

# CHAPTER-ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Woman can be defined as an adult female human being, belonging to a specified occupation, group, nationality or other category. Often used in combination: an Englishwoman; Nepalese woman; congresswoman; a saleswoman, ethnic woman. Women cover half of the sky of the world population. Still the situation of women is not good in the world comparatively to men. According to Census 2011, total population of Nepal is 2,64,94,504. Among this, the total population of men is 1,28,49,041 (48.50%) and women population is 1,36,45,463. Though, women's population is 51.50% percent of the total population, their situation is not good. Men are regarded as head of the house hold in the context of Nepal. Traditional norms, values and socio-cultural setting affect decision-making process of women.

It is clear that women constitute half of the population of the world. Hence their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential as well to speed up the development process. The slogan of development remains only in paper unless women participate equally in making and sharing the fruits of development.

In male dominated country like Nepal, females are considered of low standard and of less value. But in recent years people have started realizing the importance of women participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio- economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Men and women have now started participating on equal footing in development activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger"(Acharya, 1987). This mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic changes in the socio- economic status of a nation.

Nepal being a predominantly agricultural society, the senior female member played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources, making crucial planting and harvesting decisions and determining the expenses and budget allocations. women's lives remind centered on their traditional roles-taking care of most household chores, fetching water, animal fodder and doing farm work. Their standing in society was mostly contingent on their husband and parents social and economic positions. They had limited access to markets, productive services, education, health care and local development. Malnutrition and poverty hit women hardest. Women usually worked harder and longer than men.

The economic contribution of woman was substantial but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed ,their wages normally were 25 percent less than those paid to men. Un most rural areas their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding and harvesting. In urban areas those monitoring foam rural areas or with a lower economic status were employed in domestic and traditional jobs, as well as in the government sector, mostly in low-level positions.

Women's significance as an indispensable human resource was initiated only with the onset of the international wave of "Women in Development" which took all the South Asian countries including Nepal in its fold after the UN declaration of women decade (1975-1985). Prior to this, women had been rendered statistically invisible by development practitioners. Women as the traditional producers and managers of the domestic and subsistence sector were highly undermined, their activities being automatically labeled as non-magnetized", "non-marketable" and "non-productive". Such acute statistical bias reflected in national accounting further fed by staunch traditional norms, values and perceptions could be held responsible for the shift in women's status to "non status".

The focus of the Nepal women's organization established in 1960 was directed more towards livelihood activities like knitting, sewing and weaving. Although its interest was not purely in the upliftment of women, nevertheless, its efforts to initiate an interest and concern for women and their development cannot go unappreciated.

It was only after the UN declaration of 1965 as the international year of women and 1975-1985 as the UN decade for women that a national committee on international women's year was formed in Nepal. This committee attracted considerable foreign funds for seminars and conferences on women issues headed by women leaders.

The international women's year witnessed several other women related institutions both government and non-governmental such as regional women's training centers and a mother's club in 1975. The business and professional women's club in 1976 and women's services coordination committee in 1977 within the 'Social Services National Coordination Council' are a few other examples. The monumental work "Status of Women in Nepal" carried out by CEDA/T.U. speaks of the academic efforts on women's development.

In male dominated country like our, we find a large gender inequality. Male are given preference in many socio- economic activities. We find dominant involvement of male in district as well as in national level programs rather than women. Many opportunities are given to male rather than women from the family to community and national level activities. Women's participation is minimal in every decision-making and job opportunities.

Women of the Jukot Village Development Committee are living in a normal condition. Their living condition is not that much worse as that of urban women in different parts of Nepal. Regarding the educational aspects most of the women are literate and a few have managed to forward their study up to the certificate, bachelor and masters level.

Women of this area are mostly involved in agriculture. There is still less involvement of women in other economic activities like business and services in different governmental and private sectors. On contrary to this, male are involved in business and government offices. Women do not have their own and clear concept to elaborate various economic program to enhance their financial condition. While doing business they are mostly depend on their husband and other family member. Though various programs like adult literacy programs and negotiations are organized by various governmental and non governmental agencies still women of this area are lagging behind in economical and social aspects as compared to men.

This study attempts to study the role of women in decision making especially focus on rural women's role of 5,wards of Jukot VDC of Bajura. Economically, women in Jukot Village Development Committee are contributing greater share in household activities. Besides, they have to take care of their children, and manage family in preparing foods and serving males. In other words, they cannot escape from their domestic drudgery, as it is their primary and prioritized sector. Thus they do not get chance for involvement in other economical activities, due to the time constraints and their various roles in the society such as reproductive and community roles.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011, the total population of Nepal is 26,494,504 of which 48.50 percent are male and 51.50 percent are female. The data shows that women cover more than half of the country's population but still in the Nepalese context women suffer from illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. The estimate literacy rate for men is 75 percent and that of women is only 57 percent (CBS, 2011). So women are poorest among the poor, since women are more vulnerable then men in all sectors.

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

Women's role in the society is inferior to men, treat women as subordinate, less rights especially in economic sector. Most of the women involve in inside house and remain inside and not accounted in terms of financial benefit. Gender disparity in household decision making is a common phenomenon is in developing countries. It is influenced by ethnicity, culture and geographical location. This research issue has not been conducted in this area. therefore the fact that women as the oppressed and suppressed lot still persists. This is reflected in almost all aspect of their lives including their powers of decision making in the household. Decision making is also a one aspects which measures the relative in some matters like household matters, they still remain excluded from economic matter of decision making.

So, this study aims to fill the partially gab by identifying the status trend and pattern of women's education and household decision making of Jukot Village Development Committee and also to identify the major issue why only the male are involved in major decision making have carried out in this study.

The study was intended to the role women in household level decision making in Ward No. 5 of Jukot VDC of Bajura District. The population of female is greater than that of male in ward No. 5 of Jukot VDC but also women involve in minor decision, such as cooking firing, collecting firewood, caring child, grazing domestic animal etc, but the major and important decision done by male such as livestock management seeding and purchasing of land etc. women are capable of making effective and important decision if the opportunity is given. If the opportunities are not timely given, women of the future generation might also left in the same condition. Therefore, program and policies should be designed to reach them to come to the forefront as the equal of effective decision-making power.

So, the aim of this study is to identify the role of women in several aspects in the household management. It also identified the major problems why only male are involve in major decision making power.

