

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

The concept of a livelihood is widely used in contemporary writings. Its thinking dates back to the work of Robert Chambers in mid-1980s (further developed by Chambers, Conway and others in the early 1990s). The meaning of livelihood can often appear elusive, either due to vagueness or due to different definitions been encountered in different sources. Its dictionary definition is 'means to a living,' which straightaway makes it more than merely synonymous with income because it directs attention to the way in which a living is obtained, not just the net results in terms of income received or consumption obtained. A popular definition is that provided by Chambers and Conway (1992:7) wherein a livelihood 'comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living.'

The important features of this livelihood definition is to direct attention to the links between assets and the options people possess in practice to pursue alternative activities that can generate the income level required for survival. Assets in the Chambers and Conway livelihood definition contain a number of components, some of which belong to recognized economic categories of different types of capital and some of which do not, namely, claims and access. There is no difficulty in accepting assets as an essential component of any definition of livelihoods; however, there remains scope for disagreement as to what type of capital or stocks can legitimately be included under the overarching description of assets. Followers of the Chambers and Conway line of thinking about livelihood (e.g. Scoones, 1998) have tended to identify five main categories of capital as contributing to assets in the livelihood definition and these are natural capital, physical capital, human capital, financial capital and social capital.

In brief, natural capital refers to the natural resource base (land, water, trees) that yields products utilized by human populations for their survival. Physical capital refers to assets brought into existence by economic production processes, for

example, tools, machines, and land improvements like terraces or irrigation canals. Human capital refers to the education level and health status of individuals and populations. Financial capital refers to stocks of cash that can access in order to purchase either production or consumption goods and access to credit might be included in this category. Social capital refers to the social networks and associations in which people participate, and from which they can derive support that contributes to their livelihoods.

All these five types of capitals are adopted here as useful components of the assets that underpin individual and household livelihood strategy. In the light of the discussion, the following definition of livelihood is proposed. A livelihood comprises the assets (natural, human, physically, financial and social capital), the activities and the access to these (mediated by institution of social relations) that together determine the living gained by the individual for household. A fundamental characteristic of livelihood in contemporary developing countries is the ability to adapt in order to survive. The construction of a livelihood is an ongoing process in which it cannot be assumed that the elements remain the same from one season or from one year to the next. Assets can be built, eroded, or instantaneously destroyed. Available activity fluctuates seasonally, and across years, especially in relation to larger economy trends in the national economy and beyond. Access to resources and opportunity may change for individual household due to shifting norms and events in the social and institutional context surrounding their livelihood.

Livelihood has been seen as a highly complex, all-incompassing concept, which is not restricted to the ecological or to the economy or productive aspect of life. The most cited definition of livelihood is that given by Carwey (1998), (based on Chambers and Conway, 1992; p.7): "a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base". According to Long (1997) livelihood, "best express the idea of individuals and groups striving to make a living attempting to meet their various consumption and economic necessities, coping with uncertainties, responding to new opportunities, and choosing between different value positions." Or,

as Wallman (1983: in appendix 2001, p.25) puts it: "livelihood is never just a matter of finding or making shelter, transacting money, getting food to put on the family table or to exchange on the market place. It is equally a matter of ownership and circulation of information, the management of skill and relationship and the affirmation or personal significance.... And group identity..." the holistic nature of livelihood is also stress by Bebbington (1999, p.2022) who in the following statement describe is as a combination of produce, human, natural, social and cultural assets. 'A livelihood encompasses income, both cash and in kind, as well as the social institutions (kin, family, village), gender relation and property rights required to support and to sustain a given standard of living, a livelihood also include access to and the benefit derive from social and public services provided by the state such as education, health service, roads, water supply and soon.' Bebbington shows that sufficient consideration needs to afford to the various dimension of livelihood. 'A person's assets, such as land, are not merely means with which he or she makes a living: they also give meaning to that person's world. Assets are not simply resource that people use in building livelihood: they are assets that give them the capability to be and to act. Assets should not be understood only as 'things' that allow survival, adaptation and poverty alleviation. They are also the basis of and agents power to act and to reproduce, challenge or change the rules that govern and control, use and transformation of resources" (Gidden; in Bebbington 1999,p.2022).

Livelihood has viewed as survival strategies equally applicable to urban as well as to rural (Ellis, F.1999). In pursuing livelihood strategies composed of a range activities, both the access to assets and the use to which they can be put are mediated by social factors (social relations, institutions, organizations) and by exogenous trends (e.g. economic trends) and stocks (drought, disease, floods, pests). Within the aforementioned social, economic, political and environmental contexts, how people access and use these (tangible assets, such as Food stores and Cash savings, as well as trees, land, livestock, tools, similarly, intangible assets such as claims one can make for food, work, and assistance as well as access to materials, information, educations, health services and employment opportunities) assets form a livelihood strategies. The range and diversity of livelihood strategies are enormous. An individual may take on several activities to meet his/ her needs. One or many individuals may engage in activities that contribute to a collective livelihood strategy. Within households,

individuals often take different responsibilities to enable the sustenance and growth of the family. In some cultures, this grouping may expand to a small community, in which individuals work together to meet the needs of the entire group.

