SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

(A Sociological Study from Barbote VDC of Ilam District)

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr Ram Kumar Bhattarai has prepared this thesis entitled **" Social Inclusion and Empowerment of Women: A Sociological Study from Barbote VDC of Ilam District"** under my guidence and supervision. I forward this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

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CHAPTER - I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Social Inclusion of women is one of the most burning issues in the field of women empowerment since women have the greater roles to make a society more inclusive and just. Nepalese society is a male dominated society, where incidences of female marginalization and deprivations are rampant. Though, they are playing their roles and responsibilities very sincerely as mother, daughter, sister, wives, etc, they are not able to make their self-identity. The discrimination of women is widespread not only in the form of gender but also witnessed among caste and ethnicity.

There are various socially constructed so-called systems, which are the main responsible factors to create discrimination, prejudice against women in our society (Pandit, 2003: 4). Nepalese women are excluded due to Hindu culture and the system .The rules and practices of Hindu culture forced to women to be so-called *"PATIBRATA NAARI"*, That is why, they cannot claim and argue for their rights and freedom. It is concluded that 'Hindu Religion" is the root cause of women's disempowerment (Bennett, 2002).

The status of women is not well, they are complied to face various types of injustice; these all because of their low participation. Women lag far behind men in social, economic, political and legal aspects thus, restricting them from leading complete and dignified life (Pradhan, 2000:7). The right of women to own or inheritance property is limited in many countries. Women frequently lack the right or the power to make

personal decisions or to participate equally with men in family decision-making. Women are seldom equally represented in political or economic power structures, even in wealthier, industrialized countries (AGI, 1995:4).

Women's empowerment means reinforcing their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural, social, economic and political system of a society; without empowering women, actual and effective development impossible (Baral, 2004:62). So, women's empowerment must involve women making choices that enhance their individual as well their families and communities.

Women's empowerment is a prominent issue in Nepal because of the continuing deprivation of Nepalese women. In spite of Nepal's constitution and International agreements signed by Nepalese government has guaranted women freedom from discrimination (ESP, 2000: 1). Therefore, Empowerment process cannot become sustainable without eliminating entrenched socio-cultural norms as discriminatory practices.

Sustainable Empowerment is defined as a situation where people are empowered socially, economically and politically (UNDP, 2004:12). The Nepalese women's situation is not indicating that they are empowered. In the context of empowerment Nepalese women have limited gains in the last couple of decades. Women's educational status and visible economic participation have improved in absolute terms. But on the other hand, gender disparity in access to modern resources and power structure is increasing (Acharya, 1997:1).

Therefore the proposed study has an aim of obtaining information from Barbote VDC of Ilam district on the social exclusion of women and their deprivation.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Women's empowerment refers to enhance the capacity of the women, which is only possible by increasing their participation in every sector. Social inclusion of women eliminates the inequalities and barriers. Women's empowerment itself is a challenging job in male dominant social structure. Empowered women can take more active roles in the household and community to confront the challenges of poverty, improve family health as well being and increase household income (Dhakwa, 2001).

For the sustainable development, the empowerment of women is very essential because men and women are two wheels of a cart; in absence of one, it cannot be driven. Women in Nepal live in an oppressive, backward and feudal environment, which is caused by patriarchal system, unequal power relation, and socio-religious and cultural norms and traditions. The religious, cultural as well as existing laws of Nepal permit male to be superior, which set free to man to govern over women. Therefore, women are largely excluded from education, legal aid and feel to have lost their own identity. Where as half of the population is represented by women but is still, treated as second citizens.

The reality is that without social inclusion of women or equal participation of women, empowerment and equality of women are not

possible; and without equality and empowerment of women, the sustainable development of nation is entirely impossible.

Women have remained voiceless and their representation in social, economic and political life has been minimal. Problems related to women in power and decision-making have qualitative and quantitative dimensions. The First dimension involves the capacity of women to assert and exercise their rights, and the lack of an enabling environment in which to do this. On the other hand, some quantitative improvements have been made with the introduction of reservation of local election. The overall participation of women in decision-making position is very low and remains unsatisfactory. The statutory provisions alone do not adequately facilitate women's entry in to these positions. Quantitative growth has been horizontal and only observed at the lowest levels of representation. Higher levels, of both local and national politics, are still regarded as the "Male sector". Thus far, the political parties and legislature have failed to substantiate their commitment to ensuring women's access to powerful decision-making positions (Gurung, 2007: 4).

