

CHAPTER -I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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

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

As women do not have land in their name due to lack of other sources of income, they are dependent upon their husbands. Women have the accessibility regarding land resources but when it comes to control of benefits it is the male who still exercises the control because our society is male dominated where major

decisions are taken by the male household head. In Nepal unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimized by traditional society norms.

However Nepalese women statuses vary according to their socio-economic condition. Their problem role and responsibilities differ and cooperate in terms of their region in which they live in, their education and their economic dependency upon their male counterparts.

Women now have more influence than ever before in the world, but for all their gains they are still struggling for parity with men. Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideas, getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary (Acharya, 1997). Women are involved in politics but they still do not have an equal influence in policy making. Men continue to hold the majority of parliamentary seats and key government positions throughout the world.

The situation of Nepalese women is no different. Nepalese women are underprivileged and disadvantageous in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. However, the universal declaration of Human Rights has crossed a half century along with the global call for Gender Equity. Nepalese women, who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their houses. Likewise the estimated literacy rate of men is 75.1 percent but that of women is only 57.4 percent (CBS 2012). Most literate women are situated in urban areas while majority of women are situated in rural areas where choice of livelihood is limited to agricultural work in the fields which are mostly owned by their father, husbands, brothers or landlords.

The needs to uplift women in Nepal were realized lately and the steps to meet these needs were taken only recently. Various incentive programs have been launched along with the call for greater awareness to overcome prevailing stigma-attached social plight women. New schemes introduced to a new situation. Some of the major activities are surveying of households, formation of groups, preparing village profiles and involving women in educational, health and income

generating activities both at the district and field levels. Efforts are made to develop women's social prestige, self confidence and feeling of equality by educating them and aiming to set their commanding status over the society as well as their family.

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

Besides, women in Nepal work 10-13 hrs against 7.51hrs for men (CEDA 1981) and hence there is a growing need to provide them sufficient say in decision-making authority within or outside home affairs. Furthermore the importance of women's participation in household management are playing an important role for upliftment of their status in the society. Therefore this study will attempt to highlight the present role of working women (those women who are economically active, have a continual source of income and contributing economically to their family) and non-working women (house-wives) in their household decision making.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

At present Nepal faces many challenges participating in the field of women's and decision making power where illiteracy ignorance and civil aspect of the patriarchal systems are deeply rooted in Nepalese households. Women's representation in terms of decision making is very poor in the whole of the south Asia especially in the countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

The study area, Sunikot VDC of Bajahang, is one of the most challenging areas in the district because the literacy rate of women is low, in comparison to men. It is issue-based areas because of involvement in decision making process of women. Specially the male dominated area is solely depending on the decision making process of men. The economic coverage of the men is higher in comparison to men. Thirdly, the men are highly involving in the process of making major decisions. However, with the advancement of literacy and awareness, the women are also leading the family. They are also taking

responsibility of making decision. Thus, the decision making process of women is to be studied.

Discrimination towards women still exists in society and in whole country. The rural women in Nepal could not have the access of decision making roles. In such case, Sunikot VDC of Bajhang district also can not be its exception. No past study had been conducted regarding women's role in household decision making process in the area. So, this study will address the following research questions:

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

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The specific objective of this study is to examine the role of women in household decision making. The general objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the socio - economic status of women of the study area.
2. To compare the effectiveness of job holder and non-job holder women at household decision making process.
3. To explore the problems of women in decision making process .

1.4 Significance of the study

This study has significance in both applied and theoretical levels. This study attempts to explore and describe women's role in household decision making. Number of research studies has been done on decision making process. Although Nepalese women have been empowered in paper, they have not been wholly translated into a way of life. Hence the result is that only a few women are in the decision making position.

Now a day, it is widely discussed among politicians, planners and bureaucrats that women are exploited, oppressed and isolated from the development main stream. The participation of women is very low in social,

political and economic founds. This study, by exploring and examining women's actual role in household decision making will be useful for proper identification of women's role in household decision making, for the planners and development participation so that they can make better plans, policies and implement them to uplift the Nepalese women's status and their role in the development of the country.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Each and every study is based on a particular field. No study can cover all the areas for the study. So, each study area is limited to its some limitations. This research study was limited to Sunikot VDC of Bajang district because of proximity of the researcher. The researcher is close to the informants. The researcher could easily have approach with the informants.

Secondly, the study was limited to 54 households. There were altogether 371 households in the VDC. However, the sample population was only 54 households. The selection of the informants was only based on a single human resource. Thus, it was only limited a few number of sample size.

Thirdly, the study was limited to the women because the women were backwarded in this VDC. It was meaningful to find out the existing situation of women the targeted area. Higher number of women only involve in farming activities. So, the study aimed to find out the situation of women in decision making process.

Fourthly, the study was time bounded. The researcher had only interviewed once to the women. The situation of the women while interviewing was not considered. The psychological and physical condition of the informant might have played some interference in this study.