Livelihood is a multidimensional covering not only economic, but also political, cultural, social aspects. Kathmandu valley consists of three small districts: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur. This Valley contains numerous people with diverse culture and values. It has provided special livelihood options to its people. People of Kathmandu valley are adopting diverse livelihood strategies and different kinds of occupations as a means of their livelihood based on a volume of their assets, skills, income opportunities and markets. For the purpose of this research here, the researcher has chosen a tea seller for investigating livelihood and understanding its diverse form.

1.2 Research Questions

The dramatic growth of cities in the developing world has brought it with a new challenge-widespread and increasing urban poverty. However, efforts to address the unique problem of urban poverty lag far behind the growth of problem themselves. The problems of the city dwellers have become more pressing, including the issues how the urban poor earn their livelihoods (Maxwell, D ; Levin, C ; Klemesu, M .A ;Ruel , M; Morris, S ; Ahiadeke ,C. IFPRI research report, 2000). The poor face daily crisis of livability and sustainability. Poverty alleviation has been a theme that the government has always emphasized. In every five-year plan that the government formulates, poverty alleviation has been the prioritized area. This has been crucial considering the degree of poverty rampant among the people. With half of the country living below the poverty line, drastic measures are essential to lift their living standard. Urban livelihoods are complex and not easily characterized. Urban poor rely heavily on their labor for income. Men are likely to be involved in unskilled or skilled labor sometimes self-employed, sometimes as wage laborer- and some have clerical or professional jobs (Maxwell, D ; Levin, C ; Klemesu, M .A ;Ruel , M; Morris, S ; Ahiadeke ,C .IFPRI research report, 2000). Urban poverty is increasing and is bound to become more relevant in the near future. Understanding the nature of urban poverty and the relationship between urban poverty and different kinds of insecurity, the strategies urban dwellers use to cope with poverty as well as understanding those, it

will be possible to shape policies and programs. That can be more effective in alleviating poverty and reducing risks.

It has been a very long years that the respondent is running a small teashop at TU. Thought he is old now, but he still looks energetic and active in running his business. It poses a number of questions in mind of peoples. First question is how he is sustaining his daily life by running such a small teashop. The second is the reason behind choosing/preferring the same business for livelihood. Therefore, exploring how is he sustaining his daily life by running such a small teashop. Moreover, why does he prefer/choose to run the same business? These are the research problem of this study.

Therefore, the parts of research problem of this study are:

1. How is it possible for him to sustain his daily life by running a small teashop at TU?
2. Why does he prefer/choose to run the same business?

1.3 Research Objectives

The general objective of this study is to explore how he is sustaining his daily life by running a small teashop at TU .And to explain the reasons why does he prefer/choose the same business for a long time at TU. Specially:

1. To explore how he is sustaining his daily life by running a small teashop at TU.
2. To explain the reasons behind preferring/choosing the same business as a livelihood strategy

1.4 Importance of the Study

Urbanization addresses a multiplicity of issues challenging Nepal's growth and development and encompasses a variety of different problems facing not only Kathmandu but also Nepal as a whole (Subedi, 1998). The main issue is that social and economic inequality is spreading significantly. This paper attempts to gather information through a tea-seller's life history about how the poor peoples who engage

in their small (in terms of capital investment) own business, secure their living in cities. This is bitter fact that, very limited attention has been paid to the research based on single life history. It has expected that this study will be useful for other researchers and students who are willing to do similar sort of research. They may get benefit from this study report taking as a reference.

1.5 Organization of the Study

For the systematic presentation, this research consists of the following chapters. They are as follows:

Introduction – It is the first chapter, which includes general background of the study; research questions; research objectives and importance of the study.

Review of Literature – Conceptual review and review of previous studies of literature contains the review of related books; journal and past research works are included in this chapter.

Research Methodology – This chapter deals with the way and the technique of the study applied in the research process. It includes research design, population and sample, data collection procedure and processing, tools and methods of analysis and limitation of the study.

Presentation of Data – In this chapter, the collected and processed data are interpreted.

Conclusion – This concluding chapter deals with the conclusion of the finding.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of relevant literature is an integral part of all research including academic and professional; without which completion of research is almost impossible. It enables researcher to find out research question needed to define the ultimate statement of the problem. Moreover, it facilitates to determine the actual topic, the theoretical base and cognizant of the problem from experience of previous researchers (www.google.com).

This chapter has divided into two parts. The first part comprises of theoretical framework, theoretical review and the second part comprises of review of empirical studies. Empirical review contains different literatures, finding report related to livelihoods.