This research has been focused to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the socio-cultural background of women of Jukot VDC in Bajura District ?
2. What is the economic background of women in the study area ?
3. What are the roles of women in household level decision making in the study area?
4. What are the women's participation in outside household activities ?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The main objectives of this thesis are to study the role of women in household decision making process of Jukot VDC of Bajura district. The specific objectives of the study are follows:

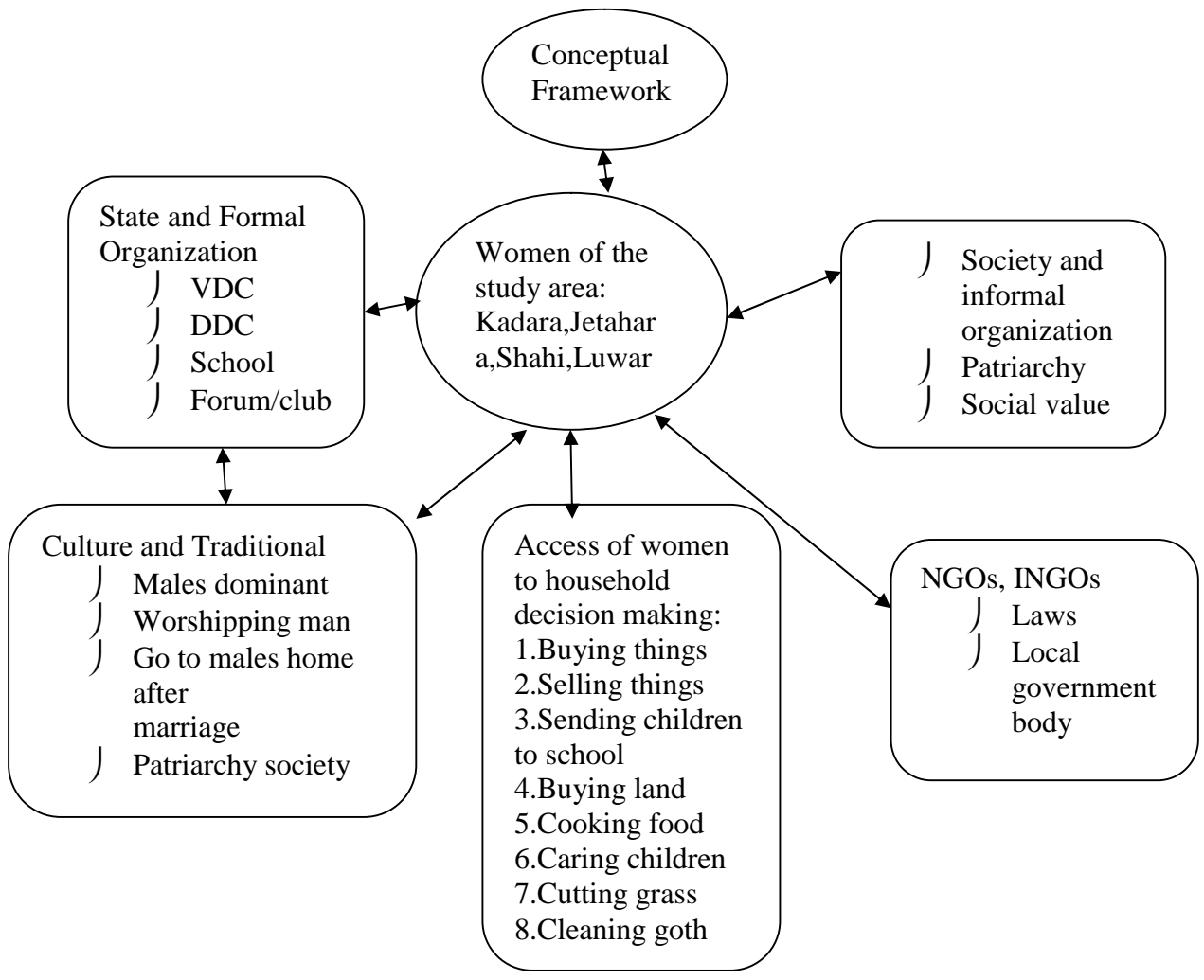
- ) To described socio-cultural and economic background of the women of the study area.

) To assess the role of women in household level decision making in the study area.

#### **1.4 Conceptual Framework**

A conceptual framework is an analytical tool with several variations and contexts. It is used to make conceptual distinctions and organize ideas. Strong conceptual frameworks capture something real and do this in a way that is easy to remember and apply. This study signifies at both applied and theoretical level. In order to find out and describe the women's educational status and their household decision making power.

There is many theories in sociology, among those theory Feminist Theory is related to this thesis topic. Feminist theory is one of the major contemporary sociological theories, which analyzes the status of women and man in society with the purpose of using that knowledge to better women's lives. Feminist theory and high lighting the various ways women have contributed to society. At the core of feminist sociology is the idea of the systematic oppression of women and the historical dominance of men within most societies: patriarchy. Feminist thought has rich history, however which may be categorized into three waves, The current third waves emphasis the concepts of globalization, post colonialism, post-structuralism and postmodernism. Contemporary feminist thought has frequently tended to do-away with all generalizations regarding sex and gender, closely linked with anti humanism, post humanism, queer theory.





## **CHAPTER-TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

A literature review can be a precursor in the introduction of a research paper, or it can be an entire paper in itself. A literature review is a critical and in depth evaluation of previous research. It is a summary and synopsis of a particular area of research, allowing anybody reading the paper to establish why you are pursuing this particular research program. The literature review stands in two parts. First is on analysis of education and women's status and second is on status of women with reference to Nepal on decision-making power. Some of the relevant literature concerning women's role in household decision making process has been reviewed in this chapter. The following few pages are intended to highlight the women's status and their role in decision making process in households as well as in society.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

According to the census 2011, women comprise 51.50% percent of the total population of Nepal is 2,64,94,504. Nonetheless, women in Nepal are not homogeneous. Because of ecological and socio-cultural diversity, intersectional tie affect the constraints and opportunities of women in terms of the ecology (Mountain, Hill and Terai), class, cast/ethnicity, religion, locale and residence(urban/rural) and the development region. Not with standing this diversity, the treatment of women as a category of gender by existing patriarchal institutions (family, community, larger society and the state)play a pivotal role in the general status of the exclusion of women and the present status of their under developed human capability.

Nepal, a Himalayan country situated in south Asia, is one of the poor countries of the world. Major reason behind this is the political instability and undemocratic rule for long. Other crucial factors for being the country very poor are due to lack of awareness and access to quality education. As a result people have superstitious beliefs, there is gender discrimination and political

leaders have decreased political vision. The socio-economic status of women in Nepal is very poor. The women are being discriminated in every aspect of the society. These and so many other factors have contributed to turn Nepal a lower human development status.

