

**HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN IN
RILU VDC OF BAJHANG DISTRICT**

A Thesis

Submitted to

**Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University**

**in Partial fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
The Master of Arts (MA) in
Rural Development**

Submitted By

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis has not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of my degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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2073/10/06 (Nepali)

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The Thesis entitled **HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN :A Comparative Study of Working and Non-working Women of Rilu VDC in Bajhang District** has been prepared by **JANAK BAHADUR DWAL** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

.....

Prof. Dr. Bindu Pokharel

Supervisor

Date : 2017-01-19 (English)

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APPROVAL LETTER

The Thesis entitled **HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN:** submitted by **JANAK BAHADUR DWAL** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree (MA) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

Evaluation Committee

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I consider myself to be very fortunate to get an opportunity to study work and complete my thesis under the guidance of my respected teacher Pro. Dr. Bindu Pokharel who generously took time out from his own very busy schedule and provided me with continual stream of creative suggestions and encouraged me to complete this thesis. Hence first and foremost, I express my deep sense of gratitude to him.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Prem Sharma, Head of Department (Central Department of Rural Development) and all other staffs who gave me their utmost cooperation to complete this thesis. I am also thankful to all the households members of the selected respondents for their participation and helpfulness towards my research work. My heartfelt thanks to all staffs of the central library who provided me the necessary materials for this research.

I am also immensely grateful to . I would also like to express my special thanks to the librarian and my friend Bijaya Rajat and for inspiring me to complete my work. Last but not least I would like to thank my parents Mr. Gajabir Dwal & Tulasi Dwal, all my family members for supporting me throughout this tenure.

Finally, I shall ever remain indebted to all respondents of Riluv VDC, whose participation made this study possible.

Janak Bahadur Dwal
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ABSTRACT

The present study **HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN: A Study of Rilu VDC, Bajhang District** , is based on primary information collected from field survey. This study demonstrates the role and responsibility and find out constraint and opportunities of women with comparative to their male counter partner with the household. The outcome of the study helps in the identification of the problem of study area. Which will help in formulation and implementation of appropriate policies and action programmers.

Majority of women are deprived from the roles, economic and educational opportunities and decision-making is very low in such sectors. Decision making of women is contradictorily low than role and responsibility in each sector while these male counterparts have comparatively high decision making. Majority of women had listened about gender equality who are in favor of parental property rights to women. Majority of women are not given the parental right to them, they have focused on will system of parents property rights to them.

The main objectives of this study was to examine the socio-economic status, to compare the effectiveness of inside working and outside working women at household level and problem faced of women in decision making process of study area in Bajhang district of Rilu VDC. In this context, this is a case study of Rilu VDC. In order to fulfill objectives, the 54 households (27 working and 27 non-working) in the study area were selected questionnaire, observation key informants, interview were the major tools of data collection.

This study has addressed socio-economic status of women of Rilu VDC. The socio-economic parameters included livelihood analysis of women of Rilu VDC. Women have the low decision making in their personal life such as choice of means of contraception, sexual intercourse, determine to the size of the children. They also have the low decision making in social participation, activities. Women deprived from the decision on specific economic issues in their male dominating of the family. Therefore, we should extremely emancipate the women to develop their status as well as the nations with proper polices and programmers.

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ABBROVIATION

CBO	–	Community Based Organization
CBS	–	Central Bureau Statistics
CDRD	–	Central Department of Rural Development
CEDA	–	Center for Economic Development of Administration
FGD	–	Focus Group Discussion
FP	–	Family Planning
HH	–	House Hold
MA	–	Master of Art's
NGOs	–	Non Governmental Organizations
No	–	Number
SLC	–	School Living Certificate
TU	–	Tribhuvan University
UN	–	United Nation
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	–	United Nations International Children education Funds
VDC	–	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Women have been significantly participating to the cultural and social development of the mankind throughout the history despite their roles often been seen as secondary to those of men. Women played important roles in the advancement of civilization since the pre-historic period by their unique character in accepting the coexistence of all living beings, which perhaps, led to the domestication of animals and the system of agriculture cultivation in the family or community unit. Since time immemorial female participation, whether from household viewpoint or in the out sphere have remained significant. even in this post modern era, the participation of women whether in economic or social and politicalares's have remained vital.

There have been growing concerns today on women rights, their empowerment and their economic condition. The literature on women and their socio-economic statuses has grown with the increasing awareness that women's development is vital for the overall development of the society. The phrase" overworked and underpaid" is a harsh but true description of women throughout the world. Women's labour accounts for two thirds of the world's work hour yet they receive only ten percent of income and less than one percent of property. (UN, 1980). In any society the roles and responsibilities of women and men vary. Women usually have less access to resources and benefits due to various socio economic constraints, this is more observed in developing countries where there is a clear demarcation of rules and responsibilities and more prominently male domination's. Women, in developing countries are merely respected as their role of mother and housekeeper.

As women do not have land in their name due to lack of other sources of income, they are dependent upon their husbands. Women have the accessibility regarding land resources but when it comes to control of benefits it is the male who still exercises the control because our society is male dominated where major decisions are taken by the male household head. In Nepal unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimized by traditional society norms.

The term 'decision making' was defined choice of appropriate alternatives in decision process. Decision making is associated with various aspect of human life such as household work, public and private sectors. Women's roles in household decision making is determined by social and economic status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebration, greater freedoms of choice at marriage, economic support in the absence of sons in the family and self - employment of women working in the household productive sectors.

According to population census 2011, the Total population of Nepal is 2,64,94,504. Among them, male population is 1,28,49,041 (48.48%) where as the female population is 1,36,45,463 (51.51%) (CBS, 2011). The Total literacy rate is 65.9% on which the male literacy rate is 75.1% and female literacy rate is 57.4%.

Women are Constitute half of the population of the world. Hence, their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential as well to speed up development process. In the development of a nation where women play vital role. In male dominated country like ours female are considered of low standard and of less value but in recent year, people have started realizing the importance of women's participation in the economic as well as Social development. The socio-economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Men and women have now started participating on equal footing development activities in many development Countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger." The mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic Changes in the Socio-economic status of a nation.

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

The needs to uplift women in Nepal were realized lately and the steps to meet these needs were taken only recently. Various incentive programs have been launched along with the call for greater awareness to overcome prevailing stigma- attached

social plight women. New schemes introduced to a new situation. Some of the major activities are surveying of households, formation of groups, preparing village profiles and involving women in educational, health and income generating activities both at the district and field levels. Efforts are made to develop women's social prestige, self confidence and feeling of equality by educating them and aiming to set their commanding status over the society as well as their family.