2.1 Theoretical Review

Livelihood-Meaning and Concept

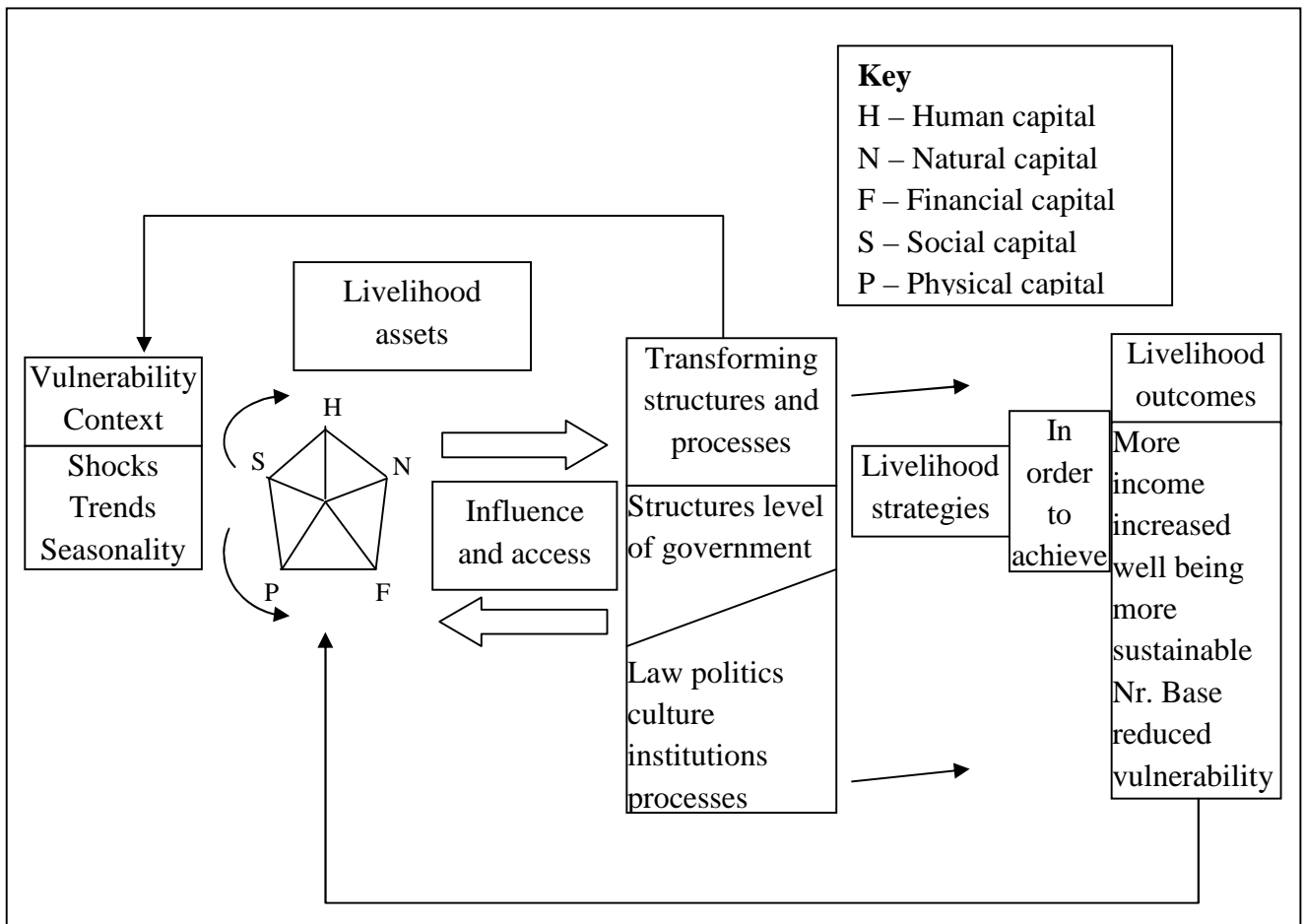
The concept of livelihoods has gained wide acceptance as a valuable means of understanding the factors that influence people's lives and well-being, particularly those of the poor in the developing world (Carney, 1998; Davies, 1996; Rennie and Singh, 1996; Bernstein et al., 1992). Livelihood approach aims to increase the quality of life by increasing incomes of the people, reducing poverty through promoting sustainability. 'Livelihoods' has a number of meanings, and there are a number of definitions for the term. Clarity and rigor are therefore needed if the approach is to achieve its full potential as a basis for robust development initiatives that are in tune with the realities of what is and is not possible on the ground (Blaikie and Soussan 2000). According to Chambers and Conway 1992, "*A livelihood comprises the Capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes*

net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term."

Livelihoods Framework

The livelihoods framework is a tool to improve our understanding of livelihoods, particularly the livelihoods of the poor. It is a way of looking at how an individual, a household or a village community behaves under specific frame conditions. The different elements of a "Livelihood Framework" define the context in which individual or communities make their living. For better understanding how people develop and maintain livelihoods, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), building on the work of practitioners and academics, developed the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF). This framework is an analysis tool, useful for understanding the many factors that affect a person's livelihood and how those factors interact with each other.

Figure 1: DFID's Sustainable Livelihood Framework



Source: Sustainable Livelihood Guidance Sheets of DFID. 2002

Livelihoods framework should not be understood as a linear process. The starting point for many livelihood analyses are the assets that is the people's strengths or resources. Simultaneously livelihood outcomes, that are their goals or objectives, as well as livelihood strategies, the strategies they adopt to achieve these objectives, are investigated. In the analysis how the vulnerability context and the policies institutions and process influence the assets and strategies. It is also possible to focus on the part of the framework while keeping the wider picture in mind (DFID, 2002).

