Socio-Economic Impact of Micro Finance on Rural Women:

A Case Study of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Branch Office of Ilam

A Thesis

Submitted to

Department of Rural Development, Mahendra Ratna
Multiple Campus Ilam, For the Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirement for Master's Degree of Arts in
Rural Development

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March, 2017

Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled Socio-Economic Impact of Micro Finance on

Rural Women: A Case Study of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Branch Office of Ilam

submitted to the Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus, 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 the sources in the course of preparing this

thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else

for the award of any degree of for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the

content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

Madan Raj Anchhangbo

Date: 2073-12-03

2017 -03-16

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Recommendation Letter

The thesis is Socio-Economic Impact of Micro Finance on Rural Women: A

Case Study of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Branch Office of Ilam has been prepared by

Madan Raj Anchhangbo under my guidance and supervision for his partial fulfillment

of master of Arts in Rural development. I forward this thesis to the evaluation and

approval.

.....

Dev Raj Ghimire

(Supervisor)

Date: 2073-12-16

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Approval Letter

The thesis entitled Socio-Economic Impact of Micro Finance on Rural Women: A Case Study of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Branch Office of Ilam Submitted by Madan Raj Anchhangbo in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the masters Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Acknowledgement

I have deep sense of gratitude to those individuals, in the absence of them, this study

would have been impossible. First of all my gratitude goes to the supervisor of this

study Mr. Devraj Ghimire, Teaching assistant of Mahendra Ratna multiple campus,

Ilam .During this study he has been a source of continuous inspiration with sound

knowledge .Similarly, my sincere thanks goes to Mr. Jas Bahadur Lungeli

(Department Head) and external examiner for this useful suggestions.

I am also thankful to the respondents for their valuable time sharing with their

experience and knowledge.

My thanks also goes to my family members they support in my study and providing

environment for this work. I am grateful to my teacher Mr. Bed Nath Giri ,Mr.

Chandika Parajuli for this continuous encouragement to complete this work . for their

kind co-operation during the field survey as well as they help me with spelling

,grammar and computer typing.

Date:2073-12-03

Madan Raj Anchhangbo

2017-03-16

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Abstract

This thesis entitled Socio-Economic Impact of Micro Finance on Rural Women:A Case Study of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Branch Office of Ilam, Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited (NUBL) is the largest Microfinance Institution (MFI) in Nepal. It was established on 29th October 1998 under company act of Nepal. It started its formal operation from July 1999. NUBL provides microfinance services such as Loans, Deposits, Microinsurance and Remittance services to rural poor of Nepal. NUBL provides both group and individual loans.

By January 2016, NUBL was providing microfinance services to more than 2,84,837 respondents in 75 districts of Nepal through its 178 branches, 10 regional networks, and headquarter. NUBL has recorded impressive growth during last few years and has been able to cover its costs. However, the impact of its services on the respondents has not been studied.

The overall objective of the study was to measure the impact of the respondents. The conceptual framework was developed in accordance with the objective of the study. Similarly, the research questions were framed. The study followed both cross-sectional and longitudinal approach of comparison. Necessary documents reviews were done and the sample size determined accordingly.

The general objective of this study is to analyze the role of Microfinance to uplift socio-economic condition of rural poor women of Nepal. As the selection of the study area and the research design, the sample size are selected because not all the service user respondents can be surveyed due to the physical as well as technical problems. This study is based on both primary and secondary data. Though this study is mainly based on primary data which is collected from the field study using questionnaire, group discussion and the observation method has been used. The area in where this study was undertaken is found composed by many castes and ethnicities, Brahmin, Chettri, Newar, Rai and other occupational castes. The area in where this study was undertaken is found composed by many castes and ethnicities, Brahmin, Chettri, Newar, Rai and other occupational castes. Overall the exit Respondents were found satisfied with the current services of NUBL and were willing to encourage their friends and relatives to join NUBL as well as were found willing to rejoin NUBL if their suggestions such as lowering interest rate, increasing the loan size, improving

the staff behavior and reducing meetings are implemented Empowering women has been global concern and Nepal remains no exception. The ninth plan too, talks loudly about it. Poverty and no access to economic generating activities coupled with illiteracy and unawareness have rendered Nepalese women helpless mass. Empowering women through their economic independence is a positive step In this regard, women are still seen as one having secondary command over household management despite their high input. They are managers in household affairs but not controller of the management process.

Social status remains a measuring rod through which an individual's standing in society is determined. The study showed that superstitious and irrational approaches towards women have led to several forms of perversions in society. Equally, women have always been considered as inferior sex. The girls are found to have been taught to remain as silent spectator from their childhood. Micro-financing are focused on helping people who traditionally do not have access to such capital or services, making possible investments in small businesses that will generate income and make the populace self-sufficient. Also, it provides a long-term solution to some harsh characteristics of poverty, such as malnutrition, illiteracy, and inadequate housing.

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Acronyms/Abbreviation

AIMS : Assessing Impact of Microenterprise Services

ASA : Association for social Advancement

BDS : Business Development Services

CEO : Chief Executive Officer

CGAP : Consultative Group to Assist the Poor

CMF : Centre for Micro-Finance (Pvt.) Ltd

FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization

FGD : Focus Group Discussion

GTZ : German Technical Cooperation

HH : Households

INGO : International Non-Governmental Organization

MCP : Micro Credit Program

MCPW : Micro Credit for Poor Women

MDG : Millennium Development

MFI : Microfinance institutions

MIX : Microfinance Information Exchange

NGO : Non Governmental Organization

NUBL: Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited

PCRW : Production Credit for Rural Women

SHGs : Self-Help Groups

UN : United Nation

USA : United State of America

UNIFEM : United Nations Fund for Women

VDC : Village Development Committee

WB : World Bank

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.2 Background of the Study

Micro-financing is a growing method for alleviating poverty. The benefits for this methodology are many. It creates self-employment opportunities for thousands of unemployed people, by making capital tangible as an aid to start and/or sustain a small business and acquire a fixed income. These programs are empowering people that would otherwise never be given the opportunity to move up the social ladder, especially women. In general, micro-financing is "reversing the age-old vicious cycle of "low income, low saving & low investment", into the virtuous cycle of "low income, injection of credit, investment, more income, more savings, more investment, more income (www.grameen.org)".

Despite urbanization, a large proportion of the population of developing and transition economy countries and three-quarters of the developing world's poor people live in rural areas. Sustainable livelihood development in rural communities is, thus, an important process and requires efforts to help people improve their social and financial assets. Financial assets enable households to make better use of other assets, such as their land, labour and skills. Financial services help people to build their financial assets and can also help to facilitate their transactions, solve cash flow problems and manage risk. Rural finance is, therefore, about the development of financial services in rural areas (FAO).

Women play very important role in the economy of the country. Nevertheless, the ideology of male domination, which prevents our lives, is changing only slowly and it is hampering development all sectors. Thirty eight percent of total population of the country is poor, among the population of women is higher. Among the total property ownership as house, land and livestock, only 0.8 percent of households reported all these are legally owned by women (Acharya, 2003).

Women have played a significant role in human civilization but their role in the context of Nepalese society has been minimized. Under prevailing condition, women have limited or almost no control over property and poor access to institutional credit services and facilities,

restricting them in their ability to generate income and improve their socio economic status. This bitter truth is virtually a characteristic of poor Nepal one women in the third world countries. They are extensively engaged in agricultural activities but hold the ripple work responsibility of reproduction, house holding and employment. With the limited educational skills and few formal opportunities, majority of women in Nepal are primarily involved in self employed activities as a means of supporting their families, Most of these activates provide them insufficient income to alleviate their poverty. Women lack technical knowledge how, capital and managerial skills and accesses to credit, market and resources to make any significant improvement in their economic condition. Access of women to credit is severely limited due to lack of tangible collateral with them, high transaction costs and misconceptions about women capability as potential burrower, low literacy rate leading to procedural barriers, low profit margin of the activities in which usually involved, limited time available to women due to their involvement in time consuming household activities and ritual performances etc.

Credit has proved to be an important resource for those in self employment including land based forms, self employment but along with other sections of the poor, socially excluded groups have either found difficult to access finance or only been able to access such finance on usurious terms (Kabeer, N. 2006).

The Ninth five year plan (1997-2002) had considered the rural credit to be a key part of poverty reduction. The Tenth plan (2002-2007) also emphasized it for poverty reduction in targeted areas, Thus, micro-credit is expected to accelerate agricultural growth, reduction poverty and yield better status for women. It is argued that credit programmes empower women by strengthening their economic roles, increasing their ability to contribute to the family's income, helping them establishes their identity outside the family and giving them experience and self confidence in public sphere. Patriarchy society in developing countries precludes women's empowerment thought provision of credit and under some circumstances, may even worsen their situations. Often women's income is controlled by their man (Bhattarai, B. 2005).

1.1.1 An Overview of Microfinance Sector in Nepal

Since Nepal is an agricultural based nation in which more than 76 percent of the labour force participation is in agriculture, agriculture based programs such as credit cooperatives were initiated as a first step in microfinance in the 1950s with the aim of providing credit to poor villagers for agriculture purposes (center for microfinance, 2007). Several other

organizations such as Small farmer development programmes was started under Asian Development Bank/Nepal (ADB/N) in 1975. The intensive banking programme (IBP) was established in the 1981 with an aim of providing loans to all types of work force, and tired to involve commercial banks in micro-credit (center for microfinance, 2007). In 1992, the Grameen Banks model of microfinance was adopted in Nepal. Several other micro-credit organizations were opened later on by the central Bank as well as government of Nepal (center of microfinance, 2007).

1.1.2 Current State of Microfinance in Nepal

Many microfinance institutions have been established in Nepal with the mission of providing financial services to the poor. Commercial banks, development banks, Non Governmental Organization Banks and community based financial companies are the four major institutional sources of micro-credit in Nepal. Financing intermediaries like saving and credit cooperatives, saving and credit groups and traditional saving and credit groups are also involves in providing micro-credit to poor (center for microfinance, 2007)

The microfinance sector in Nepal can be divided into three broader heading.

- a) Semiformal sector: It comprises approximately 2300 saving and credit cooperatives societies and 44 financial intermediary NGOs form the semiformal sector.
- Informal sector: It comprises of innumerable community based organization and individual or group programmes like dhukuti, traditional group; its formation is popular in ethnic group communities for saving and credit purposes; dharma bhakari, grain association in with each number provides an equal contribution of grain at harvesting time and can draw from it in time of need; and guthi, similar to dhukuti but the funds are used for communities welfare activities. (ARCM, 2007).

A joint venture of more than 4000 NGOs and 70 International Non Governmental organizations (INGOs) have launched more than 900 saving and credit companies in total around the country, which add up to millions of dollars of financial assistance from donor countries and institutions. (Rankin, Nk, 2001).

1.1.3 Micro-finance Program Particularly for Women

Numerous studies and evaluations have demonstrated a rise in incomes and other indicators of standard living from micro credit programs. A large number of these programs have focused on supporting women, who bear the burnt of poverty and have been left out of most poverty reductions programs in the past. In many programs women make up as many

as 90 percent of borrowers. Lending to women is also assumed to result in a greater multiplier effect because women pass on the benefits to children, thought increased spending on the household, education nutrition. In many cases, micro credit has contributed to change in attitude about women's contribution and role specifically; micro productive role.

Micro credit programs have increased the mobility and strengthened networks among women who were previously confined to the home. Borrowers build solidarity thought their participation in lending circles and village organization. There are also studies that suggest even more far reaching social impact, including decreases in fertility rates, assumed to be linked to increased financial self reliance. The growth and exposition of micro credit programs has been impressive (Maskey, 2004).