The main purpose of this study is to show that how the social inclusion and empowerment of women plays a vital role to improve their status and also to show how inclusion is the way of empowerment. This research is guided by the following research questions:

) What is the condition of women in education, occupation and employment sector?

) What is the status of women in household decision-making, household ownership, parental property and political participation?

) What are the causes and consequences of exclusion of women?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to show the situation of social inclusion on women empowerment of Barbote VDC in Ilam district. The specific objectives of the study are as follows: -

) To find out socio-economic status of women in the study area.

) To analyze the social exclusion and inclusion of women in terms of social and political participation, and decision-making of the households in the study area.

) To identify the causes and consequences of gender exclusion in the study area.
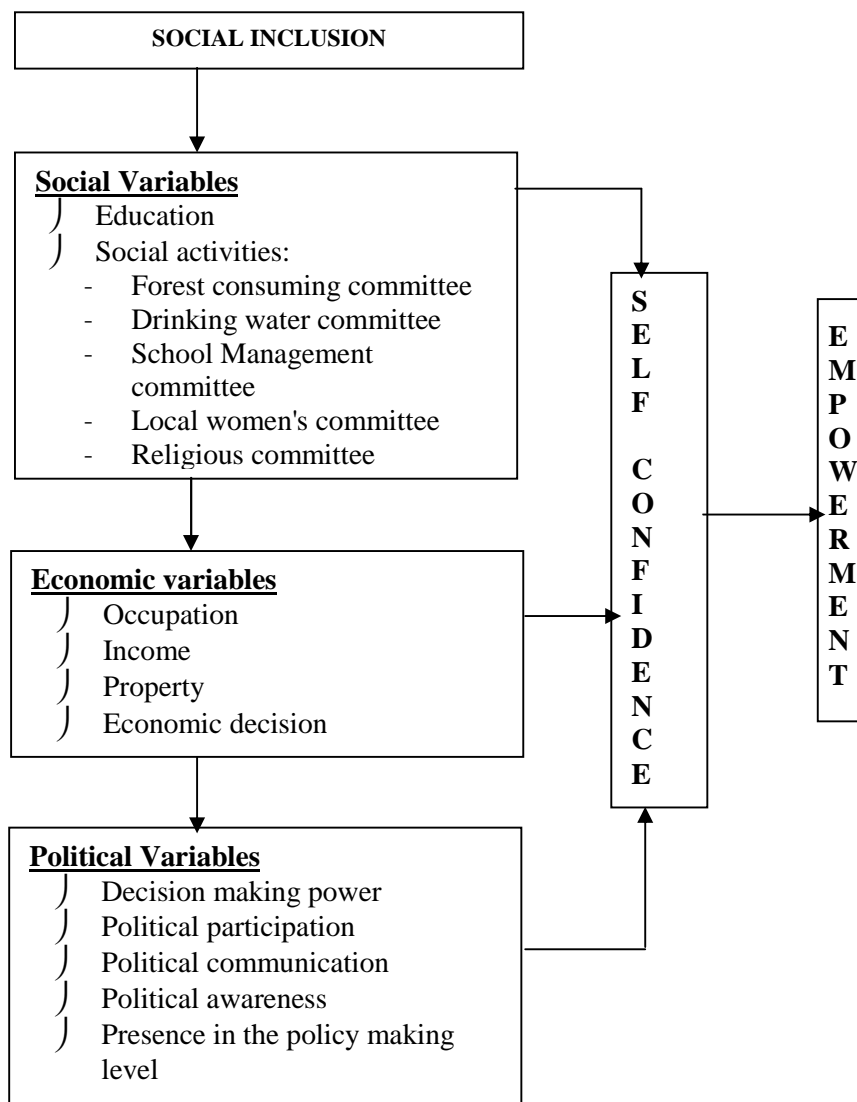
1.4. Rationale of the Study

In Nepal, women are more than half of the population but their participation in social, economic and political sector is very pitiable though they have equal rights to be participated. Empowered women are able to perform their own duty with an honorable way. In our society, the Hindu culture is the root of the patriarchal systems; women are excluded from participation in social, economic and political area. Therefore to empower the women, all the barriers should be eliminated which is possible through their social inclusion. Social inclusion of women improves their confidence and decision-making power.