Vulnerability Context

The vulnerability context defines the specific frame conditions which determine the opportunities of an individual or community. The factors that make up the Vulnerability Context are important because they have a direct impact upon people's asset status and the options that are open to them in pursuit of beneficial livelihood outcomes. The strength of a given livelihood is not only measured by its productive outcomes, but equally by its resilience to shocks, seasonal changes and trends. Shocks might include natural disasters, wars, and economic downturns. Availability of resources, income-generating opportunities, and demand for certain products and services may fluctuate seasonally. More gradual and often predictable, trends in politics and governance, technology use, economics, and availability of natural resources, can pose serious obstacles to the future of many livelihoods. These changes affect the availability of assets and the opportunities to transform those assets into a "living". Under such conditions, people must adapt existing strategies or develop new strategies in order to survive.

Livelihood Assets

The assets are the resources that an individual or household can make use of the asset pentagon is an important component in the sustainable livelihood framework. It is a visual representation of information about people's livelihood assets. It brings to life important inter-relationship between the various assets such as:

Human Capital

Human capital represents the skills, knowledge, ability to labor and good health that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives. At a household level human capital is a factor of the amount and quality of labor available; this varies according to household size, skill levels, leadership potential, health status, etc.

Social Capital

Social capital refers to the social networks and associations in which people participate, and from which they can derive support that contributes to their livelihoods.

Natural Capital

Natural capital refers to the natural resource base (land, water, trees) that yields products utilized by human populations for their survival.

Physical Capital

Physical capital refers to assets brought into existence by economic production processes, for example, tools, machines, and land improvements like terraces or irrigation canals.

Financial Capital

Financial capital is defined as the financial resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives, as resources it includes available stocks, regular inflows of money.

Structures and Processes

Structure: Structures are formal institutions such as governmental organizations, formal laws, regulation, which are present in a society or are important for social life. Structures in the livelihood framework are taken as the hardware that set and

implement policy and legislation, deliver service, purchase, trade and perform all manner of other function that affect livelihoods in both private and public sectors.

Processes: Processes can change or determine the access to the assets within the livelihood. It can be taken as software. It determines the way in which structure and individuals operate and interact. Like software, they are both crucial and complex. There are various types of processes operating at different level. They also overlap and have conflict between themselves. Politics, legislation, instruction, culture and power relations come under policy (DIFD, 2002).

Livelihood Strategies

Livelihood strategies are “the range and combination of activities and choices that people make/undertake in order to achieve their livelihoods goals” or “the way of combining and using assets” (DFID 2002). Livelihood strategies include, how people combine their income generating activities, the way in which they use their assets, which assets they choose to invest in and how they manage to preserve existing assets and income. Strategies change over time and there is an enormous diversity of livelihoods. The more choice and flexibility that people have in their livelihood strategies, the greater their ability to with stander adapt to the shocks and stresses of the vulnerability context (DFID, 2002).

Livelihood Outcomes

Livelihood Outcomes are the achievements, the results of livelihood strategies. Outcome categories can be examined in relation to the following categories:

-) more income
-) increased well-being
-) reduced vulnerability
-) improved food security
-) more sustainable use of the natural resource base
-) social relations and status
-) dignity and (self)respect

Livelihood outcomes are not only of financial nature i.e. people are not solely maximizing income but various categories such as increased well-being reduced vulnerability, improved food security etc. may be relevant according to the given situation. Livelihood outcome have direct return on livelihood assets and hence direct alter the choice of livelihood strategies when an individual (Wyss, 2004).

2.2 Empirical Review

Many scholars, institutions, organizations at national as well as international level on livelihood, have conducted various research works and study. Here are some reviews based on livelihood strategy:

Studies Related to Livelihood Strategy

Carole (1999) has written an article titled “A capital assets framework for analyzing household livelihood strategies: Implications for policy”. The aim of this article is to assess the policy implications of adopting a household livelihood strategies framework for understanding poverty and deprivation. It identifies typical policy recommendations that emerge from a conceptualization of household strategies as managing portfolios of capital assets, and briefly review experience with a view to assessing whether this analytical approach provides a satisfactory basis for poverty reduction policy. It concludes that an advantage of the capital assets framework is that it places the reality of domestic groups (generally conceptualized as households) at the center of analysis and policy, without ignoring the contextual economic, political and social factors, which determine their ability to construct sustainable livelihood strategies. It provides a more adequate multi-dimensional understanding of poverty, impoverishment and increased well-being than analysis of income or consumption alone, in both urban and rural areas. It suggests that there is a danger that the capital assets framework leads to a focus on some of the poor (those with productive assets), and that the poorest (those unable to sustain themselves, the destitute) are neglected. Thus policies to assist households to accumulate assets and take advantage of opportunities, by relieving constraints on their ability to do so, by building capacity at household or community level, or by creating an enabling environment, need to be complemented by measures designed to protect them from impoverishment and program to ensure access by the poorest to basic minimum needs.

Bhurtel (2000) emphasized on changing livelihood strategies of Kumal 'tribal' group of Pokhara valley. Qualitative technique used to collect their ethnographic details and quantitative technique used to collect their socio-economic details and both techniques have been used to analyse them. His analysis primarily based on rather than assigning cause and effect tags to any factors or the results, the attempt has always been to search for incidents and events that have played momentous role in prompting gradual changes in natural, socio-cultural or economic environs of the region. Obviously, emergence of modern amenities and rapid development intervention caused in declining their traditional occupation, i.e. making pots by using clay, but author found some diversification on their present livelihood strategies. Present livelihood strategies of Kumals' in spite of making clay pots, towards labour export to Gulf (Gaun to the Gulf), local wage labour, selling of Raksi, growing mushrooms, raising livestock for market, fishing, horticulture, service (Government/Private) and Business (Owner/Partnership). On the contrary, the young generation of the Kumals has not inherited the skill of making pots. Finally, he suggested that in order to help them attain a more secure livelihood security, their local custom, institutions and culture should be taken into account.