1.1.4 Introduction of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited (NUBL)

Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited (NUBL), "the bank for upliftment of the poor" is the largest Microfinance Institution (MFI) in Nepal. It was established on 29th October 1998 under company act of Nepal. Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, granted a license in April 1999 to undertake banking activities under the Development Bank Act 1996. It started its formal operation from July 1999. Now, operated under Bank and Financial Institution Ordinance 2012, NUBL provides microfinance services such as Loans, Deposits, Microinsurance and Remittance services to rural poor of Nepal. NUBL is one of the very few MFIs in Nepal that provides such variety of microfinance services. NUBL provides both group and individual loans. Its individual loans were less than five percent of its total loan portfolio as of Dec. 2016.

As of the above date NUBL is providing microfinance services to more than 284837 Respondents in 75 districts of Nepal through its 178 branch networks,10 regional networks, and its headquarter. In addition NUBL is again among few MFIs that adheres best practices in the field of microfinance including writing off its bad loans.

NUBL has following vision, missions and goals:

Vision

NUBL's vision is "To be a bank with a social conscience that enables poor to:

(i) Contribute equally to a prosperous, self-reliant rural society through self-employment and social awareness, and

(ii)Help to reduce poverty in Nepal."

Mission

Extend financial services to and raise social awareness among the poor in under-served and un-served areas of Nepal in a sustainable manner.

Goals

The primary goals of NUBL are to:

- Reach a maximum number of poor households with potential and financial viability by adopting proven delivery mechanism;
- Develop a well-managed institution with high staff morality; and.
- Enhance women's "self-respect" through social awareness, proper use & on-time repayments of loans, regular savings and provision of related micro-finance services.)

The quantitative growth in terms of outreach resulting in to substantial growth in revenue has helped NUBL to attain self-sufficiency. However, the impact of its program on the rural poor women has not been studied. Hence, this study devoted to study the role of micro finance to uplift the socio-economic condition of rural poor women.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nepalese women who constitute more than half of the total population are under privileged and disadvantaged in terms of their socio economic status if compared with their male counterparts. They have minimal access to resources, information and services both within and outside the household sphere. This show the majorities of women in Nepal is suffering from hard work and have almost need for launching of effective development programs. Improving the situation of rural poor who form the major part of population should clearly be a prime concern, where in, the most under-privileged classes like women are to be especially targeted, can be a effective way for overall poverty alleviation of the country.

Various programs have been launched for raising the socio economic condition in Nepal. Such as priority sector credit program (PSCP), small farmers development program (SFDP), Integrated rural development project (IRDP), production credit for rural women (PCRW) which are infect intended to uplift the rural poor, Since 1994 for twelve district and five urban areas, the government was launched micro credit project for women (MCPW) to increase the substantial potential for the development of the rural poor women.

The women of Ilam Municipality Ward no. 6 of Ilam district are household member only, agriculture farmers and labors. They are laden with greater household responsibility than

men, The ownership right over the family properties rest with the son and not with the daughter, In a community with a low income, low saving and low capital formation are found.

Partially considering with this fact in Ilam Municipality ward no. 6 samuhas are undertaken for women in, Such cooperative provide the micro credit for income generating activities to the poor women in group even without any deposits as such and they could develop their skill in life time.

Such samuhas were made by the initiation of PDDP program in the beginning. Women were actively participated actively in the beginning but later as the time went by, some loan provided by samuha appeared as bad. But also, the problem of such loan defaulters was removed by collective forces of women participation. Most of the women of Ilam Municipality Ward no. 6 were participated in any one of the samuha. Some of the women are related with two or more than two samuha also. Nowadays they are being farsighted than previous. Most of the women thought that deposits at present will secure them in future. So that such programs influence them a lot.

In this regard, the volume of loan disbursement, the degree of repayment and the strong as well as sick areas of investment are to be identified. Benefits received by the target population are to be assessed. Beneficiaries, problems, perceptions and desires are to be examined; their prospects and potentials are to be explored.

In short, some research questions can be raised.

- What is the situation of credit disbursement and repayment of samuha?
- Is the program effective for improving the overall status of women?
- What are the problems being faced by the participants?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the role of Microfinance to uplift socioeconomic condition of rural poor women of Nepal. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- To find out, socio-economic condition of rural women in current situation
- To study the contribution of micro finance program in reducing the poverty of women

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has its own importance because where this study has taken place no other research work has been carried out yet regarding micro finance program. The documents of this study identified the people and its impact on rural community and importance of the micro finance program. This study is more focused on those determinats, which are the indicator of the rural development. The information has been fruitful information for the problems. This study become additional information and knowledge about micro finance program and creats the importance and nessecity about micro finance program as well as socio-economic activities and women participation.

The research has been the based for grass root planning for rural development and has been additional information for policy makers, academician, local leaders and all stakeholders and every sorts of planning process. The micro finance program has received the highest priority in financial service access of Nepal. Micro finance policy in Nepal combines to promote enterprenureship and poverty alleviation through effective micro finance program As we know that our society is the male dominated society. Most of the women are working at home. It is not thought that women are the sources of income in the household. So there is necessity of income earning program for women and a women organization that would make them organized and self dependent. From the last decades such co-operative are formed continuously it has been working. Now most of the women become literate, efficient for economic progress. This would be the matter for the forthcoming researchers too.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study confined within the limited area and some focused problems of people. There are many households participate in the micro finance program , but only 90 heads of households will be responsible for key information. The time and money is very limited to cover all the aspects and area of this research so the area, subject matter and other variables are limited . This study specially has been covered the socio- economic activities and women participation in micro finance program for rural development and reduce poverty of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. branch office Ilam municipilty in Ilam district. This study has taken the selected area of micro finance program and its client group. The ethinical consideration is also highly prioritized .

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study divided into fifth chapters. First chapter were include about introduction, background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. Second chapter were about literature review. Third chapter were deals with methodology which includes nature and sources, rational for selection, research design, sampling procedure, techniques and tools of data collection and method of data collection.

Fourth chapter is including data presentation and analysis. It also presents the members and their needs of the study area and describes about micro-finance and rural women empowerment. Fifth chapter deals with summary, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Micro-finance refers to small scale financial services primarily credit and saving provided to people who farm or fish or herb; who operate small enterprises or micro enterprises where goods are produced, recycled, repaired or sold; who provide services; who work for wage or commissions; who gain income from renting out small amount of land, vehicles, draft animals or machinery and tools; and to other individuals and groups at local level of developing countries, both rural and urban. Many such households have multiple sources of income (Robinson, 2001).

Micro-credit has been emphasized for the enlistment of the status of women. It is recognized that women's participation is invaluable to the development process. Although they are considered important and productive workers, their access to productive resources has remained limited. Several factors are responsible for the degrading status of women i.e. educations, health, values, socio economic conditions, their legal status etc, but several efforts have been made to bring women together into the mainstream of development process and these programs have been formulated and executed to improve the status of women. According to this report, in order to enhance women's participation in the economic and social sector, credit backed by technical knows how and entrepreneurship training has to be extended. Government should ensure programs that support on farm income earning activities which put more income in the hands of women (NPC, 1994).

The population of micro credit for the poor as a part of overall development process of a country has spread worldwide. There is an almost a global consensus on the importance of the micro credit services for the poor. Most bilateral and multilateral donors are keen on funding the micro-credit projects of governmental and non -governmental organizations. With the popularity of micro-credit having reached global proportion any policy changes regarding credit for the poor inevitably has an impact on any remote micro-credit institution in any developing countries (A. sharif; 1997).

The decades of seventies expressed concerns towards women and became articulate than ever before on women's contribution in achieving 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 the multitude of well intentioned, women specific projects and the welfare programs, both on governmental and non-governmental or at local and national levels (UN, 1987).

In other words, the women, since mid seventies, have been better privileged with special package of development unveiled for them to cover multi-dimensional aspects of their life. Consequently, the participation of women in economic as well as social and political activities has increased considerably.

Several research works and literatures addressing women's participation in enhanced development, their socio-economic status in society as well as in their families' have been produced by various social elite, however, sufficient studies, focusing particularly on the women's economic contribution towards their families, have remained yet to be done, so far. Very few books or research papers are published on the issue despite the consistent concerns expressed over more than three decades about the economic involvement.

In this chapter, efforts have been made to present a brief review on some existing literatures and relevant studies concerning the issue. There have been some studies and feature articles as well as training paper concerning the women's program, both at national as well as international level.

Literature review is one of any research work for this research work the literature review will be done under two categories; the conceptual review of empirical study for this, different books, journals, articles, plans and policies, other published and unpublished documents related to the subject will be reviewed. Review of literature is one of the most important parts of any thesis. Literature review includes review of old theses, dissertations, newspapers, magazines and suggestions of experts . This chapter concern on the past event that has be done in the research problem. Literature review is an important topic of the research dissertation. It supported to the researcher to define the problem and choose the appropriate methodology and also give the guide lines for collecting information. Microfinance has been successfully used as developmental tool to reduce poverty in many countries. At present, micro-finance is being increasingly used in the form of development strategy for achieving the developmental goals. However, the strategy would prove successful only if it is able to strike balance between development and finance. Respondents of micro-finance institutions are usually poor and low income people, often living and awful overcrowded setting or living in remote areas with less access to basic amenities and education, water, electricity, banking services, health services, market facilities, etc. Microfinance has evolved as an economic development approach intended to benefit low income women and small framers. The term refers to the provision of financial service to low income respondents, including the self employment. Financial services generally includes saving and credit, however, some micro-finance organizations also provide insurance and payment services. Many MFIs provide social intermediation services such as group formation, development of self confidence and training in financial literacy management capabilities among members of a group. Thus the definition of micro finance often includes both financial intermediation and social intermediation. Micro finance is not banking, it is a development. A micro-finance activity usually involves:

- 1. Small loans, typically for working capital
- 2. Informal appraisal of borrowers and investments
- 3. Collateral substitutes, such as group guarantees or compulsory saving
- 4. Access to repeat larger loans, based on repayment performance
- 5. Streamlined loan disbursement and monitoring
- 6. Secure saving products

Some MFIs provide enterprise development services, such as skills training and marketing, and social services, such as literacy training and health care; these are not generally included in the definition of micro-finance. MFIs are non-government organizations (NGO), savings and loan microfinacne, credit unions, government banks, development bank, commercial banks or non banking financial institutions. Micro-finance respondents are typically selfemployed, low income entrepreneurs in both urban and rural area respondents are often traders. Street vendors, small farmers, service provides and artisans and small producers. Essentials of micro-finance is targeted to the poor, group approach, no tangible collateral, doorstep service, small loan size, frequent repayment, sustainable interest rates, simple procedure of operation, free choice of economic activities by respondents, disciplined respondents, effective pre-group training. Marr, Ana(2002), This paper has challenged the validity of two of the basic premises underlying existing theoretical and empirical studies: that microfinance can be a successful market solution to resolve credit market failures and that solidarity sentiment prevail among the members who constitute microfinance groups. Given these premises, current studies argue that a set of incentives can be devised, without resort to public welfare funds, to correct information asymmetries between borrower sand lenders. Studies also argue that group members will practice mutual support because they

originate from poorer segments of society—demonstrating a tendency in such studies to romanticize the nature of social relations in community-based networks. Evidence from research undertaken in urban and rural communities of Peru, as presented in this paper, shows that group-based microfinance schemes are often unable to harness local information and hence resort to inflicting increasingly.

The concept of Micro-finance had been emerged in the period of late eighteenth century due to the effect of industrial revolution in United Kingdom when there was huge industrial production in cheap cost. This revolution left the poor and small farmer, labour and middle class of people in poor miserable condition that compelled some of the thinker and socialists at that time to develop some alternatives to rise the socio-economic condition of the marginalized people.