This study focuses in women's participation in socio-economic and political area in the study area. The specific significances of the research are as follows: this study is analyzed the socio-economic status, explore the political awareness, participation in social activities and household

decision-making power of women. It is reliable and useful for the students of researchers who are interested to study in this particular field.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

Empowerment of women is determined by their participation. Social inclusion as the participation, therefore social inclusion of women is the key pathway for the empowerment.

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┌─────────────────────────────┐
│      SOCIAL INCLUSION        │
└─────────────────────────────┘
              │
              ▼
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ Social Variables            │
│  ) Education                │
│  ) Social activities:       │
│    - Forest consuming committee │
│    - Drinking water committee │
│    - School Management committee │
│    - Local women's committee │
│    - Religious committee    │
└─────────────────────────────┘
              │
              ▼
┌─────────────────────────────┐          ┌──────────┐          ┌──────────┐
│ Economic variables          │          │ S E L F  │          │ E M P    │
│  ) Occupation               │          │          │          │ O W E    │
│  ) Income                   │─────────▶│ C O N F  │─────────▶│ R M E N T│
│  ) Property                 │          │ I D E N  │          │          │
│  ) Economic decision        │          │ C E      │          │          │
└─────────────────────────────┘          └──────────┘          └──────────┘
              │
              ▼
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ Political Variables         │
│  ) Decision making power    │
│  ) Political participation  │
│  ) Political communication  │
│  ) Political awareness      │
│  ) Presence in the policy making level │
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In the framework, Social inclusion of the women is the independent variables that determined their empowerment. Social, Economic and Political participation of the women play the significance role to strength their self-confidence that ultimately leads toward their empowerment.

The social variables such as Education, Social Activities, the economic variables such as Occupation, Income, Property ownership, Economic decision and Agriculture decision, And the political variables such as Political participation, Political communication, Presence in the policy making level and decision making power are observed as the intermediate variables.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

This study aims to find out the socio-economic and political characteristics as well the major causes and consequences of the exclusion of female in the study area. It was also micro study, which attempted to explore the major processes of inclusion and exclusion of women in the process of their empowerment.

This study has some of its limitations; which are as follows:

⌡ This study has been based on a small sampling area; it may not show the macro view of socio-economic and political status.

⌡ This study has been concentrated to analyze the participation of women in social activities and household decision-making power.

⌡ This study has focused in selected one wards of Barbote VDC of Ilam District.

⟩ This study has been taken only 60 household married women respondents of age between 15 years and above.

1.7. Organization of the study

This study is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction of the study, statement of problem, objectives of the study, rational of the study, conceptual framework and limitation of the study.

The second chapter deals with the literature review, which includes theoretical literature and empirical literature.

The third chapter deals with research methodology adopted for this study. It includes study area, research design, sample procedure, data collection techniques and tools, data processing and analysis techniques of the research.

The fourth chapter analyses the socio-demographic characteristics of the household as well as socio-economic characteristics of the respondent of the study area. The fifth chapter analyses the participation of women in social, economic, political and decision making process. The sixth chapter represents overall the summary of the study and conclusions of the study.

<h1 style="text-align:center">CHAPTER - II</h1>
<h1 style="text-align:center">REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE</h1>

This chapter presents literature on social exclusion/inclusion and women's empowerment based in available reports, articles and some web-based information prepared for particular purposes of the study.

2.1 Theoretical Literature on Social Inclusion/ Exclusion

The term social exclusion and inclusion were introduced at first in France and then popularized in social polity discourse in Europe in 1970s to crisis of the welfare state and then used in other regions especially in development paradigms based on poverty reduction (Silver, 1994). Though the forms of exclusion and inclusion were emerged at first in 1970s but lots of studies have shown that social exclusion and inclusion exist from the very beginning of civilization.