Bhattra (2001) conducted a micro study about", Reckshwa pulling as a way of earning livelihood at Birtamod in Jhapa". The main objective of the study was to analyze the socio-economic condition of Rickshaw puller and the way and means of earning livelihood. The result was that the majority of rickshaw pullers were engaged in agriculture activity before. High illiteracy, ignorance and downgrades were the main causes to adopt the occupation. There were no such better strategies for the rickshaw pullers and so they spend their life just on earn and spend.

Subedi and Pandey (2002) made a study entitled, "livelihood Strategies of Rai Communities in Arun Valley: Continuity and Change" focusing on livelihood strategies of the highland and lowland people. It is the comparative study of two spatial locations i.e. Makalu and Sitalpati, which are different altitudinal places. According to them land ownership has been decreasing because of population growth. Over utilization of public resources created resource scarcity and to cope with this problem, they brought marginal lands into cultivation. They have converted '*Khorias*' into '*bari*' and '*baris*' in to '*khet*' wherever possible. This was followed by the use of

modern technology in the form of additional inputs. Wage laboring, pottering, borrowing, crediting and livestock rearing were the strategies adopted by them to cope the scarcity.

Pathak (2004) studied the livelihood of street cobblers in Kathmandu Valley. The objective of the study was to examine the street cobblers' way of earning livelihood in Kathmandu city. The study was based on individual survey of major locations in Kathmandu Street. He concluded that street cobblers came from different geographical parts. Large portion of street cobblers are middle aged. Street cobblers did not achieve significant earning from their occupation. There is high fluctuation in cobblers' daily and seasonal income. There are many external and internal factors like seasonality space, institution and social values to make the street cobblers more vulnerable.

Poudel, (2005) made study on street vegetable vendors of Kathmandu city: case studies of Maitidevi, Chabhil and Asan Chowk. Economically weak, disadvantaged group, poor and squattered peoples were found involving in street vegetable vendors. Some of the vendors found with very low daily income and found hard to fulfill their needs for sustaining their livelihood in urban areas. However, at the same time on contrary to them, most of vendors felt quite satisfactory with their occupation earning good money for them as well for their family. They do have the problem of lack of suitable and proper place to do their business. Doing business in busy road, they feel that their place of vending is more vulnerable. It is true that for sustainability of their occupation, they really need a proper place to sell their goods.

An undergoing research funded by European Commission titled "Emerging trends in Urban Livelihoods" by Stefan Schutte (2005) deals primarily with the question of change of livelihood strategies. The paper identifies key features of urban livelihood security in Afghanistan. It has focused on three central and interrelated themes viz. access to regular sources and different forms of credit, security of housing and tenure, maintenance and quality of social relations. This study highlights how social assets are key to many households managing living in the city and coping with crisis and vulnerability. It has found that most people are able to access smaller credit, but many often face difficulties repaying it, which in turn force them to engage in asset depletion, early child marriage or illicit activities. An important finding of the research

carried out to date is that social assets and the ability to acquire resources by virtue of membership in social networks assume great importance for those urban poor who lack secure income opportunities and material assets.

Sustainable Livelihood Approaches in Urban Areas: General Lessons with Illustrations from Indian Cases by John Farrington, Tamsin Ramasut, Julian Walker (2002) suggests that though livelihood approaches originated in rural contexts, there is nothing inherent in urban settings to prevent their application there. It argues that the need for livelihood approaches in urban settings is pressing and that the returns of their implementation must be high. It attempts to represent the fact that in most countries population level in urban areas is growing at double the rate of rural areas. Therefore, a clear understanding of the range and dynamics of their livelihoods is necessary if substantial opportunities for supporting them and absorbing more rural poor into the higher potentials settings of the urban areas are to be exploited.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is one of the most important aspects for all types of research. Methods and techniques of data collection and methods of analysis have been consisted in methodology. Therefore, for the authentic research outcome, suitable methodology has to apply correctly in the time of taking data and information and data processing. It clarifies the concept and gives the way of destination point.

3.1 Research Design

It has been almost 55 years and still he is running his tea business smoothly. The study aims to explore how it is possible to sustain his daily life by running such a small teashop at TU. Further, it explores the reasons behind preferring/choosing to run the same business for his livelihood continuously for so long time. Based on the nature of research and its objectives that it has incorporated, this study will make a thorough analysis of a hard working person who had attempted for his survival and family chose to run a small teashop. Furthermore, the study has centered to explore the objective reality about how he is sustaining his daily life. In addition, directly seeks to frame general rule/law on selecting teashop at TU exploring causes of choosing that business as a livelihood strategy. The appropriate research design of this study is explorative with qualitative data collection technique.

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

As mentioned earlier the information to be collected in this study is primarily qualitative in nature. Both the research questions: how he is sustaining his daily life by running a small teashop at TU? In addition, why does he prefer/choose the same business for his livelihood? is qualitative in nature. Therefore, the information, primarily qualitative data have collected through primary source.