The senior female member played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources, making crucial planting and harvesting decisions, and determining the expenses and budget allocations. Yet women's lives remained centered on their traditional roles--taking care of most household chores, fetching water and animal fodder, and doing farm work. Their standing in society was mostly contingent on their husbands' and parents' social and economic positions. They had limited access to markets, productive services, education, health care, and local government. Malnutrition and poverty hit women hardest. Female children usually were given less food than male children, especially when the family experienced food shortages. Women usually worked harder and longer than men. By contrast, women from high-class families had maids to take care of most household chores and other menial work and thus worked far less than men or women in lower socioeconomic groups (Shtrii, 2000).

Women's relative status, however, varied from one ethnic group to another. The status of women in Tibeto-Nepalese communities generally, was relatively better than that of Pahari and Newari women. Women from the low caste groups also enjoyed relatively more autonomy and freedom than Pahari and Newari women (Subedi, 2009).

A women's life is strongly influenced by her father, husband and son. The status of women is determined by the patriarchal social system, value and women's right preserved and protected by the state and state policy for the development of women. Empirical data have proved that situation of Nepalese women is too severe to compare with men. Women's situation is very poor in health, education, participation, income generation, self-confidence, decision

making, access to policy making and human rights. The insurgency for more than 10 years between the status and the rebel has further widened this gap.

The economic contribution of women was substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed, their wages normally were 25 percent less than those paid to men. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding, and harvesting. In urban areas, they were employed in domestic and traditional jobs, as well as in the government sector, mostly in low-level positions.

Moser (2009) "Gender Planning in the third world" The United Nations Decade for women (1976-85) has played a crucial part in highlighting and publicizing the important, but often previously invisible, role of women in the economic and social development of their countries and communities, and the "plight" of low-income women in Third World economies. Researchers have moved away from a preoccupation with the role of women within the family, toward an understanding of the complexities of women's employment. Research on both waged workers and those in the informal sector, in urban and rural areas, have assisted in identifying both the importance and the diversities to Third World economies. Policy makers have begun to shift their focus from a universal concern with welfare-oriented, family centered programs, which assumed mother hood as the most important role for women in the development process, to diversity of approaches emphasizing the productive role of women. The so-called women in development (WID) approach adopted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with its underlying rationale that women are an untapped resource that can provide an economic contribution to development and had an important influence in popularizing income-generation projects for women.

According to Nepalese government, all citizens of Nepal are equal under the law, regardless of sex, caste and ethnicity, nevertheless, the actual practice, illiteracy, poverty deep-rooted socio-cultural values and traditions, especially cost prejudices, and political factors have all often combined to prevent women from exercising their human rights. While human rights are common to men and women, there is a large area in the human rights of women that are either not recognized or neglected.

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources, and political power, as well as their personal autonomy in the process of decision-making. When Nepalese women's status is analyzed in this light, the picture is generally bleak. In the early 1990s, Nepal was a rigidly patriarchal society. In virtually every aspect of life, women were generally subordinate to men (UN, 2001).

One tangible measure of women's status was their educational attainment. Although the constitution offers women equal educational opportunities, many social, economic, and cultural factors contributed to lower enrollment and higher dropout rates for girls. Illiteracy imposed the greatest hindrance to enhancing equal opportunity and status for women. They were caught in a vicious circle imposed by the patriarchal society. Their lower status hindered their education, and the lack of education, in turn, constricted their status and position. Although the female literacy rate has improved noticeably over the years, the level in the early 1990s fell far short of the male level (Joshi, 2008).

The level of educational attainment among female children of wealthy and educated families was much higher than that among female children of poor families. This class disparity in educational attainment was also true for boys. In Nepal, as in many societies, education was heavily class-biased.

In the early 1990s, a direct correlation existed between the level of education and status. Educated women had access to relatively high-status positions in the government and private service sectors, and they had a much higher status than

uneducated women. This general rule was more applicable at the societal level than at the household level. Within the family, an educated woman did not necessarily hold a higher status than her uneducated counterpart. Also within the family, a woman's status, especially a daughter-in-law's status, was more closely tied to her husband's authority and to her parental family's wealth and status than anything else (Ghimire, 1997).

Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision-making (UNICEF, 2008).

Gender inequality still permeates Nepalese life whereby women lag far behind men in economic, social and political positions. Women's traditionally disadvantaged status in the areas of education, health and economic participation has restricted their mobility and deprived them the basic needs/ tools necessary for political participation (Tiwary, 2009).

Nepali women are daughters, wife and mothers, but not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented from taking part in public life (Subedi, 2009).

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands, and conflicts or through wishes and blessings alone. Experience has also shown that laws and regulations are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all. Women are bounded by socio-cultural norms. Even parents discriminate

against the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awareness and education (Limbu, 1995).

So if the nation wants to gain something from women, their first duty should be to give equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc.

And control of family, by the use of family planning measures and drastic change will come in the nation automatically in every field like economic development, status of women, women's decision-making power etc.

## **2.2 Review of Previous Studies**

It is true that education is the major factor to change women's perception and affect their decision-making power. But different researches showed that not only education can improve women's status but there are different other factors which play vital role in women's life to change their situation.

In the third world countries like Nepal majority of women who are educated but are limited only in household chores and it is due to different reason that might be lack of employment opportunities or due to traditional or culture beliefs, where women are not allowed to work outside the home.

Also the lack of access to, and control over productive resources is one of the major factors that hamper women's equal participate in economic activities and the decision making process. It is generally seen that decision-making power is high in employed women rather than unemployed housewife so the economic factor is another important key to elevate women's status.

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

Acharya (1994) showed that household income, workload and the concern with the purity of the female body leading to the early marriage are important variables in the females' education. As long as there is no resource crunch in the family, the primary school age girls may get to go to school. But as soon as the resource constraint arises, the first casualty is the female Childs education. Girls in lower income groups get little opportunity to go to school at all. Those who got school get little opportunity to further their education beyond the secondary school.

Ghimire (1997) found that the girls' enrollment in primary level, in spite of equal level population was lower than that of boys in both districts. The main causes were found to be the poverty negative parental attitude, girls' involvement in farming and household work and lack o educational awareness in parents. He also found girls a decreasing trend of enrollment from primary to the secondary level in both districts. Though high rate of enrollment were found in primary levels, the proportion of girls' enrollment even at this level was only 38 percent as against 62% of the boys.

UNICEF (2008) states that the level of women' education is low in Nepal and lowest in SAARC countries. The adult female literacy is 34 percent for Nepal compared to Srilanka (94%), India (58%), Bangladesh (53%) and Pakistan (48%). The campaign for improving women's status has influenced the role of education. It is believed that education will bring about a reduction in the inequalities between sexes and uplift women's subjugated position in the society. Education of women has a higher social status and stable family size.