Though the concept of Micro-finance seems to be a socialist approach, it has been emerged and practiced in capitalist country, United Kingdom (U.K) for the first time by the reformist Robert Owen, who himself was labour in different factories in his early life and had knowledge about the miserable condition of labours but fortunately he got married with the daughter of the proprietor of "New Len mark Mills", who had no other son and daughter and hence became the proprietor of that Mills. Robert owen then, reduced the work hours of the labour increased the wage, made provision of shelter for labour from which expenditure and production both increased. Further he made the plan to organize labours by which they could help each other and be self sustained. He again made a sheltor for 900 members in the area of 30,000 Acod lad in Indiana state of America. This approach was also practiced in U.K. but because of the ignorance of Micro-finance by the members, his plan failed.

But the Micro-finance movements did not stop. The followers of Robert Owen, Dr. William king Rochdale pioneers inhanced the Micro-finance movements. In 1843, 28 labours, who had the experience of the Micro-finance effort in the past and were also the followers of Owen got together in 'Chartist Hall' and pointed mainly the following weaknesses for their past offorts,

- ♦ The capital sunk due to the sell in credit
- Unnecessary competition took place due to selling in lower price than market
- The Micro-finance did not foster because of the unbelief of the member.

Those 28 labours started by the commitment to overcome the weaknesses they pointed and established the "Rochdale equitable pioneers society" in accordance with friendly

society acts in 24 October 1844 by sharing one pound each. By the active participation of the members the Rochdale Equitable pioneers society run soundly and by buying and selling the the goods of daily necessities and earned much profit that was agian used to stublish Microfinance schools and in other place. This successful story spreaded to other countries and stablished the history of Micro-finance in the world.

When we talk about savings, credits or microfinance, the credit goes out the Novel Peace Prize winner Prof. Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh. He was the first person who developed the concept and applied it successfully. An economist by profession, he established saving and credits bank in Bangladesh that come to be known as Grameen Bank. The Bank was established in the Jobra village of Bangladesh in 1976 as a result of action research project on Chittagong University. The project later became a pilot project and covered throughout an entire district. This was undertaken with the financial support of the Central Bank of Bangladesh. In 1983, an independent financial institution, Grameen Bank was established under a special low passed for its creation. It is owned by the poor borrowers of the bank who were mostly women. It worked exclusively with them. At present, 94% of the total equity of the bank is owned by the borrower of Grameen Bank and remaining 6 percent by the government of Bangladesh.

Saving services allow severs to store excess liquidity for future use and to obtain return with their investment. Credit services enable the use of anticipated income for current investment or consumptions. Overall cooperatives services can help low income women, reduce risk, improve management, increase empowerment, raise productivity, obtain higher returns on investments, increase their incomes and improve the quality of their lives and those of their dependent. Lack of saving and capital make it difficult for many poor rural women to become self employed and to undertake productive employment generating activities. Providing credit seems to be a way of generating self employment opportunities for the poor women.

Experience and studies have shown that the provision of financial services is not sufficient in meeting the needs of the disadvantaged and the poor. The needs of this particular sector in society or basic yet too diverse that opportunities to improve their condition must be varied and multifaced. This fact is even more pronounced when clients and poor women.

Thus, even if its main role is that of a financial intermediary, a micro finance institution (MFI) has to provide not just financial services but non- financial services as well. This situation is very true for a poor country like Nepal.

The centre for micro finance (CMF) in Nepal had commissioned a number of studies in the past for purposes of determining how best to use micro-finance as a mechanism to empower poor rural women. One of such studies investigated women's control over savings and loans (1999) while another examined the role of savings in women's empowerment (2000). The former study concluded women have control over savings than over loans. The study further pointed out various factors that mitigate women's control over loans. These factors are the women's civil status, their ethnicity, and the actual use of loan among others. This study proved that credit loan is not enough to bring about women's empowerment. The latter study concluded that "women do benefit from participation in mixed- sex SCCs but in a limited way presently, mixed-sex. SCCs are not vehicles for women's empowerment because their access and participation as members and in leadership is constrained by their marginal role in decision making and by barriers perpetuated by society as a whole and by local SCC Board. This study therefore supports the view that SCC run by women is the better institutional mechanism for women empowerment in Nepal.

Generally, the above mentioned researcher are valuable in their contribution to the body of literature that sheds light on the relationship between micro- finance and women's livelihood, empowerment in the context of Nepal. Their contribution especially to MFIs in the country however, could be a step beyond accumulation of knowledge if it would lead to a resolve among MFIs to implement practical actions that aim at women's livelihood and empowerment.

This study intended to identify some "Best Practices" of savings and credits cooperating (SCCs run by women), if any in providing non financial services to their members, which when linked to improved access to financial (particularly micro- finance) services, can have the most significant development impact on poor households in general and poor women in particular. The study aims to identify and analyze what these non financial services are, the factors that motivated SCCs run by women to provide these services, and whether such services met their women members needs. The study will propose some practical action for SCCs run by women and promoting agencies to consider in enabling SCCs run by women in meeting financial and non- financial needs of their members.

Saving and credits cooperatives (SCCs) are financial intermediaries. Being financial intermediaries, their function is to provide savings and credits services (only two of several types of financial services) to its member-clients. However, in poor communities SCCs cannot avoid providing more than Just Financial Services to their member-clients due to mainly two factors: 1) expectation from their member-clients for non-financial services, and

2) their success in financial intermediation depends greatly on their ability "to create mechanisms to bridge the gaps created by poverty, illiteracy, gender and remoteness" (Ledgerwood 1998). These mechanisms created to bridge the gaps caused by economic social, and cultural disadvantage may be the form of non-financial services which may come in the form of: social intermediation, enterprise development services or social services.

Benett (1997) proposed a system analysis in understanding the process of successful and sustainable financial intermediation. Within the systems framework, a SCC or any microfinance institution should not be expected to provide all the services needed by its clients and/or members but rather "a number of different institution be involved, each responsible for providing one or more of the different services-needed for successful banking with the poor (Bennett 1997). In short, successful and sustainable financial intermediation should involve several players or services providers.

The MFI, therefore, should not be expected to provide any or all of the non-financial services identified by Ledgerwood (1998) other than financial, its core services:

Ledgerwood asserts that writing the systems framework, there are four categories of services that may be provided to micro-finance clients.

- a. Financial intermediation, or the provision of financial products services such as savings, credits, insurance, credit cards and payment system;
- b. Social intermediation, or the process of building human and social capital required by sustainable financial intermediation for the poor;
- c. Enterprise development services or non-financial services that assist micro entrepreneurs; and
- d. Social services or non-financial services that focus on the well-being of the poor.

The degree to which an MFI or the SCC in this particular study is willing to provide more than just financial services depend on whether it takes an "minimalist" or "integrated" approach. The minimalist approach involves providing financial intermediation only while the integrated approach involves providing financial and other services.

SCCs run by women in particular, are expected by their members to perform more than just a financial intermediation role as women's condition and disadvantaged position in society requires more than just an economic or financial response. SCCs run by women are almost automatically expected by promoters to perform a social development role as well, that is, to provide what Ledgerwood referred to as social services and enterprise development

services.

Researcher has shown that simple extension of credit to poor women does not always generate sustainable benefits. This is generally attributed to three main factors namely:

- Women do not always control investment decisions in the household or the money generated by such investments.
- Poor households often have limited investment opportunities, and therefore
 access to savings and credit. Insurance services are now widely considered
 more important for managing household vulnerabilities than access to credit.
- Financial services address only one aspect of poverty, the economic and do
 not generally address other constraints by poor household such as limited
 education, poor health, social and political marginalization etc (Selin and
 Bhadra 1999).

The categorization of types of non financial services as presented in the schematic framework developed by Ledgerwood (1998) will be used in the analysis of types of non-financial services provided by the SCCs studied. The author proposes another type of non-financial services of the SCCs run by women, namely; women's empowerment. The author proposes further that the categories be modified to encompass what mainstream cooperative would refer to as mere "activities" and not services as will be explained in the forthcoming paragraphs. Thus, four categories will be used in the analysis as non-financial, developmental services activities that the SCCs implement or provide to their members. Bennett's definition of social intermediation, enterprise development and social services are used in the analysis while the definition of women's empowerment is as follows:

"Women's empowerment services-activities" refer to those that are intended to raise awareness of women's rights and enable women to exercise these rights.

Women's condition and position are described condition refers to women's material state. Position refers to women's social and economic standing relative to men. Practical needs are linked to women's condition. Poor women may identify practical needs which are related to food and water, the health and education of their children, and increased income. Meeting such needs through development assistance can be a relatively short term process involving inputs such as equipment, training, credit programme, literacy programmes, or clinics. Projects that aim to meet practical needs generally preserve traditional relations between men and women (1991)

Strategic interests for women arise from their subordinate (disadvantaged) position in society. Strategic interests are long-term and related to improving women's position. the strategic interests of women as a group include: reduced vulnerability to violence and exploitation, more economic security, independence, options and opportunities, shared responsibility for reproductive work with men and the state; organizing with other women for strength, solidarity and action; increased political power; increased ability to improve the lives and future of their children; and a more humanistic and just development process (1991).

Women's involvement in decision-making is different matters, including household's decisions, was taken as a proxy indicator of their empowerment. Involvement of women members in decision-making in various matters, such as opting for family planning, buying and selling assets, participating in community development.

Increasing poverty, sift from subsistence farming to cash crop farming, depleting natural resources, increased migration and growing number of women headed households, due to globalization, are factors that have increased women's vulnerability in recent years. A large percentage of women lack access to productive resource specially land.

In Nepal, 40.4% of women and 59.6% of men over the age of 10 are considered economically active. This indicates that women's economic participation is lower than men. This is due to the fact that subsistence agricultural works, which almost exclusively performed by women, is not considered to be economic activity and is excluded from surveys. The vast majority of economically active population (81.25%), particularly in rural Nepal, is engaged in agriculture and allied industries. The portion of the persons engaged in this sector is substantially higher among women (90.5%) than among men (74.9%). (Beijing and Beyond, 2004).

The Interim constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic, Nepal (2007) recognizes men and women equally and prohibits discrimination between them. The notion that "women's rights are human rights" is a new phenomenon in Nepal. For the last several decades, women's rights did not get recognition as human rights. Even today there have been reluctances to recognize the concept of land and resources rights for women, granting them separate legal status and a degree of autonomy. Affirmative action programs on behalf of women have rarely been statutorily implemented (Beijing and Beyond, 2004).

2.1 Theory and Practcies of Microfinance

The perspectives of microfinance on poverty alleviation came into scene after Robinson (1996) that addressed some key questions on finance and poverty. Robinson mainly stressed

on the successful institutionalization of commercial microfinance as a primary obligation of the government. Robinson cited a list of such responsibilities as follows:

- Control of inflation;
- Establishment of appropriate regulations, permitting institutions to charge cost-covering interest rates and fees, and to return profit;
- Ensure of appropriate and effective supervision of microfinance institutions; and
- Education to the bureaucracy and public about commercial microfinance and its importance for development.

Most of the microfinance based poverty alleviation microenterprise development programs pre-eminently espouse the conception of people's participation and community organization in the financial service sector. The key tenet of the program is to make the financing cost effective through social intermediation of self-help and solidarity groups.

It is expected that groups could have an assertive impact upon qualitative dimensions of poverty and contribute to their empowerment (Montgomery, 1996). Yaron et. al. (1997) in their outstanding work has shown the role of state as a stable, unbiased and in favor of broad financial sector reform. The salient features of microfinance comprise low cost distribution system, mobile banking, close monitoring and high repayment rates, market interest rates, flexible loan terms and conditions, and low administrative costs. But it is not cogent in all cases that the intermediation of financial market through groups for the poor becomes necessary. Some of the evidences show non-correlation between group lending and success of programs in terms of microenterprise development, poverty alleviation and financial performances (Mosely, 2000). A similar result was found by Reinke (1998) in the study of small enterprise foundation of South Africa. The study indicates that the control by the group resulted more expensive input for financial services and costs of group formation in terms of production. But instead, Sebstad and Cohen (1999) found that appropriately identified groups could effectively function and succeed to achieve targeted beneficiaries. The evidence also suggests that microcredit benefited women in particular, boost up their self-confidence and raise their public participation.