3.3 Research Methods and Data Collection Techniques/Tools

The heart of any research design is the collection of data. Having identified possible sources and the type of the data, we need to think about how the data can be collected

systematically in sufficient quantity and of the necessary quality (Hart 2005).The research methods under this study have followed Observation, In-depth Interview focused on life- history, and Checklist.

Observation

Observation is regarded as 'the fundamental of all research methods in the social and behavioral science. Social scientists are observers of both human activities and physical settings in which such activities take place (Denzin and Lincoln 2000). Observation method has involved finding out about how he is running his business. Specially, researcher has observed respondent's daily routine of doing business; the environmental conditions of the teashop, his attitude and behavior, flow of costumers to have tea and breakfast and his daily average tea sell.

In-depth interview

In-depth interview involves a certain style of social and interpersonal interactions. In order to generate information on reasons for preferring teashop was been generated through in-depth Interview method. It has helped to collect the required information and facts from the respondent. For it, interview guide i.e. lists of open-ended questions were developed and interviewed accordingly. The interview was regarding his inspiration of running the business, his initial stages, his strategies, the present situations and the further plan.

Checklist

Checklist was been employed as a guiding tool of data collection under interview and information was noted on the field book. The researcher experienced in-depth interview as a major source of information.

3.4 Limitation of the Study

The livelihood study covers a wide range of subjects. This study is concerned with livelihood issue based on single life history of a tea-seller. The livelihood outcome is slightly adjusted according to the availability of the data. Therefore, the output of the study may not be useful to draw conclusion regarding entire urban poor in Nepal or

the generalization may not be appropriate. Limited time is the major limitation. Within this limitations attempt is made to understand the livelihood.

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL BIOGRAPHY OF THE RESPONDENT

The respondent (Nani Kaji Bista) is a self-employed man of 70 years, who struggled hard to sustain his daily life by running a small teashop in the heart of Kirtipur, Kathmandu. He was born in Bhajangal, Kirtipur as a second eldest son of his parents. He had studied seven classes only. Then after he was compelled to leave his schooling because of, the family problems i.e. low level of family income.

4.1 Determination (Inspiration) of Opening of Tea Shop

The respondent had his old house in Bhajangal where he himself, his parents, his wife and his five children used to live in a cordial environment. As he is of low educational qualification and he did not have the source of investment, choose to run small teashop. In the beginning, he served tea and breakfast to the laborers, who were working to build a TU hostel at Tribhuvan University. He continued this profession for about three years there. Evaluating the dedication to his service and his honesty, Mr. Trailoknath Upreti, the then V.C constructed a small cottage to run his business in a systematic way in 2024 B.S. Moreover, he remembers the valuable and true inspiration of Mr. Prem Kaji Bista, his eldest brother and Mr. Nepal, a deputed professor of TU to start and continue the shop for daily survival leaving all other options aside.

4.2 Initial Stage of Tea Shop

Thought he was doing his best in his profession, he wanted to quit it and join the job at TU. However, Mr. Nepal, a deputed professor at TU suggested him to continue the teashop. Finally, he decided to run teashop because of the various reasons. Firstly, teashop did not demand a huge investment. Secondly, teashop gave him the opportunity to be engaged with different kinds of people. Thirdly, he did not have any other skills and qualifications. Fourthly, he got valuable and true inspiration to run teashop from TU professors as well as his elder brother. Therefore, running a teashop became only alternative of his life. He initiated his shop with the investment of about Rs. 50 that he has saved somehow at his own effort. In the initial stage his mother

played a supportive role in preparing and serving Aalu Chana (Potato and Gram), Potato Chips as the breakfast items to the laborer at TU. Later on, he started selling tea as well.

CHAPTER V

LIVELIHOOD ASSETS

This chapter deals on the analytical studies of the access of assets of the respondent for his livelihood. The elements that are essential for adopting the different occupation for surviving are the livelihood assets. UNDPs Human Development Report (1997) states that peoples' assets reduce vulnerability and build resilience against poverty. The term 'assets' do not only refer to economic resources. Instead, it has a broader range of tangible and non-tangible resources; economic, social, environmental and personal. Human capital, social capital, financial capital, natural capital & physical capital are interpreted as livelihood assets in 'sustainable livelihood framework. These five assets are playing vital role for the sustainability of the human beings (DFID, 2002).

5.1 Human Capital

Human capital represents the skills, knowledge, ability to labor and good health that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives. These qualities of human assets differ from one person to another.

Education is one of the dominant factors that affect the occupation and other living strategies of the people. Education can be Technical, non-technical, formal, non-formal, vocational skills, etc. So far, as the education of the respondent is concerned, he has low educational qualification. He had studied seven classes only. Then after, he was compelled to leave his schooling because of the poverty. He has no formal education certificate but with his ability to do hard labor, good health, dedication and honesty towards work, his friendly behavior to others and the valuable and true inspiration from his family members, relatives and well-wishers became the reason behind his success.

5.2 Natural Capital

Natural capital is very important to those who derive all or part of their livelihoods from resource based, activities. None of us would survive without the help of key environmental services and food production from natural capital (DFID 1999).