Similarly, the study might have some financial factors to play the role of constraints. The researcher might not apply all the tools of data collection

instead of interview. The close observation might be more meaningful along with the key information obtained from the interview.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This section deals with how the chapters are organized hereby. Altogether this report is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with general background, statement of the problem, objectives, significance, limitation and organization of the study. Similarly, the second chapter discusses the review of the related literature which incorporates conceptual review and empirical review. The third chapter deals with the research design, rationale for the study area, nature and source of data, population sampling procedure, technique and tools of data collection and data processing and analysis. Likewise, the fourth chapter is about data presentation and analysis which incorporates socio-economic status of the sample respondents, participation of women in household decision making process and challenges faced by women in household decision making process. Lastly, the fifth chapter summarizes, concludes and provide some constructive suggestions of this study.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this study, the researcher has gone through two types of research namely

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1 Review of Previous Studies

2.1 Conceptual Review

Role of women in decision making

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural area. Rural women, as else where play multiple roles. In the domestic sphere they are household managers, mothers and wives, in community they maintain social and cultural services, predominantly on a voluntary basis and in economy, if they are not formally engaged as employees or entrepreneurs; they are active in family businesses and farms. But they have to low access to income, wealth and employment, which are the main causes of their low economic status. It directly and indirectly affects their decision making power.

(I.L.O, 2001). Social patterns is being changing and most women have started to outside work, the home continue to persist even in the face of drastically changed circumstances. Traditionally, the men was bread-winner; women used to engaged in unpaid labour at home in washing, cleaning, cooking, etc. She was also traditionally regarded as the person with primary responsibility for the care of children and other member. Studies demonstrate that, when both husband and wife work full time, husband and family responsibilities still fall disproportionately on the women in the situation carry the entire burden of the family. As more women work the burden of two 'jobs' are paid and one unpaid at home, which has always confronted working women, has received more media attention .

Women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information. For a large proportion of women, the written word still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favour of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7 percent of gazetted officer and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are men. The study shows about 50 percent of decisions are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female, which shows very low percent of decision making power on the part of women. (UNICEF, 1990)

Women have very low participation in decision-making process, 70% household related and external decision are entirely made by male member of house (Acharya, 1995).

Women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. Their major role in agricultural production particularly, both in labourers and managers of the production process (Acharya and Bennett, 1983).

Dahal (1992) summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal (CEDA, 1981) that among high cast groups. The authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and property. Among the women for Baragaule, Loharung Rai and Kham Magar, they have liberal social structure, which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise the Newar, the Tamang and the Tharu women can have their own independent source of property. Out of that, among the Newar of Kirtipur women cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal, 1992).

Acharya, (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performer under national and international aspires activities involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving

attention of such things as making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies. To provides similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance right, family rights and all over legal rights involving the educated women in office and involving them into seminar and symposia from time to time.

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from participation fully in economic development, which results low decision making power in women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, conception delivery and upbringing of child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low.

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

Acharya, et.al.2010, analyze that Women's autonomy in decision making is positively associated with their age, employment and number of living children. Women from rural area and Terai region have less autonomy in decision making in all four types of outcome measure. There is a mixed variation in women's autonomy in the development region across all outcome measures. Western women are more likely to make decision in own health care (1.2-1.6), while they are less likely to purchase daily household needs (0.6-0.9). Women's increased education is positively associated with autonomy in own health care decision making ($p < 0.01$), however their more schooling (SLC and above) shows non-

significance with other outcome measures. Interestingly, rich women are less likely to have autonomy to make decision in own healthcare.

Strir Shakti, (1995) Women are more apt to say that their husbands make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands or those they have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved to accepting their husbands decisions without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly; simply because they express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision. The ideas that women express disagreement because they have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinions.

UN,(1980) Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls must face the practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10 to 14 after with they must start producing children is prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The primed reasons for the practice are the girls virginity, the prize and the luck awareness and education. Early marriage for many girls in Nepal to high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Early marriage robs girls of here childhood time necessary to develop physically emotionally and psychologically in fact early marriage inflicts great emotional stress as the young women is removed from her parents home to that of her husband and in laws. Her husband who will invariably be many years seniors will have little in common with a young teenager. It is with the strange non that she has to develop an intimate emotional and physical relationship. She is obliged to have intercourse although physically she might not be fully develop.

Acharya and Bennett (1981) give a wider overview of women's status in their decision making power in household. Acharya and Bennett claim that economic factor affects women's role in decision making both directly and indirectly. If women have a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influences the role of decision-making e.g. small size of children imply higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women.

UNICEF Report (1987) depicts, that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favour of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7% of gazetted officers and 5% of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10% of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 % of decision are made by men, 19% jointly and 31% by female, which shows very low %age of decision making power on the part of women.

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Ghimire(1997) had further emphasized on the importance of female education. He had mentioned that a boy is to education as individual, but to educate a girl is to educate the whole family and society. Education is therefore essential for women and girls to become self-dependent, more productive, skillful,

creative and to recognize their right place in the society and to enter the mainstream of development of the nation.

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

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

Acharya and Bennett (1981) have singled out "decision making" from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some model from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village. Dangi (2003), in his study entitled "Women's Participation to their Household Management: A Case Study of Chuhandanda VDC, Terhathum District, concludes that Nepalese women still remain underprivileged as compared to their male counterparts. The study states that, in rural context, they work 17 percent extra hours than those of men in domestic and subsistence economy, however their socio-economic status remain both less recognized and more inferior in comparison to their male counterparts. The study concludes that women play greater role in household and domestic management process but they need final approval of their household head in this process.