As a result the women's role in decision making has increased today. It can be observed in political fields where few of them are in decision- making position due to allocation of percent of candidacy of women in parliamentary election by each political party.

Besides, women in Nepal work 10-13 hrs against 7.51hrs for men (CEDA, 1981) and hence there is a growing need to provide them sufficient say in decision-making authority within or outside home affairs. Furthermore the importance of women's participation in household management are playing an important role for upliftment of their status in the society

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In Nepal, half of the total population is covered by women, but women are suffer from illiteracy, poverty, unemployment and household burden. Relating to decision making, women's representation is very poor in the whole Country of Nepal. Especially in Bajhang, the Status of women is an important factors that affects the Social, economic development in the Country without women's participation. The goals of development activities can not be fully attained. So men and women are the pillars of development but women's role as the managers of the subsistence sector is avoided off as unproductive. Their opinions are important but patriarchy considers it as meaning less and their freedom is restricted within the household Sphere and overall conferred the status of weak lot. The reasons for such as predicament may spring from the Strong gender bias evident in the economical and political field, Conventional social norms, values and perceptions and attitudes of the people themselves.

The problems of women in the Study reflect that women are neither totally marginalized nor come at the centre like male at decision making power. There is a belief that female should confine themselves to such tasks as cooking, washing, taking care of children and should not be involved in traditional male activities.

The district of Bajhang is backward as compared to other districts of Nepal. In there women have also low status, role and position as compared to male counterpart. Similarly, women have no access in power, policy making, decision making level, higher level government post and authorities. They are mostly limited within household activities like cooking, caring children, feeding, farming, and collecting woods and grass which are considered as unproductive income. Women spend most of their hours in these works. So the study of women's economic educational status and their decision making power in household activities at Rilu VDC in Bajhang would be most essential for this scenario.

Therefore, my research is focused on the following question:

1. What is the socio-economic condition of the women in the study area?
2. What is the role of working and non-working women in household level decision making process?
3. What are the problems faced by women in access of decision making role in the study area?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The work without any objective often fails. Therefore for the formation and selection of the research, we need to mention the objective which helps to complete our study. The general objective of this study is to assess the women and their decision making power in household activities related to education and income. However, the specific objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the socio - economic status of women of the study area.
2. To compare the effectiveness of inside working and outside working women at household decision making process.
3. To explain the problem facing by women in decision making process .

1.4 Significance of the Study

Nepal is underdeveloped Country, where Bajhang is a backward Mountain district. In there, female are more backward than men. Most of the works are done by women such as whole household, Caring Children, Looking after cattle, and agriculture activities. Women are always marginalized in underdeveloped Countries. Gender Study is essential in order to uplift their position. In equality in life liberty and property of women and men are inherent in every society. It infects the various aspects of the Society such as Cultural, political economical, Social as well as educational growth. So, the study has identified the relevant information, which would be more important for rural development. This information help to improve and lunch the different programmed and women related to this issues for the government and associated institutions. More specify, the present study would be significant in the following ways as described below.

The Study would be useful for the policy makers of government and non government to execution of development activities. It would helpful for determining economic educational Status of women. This Study also would be guideline for DDC officers to attention women's problem. This Study would help to find out the Status of women, especially backward women as well as their role in household's decision-making power. This Study would help the native and foreign researchers for the further Study.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The major limitations of this study are:

- The sample size is small in comparison to the population hence it may not be generalized to the whole population.
- It is the study of the women living only in Riluv VDC hence it may not represent the decision making level of women of the whole country
- Time and financial factor may also be a limitation of this study.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This section deals with how the chapters are organized hereby. Altogether this study is divided into three chapters. The first chapter deals with general background, statement of the problem, objectives, significance, and limitation and organization of the study, following by literature review in chapter two. Introduction to study site, nature of data, sample selection, questionnaire design, method of data collection, data processing are include in third chapter.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of literature consists of the some of the Studies related women's Economic and educational Status and their decision making power. However, some available literatures are organized as follows:

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

Nepali women are daughters, wife and mothers but not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despites the facts that they are as human as men society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role. Confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented to taken part in public life (Subedi, 1993).

The Decision making process is simply seen and understood as primarily in terms in office management. 0It is a process of problem solving by choosing among one or more alternatives. After the entry of sociological knowledge, this term is viewed mere as a sociological process, which involves household and institutions, which are fused together through the concept of roles. Broadly speaking, their function at the family level is a process that follows the four interrelated steps in participation: planning, decision making, implementation and evaluation. These same steps occur in the family but in their own way because of the smallness and the intimacy of the group involved. In the family too, the key to participation is to make decision itself, together with the planning process which precedes it.

There is however a major difference, which puts family decision making into an entirely different category from large assembly decisions: the active presence of women. In large assemblies few women only take part. The rest leave it to their male folks the job of participating in the public decision making process. But at the family level women are certainly present.

Economic Participation and household decision making in Nepal has highlighted that women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The decision making data shows woman's major role in agricultural

production both as labourers and managers of the production process. It has been singled out 'Decision making' from multi Dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. In the study, the village women were actively participating in the four activities, local market economy and shorter migration to employment in the wider economy beyond the village. (Acharya and Bennett, 1983)

Female participation of different community in market economy which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the household women from Hindu communities have greater concentration in domestic and subsistence production, while women from Tibeto-Burman group have concentration in market activities who are largely Confined to domestic and subsistence production display a much significant role in major households economic decision that these in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate activity in the market economy (Acharya and Bennett, 1982).

The role and status of women differ according to caste and ethnicity however their sub-ordinate to men exist in all caste, ethic and religious groups. Women play important role in household subsistence, in agriculture, in labor work and so on. Women labor participation in agriculture is thus the backbone of Nepalese economy. Besides agriculture, they have to perform many other household activities such as childcare, cooking, feeding, cleaning and decorating houses. These activities of women in household are not taken into account into monetary terms. So, it is necessary to do depth analysis of Nepalese women's situation in order to support the planning of facilitating increased integration of women to the national developing process. Women have also substantial contribution on household economy through skill-based entrepreneurship like weaving, poultry, fishing, vegetable farming etc.

UNESCO (1998), States that the level of women, education is low in Nepal and lowest in SAARC Countries. The adult female literacy is 34 percent for Nepal Compared to Srilanka, 94 percent, India 58 percent Bangladesh 53 percent and Pakistan 48 percent. The campaign for improving women's Status has influenced the role of education. It is believed that education will bring about a reduction in the inequalities between sexes and uplift women's subjugated position in the Society. Education of women has a higher Social Status and Stable family Size.

Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape the cultures worldview and governed individual self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position (Shtri Shakti, 1995).

Satnam Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana state, emphasizes upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women are never found as final decision- maker in many matters except for cases of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically women are not event free to decide about participating in women's organization such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found as solely manipulated by husbands accept in few cases. She concludes saying planned, programs should be designed which support women's potential as capable and worthily decision makers.

Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. She observes as "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart" (Kaur 1987: 120).

The household can be divided into two types, intra household and inter household. I have used both households in the Study. Individuals women's struggles to acquire a share in family land would require interlinked, struggles outside the household area as well, such as struggles to legitimize women's need for independent rights in land and to mobilize economic, Social and political Support for the Cause. A Change in the law to make it more gender equitable, for instance, would require Contestation with the state establishing Social legitimacy for the Claim would require Contestation with the Community and so on gender differences in intra household bargaining power are thus linked with the Community and the State. This would be

especially so in contestation over landed property. Since Control over arable land helps define wider access to economic, Social, and political power (Agrawal, 1994)

Acharya and Benett (1981), gave a wider overview of women's Status in their decision making power in household. They Claim that economic factor affects role in decision making both directly and indirectly. If a woman has a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making e.g. small Size of children imply. Higher economic participation and Consequently greater decision making power for women.

Acharya and Bennett have singled out “decision making” from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some models from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the villages were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in village labor market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Acharya and Bennett (1983) mentioned that various socio-economic, cultural and demographic factors affect the extent and structure of female economic participation in the largely subsistence economy of rural Nepal. The women’s labor is heavily concentrated in their own agricultural production activities. However female percent’s involvement can be seen in the local market economy and wider economy beyond village. Women in the more orthodox Hindu communities who are subsistence production display a much less significant role than those in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate actively in the market economy. The proportion of time spent by women in domestic activities emerged as a positive factor in the determination of her input in farm management decisions and as a negative factor in her input into resource allocation decisions. Participation in the market economy outside the village had a positive influence on women’s input into both domestic and resource allocation decision and a negative influence on farm management decisions. Women who participate in the market activities make a measurable contribution to the household income, while women working in the

subsistence agriculture are generally laboring on land, controlled by the male household head. The women involving in the development process and expanding their acceptable roles beyond those of mother, household and subsistence agricultural worker can be expected to have important long range effects in terms of reduced fertility rates and changed social attitudes towards children's education.

MOH (2001), indicated that women and men residing in the mountain ecological zone are least educated, while those residing in the hill zone are most educated. On third of women and two thirds of men residing in the hills have some education. Women residing in the western region are more likely to have some education than women residing in the other regions while those residing in the far western region are the least educated, Similarly, men residing in the western region are mostly likely to be educated, while men residing in the central and mid western region are least educated. Educational differences by sub regions are marked. The proportion of women who have never attend school ranges from low of 53 percent in the western mountain sub region to 51 percent in the western mountain sub region. 8 percent of women and 20 percent of men Completed at least Secondary education, which is highest among all sub regions.

Tiwari (1995), found that women's decision making roles determines by household economic Status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebrations, greater freedom of Choice at marriage, provide economic Support in the absence of sons in the family, self employment of women. Working in the household productive Sectors, the Status of women is represented by the level of education, occupation, political, attainment and economical Condition. It is Categorized in the term of making food, Children future prospects, household work, agriculture and economic field and give Child birth.

Gurung (1999), traditionally women's responsibilities have been restricted to the home: Cooking, Cleaning, Child Caring, and looking after the house. Women are Considered to be weak, vulnerable and dependent on men, there are no discrimination between men and women.

Ghimire (2009), women have less access to income, wealth, and modern avenues of employment. They have to Spend them much time in household work very

little time is left for activities with potentially higher economy development of the Country. Their access to property in their husband households, their less access to income, wealth and employment are the main Cause of their low Social Status. It directly affects their decision making power.

CEDA (1981), has given a wider overview of women's Status in the terms of their decision making power within the households. This Study reveals about eight different Communities.

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

The social status of women and their access to resources varied widely depending on the cultural group they belong to. Generally, women belonging to Tibeto-Burman cultural groups had considerably greater freedom in matters such as choice of marriage partners, deciding the time for marriage and in selection of economic activities they wished to pursue, as compare to their sisters belonging to the Indo-Aryan cultural group. The Tibeto-Burman groups included in the study were Mustang Bhote (Tibetan) women, Kham Magars, Rai and Tamangs. The Indo-Aryan group included high and low cast Nepali, speaking hill groups, as well as , Maithali, Tharus and Newars, while Indo-Aryan women were married early, had no choice in their life partners and were severely restricted in their social mobility. Such findings did not generally apply to women belonging to Tibetan-Burman groups. In all cultural groups, however, it was found that women's access to modern resources in the form of knowledge(education, training etc.) and traditional and newly created assets (e.g. land, machines, employment) was severely limited.(Acharya, 1994).

CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study will be carrying out both on the basis of exploratory and descriptive research design. The study will be focus on to investigate the Economic & Educational Status of Women & their Decision Making Process in Household Activities. Methods and techniques of data collection and methods of analysis have been consisted in methodology. It describes the essential and experienced view for all academic work of the study. It clarifies the concept and gives the way of the study. This is the comparative study which uses both qualitative and quantitative methods.

3.2 Selection of the Study Area

Rilu Village Development Committee (VDC) of Bajhang district was selected for the study. I had selected this area because of the proximity from my village in Bajhang. Similarly, women are much backwarded in this VDC in the district. So, the study would find out the reality of the housewives in decision making process.

3.3 Sample size

The universe of this study was women participation in household decision making process of Rilu VDC. Out of total households of 819 and 5340 population, there were 2633 male population & 2707 female. I selected 54 household's women as respondents from this area. The samples were selected by using simple random sampling method from lottery method to acquire the objectives.

3.4 Nature of Data

This study was conduct on the basis of both primary as well as secondary data. The source of primary data was obtained from field work and through observation, unstructured questionnaire and interview of some key informants applying some question where needed. Similarly information will be obtained through secondary sources. The secondary sources of data will be collected from subject related books,

journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers, NGOs, and women groups of Rilu VDC.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

This study was depend on both primary and secondary data. The primary data will be collected from the fieldwork conducted during observation, key informant interview and focus group discussion using following techniques. The secondary data will be collect from subject related books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers, NGOs, and women groups of Rilu VDC and Rilu VDC profile.

3.5.1 Observation

Direct observation was applied in order to get additional information of the activities of women for the study.