The concept of social exclusion is about all those individuals or groups that are excluded from basic means of livelihood, but it is also about those excluded form the process of political and economic decision making, and those excluded from any conceptualization of social security. At wider level it may refer to exclusion from education health care and ultimately the freedom that and individual must have to organize or control his/her life in a given social settings (Nayak, 1995).

Saith (2001) has defined that social exclusion as the exclusion from participation in the normal activities of society. Further Barry suggests that a group is considered socially excluded if they actually desire to participate or not. The five dimensions of social exclusion in relation to

lack of participation in normal activities may be measured as the consumption activity (being able to consume at least up to some minimum level goods and services considered normal for that society), saving activity (accumulating, savings, pension entitlement or owning property), production activity (engaging in economically or socially value activities like paid work, education or training, retirement if over state pension age or looking after a family), political activity (including voting, membership of political parties and of national or local campaigning groups) (Saith, 2001:5).

Social exclusion is, thus a complex and multi faceted notion. It refers to both individuals and societies and to disadvantage, alienation and lack of freedom. However, de Haan and Maxawalle (1995) have identified the key arenas of social exclusion and inclusion. They have emphasized that people are basically excluded from their rights, resources and relationships. Social exclusion refers to exclusion in the economic, social and political sphere. It goes beyond the analysis of resource allocation, mechanism and includes power relations, agency, culture and social identity (de Haan, 1995:12).

Social exclusion and inclusion are "Contested Concepts" defined from the perspective or framework of different social science paradigms and disciplinary and theoretical perspectives, political ideologies and even national discourses (Pradhan, 2006:1).

Social inclusion describes the state of being included in a community and society as a whole; a condition in which individuals and groups can access the range of available opportunities, services and resources, and contribute actions and the processes needed to transform the situations

and changing the perceptions that create and sustain exclusion. The aim of having specific work on social inclusion is to support the involvement of the most excluded groups and to try or insure the betterment of the most excluded and marginalized groups.

Women are named as vulnerable, marginal and excluded groups worldwide. Gender based exclusions from access to resources i.e. in particular land rights and common property resources, employment opportunities and income control, knowledge are mainly due to patriarchy values. Exclusion of women from the public arena and devaluation of their work have been highly realized for long. It was realized that their subordination is embedded in their role as care – taker and nurturer (Pokhrel and Mishra, 2001:3). Furthermore, women are being deprived socio-cultural, economic, legal and political rights. Economic discrimination against women is responsible for socio-cultural, legal, educational and political backwardness of women in the context of Nepal (Pradhan, 2006).

Social exclusion is the root cause of disempowerment of women. Empowerment is seen as occurring at the individual and group level and, to an important extent has to do with increasing their access to assets, capabilities and voice; and helping them to realize he power, they gain from collective action. Indian sociologist Kamala Bhasin defined, "Empowerment means the enhancement of social aspect, self dignity, self reliance and going control over resources"(Chaulagai and Others, 2003:36).

DFID/World Bank (2006:9) defined, as "Social-Inclusion is the removal of institutional barriers and the enhancement of incentives to increase

access of diverse individuals and groups to development opportunities. And Empowerment is the enhancement of assets and capabilities of diverse individuals and groups to function, and to engage influence and hold accountable the institutions that affect them".

Hence, Social-Inclusion and Empowerment are closely related but separate concepts that through the social inclusion process, the empowerment process operates. Bennett put her statement that social inclusion and empowerment play their contemporary role for equity and development (Bennett, 2005).

2.2 The Women's Empowerment

The three world conferences of UN-Decade for women held in 1975 (Mexico City), 1980 (Copenhagen) and 1985 (Nairobi) were important mobilizing and awareness of the valuable opportunities for organizing locally, nationally, regionally and internationally and for influencing policy making (UNIFEM, 1995: 3).

On the issues of women's empowerment various conventions and conferences are held. Gender equality has become a motto for all international conventions and conferences sponsored by the institutions under UN-umbrella. All UN conferences and conventions have emphasized women's participation and their empowerment and mainstreaming. Since the 1975 UN conferences on women (Mexico) the world community has acquired or great deal of knowledge about the situation of women worldwide and gained valuable insight into process of development from a gender perspective (Acharya, 1997: 1,7).