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

Acharya and Bennett (1982) have singled out "decision making" from the multi dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household they developed some model from the study of eight different village committees from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were more conceived to be operating in much four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Nepalese women also play managerial role for decision making i.e. form management, resources allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male/female input into the farm management decisions.

According to Acharya and Bennett . (1982) women's rile in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A women have a greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women .

Even where women have been successful at decision-making at the community level and at certain aspects of household decision-making, the overall control of household, land, capital, and other valuable resources in still male-dominant in much of South Asia. The grassroots women's groups create space for women to come together and discuss immediate problems, and to seek help. The local level organizations are more aware of the local social relations and social hierarchies that determine one's access to resources. Although patriarchal views

and structures oppress women all over the world, there exists a class hierarchy even among the women and not all women share identical interests. Organizing women's groups at the grassroots level has been most effective for empowering women at the local level and for bottom-up development. (Gurung, 2004)

According to Shrestha (1994) decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour an input contribution and consultants but as active change agent at the concerned level. It does not mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders, but the involvement of women and man in the same proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communities at large.

It can be concluded from the above studies that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic status of females. Nowadays the access to female resources has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way or other females have more responsibilities in household chores, agricultural activities and other but they have less chance to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without equal participation of male and female in all spheres of households or other activities, there is less chance to be developed societies. Therefore, women should bring in to the mainstream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully role of decision making power .

2.2. Reviews of Previous Studies

The review of previous studies in this research includes the objectives and findings of the previous researches relevant to this research.

Gharti, (2002) has done a study on gender awareness focusing on women's involvement in decision making power: A case study of Lekhnath municipality, Kaski, Nepal. It has the following objectives:

- To examine the socio-economic status of women in the study area.
- To find different causes and factors affecting women's decision making power.

- To recommend policy measure for empowering women in decision making.

She has the conclusion that women may have a greater say in many issues, but which may be of lower importance, for example decision making only in small expenditure of household. Women heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husbands for the execution of both important and unimportant matters.

Lamsal. (2011) has done a study on Women role in household decision making. A case study of Gadhi VDC of Makwanpur district. However the specific following objectives are:

- A) To analyze the role of women in household management activities.
- B) To examine the role of women contribution in house hold work?
- C) To analyze women's role on the adaptation of family planning FP measures, selection of the family size and on educational aspects.

Kaur, (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana State, emphasize upon the need to give due recognition to female decision making specially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families.

She claims that women are never found as final decision maker in many matters except for cases of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participating in women's organizations such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found as solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases.

Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's impact in the decision making process. As she observes, "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterparts."

Dangi, (2003) conducted a study on "Women's economic participation to their household management" It has the following objective.

- A) To study the socio economic condition of the women.
- B) To assess the role of the women in their economic support to their family.
- C) To study their participation in the decision making process within the household.
- D) To suggest measures for uplifting their status in society.

His Major findings are:

- The area in which the study was undertaken is found composed mainly by three casts and ethnicity viz. Limbu, Tamang and Brahman/Chhetri.
- They are mainly dependent on agriculture and small business activities.
- Women are found relatively backward both in terms of involving remunerative economic opportunities and social standing category vis-a-vis their male counterparts.
- There seem greater say of women in household and domestic management process and hence they enjoy greater decision making role but it is found that they need final approval of their male head household on this process. In this regard women are seemed the manager rather than the controller over this process.

Karki, (2011) has done a study on Role of women in household decision making : A case study of Kirtipur municipality ward no 13, Kathmandu, Nepal. It has the following objective:

- a. To explore the socio-economic status of women of Kirtipur -13.
- b. To analyze the role of women in household decision making.
- c. To forward suggestions for promotion of women's role in household decision making and empowering them.

Rai, (2006) conducted a study on " Participation of Women in Household Decision Making Process: " The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) To find out the socio –economic status of the respondents
- 2) To analyze decision making role of women in different activities at household level.
- 3) To evaluate the role of women in agriculture and management.

- 4) To find out the problems of women in decision-making.

Chaudhary, (2008) has done a study on Role of “Co-operative in Rural Women Empowerment” : A case study of Pokharbhinda VDC in Siraha District, Nepal. The overall objectives of this study is to assess the present role of savings and credits cooperatives in Rural Women Empowerment.

The specific objectives are:

- i. To find out the socio-economic status of Rural Women.
- ii. To analyze the savings and credits activities of Rural Women.
- iii. Prospects and challenges of savings and credits cooperatives for the empowerment of Rural Women
- iv. To make relevant recommendation to Policy Maker.

Air, (2012) has done a study on “women empowerment through micro-enterprise in Baitadi & Dadeldhura district” The general objective of this study is to examine and analyze the enterprise development and women empowerment located in Baitadi and Dadeldhura district of Nepal. The specific objectives of this study are:

- i. To examine the relationship between micro-enterprise program and women empowerment in the study areas.
- ii. To explore the socio-economic situation of women in the study areas.
- iii. To examine how women are empowered through the micro-enterprise program.