Microcredit contributed to accumulate financial assets such as, savings and accounts, human assets such as education, health card, and sanitation, social assets such as networks of mutual support and physical and productive assets such as, vehicles, equipment, housing and livestock. The poor people lended in-groups were found to increase diversification in

smooth consumption along with smoothing income flows (Zeller, 1999). The poor households moved from reactive to proactive approaches after the availability of microfinance services with less severe risk. With the aim of keeping future access to loan, most borrowers used to repay loans even in distress (Zaman, 1999).

In a research work, (Morduch, 1999) suggest that the support from the government and the donor should give priority to microfinance programs, because it is contributing to reduce vulnerability through capital. It is suggested that to some extent, microcredit product could be redesigned to reach poorer households. To match the income flows and repayment capacity of borrowers in better way, loan size and repayments could be made more flexible. The targeted cash transfers may effectively support poorest households substantially.

Bucckley (1997) points out the microfinance intermediaries as a driving agent enhancing networks in between urban and rural business. Micro-enterprises in rural areas supply its products to urban areas, where urban business groups reach out to the surrounding rural areas. Those intermediaries also contribute to the social relations among the groups of the borrowers. In a quote to David Hulme, Johnson (1998) on the other hand attempted to measure outreach and sustainability of microfinance intermediaries which was named 'intermediary school'. Some of the authors (Fruman and Isern, 1996) mention vision, financial services and delivery methods, organizational structure and human resources, administration and finance, management information system, institutional viability and outreach and financial sustainability as the key areas of a strong microfinance institution. With the experience of Bolivia, Rock (1997) mentions that the NGOs dealing on microfinance could be developed into a banking system, although from the profit motive the NGOs and the banks differ in nature. Some of the NGOs were found sustained and effectively operated savings and credit programs. In the World Bank's, "Worldwide Inventory of Microfinance Institutions", Paxton (1996) found that out of responded 206 institutions, 150 were NGOs. Although many NGOs were found working sincerely, but the weaknesses like lack of business acumen overly ambitious aspirations, limited scale of operation, frequent use of donated fund or soft loans from foreign development organizations, and the flow of loan to nontargeted groups were found common.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study is based on the above literature review with established relationship of women with MFIs and the economic opportunities, income

generating activates provided by the MFIs in the empowerment of women. The conceptual framework of this study is explained in the figure as follows.

As the micro credit project for women has been implemented successfully in Nepal. All the components of projects have been made the excellent progress expect. Rehabilitation of Training centre under the local development training academy which has been concealed by the bank following the request from the government, the efforts made to implement MCPW is not only an initiative from which new modals of micro-credit delivery will stem but also a unique opportunity to test new model of cooperation between the government and NGO, it has been observed that more and numbers of beneficiaries are involved in the project activities every year within the project areas and considering the performance and impact of ongoing project activates, there is a strong need to approve the second phase of the project. However the experience and lessons learn during the first phase need to be considered while developing the implementation mechanism for second phase.

PCRW extended as credit facilities especially to rural women supposed to be an initial boost for them involve in income generating activities and subsequently achieve sustained self reliance has not been significant in its overall performances. Yet it is considered as a major breakthrough in the status of poor rural women (WDD, 1994).

2.3 Microfinance and Poverty

In developing economies and particularly in rural areas, many activities that would be classified in the developed world as financial are notmonetized: that is, money is not used to carry them out. This is often the case when people need the services money can provide but do not have dispensable funds required for those services, forcing them to revert to other means of acquiring them. In his recent book The Poor and Their Money, Stuart Rutherford cites several types of needs:

Lifecycle Needs: such as weddings, funerals, childbirth, education, homebuilding, widowhood and old age.

Personal Emergencies: such as sickness, injury, unemployment, theft, harassment or death.Disasters: such as fires, floods, cyclones and man-made events like war or bulldozing of dwellings.

Investment Opportunities: expanding a business, buying land or equipment, improving housing, securing a job (which often requires paying a large bribe), etc.

People find creative and often collaborative ways to meet these needs, primarily through creating and exchanging different forms of non-cash value. Common substitutes for cash vary from country to country but typically include livestock, grains, jewelry and precious metals. As Marguerite Robinson describes in The Microfinance Revolution, the 1980s demonstrated that "microfinance could provide large-scale outreach profitably," and in the 1990s, "microfinance began to develop as an industry" (2001, p. 54). In the 2000s, the microfinance industry's objective is to satisfy the unmet demand on a much larger scale, and to play a role in reducing poverty. While much progress has been made in developing a viable, commercial microfinance sector in the last few decades, several issues remain that need to be addressed before the industry will be able to satisfy massive worldwide demand. The obstacles or challenges to building a sound commercial microfinance industry include:

Inappropriate donor subsidies

Poor regulation and supervision of deposit-taking MFIs

Few MFIs that meet the needs for savings, remittances or insurance

Limited management capacity in MFIs

Institutional inefficiencies

Need for more dissemination and adoption of rural, agricultural microfinance methodologies

2.4 Impact on Poverty Reduction of Women

The impact of micro-credit programmes on poverty is difficult to measure. Targeting credit to poor is one of the many instruments for poverty reduction. Broad based economic growth policies, for work and targeted wage employment schemes are noncredit instruments that also help reducing poverty (Sinha, 1998).

There are different views on micro-credit as a powerful development tools regarding its success in developing the lives of poor and sometimes these views are contradictory. However poverty is a global issues; it is the problem that even the wealthiest nation is facing. At government level and also at international level, many strategies are made everyday to control poverty. But now Dr. Younis gave a formula of micro-credit that successfully worked in all over the world (Mushtaq, A; 2008).

Micro-credit programs not only help families move out of poverty and improve their standards of living but also serves as a "bottom-up" tools for socioeconomic development of a nation (Roy, Am; 2003).

On average in Bangladesh, a loan of 100 Taka to a female borrower after it is repaid allows net consumption increases of 18 taka. In terms of poverty impact it is estimated that 5 percent of participant households are pulled above the poverty line annually (Khandkar, 1998).

2.5 Microfinance Standards and Principle

A group of Indian women have assembled to make bamboo products that they intend to resell. Poor people borrow from informal moneylenders and save with informal collectors. They receive loans and grants from charities. They buy insurance from state-owned companies. They receive funds transfers through formal or informal remittance networks. It is not easy to distinguish microfinance from similar activities. It could be claimed that a government that orders state banks to open deposit accounts for poor consumers, or a moneylender that engages in usury, or a charity that runs a heifer pool are engaged in microfinance. Ensuring financial services to poor people is best done by expanding the number of financial institutions available to them, as well as by strengthening the capacity of those institutions. In recent years there has also been increasing emphasis on expanding the diversity of institutions, since different institutions serve different needs.

Some principles that summarize a century and a half of development practice were encapsulated in 2004 by CGAP and endorsed by the Group of Eight leaders at the G8 Summit on June 10, 2004:[15]

Poor people need not just loans but also savings, insurance and money transfer services. Microfinance must be useful to poor households: helping them raise income, build up assets and/or cushion themselves against external shocks. "Microfinance can pay for itself."[18] Subsidies from donors and government are scarce and uncertain and so, to reach large numbers of poor people, microfinance must pay for itself. Microfinance means building permanent local institutions. Microfinance also means integrating the financial needs of poor people into a country's mainstream financial system. "The job of government is to enable financial services, not to provide them." "Donor funds should complement private capital, not compete with it." "The key bottleneck is the shortage of strong institutions and managers." Donors should focus on capacity building. Interest rate ceilings hurt poor people by preventing microfinance institutions from covering their costs, which chokes off the supply of credit. Microfinance institutions should measure and disclose their performance—both financially and socially. Microfinance is considered a tool for socioeconomic development, and can be clearly distinguished from charity. Families who are

destitute, or so poor they are unlikely to be able to generate the cash flow required to repay a loan, should be recipients of charity. Others are best served by financial.

2.6 Inclusive Financial System

The microcredit era that began in the 1970s has lost its momentum, to be replaced by a 'financial systems' approach. While microcredit achieved a great deal, especially in urban and near-urban areas and with entrepreneurial families, its progress in delivering financial services in less densely populated rural areas has been slow.

The new financial systems approach pragmatically acknowledges the richness of centuries of microfinance history and the immense diversity of institutions serving poor people in developing world today. It is also rooted in an increasing awareness of diversity of the financial service needs of the world's poorest people, and the diverse settings in which they live and work.

Brigit Helms in her book 'Access for All: Building Inclusive Financial Systems', distinguishes between four general categories of microfinance providers, and argues for a pro-active strategy of engagement with all of them to help them achieve the goals of the microfinance movement.

These include moneylenders, pawnbrokers, savings collectors, money-guards, ROSCAs, ASCAs and input supply shops. Because they know each other well and live in the same community, they understand each other's financial circumstances and can offer very flexible, convenient and fast services. These services can also be costly and the choice of financial products limited and very short-term. Informal services that involve savings are also risky; many people lose their money.

Member-owned organization

These include self-help groups, credit unions, and a variety of hybrid organizations like 'financial service associations' and CVECAs. Like their informal cousins, they are generally small and local, which means they have access to good knowledge about each other's financial circumstances and can offer convenience and flexibility. Grameen Bank is a member-owned organization. Since they are managed by poor people, their costs of operation are low. However, these providers may have little financial skill and can run into trouble when the economy turns down or their operations become too complex. Unless they are effectively regulated and supervised, they can be 'captured' by one or two influential leaders, and the members can lose their money.

NGOs

The Microcredit Summit Campaign counted 3,316 of these MFIs and NGOs lending to about 133 million respondents the end of 2006. Led by by Grameen Bank and BRAC inBangladesh, Prodem in Bolivia, Opportunity International, and FINCA International, headquartered in Washington, DC, these NGOs have spread around the developing world in the past three decades; others, like the Gamelan Council, address larger regions. They have proven very innovative, pioneering banking techniques like solidarity lending, village banking and mobile banking that have overcome barriers to serving poor populations. However, with boards that don't necessarily represent either their capital or their customers, their governance structures can be fragile, and they can become overly dependent on external donors.

Formal financial institutions

In addition to commercial banks, these include state banks, agricultural development banks, savings banks, rural banks and non-bank financial institutions. They are regulated and supervised, offer a wider range of financial services, and control a branch network that can extend across the country and internationally. However, they have proved reluctant to adopt social missions, and due to their high costs of operation, often can't deliver services to poor or remote populations. The increasing use of alternative data in credit scoring, such as trade credit is increasing commercial banks' interest in microfinance.

With appropriate regulation and supervision, each of these institutional types can bring leverage to solving the microfinance problem. For example, efforts are being made to link self-help groups to commercial banks, to network member-owned organizations together to achieve economies of scale and scope, and to support efforts by commercial banks to 'down-scale' by integrating mobile banking and e-payment technologies into their extensive branch networks.

2.7 Impact on Empowerment of Women

It is argued that credit programs empower women by strengthening their economic roles increasing their ability to contribute to the family's income, helping them to establish their identity outside of the family and giving them experience and self confidence in public sphere. For example, Hasheime, et.al. (1996) viewed that the participation in Grameen Bank is positively associated with women's level of empowerment defined as a function of her relative physical mobility, economic security, ability to make various purchases on her own, involvement in major household decisions, relative freedom from domination within the

family, political and legal awareness and participation in public protests and political campaigning. The study concluded that involvement in credit program does empower rural women (Sinha, s; 1998).