Pradhan (2008) found decision-making role within household system as an indication of the status of women. The high status of women is expected to reduce fertility rate, while opposite for those of lower status of women. They found that in communities, which encourage women to participate in gainful employment, women would have a higher status as compared to where those activities are restricted. They also found decision- making role as solely

confined to household head. This is because of the cultural norms and low level of income.

Kaur (2009) emphasizes upon the female decision making especially in the area as home and farm affairs among the rural families. She goes on to emphasis education of women as an important factor in the matter of decision-making process. In her words "Educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counter parts".

She has stated that she has never seen women as final decision makers in many household matters except for cases for food and nutrition of children. The financial activities are solely done by the male members of the family. She claims that women have greater input in household decision making if they are from medium status. She also claims that the socio-economic status is closely linked with women's power of decision-making.

The status of women is represented by the level of education, occupation, political attainment and economical condition. It is categorized in terms of

- a) Making food
- b) Children future prospects
- c) Household work
- d) Agricultural and economic field.
- e) Give childbirth.

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 negligible numbers of Nepalese women are involved in professional management and decision making position.



## **CHAPTER-THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study has been designed both on descriptive as well as exploratory methods. The generated information has been displayed in descriptive formats. At the same time exploratory research is used for collecting information about respondents views and ideas about the program and their problems.

#### **3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study area**

People from different caste, community and live in Jukot VDC, of Bajura. All sort of accesses and facilities are not available there. Most of their women are engaged in household activities. So the females only stay at home in the daytime and they are most responsible to decide the household affairs. So, in the absence of male head the female has to take responsibilities to run their families. This locality is chose because this area is the nearer to my resident. The research area Jukot VDC is selected for the study to meet the research objectives. Is had been more respondents appropriate to regarding topic because most of the married women are educated. As, there is limited time and resources being a local residence of this VDC the researcher is familiar to the study area, no language barrier, so it has made easier for collecting data. More ever, there is no study carried out in Jukot Village Development Committee war no.5, regarding the role of women in household decision making. Thus, this study attempts to explore the factors that determine women's status in household activities and their education status in Jukot Village Development Committee of Bajura district. Rationales for thr study area selection were as following:

- ) Limitation of time frame
- ) Nearer to my residence
- ) To explore the women's condition of village
- ) To explore the links between women's household position and their autonomy in decision making.

## **3.2 Research Design**

The research design refers to the overall strategy that we choose to intergrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way, thereby, ensuring we will effectively address the research problem; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. A research design is an arrangement conditions or collections, descriptive study. Basically the study will be based on descriptive as well as exploratory research design. This study has been exploratory because it attempts to explore women's role in household decision making power. This study has been descriptive because it attempts to provide proper knowledge of the women's educational status and their decision making power of Jukot Village Development Committee.

## **3.3 The Universe**

From total 86 households of ward no. 5, sample coverage 50 household are surveyed. The selection of household has been done using 'random sampling' lottery method.

## **3.4 Nature and Sources of Data**

In the present study, collected data are quantitative as well as qualitative in nature. Both types of data are collected from the field by using appropriate methods, techniques and tools of data collection. Primary data are collected from the field. Similarly, secondary data are collected from the published and unpublished documents like books, journals, bulletins, reports and papers of various organizations and institutions.

### **3.4.1 Primary Sources**

Observation and survey is one of the most important and popular method of data collection. In this study primary information are collected from field observation. The question used here is structured question. The questions are asked directly to the married women to get information about the Women's socio-economic status and decision-making power.

### **3.4.2 Secondary Sources of Data**

Beside primary sources, secondary information are collected from many books, published and unpublished journal, articles, project reports etc. The major issue on women is obtained from UNICEF, UNDP, CEDA and population monograph of CBS.

### **3.5 Method of Data Collection**

In order to obtain necessary and reliable data for this study researcher use traditional methods such as direct participation, observation, structured questionnaire, and some case study.

#### **3.5.1 Observation**

Observation method will be used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day-to-day activities, their role in household activities. The decision making process in the households will be observed to find out the women's involve in the household activities. The data collection through observations will have been used to support the structured data in relevant place in the text.

#### **3.5.2 Interview Schedule**

An interview questionnaire will be structured so as to meet the purpose of the study. The questionnaire is divided into different sections. The first section will deal with purpose of getting general information about married women. The second, third and fourth section will deal with economic, educational and social aspect respectively.

In this study, structured questionnaire will be used for the collection of data and information of women's socio-economic status and their decision making power. In general the questionnaires design will be based on socio-economic condition.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation**

The data collected in this study will be analyzed descriptively. Quantitative data are presented in terms of percentages. Frequencies tables and figures are used for the illustration of both qualitative and quantitative information. The information will be commonly presented to sketch the reality of the general figure with the help of SPSS computer programme.

### **3.7 Limitation of the Study**

This study has the following limitation:

- ) This study is limited to 50 households residing ward. 5 in Jukot VDC of bajura district.
- ) This study is limited to married women of 15-49 years within the Jukot Village Development Committee City ward no. 5, area and may not be representative to women of the whole country,
- ) This study particularly seeks to explore the status of women with respect to education, occupation and decision- making power.
- ) The scope of study is not broader enough to see the inter-caste, inter-class relations and other factors between men and women during the analysis of decision making
- ) Thus the study is limited within few households in comparison with the actual status of women within the whole nation.

# **CHAPTER-FOUR**

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN STUDY**

### **AREA**

#### **4.1 Socio-economic Characteristics**

The study conducted area Jukot VDC is located in Far-western Development Region. According to the Population Census (2011) CBS, the total population of Jukot VDC is 3,230. Among them 1,613 are male and 1,517 are female population of the VDC. The VDC comprises 9 wards 597 Households are there in the VDC.

This chapter deals with the socio-economic as well as demographic aspects of respondents of the study area. More than 10 per cent 50 male female respondents are selected for the study. Among 50 respondents, 15 are male and 35 are female respondents. Male respondents are selected because the role of women in household level decision making process in Nepal is controlled by male due to the social structure patriarchy. Almost all households are headed by male in Nepal. Only 17.18 HHs are headed by women in Nepal. Without comparing the situation of male and female in family, problems can not be analyzed properly. So, for getting information on the male, female status on decision making and influencing factors in decision making role male respondents are also selected as respondents. Structured questions are asked to the respondents both for males and females. In this chapter age–sex composition, ethnic composition, education, marital status, family structure, types of HHs, land distribution, occupation are included.

This chapter provides some socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the Household, where ethnic composition, educational status, marital status, occupational status and other socio-economic characteristics are incorporated. Here in the following chapter it can be dealt, women’s participation in socio-cultural and political activities and their role in household decision making.

#### 4.1.1 Age Status

Information on age has been obtained from the household head or married women. Among 150 sample universe of female populations only 50 women were interviewed.