There are various factors, which determine the empowerment process of women. Among them legal practices is one through which women can achieve and protect their rights, which are violated, by men and patriarchy against women. Likewise political factors also play key role on the empowerment of community women through leadership building, conciseness on their rights and duties by reserving their seats on participation. Similarly social factors importantly determine the process of empowerment of community women through education, health status, and equal participation along with reconstruction of social structure.

Economic factors like production, distribution, consumption and resource allocation also determines the role of male and female in household/family.

sangroula, (2008) has done a study on “women participation in household decision making process A case study of subhang VDC Panchthar district” The general objectives of the study is to portray the decision making power of women in study area. The specific objectives are:

- ☞ To examine the socio-economic status of women in study area.
- ☞ To examine the women participation in household decision making process.
- ☞ To find out the problem faced by women.

CHAPTER -III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study is based on descriptive research design then socio economic status of women in study area and compare the effectiveness of jobholder & non-jobholder women at household decision making process. Analytical research design has also been used in the study as the study focuses on investigating the role of women in household decision making process, and challenges associated with it.

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of the Study Area

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

3.3 Nature and sources of Data

This study was conducted on the basis of both primary and secondary data. The primary data were obtained from the interview with the targeted informants.

Secondly, the information collected from some immediate unstructured questions help to complete this research study. Thus, some qualitative and quantitative sources of data supported to accomplish this study.

The researcher consulted some more secondary sources of data like subject related books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers, NGOs, and women groups of Sunikot VDC.

3.4 Population, Sample and Sampling Procedure

The universe of this study was women participation in household decision making process of Sunikot VDC. Out of total households of 371 and 2074 population, 1134 female. Researcher selected altogether out of 54 household's six women (3 jobholder & 3 jobless) for each wards at as selected in the basis of accidental sampling.

3.5 Techniques and tools of Data Collection

The following technique and tools of the collection was applied in the research.

3.5.1 House hold Survey

Household survey was conducted among 54 HH by developing matured question the survey mainly covered the socio-economic information of the women their role of household decision making process & the problem faced by then for decision making process. The format of questions has been attached in annex-1.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interview

During the field study, informal interactions with a number of people were made. They were asked about role of women in household decision making process. In overall, interview was conducted with 179 job holder women and 955 women were non-job holders. Among the job-holders, here were 3 teachers, 4 local leaders, 2 government job holders, 1 assistant mid-wife nurse (ANM), 1 business woman and 2 others. Some key questions are presented in the Annex -2

3.5.3 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion is most essential tool for collection of qualitative information. Only one focus group discussions was carried out for this study. In the group there were 10 members involved for discussion. Different issues

associated with role of women in household decision making process were forwarded to the group for discussion.

3.6 Data processing and Analysis

Collection were described qualitatively and descriptively. The purpose of data collection was to obtain information to keep on record to make decision about important issues, to pass information onto others. Primarily data were collected to provide information regarding a specific topic. Various techniques like table, statistical tools, computer software etc employed to present the data. Data were analyzed with the help of computer program simple statistical tools like tables will used for data analysis. Descriptive methods was used for qualitative data analysis.

CHAPTER - IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

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

4.1 Socio Economic status of the sampled respondents

4.2 Participation of women in Household Decision Making Process

4.3 Problems faced by women in household decision making process of study area

4.1 Socio Economic status of the sampled respondents

4.1.1 Age Distribution

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

Table 4.1: Age Distribution of the respondents

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

Source: Field survey 2014

The above table shows the age distribution of the sampled respondents selected for this study. The data showed that 25.93 percent of working women are between 16-25 years of age. 18.52 percent of non-working women belong to this

group. Similarly, 48.15 percent of working women and 29.63 percent of non-working women belong to 26-46 years of age. Moreover, 22.22 percent of working women and 33.33 percent of non-working women belong to age group 46-59 years where as the remaining 3.70 percent of working women and 18.52 percent of non-working women are at the age group above 60.

4.1.2 Ethnic Composition

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

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

Table 4.2: Distribution of household by ethnic composition

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

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.1.3 Marital Status

Marriage is the single most important event in the life of men and women . According to Hindu tradition marriage is the compulsory for the all whether man are woman .A man’s life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has no option but to get married . In Nepal of both men and women are married before 25years of age (Acharya , 1995). Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society marriage determines the social roles and responsibility of people . It is essential for legitimate birth. Females’ role also increases in family only after marriage. It enhances there decision making power.

The following Table shows the marital status of the respondents:

Table 4.3: Marital Status of the Respondents

| Marital status | Jobholder Women | | Non-Jobholder women | | Total | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Married | 16 | 59.26 | 21 | 77.78 | 37 | 68.52 |
| Unmarried | 11 | 40.74 | 6 | 22.22 | 17 | 31.48 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

Above table shows the marital status of respondent. In fact, out of 54 respondents, 68.52 percentage respondent are married, among them 59.26 are jobholder and 77.78 percentage are non-jobholder. 31.26 percentage respondent are unmarried, among them 40.74 percentage are jobholder and 22.22 percentage are non-jobholder.