A study from Bangladesh confirms improvements in women's physical mobility, economic security, ability to make own purchases, freedom from family domination and violence, positive participation as a result of more stable integration into micro finance circuits (Schuler and Hashemi, 1994).

Credit to women has positive effects on schooling of girls it increases women's asset holding (except land) and is a significant determinant of total household expenditure (Pitt and Khandker, 1995). "Enhance women empowerment, such as increased self confidence and better cooperation with neighbors has also been observed in Thailand (Mk Nelly and water tip, 1993).

2.8 Poor Women and Credit

Micro credit programs are expected to raise the welfare of poor especially women. They would help to raise social welfare by promoting human capital investment in childcare and education. However, the micro credit programs cannot be the sole instrument for poverty reduction. Micro credit requires an entrepreneurial skill that few people may have (Khandker, S.R; 1998).

2.9 Microfinance and Social Interventions

There are currently a few social interventions that have been combined with micro financing to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS. Such interventions like the "Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity" (IMAGE) which incorporates microfinancing with "The Sisters-for-Life" program a participatory program that educates on different gender roles, gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS infections to strengthen the communication skills and leadership of women "The Sisters-for-Life" program has two phases where phase one consists of ten one-hour training programs with a facilitator with phase two consisting of identifying a leader amongst the group, train them further, and allow them to implement an Action Plan to their respective centres.

Microfinance has also been combined with business education and with other packages of health interventions. A project undertaken in Peru by Innovations for Poverty Actionfound that those borrowers randomly selected to receive financial training as part of their borrowing group meetings had higher profits, although there was not a reduction in "the

proportion who reported having problems in their business". Pro Mujer, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with operations in five Latin American countries, combines microfinance and healthcare. This approach shows, that microfinance can not only help businesses to prosper; it can also foster human development and social security. Pro Mujer uses a "onestop shop" approach, which means in one building, the respondents find financial services, business training, empowerment advice and healthcare services combined.

CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study is basically focused on the micro study of Micro finance program. It is intended to find out the consequence of Micro finance program in the specific study area. In order to conduct this study descriptive as well as analytical research design has been adopted. For primary data collection, the study followed both the cross-sectional and longitudinal approach of comparison of situation. In this regard, respondents were asked about their situation before and after the intervention of micro-finance programs of NUBL. In addition, the respondents' situation was compared with the non-respondents' situation, where non-client was taken as control group. However, for the purpose of this study, incoming respondents, who had chosen to join the program but who had not received services till the date of the study, was considered as control group. The assumption was that those choosing to join the program were similar to existing respondents in terms of demographic characteristics, motivation, and business experience, and thus offer an appropriate and easily identified control group.

3.2 Nature and sources of Data

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. Though this study is mainly based on primary data which is collected from the field study using questionnaire, group discussion and the observation method has been used. The primary data is used to depict an apparent picture of prevailing condition of women by analyzing the opinions of women. The data are generated from field study based on questionnaire survey. Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd., Economic Survey, Various Plans and different websites.

3.3 Universe and Sampling

As the selection of the study area and the research design, the sample size are selected because not all the service user respondents can be surveyed due to the physical as well as technical problems. The universe of study area of Ilam branch, the total population of this branch are 150. The sample size of the universe is taken 40 respondents about 27 percent were taken as in the percentage ratio. The sampling method is random.

3.4 Datacollection Techniques

The required data were collected with application of following data collection techniques

3.4.1 Questionnaire

The main tools that were used in the survey are research questionnaires. So the researchers had to prepare questionnaire, researcher were gather the information regarding socioeconomic condition, personal identification, family size occupation, age sex level of education origin and family back ground, caste category, history of entry into work, working condition earning status, personal saving status, health and food arrangement, employs attitude and other related activities.

3.4.2 Participation Observation

To know more detail about their attitude, behavior, physical, working and living condition, the participation observation has been obtained. Except it while going in field participation observations were adapted in field survey to know more details about socio-economic condition as well as their physical working and living condition.

3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion

Group discussion was arranged with the member of the groups, such as respondents, loaned of NUBL, their guardians etc. The major issue of the discussion was concerned with impact of socio-economic status on their living status and education.

3.4.4 Key Informant Survey

Key informants survey was to collect additional information about the Socio-economic status of rural women, reason for work, their earning status as well as perception on work and so no NGO staffs, school teacher, neighboring people etc. were taken as key informants.

3.5 Reliability and Validity of the Data

For the reliability of the study, various methods like interview, group discussion, and observation methods are being used in this study. The information gathered from one method is crosschecked from other methods and questionnaire was pre-tested.

The information also validated from the triangulation of sources, gender and different levels of informants. The information gathered from participants are triangulated and validated with facilitators, management committee members, and the local leaders.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

This section briefly discusses data analysis methods. The purpose of analytic methods is to convert data into information needed to make decisions (Davis, 1996). Various quantitative as well as qualitative tools were used for this impact study. In this regard, AIMS tool was adapted for the purpose of this study. The study used following tools adapted in the local context:

- Impact survey tool.
- Client satisfaction tool.
- Loan use strategies over time.
- Client exit survey
- Client empowerment tool

In addition, wealth-ranking tool, adapted from Micro-Save, was used to know the well-being status of the respondents. Furthermore, focus group discussions were carried out with the respondents.

CHAPTER-IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In these chapter social, economic and demographic characteristics of selected women who are involving in MFIs is presented through the help of primary sources of data. This indicators help to compare the socio-economic status of study area and sample population.

4.1 Caste/Ethnicity

Caste is one of the main factors that influence the social life of an individual. To a great extent, the status of women is determined by the caste. Feasts and festivals, norms and values of the society, magnitude of freedom, decision making powers etc. are some of the elements that are affected by the caste and ethnicity. This study has attempted to find out the ethnic composition of the respondents which can be shown in the table.

The area in which this study was undertaken reveals a marked diversity in the caste and ethnicity composition among its population. During the time of field survey only women between the age of 15 to 59 year were interviewed ignoring their marital pattern i.e. both married/unmarried and widow/separated are taken account. Table No 4.1 shows the caste/ethnicity characteristics of the sample respondent women of the study area.

Table No. 4.1 Caste/Ethnicity of Respondents

S.N.	Caste/Ethnicity	Number of Respondent	Percentage
1	Brahmin	25	62.5
2	Chhetri	7	17.5
3	Rai	3	7.5
4	Tamang	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The Table No. 4.1 shows that the number of Brahmin i.e. 62.5 percent is the largest in distribution as this is the largest settlement in this area. Then comes the number of Chettri which constitute 17.5 percent . Similarly Tamang, Rai and occupational caste constitute 12.5 and 7.5 respectively out of the sampled population.

4.2 Education Level

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, and directed research.

Table no. 4.2 The Education Status of the Respondents.

S.N.	Level	Persons	Percentage
1	1-5 class below	20	50
2	5-10	15	37.5
3	10-SLC	5	`12.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey 2016

The table no. 4.2 shows that the education level of respondents is 1- to 5 class is about 50 percent, similarly class 5-10 is 37.5 percent and 10-SLC is 12.5 percent.

25 20 15 10 5 0 1-5 class 5-10 class 10-SLC

Fig no. 4.3 The Education Status of the Respondents

4.3 Pattern of Land holding

Generally Land is transmitted from older to younger generation through the male line. Sons are regarded as legal heirs and inherit their parental property. Daughters do not inherit property unless she remains unmarried in her whole life. So, the inheritance and land

holding system in Ilam Municipality ward no. 6 is not different from that of Nepal in general. The practice to register land in the name of women is very rare.

Table No. 4.3 Land Ownership of Respondents

S.N.	Land Ownership	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Own	5	12.5
2	Husband's and other	35	87.5
3	Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table no. 4.3 reveals that out of 5 respondents only 12.5 percent have land in their own name. 87.5 percent of the respondents don't have land in their own name. From this we can say that the access to the land holding of women in Ilam Municipality Ward no. 6 is very low.

4.4 Types of Family

The lowest or basic unit of society is called family. It is considered as the compulsory unit of a society/community which plays major role in forming a society. It keep the society dynamic. The composition of the family type on the basis of 40 respondents is shown in the table below. This is mainly based on field survey.

Table No. 4.4 Composition of Family Types

S.N.	Family Type	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Joint Family	25	62.5
2	Nuclear Family	15	37.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table no. 4.4 shows that majority of joint family among 40 respondents there are 25 joint families i.e. 62.5 percent and only the 15 is nuclear type of family in percent 37.5 percent. There are mainly two types of family on the basis of composition of family. In the nuclear type which includes parents and their children only, they are separated and are running their day to day life in their own effort. But in the joint type where all the family members including grandparents, parents and their siblings are living under a single roof, sharing the common kitchen and running their day to day life on each other's support. Major households are of joint family due to the lack of employment opportunity. Each and

every member jointly supports each other in running the household staying within a joint family because a single family member can't afford to sustain the whole household.

■ Nuclear Family ■ Joint Family

Fig no.4.4 Composition of Family Types

4.5 Medical Treatment Method of the Respondents

As the study area is located in the urban part, there are many alternatives health care available. When the respondents fall sick, usually they apply some sort of healing measure. Some go to visit a doctor for medication and some for local healers like dhami, jhankri. Study made, in order to get information as to 'what they do, and where they go, and whom they believe most, when they fall sick?' produce mix responses.

Table No.4.5 Medical Treatment Method of Respondents

S.N.	Treatment	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Hospital	28	70
2	Dhami	4	10
	Hospital + Dhami	8	20
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table indicates that the large proportion of the women 20 percent, are found to believe in both Hospital and Dhami for treatment. On the other hand, the number of women who believed only in doctor amounted 70 percent. Finally and 10 percent believed on Dhami+Hospital for treatment in the period of sickness.

Even at the very threshold to stepping into the third millennium, a notable fraction of women still believe on Dhamis. This shows that there is quite an undeniable existence of Dhamis in the society.

It can be concluded from the above analysis that even in this modern era, quite a large number of people in this village believe in superstitious practice like Dhamis. They tend to prefer local healers for their sickness more then modern medication. But all the related data to health status of the respondent, overall health status of the respondent is satisfactory.

4.6 Income Status of the Respondents

Income is variable which determines the economic status of the individual. Therefore attempt has been made here to find the monthly income of the respondent.

Table No.4.6 Income Status of the Respondents

S.N.	Monthly Income (Rs.)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to 5000	20	50
2	5001-10000	9	22.5
3	10001-15000	6	15
4	15001-20000	3	7.5
5	Above 20000	2	5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.6 reveals 50 percent of the respondent has income level below Rs. 5000. This was the income level of those women who earn the money who are engaged in agriculture. 22.5 percent of the respondents income level was between Rs. 5001 to 10000 and 15 percent of the respondents earn between Rs. 10001 to 15000. 7.5 percent of the respondents earn between Rs. 15001 to 20000. Lastly, 5 percent of the respondent earns the highest amount in a month that is above 20000 rupees in a month. The respondents of this group were found to be engaged in service sector, like NGO, INGO, teaching, public service.

The respondents who earn some income, usually expenses their money mostly for household purposes. They spend this income in buying food items for family, for the children education and other activities in the family. Most respondents decide own self to spend that income and most of them saved little part their income too

4.7 Interest Rate

The general comments received from the Respondents on the interest rate are as follows:

- Interest rate is high.
- If interest rate would be reduced then easy to pay installment.
- Loan for water is not for income generation so it should be less than others.
- Interest rate should less for land.
- Loan for house renovation is not for income generation so it should be reduced.
- High interest rate on loan for housing it is better to reduce.

Here the NUBL Respondents were found not just to present their wish but to compare the interest rate of the competitors of NUBL as well.