3.5.2 Key Informants Interview

During the field study, informal interactions with a number of people were made. They were asked about role of women in household decision making process.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

Data collection was used to describe a process of preparing and collecting data . The purpose of data collection is to obtain information to keep on record to make decision about important issue to pass information into other . Primarily data will be collect to provide information regarding a specific topic. Various techniques like table, graph , charts, statistical tools, computer software etc will be employed during the research study.

CHAPTER - IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The data and information collected from the samples are presented, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in this chapter for attaining the stated objectives of the study. In particular, this section includes the analyses and interpretation of various variables.

4.1 Socio Economic Status of the Sampled Respondents

4.1.1 Age Distribution

Age is an important demographic characteristic. It determines the social status of people and it makes difference in working hours, types of work, decision making roles, social relation and responsibilities. Therefore it may influence the decision making capabilities of women. For the purpose of analysis the age of the sampled respondents are categorized into four groups which is presented in the following table:

Table 4.1: Age distribution of the respondents

Age	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
16-25	7	25.93	5	18.52	12	22.22
25-46	13	48.15	8	29.63	21	38.89
46-59	6	22.22	9	33.33	15	27.78
60 and above	1	3.70	5	18.52	6	11.11
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

The above table shows the age distribution of the sampled respondents selected for this study. The data showed that 25.93 percent of working insided are between 16-25 years of age. 18.52 percent of Working outsided belong to this group. Similarly, 48.15 percent of working insided women and 29.63 percent of working outsided women belong to 26-46 years of age. Moreover, 22.22 percent of working insided and 33.33 percent of working outside belong to age group 46-59 years where

as the remaining 3.70 percent of working indided and 18.52 percent of working outside women are at the age group above 60.

4.1.2 Ethic Composition

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

The following table reveals ethic composition of the respondents in the study area:

Table 4.2: Distribution of household by ethnic composition

Caste/ Ethnicity	No. of household	Percentage
Chettri	21	38.89
Dalit	18	33.33
Janajati	11	20.38
Others	4	7.40
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Above table show that ethic distribution respondents. Among the total respondents chettri is the highest . Chettri contains 38.89% , followed by Dalit (33.33%). The third position is occupied by Janajati (20.38%) which is slightly greater then other (7.40%). It was due to the large population of Chettri and Dalit in the study area.

4.1.3 Marital Status

Marriage is the single most important event in the life of men and women . According to Hindu tradition marriage is the compulsory for the all whether man are woman .A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has no

option but to get married . In Nepal of both men and women are married before 25years of age (Acharya , 1995). Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society marriage determines the social roles and responsibility of people . It is essential for legitimate birth. Females' role also increases in family only after marriage. It enhances there decision making power.

The following Table shows the marital status of the respondents:

Table 4.3: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital status	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Married	16	59.26	21	77.78	37	68.52
Unmarried	11	40.74	6	22.22	17	31.48
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Above table shows the marital status of respondent. In fact, out of 54 respondents, 37 respondent are married, among them 16 are working inside women and 21 are working outside women. 17 respondent are unmarried, among them 11 are jobholder and 6 are non-jobholder.

4.1.4 Education Status

Education is an important element of life. It plays an important role for the development of people, nation and economy as a whole. It is a principal mechanism of fulfilling an agent for awareness and change. Therefore it is central to the process of empowering both men and women. The table below depicts the educational status of the women chosen in this study.

Table 4.4: Educational Level of the Respondents

Educational level	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Illiterate	-	-	3	11.11	3	5.55
Literate	-	-	5	18.52	5	9.26
Primary level	-	-				
Secondary level			12	44.45	12	22.22
SLC passed	5	18.52	5	18.52	10	18.52
Intermediate	15	55.56	2	7.4	17	31.49
Graduate	5	18.52	-	-	5	9.26
Masters	2	7.4	-	-	2	3.70
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Table no. 4 shows that the women in the working category are more educated than outside working women. In total number of 18.52 Percent of working women are SLC passed, 55.56 percent are intermediate, 18.52 percent are graduate and 7.4 percent are at the master's level where as 11.11 percent of outside-working women are only illiterate, 18.52percent are literate, 44.45 percent are educated till secondary level 18.52 percent of them are SLC passed, 7.4 percent of them are intermediate. It is seen from the above table that inside working women are more qualified in terms of education than outside working women.

4.1.5 Family Structure

Family structure also has an impact on the responsibilities of both male and female in their household activities. Nuclear family structure is mostly seen in urban areas where as more families in the rural areas trend to be a joint family. Women in the nuclear family structure are more liberated than in the joint family structure and have less responsibility. The following tale shows the family structure of the sampled household.

Table 4.5: Family structure of the household

Family structure	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nuclear	20	74.07	15	55.55	35	64.81
Joint	7	25.93	12	44.45	19	35.19
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

The above table shows that 74.07 percent of the working inside household has unclear family structure where as only 55.55 percent of outside working women's household has nuclear family structure. It depicts that the women in joint family tend to be more engaged in household work than in outer activities.

4.1.6 Distribution of the respondents by Religion

Religion is a kind of belief or faith on gods or worshiping system by the people. So, it is an extreme faith on gods. There are many people having different faith on god. It is, therefore, an agnostic faith on the existence of gods. The society exists on the beliefs on religion.

The following table presents the distribution of religion. The people having belief on different religion are presented on the table given below:

Table 4.6: Distribution of the household by Religion

Religion	No. of household	Percentage
Hindu	39	72.22
Christian	8	14.81
Buddhist	7	12.97
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

Above table shows the distribution of the respondents by Religion. Among the total respondents, Hindu is the highest. Hindu contains (72.22%) , followed by Christian (14.81%). The third position is occupied by Buddhist (12.97%). It was due to the large population of Hindu.

4.1.7 Occupation and Source of Income

Occupation or source of income is a vital factor influencing household activities. Household in which both the members earn income tend to be more affluent than the household where earning the bread for the family rests on one person. However, the households whose main source of income is their own family business then it is found that all the family members including the children provide a helping hand in running at the following table however shall the occupation of the sampled working women of this study.

Table 4.7: Distribution of Households by Occupation & Source of Income

Occupation	No. of Household	Percentage
Agriculture & Livestock Farming	7	12.96
Business	8	14.82
Services	27	50
Wage- earning	12	22.22
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Occupation and source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Out of the 54 household, services have occupied the first position as the source of income 27 households are dependent upon services for their income. It is followed by wage earning 12 household. The wage earning category has higher proportion as main source of income because most of civil castes have no other alternatives except work as wage labour. Similarly, 8 household people are engaged in business, while only 7 household people are in

agriculture and livestock farming and they earn from their agriculture & livestock farming.