The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979 is the first legally binding convention on the women's issues. It concerned to eliminate the obstacles to the participation of women, on equal terms with men in the political, social, economic and cultural life. This convention purposed to ensure the human rights of women and their fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It focused the full movement of women such as education, employment, marriage and maternity field and political, which ensures their empowerment (Surethri, 2002: 214-223).

The fourth World women conference (1995) was held in Beijing, was the milestone in the field of women's issues. It has identified the twelve critical concerns area of women. It has focused on women empowerment and development by promoting their social, economic and political participation. The critical areas of concern of Beijing, emphasizing that the advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are a matter of human rights, social justice and women's empowerment. All the actions of Beijing and Beijing+5 review has given main focus on women's right and empowerment through their equal participation in all aspects of production, employment, income-generating activities and social activities, full involvement in decision-making and policy making activities.

The MDGs (2000) has focused that by empowering women, the sustainable development will be achieved. It forced to ensure the women's education, their reproductive, productive rights as well as combating all kinds of discriminations against women. Therefore,"

promote gender equality and empower women" is one of the goals of the MDGs.

2.3 Empirical Literature on Women Status

Although women are economically active, and female labor participation is underreported, many women are excluded from economic activities. Women are over represented in activities on land holdings often as unpaid family workers a sphere, which tends to disappear with the monetization of agriculture. Women are also active in the urban labor market, which is highly segmented and where barriers to entry are much greater for women than men. Thus, female labor market participation may mean inclusion, access to gainful activities (de Haan, 1995).

In many parts of the developed regions, there have been increases in women's economic activity rates over the past two decades. women's highest shares in wage and salaried employment are in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, something that could change as new economic policies create wide spread unemployment there. Women tend to be in clerical, sales and domestic services. Women hold a mere 10-20 percent of managerial and administrative jobs worldwide and less than 20 percent of the manufacturing jobs (UN, 2004).

Women are poorly represented in the ranks of power policy and decision-making, women make up less than_5 percent of the worlds heads of state, heads of major corporations and top positions in international organizations. Women continue to be denied equal access to high-status and high-paying positions but there has been some progress since United Nations Decade for women began in 1976. Many countries have set up

special offices to review complaints of discriminatory practice in political parties, parliaments, Unions and professional organizations (UN, 2008).

Women's political participation at the political level is very less even in highly developed countries such as America, Europe. The United State of America, which has been preaching practices of democracy, equality and human rights to the world, is very conservative regarding women's participation in politics. The participation of women in the world politics, there is only 13.7 percent. As per UNDP statistics, there is 43 percent women participation in politics in Sweden, 37 percent in Netherlands, 35.8 percent Norway and 30.4 percent in Finland. Women's participation in politics has become an issue of serious contemplation since the UN World conferences on women and Development in 1975 to the fourth world women's conference in Beijing, China in 1995 (Dhital, 2005: 97-100).

In Nepal only a few (14%) of women are household heads (NLSS, 2004) and only 17 percent of women own either house land or livestock (CBS, 2003). Large proportion of women are engaged in agriculture (49.3 %) and 43.6 percent are engaged in elementary works (Pradhan, 2006). The adult female literacy (15 years+) is accounted only to be 34.9 percent (CBS, 2004), which shows the pathetic social condition of women. The women participation in the local election (19.33 %), professional jobs (18.75 %), women share in income (0.302%) and GDI and GEM of 0.452 and 0.391 respectively shows the lowered social condition in Nepal (UNDP, 2004).

In recent times, the social and political participation of women has slightly been increased when the state formed a policy of positive

discrimination but which is not in a satisfactory condition. The interim constitution of Nepal 2007 has provided 33 percent reservation in all ate mechanism based on the caste/ethnic composition of women through the amendment of relevant laws and policies. It has also repealed of all discriminatory laws as according to the Nepalese international commitments. The state has taken the policy of increasing the access to and control over natural resources, making National Women Commission (NWC) autonomous, eliminating all discriminatory social norms to women and building women's capacity by providing modern skills and training are some positive actions to improve the condition of women in Nepal. Furthermore, property rights, sexuality rights, abortion rights and marriage and family laws after the 11th amendment of Civil Code in 2002 and further improvisation by Interim Constitution 2007 are important benchmarks in the process of women empowerment.