**Table 4.1**  
**Age Composition of Respondents**

Age-Groups	Frequency	Percent
15-19	8	16
20-29	10	20
30-39	20	40
40+	12	24
Total	50	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

#### 4.1.2 Caste/Ethnic Composition of Household

The group of population reveal a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However, people from different groups were also found to be believing together in certain areas of settlement. The study area is the mixture of different cast groups. The major portion of the population comprises of Shahi which is followed by Chhetri Brahmin, Dalit and others.

**Table No. 4.2**  
**Caste/Ethnic Composition of Households**

S.N	Ethnic Groups	No. of Household	Percentage
1	Chetry	20	40
2	Brahamin	12	24
3	Kadara	8	16
4	Jethara	4	8
5	Damai	6	12
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The Chettry/Brahmin community is seen as dominating the overall population. But the Damai and Jethara groups remain 5 and 3 respectively in the population composition. The above table 4.2 shows 26% Chettry and 16% of Brahmin. This clearly depicts the Chettry/Brahmin domination over the other communities.

#### 4.1.3 Family Structure

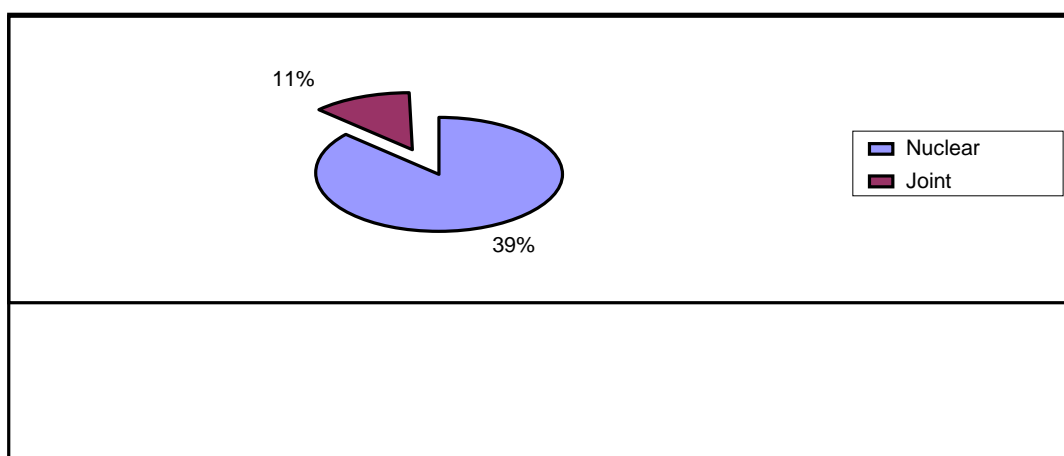
**Table 4.3**  
**Distribution of the Respondents by Family Structure**

Family Structure	No. of Families	Percent
Nuclear	39	78
Joint	11	22
Extended	-	-
Total	50	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

There are two types of families found in the study area. Out of the total 50 sampled respondents, 39 families are nuclear and remaining 11 %families are joint families (Table no. 4.3).

**Figure 4.3.1**  
**Type of the Respondents' Family**



*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

This chart shows that 39% families are nuclear family and only 11% family are joint family. Family structure is going to be changed from extended, joint to nuclear family. Causes behind the increasing nuclear family are modernization and industrialization of society. In past, most of the Nepalese were dependent on subsistence agriculture. So, at that time joint family was important because labor force for agriculture production was fulfilled by the family members. But, in present time family size is reducing. Because the people who are engaged in other job, business besides agriculture are practicing living in a small family for their future of children, to live easy life with access to facilities, to reduce economic burden and responsibilities of large size joint family. Women can have more opportunities in household level decision making process in nuclear family than in joint and extended family. Because only husbands and wives with their children stay in nuclear family. But, in extended or joint family, most of the decision made by household head. That household head is mostly male/elder person. So, the household decision making role of women in nuclear family is better than the women of joint and extended family.

#### **4.1.4 Marital Status**

Marriage is the most important factor in human life. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is compulsion for all whether man or woman. A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has also no option. Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In Nepalese society, marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of people. It is essential for legitimate birth of children in society. The children born without marriage are not considered legitimate. Females' role, responsibilities also increases in family after marriage. Marriage also determines the decision making roles and responsibilities of women. After marriage a girl, daughter turns in to sister-in-law and wife. So, in the roles of wife and sister-in-law her decision making roles decreases. Women have to obey their family member's, husband's decision.



**Table 4.4**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status**

SN	Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Unmarried	2	-	2	4
2	Married	8	29	37	74
3	Divorced/Separated	2	1	3	6
4	Widow /Widower	3	5	8	16
Total		15	35	50	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table above shows the marital status of respondents. Out of the total 50 respondents, 74% respondents are married, among them 8 are males and 29 are females. Most of the respondents are married because men and women engaged actively in household level activities after getting married. Only 4 percent are found unmarried (2 male) and one (1 female) is divorced/ separated. That the separated woman is left by her husband after marrying next wife. In the study area, divorce rate is not high. Similarly, 4 each males and females are in widow/widower category. All the respondents are married except two male respondents.

Marriage usually takes place at very early ages in Nepal. As the literacy rate in Nepal is low, age at marriage is also low. During 2011 the age at marriage of female was increased to 20 (CBS). But here in the survey the age at marriage is high within age groups 16-20.

#### 4.1.5 Education Status of the Respondents

**Table-4.5**

**Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status**

SN	Level	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Illiterate	5	17	22	44
2	Literate	3	10	12	24
3	Under SLC	1	5	7	14
4	SLC	4	3	7	14
5	Above SLC	2	1	3	6
	Total	15	35	50	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The educational status of the study area is divided into 5 categories which are illiterate, literate, under SLC, SLC and above SLC. Those who can read and write kept in literate and having school education but did not pass the SLC are kept under SLC. Above SLC, represents them who have attained all the level above SLC level education.

Table 4.5 represents the educational status of the respondents. Out of the total respondents 44% are illiterate consisting 5 males and 17 females. It was found that only 24% are literate among them 2 are males and 10 are females. Only 2 males and 1 females have attained above SLC education. This table shows that higher proportion of females is illiterate. It is because, the literacy rate and educational attainment of female is lower than males in Nepal. Illiteracy is found mostly in Kadara and Damai community than upper castes women. It is because Kadara and Damai community is backward in education. They don't have consciousness of educating their children. Secondly, they both community based on agriculture subsistence. In agriculture, family members need to engage in work for better production. If they send their children school then there would not be the agriculture work. Also these communities have lower economic status. So, the women could not get opportunity to go school. Some

children in the village were absconded from their school and run away in labor work to earn money for fulfilling their basic needs. Most of the respondents had been engaged in the household labor in their school age due to the poverty. They could not participate in school education in their early school age that is why the majority respondents are illiterate.