4.1.8 Access of Land

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. The question has been asked regarding the possession of land (as cultivated and household). But both types of land is combined due to which every household has their own land .

The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

Table 4.8: Possession of Land by Household

Land (Ropani)	No. of Household	Percentage
0-5	33	61.11
5-10	10	18.52
10-15	7	12.96
15+	4	7.41
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Out of the total 54 household most of the household have less than 5 ropani of land, 33 household have only 0-5 ropani , 10 household possessed 5-10 ropani of land .Similarly 7 household possessed 10-15 ropani and only 4 household have land more than 15 ropani. Thus, it can be concluded from the finding that most of the respondents have small land holding.

4.1.9 Alternative Source for fulfillment of Deficit of Food Production

It was found that 36 household have food deficit . They have to face the problem of food thought it is essential for sustaining life. They fulfill their need for food by different alternatives as service, business, livestock farming, wage earning

and debt. The following table show the way to fulfill the deficiency of food production.

Table 4.9: Distribution of Household by coping with deficit Food Production

Activities	No. of Household	Percentage
Services	9	25
Business	6	16.67
Livesock farming	6	16.67
Wage-earning	12	33.33
Debt	2	5.55
Other	1	2.77
Total	36	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Above table show the various alternative way of fulfilling the food deficiency due to low production in agriculture sector. The main means of compensation for deficit production is wage earning which cover 12 household, following by services 9 household. The third position is business and livestock farming is equal 6 household for coping with the deficiency of production. About 2 household are talking debt to fulfill their needs. It show the miserable condition about people. Other category occupies 1 household out of total food deficient household.

4.2 Participation level in Household Decision Making

In every household there are certain responsibilities for both male and female members however it is observed that female member tend to look after the household activities and male members on the other hand are concerned with the responsibilities outside the house i.e. to earn money. Similarly whenever there is any decision to be made the final say is from the male member and the women play only the advisory role. There are various household decision to be made that could range from small bazaar expenditure to serious investment, looking after the children and other many such activities. The research thus presents the participation level of women in household decision making which are shown in the tables below:

4.2.1 Saving of Amount

Saving is a way of thinking for future. The people save for future so that they could live happily. That is the reason why the people shave some amount form their income. The income should be higher than the expenditure so that there is a possibility of saving. Each person thinks for saving. In this regard, this study also outlines the saving of the target informants.

The following table presents saving amount of the target informants:

Table 4.10: Saving of Amount

Household members	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	17	62.96	9	33.33	26	48.15
No	10	70.04	18	66.67	28	51.85
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

The table shows the saving of amount for respondents . Among total money saver, 17 respondents household were inside working people & 9 household are outside working.

4.2.2 Total Authority to Mobilize Saving

Generally the female member of the household has the task to keep and saving money but to use the money is a totally different thing. It is observed that women usually have to take permission from men to handle female saving.

Table 4.11: Authority to Mobilize Saving

Household members	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	6	35.29	2	22.22	8	30.77
No	11	64.71	7	77.78	18	69.23
Total	17	100	9	100	26	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

This table shows the authority to mobilize saving of respondents. Among total money saver, 26 respondents were household working of inside people. Less than 35% uses of saving, above 65% household leading the male member of saving of amount.

4.2.3 Possession of Household Income

It is an important issue in every household. Generally the female member of the household has the task to keep money but to use the money is a totally different thing. It is observed that women usually have to take permission from men to use household income whereas men are free to do so without even consulting anybody. Hence for this reason women play the role of managers while men are controller of everything in the households.

Table 4.12: Distribution of sampled household by possession of household income

Household members	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Myself	15	55.56	6	22.22	21	38.89
Male	-	-	7	25.93	7	12.96
Both	12	44.44	14	51.85	26	48.15
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

The above table shows that in most of the sampled household income is possessed by both the member. Myself passes household income in 55.56 percent of working inside women's household and 22.22 percent of non working inside women's household. While in 25.93 percent male of outside working women and both the members have control over the household income. But in most cases, according to the survey women have to take permission from men or male member to use it.

4.2.4 Saving of Household Income

Income is a key factor of happy life, and saving is more prominent for living happier life. Thus, each and every family wants to save. The saving is crucial to control the family disputes. Similarly, the family can satisfy with the needs and necessities only if there are saving in the family. So, it is very important to save at least a bit amount from their income. This study analyses the income of each family – job holder or non-jobholder.

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

Table 4.13: Saving of household income

Household members	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Myself	8	29.63	6	22.22	14	25.92
Male Members	15	55.56	21	77.78	36	66.67
Both	4	14.81	-	-	4	7.41
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

The above table shows the data on saving of household income. There were 25.92% women are self keeping for household income (in 29.63% working inside &

22.22% are Outside working women). Were 66.67% household for male decide and keeping for household income and then 7.41% both male and female are keeping the household income.

4.2.5 Household Expenditure

Women are considered to be main initiator for the expenditures in food and clothing in both the rural and urban areas mostly in developing countries. The decisions regarding these kinds of expenditures have to be made in a daily basis in every household and which involves less amount of money. Men normally leave it to their wives to make these kinds of decisions and do not want to be bothered by it. The following table shows the decision maker on household expenditure in the sampled household.

Table 4.14: Decision maker of household expenditure (Bazaar Purchase)

Household decision maker	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	6	22.22	2	7.41	8	14.82
Female	14	51.85	21	77.77	35	64.81
Both	7	25.93	4	14.82	11	20.37
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Table 14 shows that in 51.85 percent of the inside working women's household and 77.77 percent of the non-jobholder women's household, the decision regarding small household purchase expenditure is made by the female member i.e. 51.85 percent working inside women and 77.77 percent of working out women make the final decision where as in 22.22 percent of inside working women household and 7.41 percent of outside working women's household the decision is made by male household head while in 25.93 percent of working inside women and 14.82 percent of working outside women's household, the decision is made jointly by both the member.

4.2.6 Decision Maker of Medical Treatment

Women in most of the developing countries are quite unconscious or careless regarding their health. They are more concerned regarding the welfare of their children or their spouse. Moreover women in countries like Nepal do not want to spend extensive amount of money on their own ailment and ignore their pain for the luxury of other member of the family. The following table shows the participation level of women in the decision making regarding treatment of household member.

Table 4.15: Decision maker of medical treatment

Household decision maker	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	9	33.33	5	18.52	14	25.93
Female	8	29.63	18	66.66	26	48.14
Both	10	37.04	4	14.82	14	25.93
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Table 15 shows that in 33.33 percent of working inside women's household and 18.52 percent of working outside women's household, the decision regarding medical treatment of household members is made by the male household lead. Likewise in 37.04 percent of working inside household and 14.82 percent of working outside women's household the decision is made by both the members. Where as 29.63 percent of working inside women and 66.66 percent working outside women are the decision makers in their respective households regarding seeking medical treatment.