The eighth plan promises to include program designed to enhance women's participation in economic and social sectors such as agriculture, forestry, industry, education and health (Acharya, 1997: 23). It also emphasized increasing women representation at decision-making levels in the government, non-government, at semi-government sectors (UNFPA, 2007: 35).

A gender approach to development was reflected fully only in the ninth plan. The plan adopted mainstreaming, eliminating gender inequality and empowerment has its major strategies. In policy terms it promised to integrate gender in all sectors at the regional and national levels and to eliminate gender inequality. For the empowerment of women it included mandatory representation of women in formulating policies and programs

at all levels and ensuring equal rights in ownership of land and the services others services.

The tenth plan has integrated gender concerns in the program of some major sector traditionally accepted as important for women; including agriculture, education, health and local development, public administration and decision-making positions of government services.

CHAPTER – III
RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter represents overall research methodology, which had been applied for this study in order to meet the research objectives. The field work was conducted on February 2013.

3.1 Research Design

The study is a study of Borbote VDC in Ilam district of east Nepal. Keeping in views of the problem formulation, the design of the study is chosen as a descriptive survey design. The descriptive survey design was covered a sample of the women and description of the issues related to the social inclusion and empowerment of women.

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of Study Area

As mentioned earlier main objectives of the study was to describe the social inclusion and empowerment of women at micro level. For this purpose, Borbote VDC of Ilam district of east Nepal was selected for the study. The VDC has been existed 1,241 household and 6,212 total populations (Village Profile, 2067). It is located in the North-East part and 7 kilometer far from the district headquater of the Ilam of Ilam district which was bordered by Maikhola River in the east, Puwa Khola in the west, and Mai Pokhari VDC in the North and Ilam municipality in the south. It is the mountain slope area of Ilam district. The VDC has 9 wards and survey was taken from ward nos. 1 of Borbote VDC where 178 household are existed in the area. The VDC was selected for behind

reason such as feasible by time and cost, inclusive settlement of cast/ethnicity. There is a curiosity of gaining more knowledge from the VDC women to seem somehow empowered in every aspect of social life. So, the researcher is also local person in this VDC and interested the self VDC.

3.3 Universe and Sampling procedures

Determining the sample size is the most important and difficult task of the field study. For this study, the total sample size is 1/3 or 60 households of selected ward i.e. ward nos. one of the VDC. According to Borbote Village Development Committee Profile (2067), 178 household and 911 populations are existed in this ward nos. 1. Among them, 60 households will be taken for sampling survey. The respondents were married women of aged between 15 years and above in each sample households. All the households of the sampled were included for administering the household's interview schedules. In this study, random sampling method was adopted. For the selection of respondent interview, researcher was self decided at time of survey that is able to provide the details information about on overall household information and women's decision issues in social activities for inclusion.

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

This study depends mainly upon primary data. Primary data were obtained from the field study through household survey, group discussion and informal interview. Secondary data were collected from various published and unpublished literature such as books, journals, article, etc. wherever necessary.

3.5 Data collection procedures and Tools

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

A set of structured and unstructured interview questionnaires were designed and apply for the study purpose. The structured questionnaire deals with the purpose of getting information about on socio-economic status of women, participation in decision making, family affairs, socio-cultural activities and women's access/control over the economic resources of the households.

The discussions on unstructured question related with their dual work burden behavioral pattern within the family, empowerment of women etc.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion:

A focus group discussion had been conducted with the women members of the related households. Discussions were focused upon who makes major decision etc. In addition to these, some key informants were also provided information on various aspects of the social inclusion issues under the study. These key informants were included political leaders, senior men and women of their community, teachers, social workers etc.