4.1.4 Educational Status

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

Table 4.4: Educational Level of the Respondents

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

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.1.5 Family Structure

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

Table 4.5: Family structure of the household

| Family structure | Jobholder women | | Non-jobholder working | | Total | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Nuclear | 20 | 74.07 | 15 | 55.55 | 35 | 64.81 |
| Joint | 7 | 25.93 | 12 | 44.45 | 19 | 35.19 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.1.6 Distribution of the respondents by Religion

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

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

Table 4.6: Distribution of the household by Religion

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

Source: Field survey, 2014

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

4.1.7 Occupation and source of income

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

Table no. 4.7: Distribution of Households by Occupation & Source of Income

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

Source: Field survey 2014

Occupation and source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Out of the 54 household, services have occupied the first position as the source of income 50% households are dependent upon services for their income. It is followed by wage earning 22.22% household. The wage earning category has higher proportion as main source of income because most of civil castes have no other alternatives except work as wage labour. Similarly, 14.82% household people are engaged in business, while only 12.96% household people are in agriculture and livestock farming and they earn from their agriculture & livestock farming.

4.1.8 Access of Land

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. The question has been asked regarding

the possession of land (as cultivated and household). But both types of land is combined due to which every household has their own land .

The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

Table no.4.8: Possession of Land by Household

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

Source: Field survey 2014

Out of the total 54 household most of the household have less then 5 ropani of land, 61.11 percentage household have only 0-5 ropani , 18.52 percentage household possessed 5-10 ropani of land .Similarly 12.96 percentage household possessed 10-15 ropani and only 7.41 percentage household have land more then 15 ropani. Thus, it can be concluded from the finding that most of the respondents have small land holding.

4.1.9 Alternative Source for fulfillment of Deficit of Food Production

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

Table no. 4.9: Distribution of Household by coping with deficit Food Production

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

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.2 Participation of women in Household Decision Making Process:

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

4.2.1 Possession of Household Income

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

Table 4.10 : Distribution of sampled household by possession of household income

| Household members | Jobholder women | | Non-Jobholder women | | Total | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Myself | 15 | 55.56 | 6 | 22.22 | 21 | 38.89 |
| Male | - | - | 7 | 25.93 | 7 | 12.96 |
| Both | 12 | 44.44 | 14 | 51.85 | 26 | 48.15 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey 2014

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

4.2.2: Saving of Household Income

Income is a key factor of happy life, and saving is more prominent for living happier life. Thus, each and every family wants to save. The saving is crucial to control the family disputes. Similarly, the family can satisfy with the needs and necessities only if there are saving in the family. So, it is very important

to save at least a bit amount from their income. This study analyses the income of each family –job holder or non-jobholder.

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

Table 4.11: Saving of Household income

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

Source: Field Survey 2014

The above table shows the data on saving of household income. There were 25.92% women are self keeping for household income (in 29.63% jobholder & 22.22% are non-jobholders). Were 66.67% household for male decide and keeping for household income and then 7.41% both male and female are keeping the household income.

4.2.3: Total Authority to Mobilize Saving

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

Table no. 4.12: Authority to Mobilize Saving

| Household members | Jobholder women | | Non-Jobholder women | | Total | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Yes | 6 | 35.29 | 2 | 22.22 | 8 | 30.77 |
| No | 11 | 64.71 | 7 | 77.78 | 18 | 69.23 |
| Total | 17 | 100 | 9 | 100 | 26 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey 2014

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

4.2.4: Household Expenditure

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

Table 4.13: Decision maker of household expenditure (Bazaar Purchase)

| Household decision maker | Jobholder women | | Non-jobholder women | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Male | 6 | 22.22 | 2 | 7.41 | 8 | 14.82 |
| Female | 14 | 51.85 | 21 | 77.77 | 35 | 64.81 |
| Both | 7 | 25.93 | 4 | 14.82 | 11 | 20.37 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

This table shows that in 51.85 percent of the jobholders women's household and 77.77 percent of the non-jobholder women's household, the decision regarding small household purchase expenditure is made by the female

member i.e. 51.85 percent jobholder women and 77.77 percent of non-jobholder women make the final decision where as in 22.22 percent of jobholders household and 7.41 percent of non non-jobholder women's household the decision is made by male household head while in 25.93 percent of jobholder women and 14.82 percent of non -jobholder women's household, the decision is made jointly by both the member.

4.2.5 Decision Maker of Medical Treatment

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

Table 4.14: Decision maker for medical treatment

| Household decision maker | Jobholder women | | Non- jobholder women | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Male | 9 | 33.33 | 5 | 18.52 | 14 | 25.93 |
| Female | 8 | 29.63 | 18 | 66.66 | 26 | 48.14 |
| Both | 10 | 37.04 | 4 | 14.82 | 14 | 25.93 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

This table shows that in 33.33 percent of jobholder women's household and 18.52 percent of non-jobholder women's household, the decision regarding medical treatment of household members is made by the male household lead. Likewise in 37.04 percent of jobholder household and 14.82 percent of non-jobholder women's household the decision is made by both the members. Where as 29.63 percent of jobholder women and 66.66 percent non-jobholder women are the decision makers in their respective households regarding seeking medical treatment.