Natural capital is made-up of the natural resource stocks from which resource flows useful to livelihoods are derived, including land, water and other environmental resources (Carney, 1998; Booth et al., 1998; Carole, 1999). Direct access to and use of natural capital is, in some respects, less significant to the urban poor. However, land and security of tenure are major issues (Carole, 1999). Natural capitals are the resources getting free of cost from the nature, and every person has use this directly or indirectly.

Here, in the context of the respondent, location or land comes as the major sources to resume occupation. Currently he is running his teashop in TU from which he is earning for his livelihood. The natural factor affecting to his business is weather. Sometimes the change in weather condition brings different health problems like common cold, fever especially in winter season. At that time, he could not run his shop. Similarly, water is another important natural capital for him to run teashop. Not all the people in the world get a chance to use enough fresh and clean water, which is indispensable for our existence. He adds, 'he does not have supply of piped water.' There is a well as the source of underground water but it is not clean. It is also only available for 3-4 months and he uses it for cleaning purpose. Due to shortage of clean and pure water, he is compelled to use jar (bottles water) for making tea and for cleaning purpose.

5.3 Physical Capital

Physical capital includes assets such as housing, tools and equipment that people own, rent or use and public infrastructure that they have access. House is normally one of the most important assets for poor urban households as it can be used both for shelter and reproductive purposes and for productive or income-generating purposes. Here, the physical capital comprises physical living condition or environment of the respondent.

House is a basic need of every human. The standard of house shows the economic status of concerning family. The availability and standard of the house are important measures of physical capital. The respondent had his old house in Bhajangal but now he has shifted to his new house located in Kirtipur Municipality ward no. 17, town planning. He added the new house had built in 2070 B.S. In my visit to his house, it is found that he has built two storied house and consist all together eight rooms. Now he makes good earning (Rs. 15,000 per month) from his house too.

5.4 Financial Capital

DFID Livelihood defines it as the financial resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. It includes flows as well as stocks and it can contribute to production as well as consumption.

Poor in urban areas are mainly dependent on cash income, which they generate either directly through their wage labor or indirectly through the production of sale of goods and services. This generated income they use to meet their various livelihood needs like daily requirements (food, cloths, education, health, etc.) and to enhance other asset (human, physical, social). In this study, financial capital includes the income, expenditure, investment and saving of the respondent and his family. The income source for him is his one and only teashop that he his running it since the age of 15. He invested about 16 lakhs for his daughters' marriage. Similarly, is paying the loan that he had taken Rs. 6 lakhs for building his house. He paid Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the admission of his son at engineering college. All these expenditure he manages with the backup of daily net income of Rs. 500-600 with the selling of 80-90 cups of tea. Along with the sale of tea and breakfast, the sale of cigarettes was also satisfactory. He further adds, 'the sale of cigarettes was better in the past in comparison to these days.' The average daily expenditure of his family at present is approximately Rs. 300, including his son's daily pocket money of Rs.150. However, he earns about Rs. 600 daily in average. This income and saving has satisfied him so far. Similarly, most of the Nepalese especially women are interested on wearing and collecting jewelry. Therefore, they collect some quantity of gold, silver in the form of jewelry. These jewelries act as a main financial asset in time of urgency when no other options available. During visit to the house and informal talk to the family members, it found that thought he does not have any bank account but has engaged in some locally

formed cooperative institutions. Similarly, his family poses some jewelry collected from the earning of teashop as a form of asset and some cash that he uses it for daily requirements.

Thus, the financial resource that is available to him is making his daily life quite comfortable.

5.5 Social Capital

Social capital refers to networks of mutual support that exist within and between individual, households, and communities. It is developed through 'network and connectedness', 'membership of more formalized groups' and 'relationship of reciprocity and exchanges'. Social asset is a vital determinant of the other remaining assets.

The respondent is running his teashop in the property of TU but does not need to make any payment for the use of that property. The structure in which he is running teashop had built by then V.C Trailoknath Bhatta for him to start shop. Now at this time more than dozen canteens are running inside university. All they pay certain amount of money. This is possible because of his friendly behavior and cordial relation to other. From political leader Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Bal Krishna Khand and many more, he had served them with his tea and breakfast while they were the student union leader at university. This has also made his social relation wider. The processes of urbanization and industrialization and busy life schedule in the Kathmandu valley had weaken social networks to some extent. However, he still has extended family linkages. He adds, 'sometimes he borrows money from his relatives at the time of urgency'. This primarily based on trust and faith.

CHAPTER VI

RISK AND VULNERABILITY CONTEXT

The *Vulnerability Context* frames the external environment in which people live. People's livelihoods and the wider availability of assets are fundamentally affected by critical trends as well as by shocks and seasonality—over which they have limited or no control. The factors that make up the vulnerability context are important because they have a direct impact upon people's asset status and the options that are open to them in pursuit of beneficial livelihood outcomes (DFID, 1998).

Risk and vulnerability differ to all individual, household or communities.

6.1 Government Policy

The changing policies and programs of government have also sometime affected on his business. He said that Price inflation of goods directly effect on the business.

6.2 Shocks

Shocks may be human, natural and economic.

Human shocks

There is no possibility of human body not affected by the troubles and diseases. According to him the fever, common cold, cough etc. regularly affect him. Thought his age is in seventies, he has no experience of long-term diseases.