Similarly, the reason behind illiteracy of women is with the view point of traditional norms and values. In Nepal, it is said that educating one's daughters is like fertilizing one's neighbor's crop. Because daughters should be sent in others home after marriage. So, parents do not want to invest for their education because daughters can not contribute to their parents after getting married. So, there is large disparity between educational access for males and females.

#### **4.1.6 Occupation and Source of Income**

Occupation and source of income represent the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as the main source of income. Business is the main occupation in the study area along with government services. Thus, the major sources of income are business and service. However, some households are engaged on agricultural occupation too and some HHs are engaged in non-agriculture occupation for e.g.: Foreign employment, Tourism, Daily-wage earners etc. The following table shows the occupational composition of sampled HHs with reference to male and female population.

**Table No. 4.6**

**Distribution of Respondents by Occupation**

S.N	Occupation	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
1	Business	3	6	5	10
2	Services	2	4	3	6
3	Agriculture and Livestock Farming	6	12	22	44
4	Oversees	0		0	0
5	Social Worker	2	4	2	4
6	Teacher	2	4	3	6
Total		15	30	35	70

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

The above table shows that 15 out of the 3 male are involved in business, 2 in govt. service, 6 in agriculture, and 2 in teacher. Out of 35 females, 5 of them concentrated mainly upon business, 3 in service sector, 22 in the agriculture.

The great portion of females do not have access to paying jobs. Though, they have to do more works in comparison with their male counter parts in total, they get nothing in return. The household works, which are completely non-paying works, pull the females backward from their creativity. This further compels their submission before the males.

**4.1.7 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 4.7**  
**Distribution of the household by Religion**

Religion	No. of household	Percentage
Hindu	45	90
Muslim	0	0
Christian	5	10
Buddhist	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	50	100

*Source: Field survey, 2017*

Above table shows the distribution of the respondents by Religion. Among the total respondents, Hindu is the highest. Hindu contains (90%) , followed by Christian The second position is occupied by Christian (10%). It was due to the large population of Hindu.

#### **4.1.8 Land Distribution**

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80% people depend on agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. In Nepalese context, most women do not have access and control over land. Though they contribute 60 to 70 per cent of agriculture output. Though some of the women have access on land they don't have control on that. They can not sell and use it according to their need and interest. It is male who control over the land.

**Table 4.8**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Land Ownership**

SN	Land ownership	Men	Women	Percentage
1	Less than 10 (Khet)	30	0	60
2	Less than 8 Bari	12	0	24
3	2-3 Ropani Kharbari	8	0	16
4	Total	50		100

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

Table 4.8 reveals the distribution of respondents by land ownership. As shown in the table, female respondents do not have their access on land. 100% women have not ownership on land. But, all the male members have land. Large portion of respondents

It is because the majority of the female respondents are economically dependent on their husband's income and property. Lack of access and control over land and property affect women's decision making roles. From the table, it can be analyzed that the respondents even male also do not have adequate land for agriculture. Due to the lack of adequate land they have to rely on other outer activities such as wages labor, business, and job for survival.

It has made some constraints on the decision making role of women because mostly women of the study area are dependent on their husband's income and property. So, they can not make their decision on the husband's income. Their husbands decide what to purchase, where to expense. Women are obliged to stay home and obey their husband. They have to be permitted to do everything in house by their husbands. So, women should be economically strong and empowered to play active role in decision making process.

#### 4.1.9 Land Cultivation

The study shows that in most of respondents land is cultivated by male members (30%). In some case both male and female members cultivated the land (14%) while only (56%) female members are found cultivators the land. It shows that females are active in farming compared to male members. It is because most of the Nepalese women are engaged either agricultural activities or household activities than in other outdoor income generating activities. Males are found engaged in both types of works, farming and non-farming. Sometimes they are found to be engaged in fun and relax however; their wives have been facing the double load in the work at that time.

**Table 4.9**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Land Cultivation**

Cultivator	No of Respondents	Percentage
Male	15	30
Female	28	56
Both	7	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The main occupation of the community people of this VDC is farming. People have to choose seeds, select crops and other activities for good production. So people have to decide in lots of aspects and the major concern of this research is to find the women's participation in making decisions regarding cultivation of land.

#### 4.1.10 Food Sufficiency

The adequacy of food grains indicates economic status of respondents. The families who can feed their members for whole year are very few. It was found that more than 80% people are dependent upon agriculture in study area. But only few families have sufficient food for the whole year. People are facing the

problem of food deficit;.According to the filed study 32% households have the food problem. The table below has shown the food sufficiency status of the study area.

**Table 4.10**  
**Food Sufficiency Status on the basis of Production**

SN	Food Production	No of HH	Percentage
1	Sufficient	18	18
2	Not Sufficient	32	32
	Total	50	50

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table depicts the food sufficiency situation of the respondents. Out of the 50 respondents, 32% respondents have food insufficiency for their survival. It is because of the low agricultural land, traditional farming system and input on agricultural practices. Only 18% respondents are feed adequately through their production of farm. Those who have food deficiency, fulfill their food requirements from other income sources as business, services, livestock, farming, seasonal labor work etc. Research also found that different ethnic group had unequal distribution of land. Kadara and Damai are back warded in relation to land ownership. They are primarily agriculture occupation holder people but they did not have sufficient land to cultivate.



## CHAPTER-FIVE

### ROLE OF WOMEM IN HOUSEHOLD LEVEL DECISION MAKING

In every household there are certain responsibilities for both male and female members. However it is observed that female member tend to look after the household activities and male members on the other hand are concerned with the responsibilities outside the house i.e. to earn money. Similarly whenever there is any decision to be made the final say is from the male member and the women play only the subsidiary 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 role of women in household level decision making which are shown in the tables below:

#### 5.1. Decision Making Role in HHs Related Expenditures

Decision making is one of the indicators of social status. The ability to make decision makes people powerful. The decision maker is considered as centre both in the family and society, around which all other members revolve. Decisions have to be taken in all sectors including business, household works, education, choosing bridegroom and so on. The chances and opportunities to make decisions determine the progress and development of people.

**Table No. 5.1**  
**Decision on Buying Household Things**

S.N	Household things	Male	Female	Both	Total
1	Dishware	28	14	8	50
2	Cloths	30	15	5	50
3	Radio	45	5	0	50
4	Furniture	40	10	0	50

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

The above table shows, the decision of male, female and both of them on buying of household things. As shown in the table, 28 male and 14 female and 8 people made decision on purchasing Dishware. 30 male, 15 female and 5 both of male and female made decision to purchase Clothes . Likewise, 45 male, 5 female made decision to purchase radio..Therefore, as shown in the table, the decision to purchase Dishware, Clothes, Radio, and Furniture were found to have relatively more than that of male. This clearly indicates the role of female to be effective only deciding about the minor household activities.