Table - 4.7 Respondents Satisfaction Interest Rate

Types of loan	Loan amount	Current loan ceilling	Interest Rate
General Loan	60000-200000	60000 – 200000	20%
Segional Loan	20000-30000	20000-30000	20%
Loan for Water tap	30000	30000	20%
Loan for Toilet	20000-30000	20000-30000	20%
Loan for House Renovation	40000	-	20%
Loan for Housing	300000	-	18%
Loan for Bio-gas	20000-350000	20000-35000	16%
Loan for Micro-enterprise	300000-500000	300000	16%
Individual loan	60000	60000	16%
Education loan	200000	-	14%
Foreign Employee loan	200000	200000	16%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table no. 4.7 shows that loan given in different interest rate. They are as follows general loan 20%, seasonal loan 20%, loan for water tap 20% loan for toilet 20%, loan for house renovation 20%, loan for housing 18%, loan for bio-gas 16%, loan for micro-enterprise is 16%, individual loan 16%, education loan 14% and foreign employees loan is 16%.

4.8 Occupation

Most of the women in our country are confined to domestic household chores so call 'Housewife'. The concept of 'Housewife' connotes a woman whose activities are limited to household and domestic chores, which are categorized as 'Reproductive' and 'Productive' work. However due to modernization some of the women are engaged in home-based income generating activities while others are engaged in outside employment. As

occupation acts as variable in determining economic status, therefore it is necessary to study the occupation of the respondents which is shown in the Table No.4.8

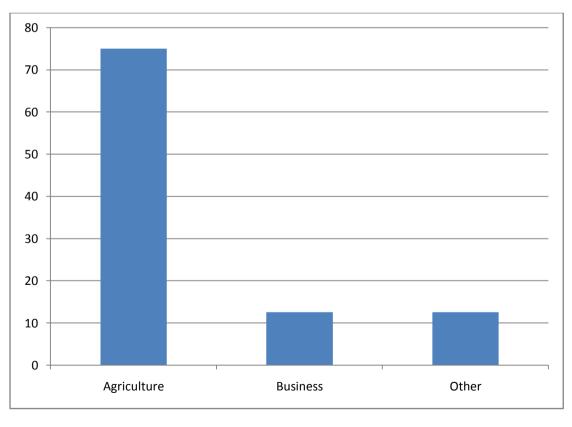
Table No.4.8 Occupation of Respondents

S.N.	Occupation	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	30	75
2	Business	5	12.5
3	Other	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table no. 4.8 shows the occupation of the respondents. 75percent of respondents were found engaged in agriculture, 12.5 percent of the respondents were found engaged in business and 12.5 percent of the respondents were found involved both in agriculture, business and labor.

Fig. no. 4.8 Percentage Distribution of Occupation of Respondents



4.9 Participation in Social Organization

Women's public and personal lives are still culturally restricted to the degree that they are governed by the patriarchal superstructure of the social system which confines them to a subordinated position. Religion, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life and also condition their private lives. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that the negligible number of women is involved in professional, management or decision-making position. The involvement of women in social organization as well as social activities is also negligible.

In this study, an attempt has been done to know the social involvement of women in Ilam Municplaity. Through the field survey, it was found that one social group exists in this locality. It was Saving and Credit Mahila Samuha. Many women are involved in this organization and are benefited from it. This organization helps them by providing loan in low interest rate when they need larger amount of money. Some unmarried respondents were involved in Red Cross Society by which they have benefited as they got chance to broaden their knowledge. They are benefited in many ways from this social involvement. Some women are involved in Sub health post of Ilam Municipality Ward no. 6 by which they are getting knowledge about small diseases and the method of caring the patient. Women's participation in different group gives the general idea about their activeness. The percentage of women in this group is shown in below table.

Table No. 4.9 Involvement in Social Organization

S.N.	Involvement in Social Organization	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Social work	30	75
2	VDC meeting	10	25
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table no. 4.9 reveals that out of 40 respondents 75 percent of the population does involved in the social work and 25 percent of the population does involved in the vdc level meeting. This shows that there is cooperation among the women of this group.

4.10 Loan taken and Utilization

Respondents have taken in in different titles and that has been utilization for various purposes.

Table no. 4.10 Loan taken and Utilization

S.N.	Loan taken and Utilization (Rs.)	Number of	Percentage
		Respondents	
1	Upto 50000	35	87.5
3	Above 50000	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table no. 4.10 shows that the loan taken by 35(i.e 87.5 percent) respondents are take loan wthin limit Rs.50000 and 5 respondents are take loan above limit for different purpose just like education, business, social activities, agriculture and others purpose.

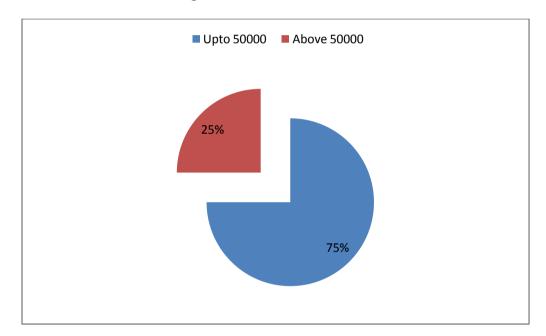


Fig no. 4.10 Loan taken and Utilization

4.11 Status of Individual Savings

There is various types of economic status has been found in the study area. As we know that there is different types of saving each respondent of the study area. Respondents did not respond on the savings. NUBL's financial services helped more to maintain the existing savings and also to increase them within a period of one year. Table 4.11 provides further detail on the individual savings of the NUBL Respondents.

Table - 4.11 Individual Savings

Individual Savings during Last 12 Months	Total

	Decreased Greatly	Decreased	Remained Constant	Increased	Don't Know	
Respondents	0	0	5	30	5	40
Percentage	0	0	12.5	75	12.5	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

Above table shows individual saving during last 12 months which is described as follows it decreased are 12.5 remaining constant 75 increased 12 and don't know 12.5 percent.

4.12 Loan Investment

Different types of investment were done which may include <u>fixed-rate loan</u> granted by <u>banks</u> for the <u>acquisition</u> of <u>fixed assets</u> such as <u>property</u>, <u>equipment</u> and other machinery. The <u>loan</u> can be used for any development <u>activity</u>. <u>Current assets</u> are <u>funded</u> with a <u>working capital credit</u>.

Table no. 4.12 Loan Investment

S.N.	Loan investment	Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	20	50
2	Livestock's	10	25
3	Business	7	17.5
4	Other	3	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Above table no. 4.12 shows that the loan investment in agriculture is 50 percent, Livestock's 25 percent and business, others respectively 17.5 and 7.5 percent.

4.13 Increased in Income generating Activities

Income is the consumption and savings opportunity gained by an entity within a specified timeframe, which is generally expressed in monetary terms. However, for households and individuals, income is the sum of all the wages, salaries, profits, interests payments, rents, and other forms of earnings received... in a given period of time.

Table no. 4.13 Increased in Income generating Activities

S.N.	Income generating Activities	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Ginger farming	8	20

2	Cow for milking	5	12.5	
3	Goat raising	6	15	
4	Poulrty farming	2	5	
5	Vegitable farming	7	17.5	
6	Piggery	4	10	
7	Business	3	7.5	
8	Other	5	12.5	
	Total	40	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table no. 4.13 shows that the income has increased in different occupation like ginger farming 20 percent, cow milk 12.5 percent, goat raising 15 percent, poultry farming5 percent, vegetable farming 17.5 percent, piggery 10 percent, business 7.5 percent and other 12.5 percent.

4.14 Participation in Training of Skill Development

Skill Development means developing skill sets to add value for the organization and own career development. Fostering an attitude of appreciation for lifelong learning is the key to workplace success. Successfully seeking out trainings or on-the-job opportunities for developing those skills.

Table no. 4.14 Participation in Training of Skill Development

S.N.	Types	Number of Respondents	Percentage	
1	Loan utilization and business skills	30	75	
2	Training for enterprenuership	10	25	
	Total	40	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table no 4.14 shows that the participations of skill development of the respondents are 75 percent Loan utilization and business skills and remaining 25 percent are training for enterprenuership activities.

4.15 Participation in Financial Literacy Program

The Participation Programme has become an important part of the Programme and Budget. It declare the keen involvement of the people in the different program.

Table No.4.15 Participation in Financial Literacy Program

Types Number of Respondents Percentage
--

About Saving and credit	28	70
Importance of bank and financial institutions	12	30
Other	0	0
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table no. 4.15 shows that the participation in financial literacy program it has seen that the respondents 70 percent participants are about saving and credit and 30 percent participants are importance of bank and financial institutions in program.

CHAPTER-V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The majorities of women in Nepal are illiterate and engaged in agriculture and agricultural activities for their livelihood. The status of women is very low to that of male. So the improvement of women status is vital issues. Women are important sources of energy for the development and their groups can be an effective channel funds aimed at meeting the needs of the poorest people in rural areas of third word. Their potential can be realized if they integrated into the whole spectrum of development programs, rather than relegated to the marginal sector currently reserved for man.

Mirco-finance plays vital role in development process. Agriculture, being backbone of Nepalese economy where 38 percent of GDP of the economy still contributed by the agriculture sector. Women's contribution to the agriculture sector is accounted as 60.5 percent as against only 39.5 percent by male. Agriculture sectors denotes to the production unit mainly in rural and sub-rural region. Thus, agriculture is rural phenomena. In Nepal more than 70 percent population resides in rural sector. Development of rural sector is inevitable for development of the country. As already been mentioned that credit plays vital role-development efforts, availability of credit to rural population is very much necessary. Since rural populations are poor, access of loan from big financial institution is unthinkable; therefore, emergence of MFIS providing credit to them especially women is imperative. Thus, women play vital role in the economy of Nepal. Generally, the domestic chores as well as agriculture work done by women is not considered in the national income estimation. Women access to economic resources and control over it, is less.

Despite the fact that women work as high as 11 hours a day on an average, their income is very low. Majority of women are forced to work at low wage in unsafe working conditions. Most of women work in rural area and in the informal sector so they are working without remuneration. Because of the maternity role to be played by women, they have dual workload and it has affected their employment outside domestic affairs.

The traditional outlook of the society towards women did not improve as expected neither expected improvement in legal framework has introduced in the gender discrimination

The implementation of MF program, focusing on women as a target group has produced substantial impact on economic empowerment of women through their economic self-sufficiency. The credit program with the objective of providing loan to women easily and priority to women in loan disbursement has motivated them to come forward in the society.

The main findings of the study may be summarized as-

- The area in where this study was undertaken is found composed by many castes and ethnicities, Brahmin, Chettri, Newar, Rai and other occupational castes.
- Respondents receiving services for more than five years had less very poor Respondents.
- The population are engaged and depends mainly on the agriculture and subsistence sector,.
- NUBL's financial services helped more to maintain the existing savings and also to increase them within a period of one year.
- The number of Brahmin i.e. 62.5 percent is the largest in distribution as this is the largest settlement in this area
- In cases of both household as well as individual income more than half reported that
 there was no change. It was interesting to note that there was significant difference
 in the percentage of Respondents whose household and individual income has
 increased.
- The education level of respondents is 1- to 5 class is about 50 percent
- The financial services of NUBL were found to help increase income of NUBL Respondents and those who were able to extend the existing business or to initiate the new business were able to do so.
- 87.5 percent of the respondents don't have land in their own name
- It was found that the middle poor and poor possessed such assets more than the very poor. This means that even after receiving services for more than five years, very few Respondents who are very poor have been able to posses such assets.
- The general comments received from the Respondents on loan amount were Small loan size, Loan amount is not enough and loan amount is not enough to start new business.