Natural Shocks

Natural calamities destroy the gigantic physical structures made by human in a single moment. The respondent's business is also cannot escape from natural shocks. Natural shocks affecting to his business is rainfall. Moreover, the devastating earthquake of 2072 B.S. also badly affected his business.

Economic Shocks

Economic fluctuation in international market directly effects on the price of every goods and services in Nepal. Increases in the price of goods that are use in preparing tea make direct effect in the price of tea. The price of petroleum product especially diesel and petrol have direct relation to the price of other goods in Nepal because of transportation charge. Slight increase in price of petroleum product brings huge increase in consuming goods. Therefore, teashop has direct impact with the ups and down of the market.

6.3 Seasonality

Seasonality has direct impact on production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. During summer, Cold liquor like coke and Fanta are produced and consumed in large scale. Similarly, hot drinks like tea, coffees are consumed more in winter season than summer. In the context of Nepal, festivals, social rituals, tradition, etc. directly effect on industry, business and agricultural production as well as in consumption. Among seasonality, cultural aspect is the major aspect to affect his business. His business is directly depended on TU. If there is vacation in university, his business could not run. Therefore, during Dashain and Tihar he could not make handsome earning. The same case is during winter and summer vacation too.

6.4 Other Problems

Being human, nobody is satisfied with his or her business and duty or task, which is also applicable to him too. He is also not fully satisfied with his business although, he is capable of living himself and supporting his family. After an intensive inquiry, the problems that he frequently faces are:

Political Strike and *Banda* - Kathmandu valley has been facing frequent strike and *banda*. Political parties and its offspring organization and sometimes other caste and ethnic based organizations organize these banda and strike.

Beside these, he also frequently faces the problems of insufficient water, congested space and uncertainty of income.

CHAPTER VII

LIVELIHOOD OUTCOME

Livelihood outcomes are the result of livelihood assets and strategies. Running small business like teashop is determined by many factors. He decided to run his teashop because of the various reasons. Firstly, He had no big collection of money. Teashop did not demand a huge investment. Secondly, he did not have any other skills and educational qualification. Thirdly, he got valuable guide and true inspiration from his family members, relatives and TU's then V.C. Mr. Trailoknath Uprety and professor Mr. Nepal. Fourthly, teashop gave him the opportunity to be engaged with different kinds of people.

He is among a few lucky people because he became successful to rear his family to provide good education to his children by running a small teashop. Now he says, 'there is not any problem regarding the daily expenditure of my family.' All his children are grown-up now. His four daughters got married after getting university graduation. All his daughters live in Kathmandu and they do have their own jobs except his second youngest daughter. His only son, 19 years old is pursuing higher education in computer engineering.

Running a teashop and living a life was not easy for him, is not easy at present too. He tried so many alternatives in order to increase his daily income. He had sold fruits during early 2030s. In addition, he served rice and meat to the drivers and helpers during early 2040s. After doing all these attempts, 'teashop' remained only alternative for his survival. When he got married in 2030 B.S., he got staunch support from his wife to run his business. The only worry for him is to clear the loan of his house that he had borrowed for building his house. For this he says, 'I will struggle hard to pay the loan with my hard work and if possible through my son's income in the future.' He added 'if any emergency occurs, I have a small piece of land, as the inherited property. I can sell it to pay back my home loan.' Talking about present condition, his second youngest daughter is there to help him in his business since last year. Mr. Bista hopes that his second daughter will continue his business in the days to come.

There has been found great difference in life style of the respondent and his family both in past and present life. The main difference between past and present situation is based on how he became able to solve his hand to mouth problem. He has involved in some cooperative organizations. There, he has been able to save some amount that he has earned from teashop. Some earnings are at home. The saving, which he keeps at home is utilized just for household expenditure like buying food grains and vegetables, to pay son's college fee and daily business expenses and other miscellaneous requirements. He says that this economic status has improved in comparison to past after running teashop at TU. He is independent in his personal expenses. He got the business knowledge. He became independent on his own income.

Conclusion

In urban area, Teashop is modern and ever increasing occupation. Many people have adopted this occupation for income. Number of running street teashop is increasing day by day. Serving tea when guest or relatives visit to the house is our old culture but now it has become commercial significance too. Many people have taken this business as a means of their livelihood and earning from it has made their life better. If it is well managed and systematized, it can provide employment to a large number of people and can contribute in national economy.

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ANNEX 1

Guideline for Interview -2019

“LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE” (A Case Study of a tea seller at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu)

1. General Profile of the respondent:

Name: Age:

Nationality: Marital Status: Education:

Permanent Address: District..... Municipality.....

Family structure:

Type of house:

Land and property:

2. When did you start selling tea?

3. Who inspired you for this business?

4. Where did you start at first?

5. What were the main causes to adopt this occupation?

6. How much money did you invest at the initial stage and who helped you?

7. How many cup of tea do you sell in a day at present and what was the condition in the past?

8. How much profit you earn from it? (Per day / per month in average)

9. Where do you spend your earning? (Per month in average)

10. Is there any other source of income beside this business?

11. Do you have any loan at present?

12. What is your family response and support that you get in this business?

13. What are the changes (positive/negative) that you have experienced in your life (past/present) being the part of this business?

14. What are the problems and challenges that you have experienced while running the business for so many years?

Thank You.

ANNEX II

PHOTOS