## 5.2 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 5.2**

### **Distribution of households by possession of household income**

SN	Decision Makers	No.of HHs	Percentage
1	Male	30	30
2	Female	10	10
3	Both	10	10
	Total	50	50

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

The above table shows that in most of the sampled household income is possessed by male. Women passes household income in 10 percent. While in 30 percent male 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.

### 5.3 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.

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

**Table 5.3**  
**Saving of Household income**

SN	Decision Makers	No.of HHs	Percentage
1	Male	25	25
2	Female	15	15
3	Both	10	10
	Total	50	50

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

The above table shows the data on saving of household income. There were 15% women are self keeping for household income . Were 25% household for male decide and keeping for household income and then 10% both male and female are keeping the household income.

### 5.4 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 5.4**

**Decision maker of household expenditure ( Bazaar Purchase)**

SN	Decision Makers	No.of HHs	Percentage
1	Male	30	30
2	Female	10	10
3	Both	10	10
	Total	50	50

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Table 5.4 shows that 10 percent of the women's make the decision regarding small household purchase expenditure is and women make the final decision the decision is made by male household head.

### 5.5 Educational Management Aspect

Parents have to take the responsibility of educating their children. Better educated women may have more status in the household and have greater authority to speak openly with their husbands about their children's education. In the present study, all the households (50) were asked about who decides to take admission of their children to school, buy books, uniforms and payment of fees. The responses are presented in table below:

**Table No. 5.5**  
**Decision Making Role in Educational Management**

S.N	Educational Instrument	Male	Male%	Female	Female%	Both	Both %	Total
1	Books/Copies	22	44	18	36	10	20	50
2	Uniforms	15	30	22	44	13	26	50
3	Payment of fees	24	48	16	32	10	20	50
4	Admission in school	19	38	18	36	13	26	50

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

The above table shows the decision of males and females regarding to buy the educational instruments of the children. As shown above table, 44 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to buy books and copies for children. Similarly, to buy their uniforms, the decision is made by 30 percent of male, 44 percent of female and 26 percent of both of them. Likewise, 48 percent of the male 32 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to pay the fees of the children. 38 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 26 percent of both of them decided regarding selection of school regarding their children's admission.

According to the table, it is clear that most of the decision regarding education of the children, their fees selection of school for admission is made by males where as female made the decision regarding the uniform of their children only. Though some of the roles are given to females, they are of less value. The major roles are assumed by the males

## 5.6 Decision Making on the use health services

Wives are again seen as the primary initiator and final decision makers for expenditure on medical treatment (both traditional/modern) among the 50 households.

**Table No. 5.6**  
**Decision Making on the use of health services**

S.N	Decision maker	Think First (No. of H.H)	Percentage	Final Decision Maker (No. of H.H)	Percentage
1	Husband	14	28	20	40
2	Wife	26	52	21	22
3	Other Male members	7	14	5	10
4	Other Female members	2	4	2	4
5	Jointly	1	2	2	4
Total		50	100	50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

Such decision making depicts women’s greater control for the health of the family members. The husbands, however are consulted the most in such matters, as they score the highest 48 percent in the second stage of the decision making process. The other male members have a greater input than the female members in all three stages of decision making. The joint decisions are 2 percent only. Hence, females are taken as only house keepers whose main duty is only inside the family. Their decisions do not contribute to the overall development of the family as these decisions can be completely subverted by the males. The females are forcefully made to internalize that they are physically and mentally immature and weak, and as a result, they cannot make wise decisions.

### **5.7 Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures**

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in most of the developing countries. Rapid population growth is the cause of the degradation of the quality of life as well as environment. Family planning 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 and there is lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly.

**Table No.5.7**

#### **Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures**

S.N	Decision maker	No .of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	19	38
2	Wife	17	34
3	Jointly	14	28
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

These 50 households using family planning measures reported their decisions for its use as being the strongest. Their inputs in this process constitute 34 percent of the total percentage. The joint decisions rank second 28 percent among the 40 households with the decision of the husbands following closely behind with 38 percent. The husband are found to be privileged to make the choices of family planning devices. Their dominant role in each and every sphere of life indicates the culmination of male domination and hegemony.

Thus, family planning was adopted in large households in my study area. So, it can be said that people have knowledge about family planning. Both husband and wife jointly decide which family planning measures to adopt. However, temporary family planning measure was practice in great deal. Though both husbands and wife use and decide the family planning devices, the role of husbands in deciding these devices is crucial.

### **5.8 Determination of No. of children**

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

**Table 5.8**

#### **Decision maker of child Determination**

Household Decision Maker	No. of Household	Percentage (%)
Husband	35	70.38
Wife	5	10.81
Both	10	20.81
Total	50	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Regarding the number of children to be had, the strongest of husband decisions (70.38%) among the 50 women who responded to this question. While decisions of the husband & wife both are also seen as significant (20.81%) 10, the wife 5 (10.81%) show the least contribution in this particular decision making process.

### 5.9 Decision Making for Women’s Education

Women education is one of the fundamental steps for women empowerment. Educated women can be self-supportive and self-dependent. It is helpful to release them from the cruel trap of male domination. But, the women are not free to decide about their education. They need to take permission from their husbands to attend the adult literacy classes. Only few of them can decide independently. The following table shows the decision making for women's education:

**Table No.5.9**  
**Decision Making for Women’s Education**

S.N	Decision making	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	28	40.00
2	Wife	12	33.33
3	Jointly	10	26.67
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2017*

The above table shows that only 50 of women among the 50 households are found to participate in adult literacy classes. For the 50 women who participate in these classes, their husbands dominate as decision makers for their education, making up 40.00 percent of the total while the wife's decision is only 33.33 percent of the total and joint decisions of husband and wife is 26.67 percent of the total women.