- The majority of joint family among 40 respondents there are 25 joint families i.e.
 62.5 percent
- The general comments received from the Respondents on the interest rate are Interest rate is high and, Interest rate should less for land.
- The general comments received from the Respondents on the interest rate is high.
- The general comments received on loan duration were period of loan is not enough so it is not possible to repay installment.
- The number of women who believed only in doctor amounted 70 percent
- 50 percent of the respondent has income level below Rs. 5000
- The general comments received from the Respondents on repayment schedules were there should be more installments in place of existing installments to repay easily.
- The loan taken by 35(i.e 87.5 percent) respondents are utilize loan for different purpose just like education, business, social activities, agriculture
- Most of the Respondents were found satisfied with the savings services of NUBL.
- The 75 percent of respondents were found engaged in agriculture
- The major reasons cited by the respondents that led to the problem of repaying back the loan included small loan size is not enough to initiate business, .
- The discrimination of male and female children while sending to school was not found in the Respondents of NUBL.
- The variation was found within districts and according to the economic status of Respondents.
- The financial services of NUBL helped client to increase the feeling of ownership as
 well as decision making regarding their savings and loan highly satisfactorily. The
 variation was found within districts and according to the economic status of
 Respondents.

NUBL services helped Respondents to receive health services.

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Overall the exit Respondents were found satisfied with the current services of NUBL
and were willing to encourage their friends and relatives to join NUBL as well as
were found willing to rejoin NUBL if their suggestions such as lowering interest rate,
increasing the loan size, improving the staff behavior and reducing meetings are
implemented.

5.2 Conclusion

Notwithstanding, efforts made both at national, governmental and non-governmental level, towards enhancing Nepalese women's status, their recognition as inevitable economic contributor, are yet to be realized in Nepalese society at large. The Nepalese women still remain underprivileged, disadvantageous and de-recognized members in compare to their male counterpart. Conventional discrimination against women, traditional down-looking, deprivation of opportunities, perennially considered as weaker sex, and de-recognition of their potentials have forced woken to remain within a narrow socio-economic spectrum.

Hence, the study has exclusively focused on their non-recognized economic delivery potentials, their non-recorded economic contribution in form of household chores, and their crucial role in the sustenance of rural economy. More-over, women folks have been deprived of any role in decision making and strategic planning on the implementation stage. Their role is expected only as labor forces that too, non-economical. This study, therefore, portrays more vividly the Nepalese women's economic contribution, both in agro-based economy and in the market oriented economy, and also deals on how they have been marginalized in national economic index.

Empowering women has been global concern and Nepal remains no exception. The ninth plan too, talks loudly about it. Poverty and no access to economic generating activities coupled with illiteracy and unawareness have rendered Nepalese women helpless mass. Empowering women through their economic independence is a positive step, however, the data gathered in course of study shows a gloomy picture. Out of the total women taken to survey, only 16.13 percent of women have property in their own name, hence, women's share in terms of property holding remains of no significance. The observation revealed that the more property they have in possession, the louder their voices are in the family. Another interesting finding is that most of the property owning women is old-aged. In other words, the property owning women are

seemed to be determined by their age. The older they are, their possibility of property owning is more.

Though it is often reported that women now have been more privileged than ever before and called to be engrossed in the national development stream with their upgraded level of educational as well as economic performance. The study does not show much improvement towards bringing them into the national progress agenda, in reality. In course of the study, it is found that there is a pressing need of education for the rural women as education alone can lead them to a new era with abundance of opportunities.

The gradual increase of their involvement in agricultural process and products, they have begun to exercise more influential role in their families. Women are found to have greater say in household management affairs as the study showed. On an average decision making, it is found that 40 percent of the total decision making issues is influenced by women. Similarly, 44.88 percent of decision making is done by both male and female, which shows that the overall percentage of involvement of women in decision making process is satisfactory. But, the involvement of women in decision making circle somewhere; within the family or domestic decision making process. They are not allowed to decide for the community yet. The study shows that economic and social aspects of decisions are often or generally seem to have control by male. The study shows that the women need an approval of men even in unimportant and less important household or domestic issues. In this regard, women are still seen as one having secondary command over household management despite their high input. They are managers in household affairs but not controller of the management process.

Social status remains a measuring rod through which an individual's standing in society is determined. The study showed that superstitious and irrational approaches towards women have led to several forms of perversions in society. Equally, women have always been considered as inferior sex. The girls are found to have been taught to remain as silent spectator from their childhood. They are expected to be less curious and less-question making. Gender-bias-lesson rings in their ear since their childhood, which lead them to lose their confidence and self esteem and eventually, they are compelled to think themselves as weak and unfortunate section of the society.

5.3 Recommendations

The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of the financial services of NUBL, which is elaborated in . From the findings as well as the conclusions derived from the findings some recommendations are made so that:

- The overall literacy rate should be increased with special emphasis upon promoting higher literacy rate among the women. This could be achieved via adult literacy classes and providing incentives to encourage greater enrollment of girls in schools. This is suggested with 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 by their male counterparts.
- Loan must be flowing on other sectors than cattle farming and agriculture for the further empowering and development.
- Loans been observed that group only provided training on certain field. These
 training were in health, nutrition and women right. It is recommended to find
 out what the participants more interested in and what they are good at. This
 will improve the participants more interest in that field and would decease the
 risk factors on the success.
- Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women which would encourage their economic participation and hence elevate her status within the household.
- In each and every decision making part, there should be representation of woman at least by 30 percent.
- After conducting the programme higher level personnel of MFI should regularly evaluate and monitor the activities of women of women whether credit is changing their lifestyle or not.
- There should be encouraged the co-operative forms of social organization such as credit societies marketing micro-finance, and mother's club in order to mobilize

women as agent of social economic and political change at the neighborhood community and national level.

- The government should formulate a national policy of microfinance setting the vision objectives, strategies and policies and specifying implementation modalities to direct the micro finance program to accomplish the stipulated objectives.
- To expand the additional outreach of microfinance services, it is recommended that poor, who are still outside the services should be identified by extensive household survey. There should be no confusion regarding the target Respondents. Existing NGO and MFIs should be mobilized in this process
- To increase the outreach of existing MFIs, the government, INGO/ Donor
 agency should subsidize social costs of MFIs either on Respondents' basis or
 on time basis until and unless they reach a level of operating self-sufficiency
 as these border mission is beyond the goals or capacity of the MFIs alone. The
 culture of long term subsidy should be discouraged and ultimately it should be
 directed towards financial self-sufficiency for their sustainability in the long
 run.
- To creates healthy competition among MFIs the problem of duplication among institutions should be avoided immediately. For this local co-ordination network of MFIs should be established by incorporating credit information of the new Respondents.
- In order to increase Respondents serving capacity of the MFIs proper planning and implementation clarifying the authority and accountability of each branch and staffs should be prepared and monitored time to time effectively.
- The government programmes and/or I/NGOs should continue to promote the poverty focused SCCs model to improve access of financial services to the poor in rural region.
- Saving should diversify its financial products as per the needs of its members for which it should conduct market research.

- It should raise the required capital internally or by accessing funds from external leading agencies.
- MFIs must try to address the problems by developing strategies that would motivate poor people to join it.
- The follow of credit facilities needs to be reviewed and should be provided as per priority basis at the rate of low interest.
- Educational awareness programmes should be more focused.
- The motivation level of the field staff should be maintained at high level, they are the "key scorers" of the micro-finance game
- Socio economic status of Respondents is further improved,
- Respondent's poverty is reduced,
- Respondents are able to better manage the risks and vulnerability,
- NUBL is able to reach poor and meet their financial needs,
- Respondents food security increase,
- Respondents send their children to schools,
- Female empowerment increased.
- Health services are accessed by the Respondents.

All these things can be done if NUBL is able to improve refine its existing services and products, further increase efficiency, properly target the respondents, link financial services with social and Business Development Services (BDS) and appropriately train staff so that not only their skill but their attitude also change positively. Hence, the recommendations are done accordingly in following area.

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Annex-A

Household Survey Questionnaire 207

MICROFINANCE AND IT'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON RURAL POOR WOMEN;

1.Personal Identification:								
a) Name								
b) Age								
c) Sex: Male	e/Female							
d) Marital st	tatus: Maried,	/Unmaried/d	ivorce					
e) Caste								
f) Family sta	ntus: Joint/ sin	ngle						
g) Address:	Village/Tole/	street						
V	Vard no							
V	'DC							
h) Condition	n of house: RC	CC/CI/Hut						
i) Cultivating	g Land: Ropni	iAna	Dam					
j) Charactris	tics of the Lar	nd: Irrigating	g/non-irrigatir	ng.				
2) Family De	etails							
S.N.	S.N. Name Sex Age Main Secondary Education Occupation							
3) Has your	personal savi	ng increased	with this year	. }	l	l		

b) Slightly increased. c) As it is.

a) Totally increased.

Į.	fyour porconal cave	ing is docreased.	what is the reason behind it?
	i your personal sav	ing is decrease, v	what is the reason behind it?
4) D	o you have cow/bu	ıffalo in your hou	use?
	a) yes.	b) no.	
5) If	you have cow/buf	falo? What do yo	ou do with their milk?
	a) Sell all milk.	b) Tota	ally drink at home.
	c) We drink so	me milk & sell so	ome milk.
	Do you have enonvestment?	ugh personal s	aving for emergency and large scale purchase or
	a) Yes.	b) No.	c) I don't know.
7) D	id you buy any Lan	d & Building in la	ast four years?
	a) yes.		b) no.
	oes your expense i ear?	n education of y	our children has been increased or decrease this
ā) Decreased,	b) Increased.	c) Neither increased nor decreased.
c	l) I don't know.		
ŀ	f your expenditure i	n education decre	eased or increased, what is the reason behind it?
•			
	oes your family me dvise with you whi		and, father in law and other family members take ant decision?
ā) Yes.	b) No.	c) not known.

e)Totally decrease.

f) I don't know.

d) Slightly decrease.

house?	r nusband/wife dis	scuss with each other while buying daily uses goods in your
a) Yes.	b) No.	c) Not known.
11) Does you	r husband/wife dis	scuss with each other while buying land/house and animals?
a) Yes.	b) No.	c) not known.
12) Do you ta	ke participation in	social work of your society?
a) Yes.	b) No.	
13) Have you	taken any particip	pation in village development committee meeting?
a) yes	s I have.	b) No I haven't.
14) Did you pa	articipate in V.D.C	. election?
a) Yes	S.	b) No.
15) Did you ha	•	our family while withdrawing and depositing your personal
a) Yes.	b) No.	
c) Withd	raw only when m	y husband asks me to withdraw.
16) Did you h	ave consult with y	our family while taking loan from bank?
a) Yes	s. b) No.	
	ng loan from bank ise of that loan?	do have consult between your husband and wife about the
a) Yes	s . b) No.	
	onsult between yo ı invested?	our husband and wife using the profit that comes from the
a) Yes	s. b) No	

19) Did your baby take vaccines of DPT BCG Small pox and other after delivery?					
	a) Yes.	b) No. c) I don't have	any idea of usinยู	g it.	
20) Did you have taken loan?					
,	,				
	a) Yes.	b) No.			
20) Is y	our loan amoun	t enough to invest in you	ur business?		
	a) Enough.	b) Not enough.			
21) If Ic	oan amount is no	ot enough in your busine	ess field? How m	uch do you need?	
1)	general loan				
2)	Seasonal Agricu	Itural Ioan			
3)	Seasonal busine	ess Ioan			
4)	Tubwel loan				
5)	Sanitary loan				
6)	Others				
22) W/h	at you think aho	out the interest you pay	to hank?		
22) VVII	at you think abo	at the interest you pay	to palik!		
	a) cheap	b) Expensive.	c) Reliable.	d) Don't know.	
23) If the interest rate is high, what is the reliable rate and why?					
24) Will you be able to pay back the loan within the year you take from the bank?					
,		c) I don't know			

25) If y	ou are not able	to pay loan in or	ne year, what is t	he proper time to pay yo	ur loanî
a)	One years.	b) Two years.	c) three yea	ars d)four y	years.
26) Hav	ve you faced pro	oblem in paying i	nstallment or no	rt?	
	a) Yes.	b) No.	c) Sometimes.	d) Don't know.	
If	you have faced	problem in payir	ng installment, w	hat was the problem?	
27) W h	at is the reliabl	e time duration t	o pay installmer	nt?	
	a) One month.	b) Two	o months.	c) Three months.	
	d)Six months				
29) Ho		d you take from k		out the behavior of the st	aff?
1) Why	did you dropou	ut from group?			
a) b) c) d) e) f) g) h) i) k)	Other people of Due to fail in to Due to higher Present loans Family member Due to the unit Due to the less Due to migration Due to less income to less income of the people of the less o	interest. ize is not enough er forced me to d usual behavior of s time of installm ion.	d me to drop ou . ropout. the staff.	t.	
l) m)	Unable to get Others				

2) Do you have interest to reenter into group?