4.2.7 Family Planning

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in most of the developing countries rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of life as well as environment.

The family planning is gaining popular recently to maintain the small family. People don't like to create burden having large family, so they are attracted toward FP. FP is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries the food production is low & there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance & manage population & environment properly. The following table shows the knowledge about FP of respondent.

Table 4.16: Decision maker of Household Family Planning.

Household decision maker		Working inside		Working outside		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No		–	–	6	22.22	6	11.11
Yes	Husband	9	33.33	18	66.67	27	50
	Wife	5	18.52	2	7.41	7	12.96
	Both	13	48.15	1	3.7	14	25.93
Total		27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

The question had asked to the respondent regarding the knowledge about FP. Of the total 88.89 percent respondent gave in positive answer & 11.11 percent in negative answer.

4.2.8 Determination of No. of children

Family is the basic unit of the society and it is an institution, which plays important role in building society. Family size has dominant role in decision-making process. There were found female of small family or nuclear family has higher responsibilities for decision making than big or joint family.

Table 4.17: Decision maker of child Determination

Household Decision Maker	No. of Household	Percentage (%)
Husband	29	78.38
Wife	4	10.81
Both	4	10.81
Total	37	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Regarding the number of children to be had, the strongest of husband decisions (78.38%) among the 37 women who responded to this question. While decisions of the husband & wife both are also seen as significant (10.81%), the wife 10.81% show the least contribution in this particular decision making process.

4.2.9 Decision Maker of Registration on Government Record

Decision making plays vital role in the family. The family needs to be clear about who takes responsibility on different kinds of decisions. The family members should be more responsible for registering and leading according to the responsibility. Thus, the decision maker is known as having lead role in the family.

The following table presents the existence of decision maker of registration in government record:

Table 4.18: Decision maker of Registration on Government Record

Household member	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	percentage	Number	Percentages	Number	Percentages
Male	8	29.63	15	55.56	23	42.59
Female	5	18.52	3	11.11	8	14.82
Both	12	40.74	4	14.81	15	27.77
Other family member	3	11.11	5	18.52	8	14.82
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

This table show the decide to households government registration so birth, death, migration etc. registration. Therefore 29.63% males and 18.52% females working inside women & 55.55% males and 18.11 females working outside household decide the government registration activities. Males and females both decision maker of 12 inside women woman, 5 working outside women household both are engage the government registration activities and 3 inside working women 5 outside working women are other family member decided it.

4.2.10 Education of Children

Education today is considered as a primary need of every human being. Education of children is an important decision to be made⁴ in every household. However discrimination exists regarding education of girls. The following data reveals the decision maker regarding children's education.

Table 4.19: Decision maker of children's education

Household member	Working inside women's household		Working outside women's household		Total	
	Number	percentage	Number	Percentages	Number	Percentages
Male	6	22.22	12	44.45	18	33.33
Female	4	14.81	6	22.22	10	18.52
Both	17	62.97	9	33.33	26	48.15
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

The above table shows that 14.81 percent of working inside women and 22.22 percent of working outside women make the final decisions regarding education of children in their respective households while in 22.22 percent of working inside women's household and 44.45 percent of working outside women's household it is decided by the male household head. And in 62.97 percent of working inside women's household and 33 percent of working outside women's households the decision is made by the joint efforts of both male and female.

4.2.11 Attending Social Ceremonies

There are festivals, weddings and various other social ceremonies in Nepali households. The table below shows the decision maker regarding these social ceremonies i.e. who shall attend or whom to invite, preparation to be made etc.

Table 4.20: Decision maker to attend/ invite in social ceremonies

Household decision maker	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	Number	percentage	Number	Percentages	Number	Percentages
Myself	11	40.74	5	18.52	16	29.63
Husband	6	22.22	10	37.04	16	29.63
Both	3	11.11	3	11.11	6	11.11
Other Family Member	7	25.93	9	33.33	16	29.63
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2015

As the above table says, in 40.74 percent of the working inside women's household and 18.52 percent of the outside working women's household the decision regarding attending social ceremonies or inviting others is in the hands of the myself household head. In 22.22 percent of the inside working women's household and 37.04 percent of the outside working women's household decision making is done by the joint effort of husband where as 25.93. percent of working inside women and 33.33 percent of working outside women have the other family members say in attending social ceremonies or inviting others in their respective households.

4.2.12 Household Activities

In Nepal more females are engaged in household activities while very few males are engaged in these activities. Females spend more time in household chores than males. In study area also, it was found that more females are engaged in

household chores than males. Females are mainly engaged in cooking activities, caring children, cleaning house, washing clothes, collection fuel, welcoming & serving guest and other household activities.

Table 4.21: Decision Makers by Daily Household Activities

Household						
Daily	Sex	All Time	Mostly	Sometime	Never	Total
Activities						
Caring Children and Disable Member	Male	5	5	3	5	18
	Female	22	9	5	–	36
	Total	27	14	8	5	54
Cooking for Family	Male	3	–	8	1	12
	Female	36	4	2	–	42
	Total	39	4	10	1	54
Cleaning House	Male	10	6	9	3	28
	Female	12	5	7	2	26
	Total	22	11	16	5	54
Washing cloth for Family	Male	9	3	10	5	27
	Female	12	6	7	–	27
	Total	21	9	17	5	54
Collection of Fuel	Male	16	3	11	1	31
	Female	13	2	7	1	23
	Total	29	5	18	2	54
Welcoming and serving Guest	Male	7	5	3	–	15
	Female	27	8	4	–	39
	Total	34	13	7	–	54
Other Household Activities	Male	10	10	3	3	26
	Female	12	8	6	2	28
	Total	22	18	9	5	54

Source: Field survey 2015

In the total 54 sampled household 18 males & 36 females are engage the charring children and disable member daily household activities, however in 12 males & 42 females cooking for family. Males and females are equal 50 percent engage the cleaning house and washing clothes for family. Collection fuel are engage the 23 males & 31 females respondent household, more then 50 percent female are engage the welcoming and serving guest activities. In the sampled respondent 26 household male are engage the other daily household activities and 28 female.

4.2.13 Causes of Household Dispute

A family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. As the family is larger, there are more hurdles and disputers in a family. Therefore, a family link is a kind of thread. If the thread is turn, everything is over. Thus, this study finds out the causes of household disputes in the family.