4.2.6: Family Planning

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

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

Table 4.15: Decision maker of Household Family Planning.

| Household decision maker | | Jobholder women | | Non-jobholder women | | Total | |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| No | | – | – | 6 | 22.22 | 6 | 11.11 |
| Yes | Husband | 9 | 33.33 | 18 | 66.67 | 27 | 50 |
| | Wife | 5 | 18.52 | 2 | 7.41 | 7 | 12.96 |
| | Both | 13 | 48.15 | 1 | 3.7 | 14 | 25.93 |
| Total | | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.2.7 Determination of No. of children

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

Table 4.16: Decision maker of child Determination

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

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.2.8: Decision Maker of Registration on Government Record

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

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

Table 4.17: Decision maker of Registration on Government Record

| Household member | Jobholder women's | | Non-working women's household | | Total | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------|------------|
| | Number | percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Male | 8 | 29.63 | 15 | 55.56 | 23 | 42.59 |
| Female | 5 | 18.52 | 3 | 11.11 | 8 | 14.82 |
| Both | 12 | 40.74 | 4 | 14.81 | 15 | 27.77 |
| Other family member | 3 | 11.11 | 5 | 18.52 | 8 | 14.82 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

This table show the decide to households government registration so birth, death, migration etc. registration. Therefore 29.63% males and 18.52% females jobholders women & 55.55% males and 18.11 females non-jobholder household decide the government registration activities. Males and females both decision maker of 40.74 percentage jobholder, 18.52 non-job holder household both are engage the government registration activities and 11.11% jobholder, 18.52% non-jobholder are other family member decided it.

4.2.9: Education of children

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

Table 4.18: Decision maker of children's education

| Household member | Jobholder women's | | Non-working women's household | | Total | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------|------------|
| | Number | percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Male | 6 | 22.22 | 12 | 44.45 | 18 | 33.33 |
| Female | 4 | 14.81 | 6 | 22.22 | 10 | 18.52 |
| Both | 17 | 62.97 | 9 | 33.33 | 26 | 48.15 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.2.10 Attending social ceremonies

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

Table 4.19: Decision maker to attend/ invite in social ceremonies

| Household decision maker | Jobholder women's | | Non-jobholder women's | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| | Number | percentage | Number | Percentage s | Number | Percentage s |
| Myself | 11 | 40.74 | 5 | 18.52 | 16 | 29.63 |
| Husband | 6 | 22.22 | 10 | 37.04 | 16 | 29.63 |
| Both | 3 | 11.11 | 3 | 11.11 | 6 | 11.11 |
| Other Family Member | 7 | 25.93 | 9 | 33.33 | 16 | 29.63 |
| Total | 27 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 54 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

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

4.2.11 Household Activities

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

activities, caring children, cleaning house, washing clothes, collection fuel, welcoming & serving guest and other household activities.

Table 4.20: Decision Makers by Daily Household Activities

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

Source: Field survey 2014

In the total 54 sampled household 18 males & 36 females are engage the charring children and disable member daily household activities, however in 12

males & 42 females cooking for family. Males and females are equal 50 percent engage the cleaning house and washing clothes for family. Collection fuel are engage the 23 males & 31 females respondent household, more then 50 percent female are engage the welcoming and serving guest activities. In the sampled respondent 26 household male are engage the other daily household activities and 28 female.

4.2.12: Causes of Household Dispute

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

The following table presents the causes of household disputes:

Table 4.21: Causes or Types of Household Dispute

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

Source: Field Survey 2014

According to the above table 4.14 dispute are family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. Self decision of male 33 household main causes of dispute. 18 household disputes for discrimination of male with 3 respondent household are other causes of household dispute. These causes are the large number of family, domestic chores which only the women have to perform. Similarly, other reasons found were the rush of family to perform field works and competitive attitudes to complete the family works.

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

Table 4.22: Decision maker to the Dispute Control

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

Source: Field Survey 2014

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

4.3: Problem faced by women in household decision making process:

Specially, the women in the study area are not much involving in the decision making process. The domination of male is being practiced for ages. However, the changing concept on dealing the issues of household activities, the women is also leading the family. At the same time, the women in Sunikot VDC of Bajhng are trying to lead their family as the men. There are some unavoidable problems faced by the women in household decision making process. Some of the factors are discussed in the following sub-sections.

Factors affecting Decision making of women in household activities

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

Table 4.23: Factors affecting decision making

| Influencing Factors | Respondent Women | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| | No. | Percentage |
| Illiterate | 4 | 40 |
| Poverty | 2 | 20 |
| Social & traditional culture | 4 | 40 |
| Other | - | - |
| Total | 10 | 100 |

Source: Field survey 2014

Data included in table 10 shows the opinions of the sampled respondents regarding the factors that influence their decision making. According to the table 40 percent of women consider education as the most influencing factor. 20 percent of women consider economic status to be the most influencing factor. If they contribute economically in the household then they gain more power to make decisions regarding investment and selling of property and other serious money related matters. They are thought as inferior to men and society demands them to be less efficient than men and take a backward seat in every decision to be made in the households. Similarly 14.82 percent of the women believe all the factors equally influence their decision making regarding other household issues.

4.3.1 Major Problems

4.3.1.1 Illiterate

Education plays vital role for changing the life study of the people in any area. It is one of the most effective tools for changing the livelihood. Similarly, it is education that changes a person to a good socialized and cultured. There were only 40% women literate. It means the targeted area is suffering from illiteracy.