## 5.10 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 5.10**  
**Decision Makers by Daily Household Activities**

<b>Household Daily Activities</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>All Time</b>	<b>Mostly</b>	<b>Sometime</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Total</b>
Caring Children and Disable Member	Male	5	4	3	5	17
	Female	20	8	5	–	33
	Total	25	12	8	5	50
Cooking for Family	Male	3	–	5	1	9
	Female	36	4	1	–	41
	Total	39	4	10	1	50
Cleaning House	Male	6	4	7	3	20
	Female	16	6	6	2	30
	Total	22	10	13	5	50
Washing cloth for Family	Male	6	3	10	5	27
	Female	13	6	7	–	27
	Total	19	9	17	5	50
Collection of Fuel	Male	16	3	10	1	30
	Female	11	2	6	1	20
	Total	27	5	16	2	50
Welcoming and serving Guest	Male	6	4	3	–	13
	Female	26	7	4	–	37
	Total	32	11	7	–	50
Other Household Activities	Male	8	9	3	3	23
	Female	12	8	6	1	27
	Total	20	17	9	5	50

*Source: Field survey 2017*

In the total 50 sampled household 17 males & 33 females are engage the charring children and disable member daily household activities, however in 9 males & 41 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 30 males & 20 females respondent household, more then 50 percent female are engage the welcoming and serving guest activities. In the sampled respondent 23 household male are engage the other daily household activities and 27 female.

## **CHAPTER– SIX**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **6.1 Summary**

It is clear that women constitute half of the population of the world. Hence their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential as well to speed up the development process.

In the Nepalese context, women's role in decision-making process is very low though their population covers more than half sky of the country. They daily spend their most of the working time in household activities. The main objective of the present study is to analyze the role of women in the household level decision-making among the sampled households Ward no. 5 of Jukot VDC of Bajura district is the selected study area.

Women, being primarily the main agents of household economy, their role in decision making processes of household activities should be addressed. Therefore, it is crucial as well as important to carry out this study. To assess the decision making role of women in household, the socio-economic, cultural and many other variables have been chosen and analyzed. These variables encompass various dimensions of social structure (gender, caste, age group, ethnicity, class), socio-cultural norms, education, extension, motivation, income generation activities, expenditure pattern of HHs and HHs management activities. However the major findings of the study are as follows

#### **(A) Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents**

In research area Damai, and 4 HHs are Jethara. Among them Chhetri, the highest average size (40 percent), Bramhn (24 percent), Kadara (16 percent), where Damai and Jethara are 12 percent, 8 percent, respectively. Among 50 respondents 15 % are male and 35 % are female. The majority of the respondents are Chhetri and Brahmin caste group.

With regard to family structure, 11 households have joint family and 39 have nuclear family. Most of the female Out of 50 HHs, 20 HHs are Chettri, 12 HHs are Bramhan, 8 are Kadara, 6 HHs are s are involved in land cultivation (56%), taking care for livestock (44%), and cooking activities (9%). Males control the household income. In 25% household income is kept by males and 15% by females while 10% by both members. Most of the respondents believe in modern medical treatment . (40%).

### **(B) Women in Decision Making Role**

In most of the cases women have low roles in decision making power in comparison to males. Males have higher decision making power for purchasing household good (40%) with compared to female (10%). More than 30% decision for household expenditure is taken by male. 40%decisions are made by males for sickness treatment while only 10% decision by females.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

As this study is concentrated to analyze the decision making role of women in terms of social as well as household activities, it can be concluded the females have lower decision making power and they have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. The decision-making role of women at household level depends on the absence or presence of husbands and male guardians, educational level, family type, employment and economic condition, involvement in the organizations etc. In household decision-making, the women have been playing more roles in the absence of husbands rather than the presence of husbands in the households. Some factors influence primary role and some factors influence secondary role in the decision-making process.

Among the sampled respondents, role of both male as well as female are found significant in decisions-making at most cases. These types of case are primarily buying and selling house and lands, lending and purchasing money, investing money, choosing school and college for children etc.

If the husbands are present in the house, women's role is found comparatively lower than those women whose husbands are outside the house. They are not work as a household head but they have role to play in decision-making at household level. In this case also, women become a significant part of decision-making with their husbands. In the economic point of view, decision-making role of the women depends on the amount of the money. If the decision is associated to the small amount of money then women can decide alone and if the decision is associated with large amount of money then she cannot decide alone without consultation of husband. The most important aspect is found that both male and female decide in the consultation of each other for all important cases of the families. Among the sampled respondents, a very few females have more authority for decision-making process or they have been playing significant role on decision-making at household level. They take place good position in case of household decision-making in their families.

### **Academic Suggestions**

The present study is only focused on the women's role in household level decision-making among the sampled households residing at ward no. 5 of Jukot VDC of Bajura District. In this regard, researcher recommends for carrying out further research in other fields. There is needed to undertake the research related to the women such as socio-economic status of the women, domestic violence, sexual harassment of women, women's participation in politics, community development and resource mobilization, other influencing factors of the women's role in decision-making, gender issue, women's participation in decision-making in the ecological basis and in different level and fields, women's participation in nation-building through social inclusion.

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## 2. Economic in Format

Land	Ropani	Cultivated by Family	Rented to other	Ownership	Remarks
Khet					
Bari					
Kharbari					

## 3. Income by Other Sources

	Who involves	Monthly/Annual earning	Remarks
Business			
Service			
Remittance			
Others			

## 4. Women Status and Role

### A) Who decides and involves the following Household level activities.

Types of work	Decision	Involvement
Sending children to school		
Buying cloths		
Buying species		
Buying stationary		
Buying food and medicine		
Others		

**B) Who decides and involves the following socio-economic level activities.**

Activities	Decision	Involvement
Selling grain		
Buying clothes		
Selling land		
Buying land		
Selling milk		
Buying milk product		
Buying ornament		
Buying book		
Others		

**C) Who decides and involves in family affairs activities.**

Activities	Decision	Involvement
Collect grass		
Cleaning goth		
Washing clothes		
Cooking food		
Caring children		
Collect daura		
Marketing		
Public meeting		
Others		

## 5. Annual Income and Expenditure

Items	Income	Expenditure	Who Decides	Remarks
Agriculture				
Animal husbandry				
Remittance				
Grain				
Medicine				
Cloths				
Species				
Service				
Stationary				
Fair and festival				
Fruits				
Marriage				
Rituals				

## 6. Educational/Social Aspect

1. Do your children go to school ?

a. Yes

b. No

2. Are boys given priority over girls to go to school ?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Equal
  
3. Who decides whether your children go to school ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  
4. Are participating in adult literacy rate classes ?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
5. If yes, who made this decision ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  
6. Do you decision prevail on the matter of marriage of your children or your family member ?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
7. Who decides to provide educational materials and fees for your children ?

Education Materials	Self	Husband	Both
Books/Copies			
Uniform /Frees			
Payment of fees			

## 8. Health Aspect

1. Where did you get treatment when you suffered from illness ?
  - a. Health Center
  - b. Private Clinic
  - c. Hospital

2. Who decides to take care for treatment ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  - d. Others
  
3. Do you use family planning ?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
4. If Yes , who decided to use family planning method ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  
5. Where did you deliver your first baby ?
  - a. Home
  - b. Hospital
  
6. Who made this decision ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  - d. Others