The following table presents the causes of household disputes:

Table 4.22: Causes or Types of Household Dispute

Causes of Dispute	No. of Household	%(Percentage)
Self decision of Male	33	61.11
Discrimination of Male	18	33.33
Other	3	5.56
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

According to the above table 4.14 dispute are family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. Self decision of male 33 household main causes of dispute. 18 household disputes for discrimination of male with 3 respondent household are other causes of household dispute.

Moreover, the following table presents the decision making process to control household disputes:

Table 4.23: Decision maker to the Dispute Control

Decision by	No. of Household	Percentage (%)
Male	29	53.70
Female	11	20.37
Both	14	25.93
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

According to the table no.4.15, show the dispute control therefore 54 respondent household, 29 household male decide to HH dispute control and 11 household female decide with 14 respondent household both male & female control the household dispute in study area.

4.3 Problem Faced of Women in Household Decision Making Process of Study Area

4.3.1 Factors affecting Decision Making of Women in Household Activities

Like other developing countries, in Nepal also the women are lagging behind men in many aspects. The fact may be fewer opportunities that they receive in life. Early marriage, lower literacy rate, social norms are many other factors due to which women are dominated. This influence is also seen in the role played by women in household decision making. The women were asked about their opinion regarding the factors affecting decision making that is presented in the table below.

Table 4.24: Factors affecting decision making

Influencing Factors	Working inside		Working outside		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Education	12	44	4	15	10	19
Economic status	7	26	6	22	13	24
Ownership if property	3	11	11	41	14	26
Social & traditional culture	5	19	3	11	8	15
Other	-	-	5	10	5	9
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Data included in table 54 shows the opinions of the sampled respondents regarding the factors that influence their decision making. According to the table 19 percent (44% inside working women & 15% outside working women) of women consider education as the most influencing factor. 24 percent (26% inside working women & 22% outside working women) of women consider economic status to be the most influencing factor. If they contribute economically in the household then they gain more power to make decisions regarding investment and selling of property and other serious money related matters. They are thought as inferior to men and society demands them to be less efficient than men and take a backward seat in every decision to be made in the households. Similarly 15 percent (19% inside working women & 11% outside working women) of the women believe all the factors equally influence their decision making regarding social & traditional culture. Similarly 9% (outside working women so political, head of family etc.) other household issues

CHAPTER -V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

True human development is possible only when in every community everyone is respected equally for what they are and for the gift and potential within them. In spite of this, women in all over the world especially in developing countries, are lagging behind and dominated by men in every aspect of life. Women are also excluded from most of the development activities. It is usually the men who interact with the outside world and the women slips back into her traditional roles as housewife within the household.

Nepal is no different in this matter. The majority of Nepalese women live in rural areas where the choice for livelihood is limited to agricultural work on the farms, which are owned in most cases by their father, husband, Land lords or brothers. Since women in Nepal are deprived of property rights, they have to work on men's land from dawn to dusk for supporting them self and their family member. Hence the right for survival for women is laid on the hands of men not only in outside affairs, but also in their own household matters which constitute an integral part of their lives.

This study analyze the women's participation in decision making process, particularly in Riluv VDC of Bajhang district . This study is based upon the primary data collection from the field survey. There are 371 household in Riluv VDC among these household 54 are taken as sampled household to collect on formation. This study is an attempt to analyse the socio – economic status of females and their role and participation in decision making process. This study is mainly focused upon the women participation in decision which is taken in household as well as other social activities.

- Among the 54 respondent 50% are working & 50 % are non-working Majority of sample respondents for this study are married. So most of them have a status of wife and daughter-in-law in their household. Though this area has very strong social and traditional culture.

- Majority of working women are more qualified in terms of education than non-working women.
- Majority of the jobholder women are Government job holders engaged in teaching. Administration work sector etc.
- Majority of respondent are Chettri & Dalit but Chettri are the dominant caste or ethnic group in the study area.
- With regard to religion of 72.22% Hindu, 14.81% Christian, 12.97% are Buddhist in the study areas respondent
- All respondent are literate 31.49% intermediate pass and 3.70% masters pass
- With regard to family structure, 64.81percent are nuclear family & 35.19percent household have joint family. The family structure of most of the jobholder women is nuclear74.07% in nature where as non-working women 44.44% have joint family structure. It is also found that in joint families women have more responsibility and less mobility and freedom and hence women are confined mostly on household work than in outside affairs.
- At the total 90% household are pakki (in 15percent concrete & 75% are slate).
- Most of the 36 household are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfill their food deficiency of by involving in 12 household in wage earning, 9 household service, business & livestock farming are equal to 6 household, debt are 2 household and 1household are other then fulfill the food deficiency.
- Mostly female involve in wage earning of non-working women for 12 household & continue by business & agriculture livestock farming for 8 & 7 households.
- Males & females both are control the household income. In 48.15% household kept by both and 38.89% for female (myself) while 12.96% by male member.
- With 66.67percent males are saving the household income , 25.92percent myself & 7.41percent males and female are saving the household income.
- Mostly males are control the household dispute. In 29 household male, 11 household female and 14 household both member control the household dispute.

- More than 50% decision for household expenditure is taken by female. The women in majority of both the jobholder 51.58% as well as non-working women's 77.77% household are the decision maker regarding expenditure on household purchase. It is found that men do not like to be bothered by these matters.
- Men and both (male & female) the households have an equal say in the expenditure related to medical treatment. Then higher decided or responsibility female for 48.14% in respondent household.
- 88.89% household listen about family planning. Then decide for 50% husband & only 12.96% decide for wife
- Women & both (husband & wife) equal 10.81% decide for child production in 37 marriage respondent household. Then maximum decide for husband 78.38%.
- Among the 54 respondent 23 household male are decided to government registration, 15 household both male & female and 8 household equal Female and other family member decided for government registration so birth, death, migration etc.
- Education of children is a priority in most of the households of both working and non-working women. The decisions related to children's education is jointly made by both the parents i.e. men and women after knowing the desires of their children. It is found that jobholder women's household have more power in deciding about their children's education than non-jobholder women.
- Women are the main decision maker regarding social ceremonies to attend other's ceremonies or inviting other people for celebration. It is found that jobholder women are mostly consulted or given more responsibility in the decision related to attending or organizing social ceremonies than non-working women. It may be because of the social relation that a working woman have outside the house. Therefore 40% working women decide then 29.63% non-working women.
- Women take the sole responsibility of all the household activities like charring children, cooking, welcoming & serving guest etc. The men only offer a helping hand in some cases. It is found that men in the working women's household participate more in household activities than non-working women.