4.3.1.2 Poverty

Poverty is the greatest enemy of a person. The life style of a person, a family or a country depends upon the economic status. Thus, if the people living in a particular area are suffering from poverty, they never get opportunity for changing their life standard. The people in the study area were under the darkness of sever poverty. Only 20% people stated that there was problem due to poverty.

4.3.1.3 Social and traditional culture

Society is a common place for culture. In other words, no culture exists without society, and each society is the living phenomena for culture. The society is the backbone of culture. Sometimes social components like culture, tradition, rituals and other issues play vital role in decision making process in the family. The study showed that 40% women said that social and traditional culture was the main reason of issue in the process of decision making process in their family.

4.3.2 Supported Problems

The women are facing problems in household decision making process. Some problems are due to economic condition and some challenges are due to social condition. In this regard, some other problems faced by the women are as follows:

4.3.2.1 Politics

Politics is a game of power. It is highly associated with men and their activities in the society. The men always take opportunity to lead the family. So, the women are facing problem because of political issues.

4.3.2.2 Marriage

There is early marriage system in the existing society. The women are compelled to get married in the early age. So, they have to be dominated by the seniors of their family. They are not given opportunities to lead the family.

4.3.2.3 Head of the family

There is a provision of having senior male member of the family as a head of the family. The head is the dominating figure in the family. And, the leading role of the family always goes to the head of the family. This is the reason why the women are facing problems in household decision making process.

CHAPTER -V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. Summary

The study entitled ‘Role of women in household decision making process’ is the key study to find out the women’s role in decision making process in Sunikot VDC of Bajhang district. This study aims to examine the socio-economic status of women, to compare the effectiveness of job holder and non-job holder women in household decision making process and to explore the problems of women in decision making process. thus, this study is the key study to find out the situation of women in illiterate Nepalese community

This research study was based on the qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The data were described on descriptive and exploratory method. This study aimed to meet the target objectives with the help of primary and secondary data. The reasearcher had consulted various authentic materials like books, journals, web sites, articles and so on. The research methodology incorporated the sample size, sample population, study area, research technique and tools (household survey, key informant interview and focus group discussion). The methodology also incorporated the processing and analysis of data. Thus, this research is completely based on a systematic process.

The research found out that the women who were job holder they had high power of decision making in the family. Similarly, the women who were involved in social and political activities they have domination in the family. They involve in decision making process. Moreover, the women who were much literate in comparison to their husbands they have decision making power in the family. Thus, the study showed that social, economic and literacy situation have direct impact on decision making process of women. The women who were not job

holder and illiterate they had many challenges in their family. They do not have opportunity for making decision. They are suffering from the social and cultural evil traditions.

The major findings of the study are as follows:

- Among the 54 respondent 50% are jobholder & 50 % are non jobholders Majority of sample respondents for this study are married. So most of them have a status of wife and daughter-in-law in their household. Though this area has very strong social and traditional culture.
- Majority of respondent are Chettri & Dalit but Chettri are the dominant caste or ethnic group in the study area.
- All respondent are literate 31.49% intermediate pass and 3.70% masters pass
- With regard to religion of 72.22% Hindu, 14.81% Christian, 12.97% are Buddhist in the study areas respondent
- Majority of jobholder women are more qualified in terms of education than non-jobholder women.
- With regard to family structure, 64.81percent are nuclear family & 35.19percent household have joint family. The family structure of most of the jobholder women is nuclear74.07% in nature where as non-working women 44.44% have joint family structure. It is also found that in joint families women have more responsibility and less mobility and freedom and hence women are confined mostly on household work than in outside affairs.
- At the total 90% household are pakki (in 15%percent concrete & 75% are slate).
- Mostly female involve in wage earning of non-jobholder women for 12 household & continue by business & agriculture livestock farming for 8 & 7 households.

- Most of the 36 household are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfill their food deficiency of by involving in 12 household in wage earning, 9 household service, business & livestock farming are equal to 6 household, debt are 2 household and 1 household are other then fulfill the food deficiency.
- Males & females both are control the household income. In 48.15% household kept by both and 38.89% for female (myself) while 12.96% by male member.
- With 66.67percent males are saving the household income , 25.92percent myself & 7.41percent males and female are saving the household income.
- More then 50% decision for household expenditure is taking by female. The women in majority of both the jobholder 51.58% as well as non-working women's 77.77% household are the decision maker regarding expenditure on household purchase. It is found that men do not like to be bothered by these matters.
- Men and both (male & female) the households have an equal say in the expenditure related to medical treatment. Then higher decided or responsibility female for 48.14% in respondent household.
- 88.89% household listen about family planning. Than decide for 50% husband & only 12.96% decide for wife
- Women & both (husband & wife) equal 10.81% decide for child production in 37 marriage respondent household. Than maximum decide for husband 78.38%.
- Among the 54 respondent 23 household male are decided to government registration, 15 household both male & female and 8 household equal Female and other family member decided for government registration so birth, death, migration etc.
- Education of children is a priority in most of the households of both working and non-working women. The decisions related to children's education is jointly made by both the parents i.e. men and women after

knowing the desires of their children. It is found that jobholder women's household have more power in deciding about their children's education than non-jobholder women.

