women should be encouraged with aim of reducing their child bearing age and significantly lesser confinement to their reproductive rates. Such a demographic factor indirectly implies encouragement of their productive rates view greater economic participation and eventually agrater status in terms of decision making within the household.
- ) Family planning programes should be presented for grater practice and adoption of these measures by both men and women. Again the purpose is to reduce the confinement of women to their reproductive roles with the domestic sector and encouragement of economic participation among them.
- ) Steps should be taken to make men and the rural society itself aware regarding the capability of women as effective decision makers on important issues as well. These women also include the other female members who donot hold the status of the "Female household head".

Further, the brides-to-be should have some say regarding the selection of the bridegroom instead of being completely excluded from an issue which concerns her future.

The mobility and the freedom of women to provide in income generating and community activities should not be restricted by the male members of the family.

All these can be made possible by educating and making these rural people aware of women as productive potentials. This also implies gradual changes in the conventional social norms.

- ) Promotions of joint decision within the household should be stressed upon via informal education programmes. These joint decisions by both the male as well as female members seem more favorable to reach at effective decisions.
- ) Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women who would encourage their economic participation and hence elevated her status within the household.
- ) Reforms should be regarding the various women related government policies and programmers. Significant steps should be taken to effectively reach their target groups (women) and bestow direct benefit upon them instead of relying



upon the "trickle down effect" upon women via their male counterparts, a phenomench which has been occuring frequently in the past.

A few pragmatic recommendation have also been included with the intent of raising women's status in current study. These suggestions, can be used for policy, making and local development schemes to design the appropriate and effective and programmes regarding the upliftment of women and their status within the household.

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## APPENDIX

The structured Questionnaire : Women's participation in Household Decision Making,  
Dudilabhati VDC, Baglung District.

### 1. General Information

1.1 Name ..... Caste .....  
Age ..... Marital Status .....

Your education : a) Literate b) Illiterate

Your Occupation .....

Husband Occupation .....

Working Hours : (Hours/Day)

Male .....

Female .....

How many Children do you have?

a) Son                      b) Daughter                      c) None

### 1.2 Number of Family Members

Age	0-9	10-14	15-59	60-64	65 Above
Male					
Female					

### 1.3 Age at Marriage

a) Age of first issue :

b) Age of Last issue :

### 1.4 Number of fecund women : (14-49 years)

S.N.	Age Group	Number of Births During last one year
1	15-19	
2	20-24	
3	25-29	
4	30-34	
5	35-39	
6	40-44	
7	45-49	

1.5 Landholding : a) Khet land ..... b) Bari land

1.6 Number of livestock a) Cow ..... b. Ox .....

c) Buffalo ..... d) Goats      e) Chicken/Hen .....

1.7 Energy us : a) Firewood ..... b) Kerosene .....

c) L.P. Gas ..... d) Bio gas .....

d) Others

- 1.8 Type of the house : a) Mud house ..... d) Wooden House  
 c) RCC building ..... d) living at other house

2. Economic Aspect

2.1 Cropping Pattern

Season	Summer	Winter
Area		
Crop		
Production		

2.2 Who decides this cropping pattern? .....

2.3 Is the crop production sufficient for the whole year?

- a) Yes          b) No          c) If yes, surplus .....

2.4 How is surplus utilize?

2.5 Who decides?

2.6 If there is deficit production, how do you cope with the problem?

- a) Agri-labor   b) Construction labor  
 c) Income Generating activities      d) Others

2.7 What kind of activities are performed by the female counter parts?

.....

2.8 Who decides these activities? .....

3. Livestock management

3.1 Livestock Purchase

S.N.	Purchase of Livestock	Who first thought of this idea	Who was consulate	Who decided to purchase/set
1				
2				
3				

Livestock sale

1				
2				
3				

3.2 Do you give your OX (If you have) for hire?

- a) Yes          b) No

3.3 If yes, who decides?

.....

3.4 Who collects grass for the livestock?

.....

3.5 Who looks after the overall maintenance of the livestock?

.....

4. Energy use and maintenance

Source	Firewood	Kerosene	Bio gas	L.P. Gas	Others
Who bright it?					
Amount Required 1 day					

4.1 Who decides the use of this energy?

.....

5. Labor utilization pattern?

Deciding Items	Initiators	Person Consulted	Final decision makers
Exchange labor			
Wage labor			
Voluntary labor			

6. Control over family borrowing, cash and kind expenditure.

6.1 Who generally keeps the household money?

.....

6.2 Who usually goes to the bazar purchase ?

Deciding items	Initiators	persons Consulted	Final Decision Makers
Food Items			
Small Gifts and Loans			
Clothing			
Medicine Treatment			
Social/Religious ceremonies			
Investment			

7. Educational Aspect

7.1 Do you children go to school?

a) Yes            b) No

7.2 Are boys given priority over to go to school?

a) Yes            b) No    c) Equal

7.3 Do you think that girls should go to school?

a) Yes            b) No            c) If No, why not? .....

- 7.4 Who decides whether your children should go to school?
- 7.5 Are you participating in adult literacy classes?  
a) Yes            b) No
- 7.6 If yes, who made this decision?
8. Participation in Community Activities?
- 8.1 Are there any local traditional "female solidarity groups"?  
a) No            b) Labour exchange/work groups    c) Credit groups  
d) Religious organization    e) Others
- 8.2 Do the village women involve themselves in community decisions?  
a) Yes            b) No
- 8.3 Is any , women of your household participate of these community activities?  
a) Yes            b) No
- 8.4 Do you have any freedom to decide upon such participation?  
a) Yes            b) No