- Education is the most influencing factor that affects the decision making power of women. Educated women whether working or non-working are more consulted and have more authority to make decision in the household.
- Economic status of women i.e. their contribution to the household economically also has a positive effect on their level of household decision making. Since they also share the economic burden of the family they are more consulted while making monetary decisions and they participate more in such decisions than non-working women.
- Social norms and tradition is also an important factor that affects women's decision making. It usually acts as a constraint in the decision making power of women. Non-jobholder women are found to be more pressurized by social norms, tradition, superstitions than working women.
- Comparatively jobholder women household are more in favour of educating women and property right for women than non-working women's households.

5.2 Conclusion

As the study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in terms in social as well as household activities. It can be concluded that females have lower decision making power and they have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They are deprived from their right & responsibility. They have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. In major household activities men played a dominated role in decision making. The females who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision making power than merely literate household.

It can also be concluded that females have low socio-economic, status & thus lag behind men in household decision making power. So it is essential to improve their ability & capacity to participate major the decision making process. Unless females are brought into the main stream of development process, it is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this education & empowerment plays an important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making. They have to report their male partners decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to

decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work, They cannot decide at that moment

Although women are responsible for performing all the household activities, decision making regarding household affairs however is in the hands of male household head of the family. Women have a greater participation in the decision making of only small household purchase like food, clothing, bazaar purchase, general medical treatment which have in most cases lower expenditure. In these decisions also men play the role of an advisor. Women mostly have the possession of household income but its allocation needs the approval of the male member of the family.

There is some difference between working women and non-working women. Jobholder women are more confident about their status in the household. Their participation level is more in serious matter like investment and selling than non-working women. working women are more consulted and their opinions are more valued than non-working women. Especially the women who are in government services enjoy more freedom and more power in handling household affairs and making household decisions. It thus indicates that economic status of women does have a positive effect in their decision making power and their level of household decision making.

Though economic status helps the women to have a strong position in the household, the most influencing factor in their decision making is education. Educated women even though non-working have more power and consulted in every decision making in the household.

Social norms and traditional culture are also the factors that are holding back the women to move forward. Superstitions are a major drawback Nepalese society. Women have always been considered as an inferior sex. The girls found to have been taught to remain as silent spectator from their childhood. Gender bias lesson rings in their ears since their childhood which leads them to loose their confidence and self esteem and eventually they are compelled to think themselves as weak and unfortunate sections of the society.

To conclude, we can say that though women still suffer from the discriminatory practices in their households and society, if they are educated and economically independent then they can make their position strong in terms of decision making in their household and in the society as a whole.

5.3 Recommendations

- More education opportunity should be provided to women as educating them implies empowering them and conferring them a greater status within the household. This educational status would earn them the household decision making power on important matters since they would then be thought capable of making effective decision by their male counter part.
- The encouragement of the cooperative forms of social organization such as credit societies, marketing cooperatives and mother's club in order to mobilize women should be employed.
- Steps should be taken to make men and the society it self aware regarding the capabilities of women as effective decision maker on important issues as well. The male member of the family should not restrict the mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities.
- Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women who would encourage their economic participation and hence elevate their status within their respective household.
- Reforms should be made regarding various women related government policies and programs. The existing laws, customs regulation and practices should be abolished which are discriminatory against women to establish adequate legal protection for equal right of men and women.

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APPENDIX-I
QUESTIONNAIRE

HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN IN
RILU VDC OF BAJHANG DISTRICT

A: General Information of Respondent :

1. Name: _____ 2. Caste / Ethnicity: _____
3. Age: _____
5. Marital status: (a) Married (b) Unmarried
6. Address: (a) District (b) Village
(c) Ward (d) Tole
7. Educational Level: (a) Illiterate (b) Literate (c) Primary level
(d) Lower Secondary (e) Secondary (f) SLC
(g) Intermediate (h) Graduate (i) masters
8. Position: (a) Jobholder (b) Nonjobholder

B: General Information of Family:

9. Type of Family (a) Nuclear (b) Joint
10. Number of Family Member
- | | 2-4 | 5-8 | 9-12 | 12+ |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Male | | | | |
| Female | | | | |
11. Religion (a) Hindu (b) Buddhist (c) Christian (d) Muslim (e) Other

C: Socio Economic Status of Women in Study Area

1. Do you have own land ?
(a) Yes (b) No
2. Who is land owner ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
3. How many land have you (in Gaththa)
0-5 5-10 10-15 15+
4. It is food production in your land sufficient for consumption of whole year ?
(a) Yes (b) No

5. If no where do you fulfill food deficit ?
(a) Services (b) Business (c) Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning
(e) Debt (f) Other

6. What is your main occupation ?
(a) Service (b) Business (c) Agriculture & Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning
(e) Other

D: Level of working & non-working women in household decision making process of study area:

7. Do you have saving of amount ?
(a) Yes (b) No

8. Do you have total authority to mobilize saving ?
If No, why ?
.....

9. Do you know the income of your husband or other members of your family ?
(a) Yes (b) No

10. Who decide to allocate & spend the household income ?
(a) Myself (b) Male (c) Both

11. Who keep your saving ?
(a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both

12. If working , how do you spared the money you earn ?
(a) Give to the family (b) By food item (c) Children education
(d) For myself (e) Other

13. To whom you consult to spared your income ?
(a) Own decision (b) Male member (c) Both

14. Do you have household dispute ?
(a) Yes (b) No

15. Who decide to control the dispute ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

16. Who decide to purchase goods for market ?
(a) Husband (b) Wife (c) Both

17. Who take response for treatment if any member are suffering from ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

18. Do you listen about family planning ?

(a) Yes (b) No

19. Who decide it ?

(a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both

20. Who decide to determine of NO. of children ?

(a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both

21. Who makes decide to select school for your children ?

(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

22. Who decide registration about government record ?

(a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both (d) Other family member

23. Has your family attended / organized any social ceremonies ?

(a) Yes (b) No

24. Who decide ?

(a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both (d) Other family member

25. How do you make decision about your family's daily household activities ?

Household daily activities	Sex	All time	Mostly	Sometime	Never
Charring children & disable member	Male				
	Female				
Cooking for family	Male				
	Female				
Cleaning for house	Male				
	Female				
Washing clothes for family	Male				
	Female				
Collection fuel	Male				
	Female				
Welcoming & serving guest	Male				
	Female				
Other household activities	Male				
	Female				

E: Problem faced of women in household decision making process of study area :

26. What are the factors do you think affects your decision making regarding household issue ?

- (a) Education (b) Economic status (c) Ownership of property
(d) Social & Traditional culture (e) Other

27. What can be done to improve to decision making power of women ? give your advice.

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