- Women are the main decision maker regarding social ceremonies to attend other's ceremonies or inviting other people for celebration. It is found that jobholder women are mostly consulted or given more responsibility in the decision related to attending or organizing social ceremonies than non-jobholder women. It may be because of the social relation that a jobholder woman have outside the house. Therefore 40% jobholder women decide then 29.63% non-jobholder women.
- Mostly males are control the household dispute. In 29 household male, 11 household female and 14 household both member control the household dispute.
- Women take the sole responsibility of all the household activities like charring children, cooking, welcoming & serving guest etc. The men only offer a helping hand in some cases. It is found that men in the jobholder women's household participate more in household activities than non-jobholder women.
- Comparatively jobholder women household are more in favour of educating women and property right for women than non-jobholder women's households.

5.2 Conclusion

The study found that the socio-economic status of the women in household decision making process. The women who were higher in social and economic status they had opportunity to lead their family. Thus, the social status is one of the key components of decision making process. Similarly, economically strong women had also led the family and made generous decisions.

Secondly, job is the key component of decision making process. The women who were job holder they have decision making power in the family. It is also associated with the economic condition. The finding states that the nature of job of the women is the change agent of making decision. The women who were illiterate and non-job holder they had no opportunity for making decision. They had to obey their husbands.

Thirdly, the study found that there were three main issues on making household decisions. They were illiteracy, poverty and social and traditional culture. These components were the main fences for women in making decision. These components did not make the male in making decision.

5.3 Suggestions

First and foremost, there must be the opportunity for education to women. This opportunity helps them to lead the family and make good decisions. This implies empowering and conferring them a greater status within the household. This educational status would earn them the household decision making power on important matters since they would then be thought capable of making effective decision by their male counter part.

The encouragement of the cooperative forms of social organization such as credit societies, marketing cooperatives and mother's club in order to mobilize women should be employed.

Steps should be taken to make men and the society it self aware regarding the capabilities of women as effective decision maker on important issues as well. The male member of the family should not restrict the mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities.

Employment opportunities should be made available to encourage women who would encourage their economic participation and elevate their status within their respective household.

Reforms should be made regarding various women related government policies and programs. The existing laws, customs regulation and practices should be abolished which are discriminatory against women to establish adequate legal protection for equal right of men and women.

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3. How many land have you (in Ropani)
 0-5 5-10 10-15 15+
4. It is food production in your land sufficient for consumption of whole year ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
5. If no where do you fulfill food deficit ?
 (a) Services (b) Business (c) Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning (e) Debt (f) Other
6. What is your main occupation ?
 (a) Service (b) Business (c) Agriculture & Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning (e) Other

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

7. Do you have saving of amount ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
8. Do you have total authority to mobilize saving ?
 If No, why ?

9. Do you know the income of your husband or other members of your family ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
10. Who decide to allocate & spend the household income ?
 (a) Myself (b) Male (c) Both
11. Who keep your saving ?
 (a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both
12. If working , how do you spared the money you earn ?
 (a) Give to the family (b) By food item (c) Children education (d) For myself (e) Other
13. To whom you consult to spared your income ?
 (a) Own decision (b) Male member (c) Both
14. Do you have household dispute ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
15. Who decide to control the dispute ?
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
16. Who decide to purchase goods for market ?
 (a) Husband (b) Wife (c) Both

17. Who take response for treatment if any member are suffering from ?
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
18. Do you listen about family planning ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
19. Who decide it ?
 (a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both
20. Who decide to determine of NO. of children ?
 (a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both
21. Who makes decide to select school for your children ?
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
22. Who decide registration about government record ?
 (a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both (d) Other family member
23. Has your family attended / organized any social ceremonies ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
24. Who decide ?
 (a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both (d) Other family member
25. How do you make decision about your family's daily household activities ?

| Household daily activities | Sex | All time | Mostly | Sometime | Never |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Charring children & disable member | Male | | | | |
| | Female | | | | |
| Cooking for family | Male | | | | |
| | Female | | | | |
| Cleaning for house | Male | | | | |
| | Female | | | | |
| Washing clothes for family | Male | | | | |
| | Female | | | | |
| Collection fuel | Male | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| | Female | | | | |
| Welcoming & serving guest | Male | | | | |
| | Female | | | | |
| Other household activities | Male | | | | |
| | Female | | | | |

ANNEXES – II

Focus Group Discussion Question

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

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

- (a) Education (b) Economic status (c)

Ownership of property

- (d) Social & Traditional culture (e) Other

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

ANNEXES-III

Guidelines for Key informant Interview

- a. Are you a job holder?
- b. If yes, what kind of job do you have?
- c. Are you satisfied with your income?
- d. Why?
- e. How much time do you spend for family?
- f. Are your family members happy with your job?
- g. Why? Why not?
- h. Are there any problems in your job?
- i. If there are, could you please mentions some?
- j. Do you have any problems regarding making household decision?
- k. If yes, could you tell please?

ANNEXES-IV

Photo of field study

FGD of study area



picture no.1

Activity



picture no.2

Study area of sunikot VDC of Bajhang district



Picture no.3

Interview of respondent in study area



picture no.4