4) Do you have any suggestions to improve the rules & regulations to the bank?
a) Yes. b) No.
5) If you have suggestions then what are them?
a) Decrease interest rate.
b) Increase loan size.
c) Increase saving interest rate.
d) Improvement of the behavior of the staff.
e) Increase the installment duration.

b) No.

a) yes.

Thanks.

Annexes

Annex – 1: Reasons for Decrease in Income (In number of respondents)

		Reasons for Decrease in Income								
VDC	Economic Status	Illness (Family Member or oneself)	Decrease in Sales	Lack of Necessary Materials		Other	Don't Know	Total	%	
	Middle Poor	2	2	3	1	1	1	10		
	Poor	6	2	2	0	0	0	10		
Fikkal	Very Poor	10	0	0	5	5	0	20		
	Total	18	4	5	6	6	1	40	36.36	
	%	45	10	12.5	15	15	2.5	100	-	
Kanyam	Middle Poor	2	2	2	2	2	0	10		
	Poor	3	4	1	0	2	0	10		

	Very Poor	6	4	0	5	5	0		
								20	
	Total	11	10	3	7	9	0	2	31.17
								4	
	%	27.5	25	7.5	17.5	22.5	0.00	100	
	Middle Poor	2	0	2	3	3	0		
								10	
	Poor	3	4	0	0	3	0		
								10	
Panchkanya	Very Poor	7	0	0	5	8	0		
								20	
	Total	12	4	2	8	14	0		32.47
								40	
	%	30	10	5	20	35	0	100	
	Middle Poor	6	4	7	6	6	1		
								30	
	Poor	12	10	3	0	5	0		
								30	
Total of All	Very Poor	23	4	0	15	18	0		
1								60	
	Total	41	18	10	21	29	1		100
								120	
	%	34.16	15	8.33	17.5	24.18	0.83	100	

Annex – 2: Reasons for Increase in Income

(In number of respondents)

			Reasons	for Increase i	n Income				
VDC	Economic Status	Expansion of Existing Enterprise	Initiation of New Enterprise	Availability of Raw materials at Cheap Price	Sales in New Market	Got New Job	Other	Total	%
	Middle	3	2	0	0	3	2	10	
	Poor	4	1	0	0	3	2	10	
Fikkal	Very Poor	6	4	6	0	4	0	20	
	Total	13	7	6	0	10	4	40	21.43
	%	32.5	17.5	15	0.00	10	9.52	100	
	Middle	2	3	0	0	1	4	10	
Vanuara.	Poor	5	2	0	0	0	3	10	
Kanyam	Very Poor	8	4	0	0	5	3	20	
	Total	15	9	0	0	6	10	40	42.86

	%	37.5	22.5	0.00	0.00	15	25	100	
	Middle	3	2	1	2	2	0		
								10	
	Poor	4	2	0	0	0	4	10	
Panchkanya	Very Poor	6	0	3	0	5	5	20	
	Total	13	4	4	2	7	9	40	35.71
	%	32.5	10	10	5	17.5	22.5	100	
	Middle	8	7	1	2	6	6	30	
	Poor	13	5	0	0	3	9	30	
Total of All	Very Poor	20	8	9	0	14	9	60	
	Total	41	20	10	2	23	24	120	100
	%	34.16	16.66	8.33	1.66	19.66	20	100	

Annex-3: Reasons for Worsening Nutritional Status (In number of respondents)

		Reasons for V	Vorsening Nut	ritional Status		
VDC	Economic Status	Decrease in HH Income	Increase in Medical Expenses	Increase in Family Size	Total	%
	Middle Poor	4	3	3	10	
	Poor	3	3	4	10	_
Fikkal	Very Poor	10	5	5	20	_
	Total	17	9	12	40	_
	%	42.5	22.5	30	100.00	20.00
	Middle Poor	4	4	2	10	20.00
	Poor	5	3	2	10	-
Kanyam	Very Poor	8	7	5	20	
	Total	17	14	9	40	-
	%	42.5	35	22.5	100.00	_
						40.00

	Middle Poor	4	3	3	10	
	Poor	6	2	2	10	
Panchkanya	Very Poor	10	6	4	20	
	Total	20	11	9	40	
	%	50	27.5	22.5	100	40.00
	Middle Poor	12	10	8	30	
	Poor	14	8	8	30	
Total	Very Poor	28	18	14	60	
	Total	54	36	30	120	
	%	45	30	25	100	
						100

Annex-4: Reasons for Improvement in Nutritional Status

(In number of respondents)

		Reason	s for Impr	ovement i	n Nutritio	onal Statu	S					
	Economic	Being C	apable to	purchase			Being Capable to have					%
VDC	Status	More Food grains (rice, maize, etc.)	Vegeta bles to eat with Food	Fish, Meat, Milk,Egg, Curd, Cheese	Other Conven ient Food (Fast Food)	Read ymade FooinL arge Quantity	Better Food During Dry Season	a day	Other	Don't Know	Total	
	Middle Poor	3	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	10	
	Poor	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	10	
Fikkal	Very Poor	7	3	1	0	0	0	3	4	2	20	
	Total	11	7	4	3	0	2	4	5	2	40	
	%	27.5	17.5	10	7.5	0.00	5	10	12.5	5	100	40.3 0
	Middle Poor	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	10	
Kanyam	Poor	0	3	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	10	
yaiii	Very Poor	7	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	20	
	Total	9	3	8	0	1	0	9	0	6	40	11.1 9

	%	22.5	7.5	20	0.00	2.5	0.00	22.5	0.00	15	100	
	Middle Poor	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	10	
	Poor	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	2	0	10	
Panchkanya	Very Poor	7	2	4	0	0	2	2	2	1	20	
	Total	8	7	10	1	0	4	5	4	1	40	
	%	20	17.5	25	2.5	0.00	10	12.5	10	2.5	100	48.5 1
	Middle Poor	6	4	6	3	0	3	5	0	3	30	
	Poor	2	8	8	1	1	1	3	3	3	30	
Total	Very Poor	21	8	8	0	0	2	10	6	3	60	
	Total	29	20	24	4	1	6	18	9	9	120	
	%	24.16	16.66	20	3.33	0.83	5	15	7.5	7.5	100	
												100

Annex-7: Reasons for facing Difficulty in repaying Loan (In number of respondents)

		R	easons for f	acing Difficulty	in repayin	g Loan			
VDC	Economic Status	Activity not Profitable	Illness (Family Member and/or oneself)	Part of Loan used for Foodstuff and for Household Expenses	Credit Sale not Cashed	Other	Don't Know		%
	Middle Poor		3		4	3	0	10	
Fikkal	Poor	3	1	2	1	2	1	10	
	Very Poor	7	5	1		6	1	20	_
	Total	10	9	3	5	11	2	40	_
	%	25	22.5	7.5	12.5	27.5	5	100	45.00
	Middle Poor	5		5				10	
	Poor	6	1			2	1	10	
Kanyam	Very Poor	6	6			4	4	20	_
	Total	17	7	5	0	6	5	40	
	%	42.5	17.5	12.5	0.00	15	12.5	100	22.50

	Middle Poor	3	1	2	2	2	0	10	
	Poor	3	3	1	1	1	1	10	_
Panchkanya	Very Poor	6	5		1	4	4	20	_
	Total	12	9	3	4	7	5	40	-
	%	30	22.5	7.5	10	17.5	12.5	100	32.50
	Total	39	25	11	9	24	12	120	32.30
Total	%	32.5	20.84	9.16	7.5	20	10	100	-
									100

Annex-8: Involvement in Community Development Activities:

(In number of respondents)

VDC	Economic Status	Community Development Activities								
		Tree Plantatio	Drinkin				Immuniz ation	Don't	Total	%
		n	g Water	Road	Rest Place	School	Program	Know		
	Middle Poor	5	4			0	1	0	10	
	Poor	5	1			1	2	1	10	
Fikkal	Very Poor	5	5			2	6	2	20	
IIKKII	Total	15	10	0	0	3	9	3	40	30.66
	%	37.5	25	0.00	0.00	7.5	22.5	7.5	100	
	Middle Poor	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	10	
	Poor	1	2	1		2	2	2	10	
Kanyam	Very Poor	5	6			5		4	20	
	Total	8	8	3	2	9	2	6	40	34.06
	%	20	20	7.5	5	22.5	5	15	100	
Panchkan ya	Middle Poor	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	10	
	Poor	2	2	1	2	2		1	10	

	Very Poor	6	4	3	3	2	1		20	
								2		
	Total	10	8	6	6	5	2	4	40	35.28
	%	25	20	15	15	2.5	5	10	100	
Total	Total	33	26	9	8	17	13	4	120	100
	%	27.5%	21.64%	7.5%	6.6%	14.16%	10.8%	11.67%	100%	

Annex-9: Reasons for not receiving Gynecological Services

(In number of respondents)

VDC	Economic	Reasons for not receiving Gynecological Services	Total	%	
					ı

	Status	NoGynecolo gical Problem	Lack of Money	()1	NoInformation onGynecolo gical Services	Other	Don't Know		
	Middle Poor	4	0	2	2	1	1	10	
	Poor	2	2	1	2	1	2	10	
Fikkal	Very Poor	5	3	1	7	2	3	20	
	Total	11	5	4	11	4	6	40	34.32
	%	27.5	12.5	10	27.5	10	15	100	
	Middle Poor	5	2			2	1	10	
	Poor	5	2			2	1	10	
Kanyam	Very Poor	10	2			6	2	20	
	Total	20	6	0	0	10	4	40	33.24
	%	50	15	0.00	0.00	25	10	100	
Panchkanya	Middle Poor	4	1			2	3	10	
	Poor	3	2			4	1	10	

	Very Poor	6	5			5	4	20	
	Total	13	8	0	0	11	8	40	32.44
	%	32.5	20	0.00	0.00	27.5	20	100	
	Total	44	18	4	11	25	18	120	100
Total	%	36.66	15	3.34	9.16	20.84	15	100	



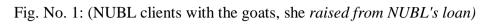




Fig. No. 2: (NUBL clients with the pigs, she raised from NUBL's loan)



Fig. No. 3: (NUBL clients utilizing NUBL's loan in Cows Farming)





Fig. No. 5: (NUBL Clients in her own Shop, opened with NUBL' Loan)



Fig. No. 6: (Clients utilizing NUBL's loan in vegetable bussiness)



Fig. No. 7 : (Nubl's Clients utilizing NUBL'sloan invegetabel farming)



Fig. No. 9 : Clients of NUBL performing financial transaction at center meeting.



Fig. No10 : Clients of NUBL attending at center meeting



Fig. No. 11: NUBL Clients involved in community participation and training