3.5.3 Observation

Observation method was applied for some related gathering field data. Physical settlement of respondent's households, socio-cultural activities,

values, agricultural practices, behaviour and attitudes were observed by indirect participation. It is helped to the researcher to understand the local language, male and female communication in social activities, ceremony, and seeking behaviour, household's works.

3.6 Data processing an Analysis

The collected data had been checked whether complete or not and edited for completeness, accuracy and uniformity. After editing, a code book was prepared for the semi open and multiple responses questions. All responses were assigned to a numeric code. After that the collected data were processed using SPSS and EXCEL software. The collected data are analyzed and statistically interpreted by using methods such as simple frequency distribution, percentage distribution, cross tabulation wherever necessary.

CHAPTER - IV
HOUSEHOLD POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This chapter represents the socio-economic, demographic and political representative characteristics of the household population and respondents of the study area.

4.1 Household Population

In this segment, the sampled household characteristics by age, sex, marital status, educational status and occupational status were analyzed of the study area.

4.1.1 Age-Sex Composition of the Household Population

The age-sex composition of a population is important in demographic analysis. A population's age and sex composition is considered as a map of its demographic history. If age composition is destroyed, all age-specific information of vital events is eventually destroyed. The various demographic events differ in different age and sex. Therefore, age-sex composition has significant implications.

Information on age and sex of each household member were obtained from the married women of age 15 years and above. In 60 sampled households, the total population was 398 with having 192 male and 206 female populations (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Distribution of the Household Population by Age and Sex

Age Group	Sex		Total Percentage
	Male	Female	
0 – 14	28	32	60 (15.0)
15 -2 9	42	52	94 (23.6)
30 – 44	50	66	116 (29.1)
45 – 59	56	40	96 (24.1)
60 and above	16	16	32 (8.0)
Total	192	206	398 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The majority of the population was found in age group 30-44 years (29.1%) and lowest in age group 60 and above years (8.0%). If we examine the age composition in economic term, people below 15 years and 60 years above are supposed to be economically inactive that means "Dependent population" and age 15-59 years is economically active population. In the study area, the economically active population age 15-59 years were found 76.8 percent where the remaining population was found as dependent population (Table 4.1).

4.1.2. Educational Status of the Household Population

The higher literacy status and educational attainment affects the people's Participation in socio-economic, developmental as well as in policy making level. Education enhances the ability and capacity of human being to judge for right and wrong. The study area (ward nos. 1) has only one primary level community school i.e, Devi Primary School. Majority

of the school level student were gone near schools in other wards. Out of the total household population of six year and above, majority (94.1%) of the population were literate and 5.8 percent were illiterate (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Distribution of Population by their Literacy Status (6 years and above)

Literacy Status	Sex		Total Percentage
	Male	**Female**	
Literate	170	186	356 (94.1)
Illiterate	9	13	22 (5.8)
Total	179	199	378 (100.0)
Educational Attainment			
Primary	87	121	208 (58.4)
Secondary	40	33	73 (20.5)
SLC/Intermediate	26	24	50 14.0)
Bachelor and above	17	8	25 (7.0)
Total	170	186	356 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Education by sex was found unequal among the study population. Female literacy is few lower than that of males (93.4% and 94.9% respectively). But the female educational attainment was in SLC/Intermediate level and in bachelor and above, it was found to be poor. In lower level education like primary, the attainment was quite high than the male (51.10% male and 65.0% female) (Table 4.2). So, it can be concluded that still women were excluded from higher level educational opportunities.

4.1.3 Marital Status of the Household Population

Marriage is universal in our society. In Nepal, marriage is compulsion for both men and women. Marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of the people. So it is called social institutions.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Population by their Marital Status (10 years and above)

Marital Status	Sex		Total
	Male	**Female**	**Percentage**
Never Married	70	83	153 (40.6)
Married	106	104	210 (55.8)
Widow	4	7	11 (2.9)
Divorced	-	1	1 (0.2)
Separated	-	1	1 (0.2)
Total	180	196	376 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

In the household population age 10 years and above, majority of the population were married (55.8%). Similarly 40.6 percent were unmarried followed by 2.9 percent widow. The proportions of divorced and separated were 0.2 percent and only the female (Table 4.3).

4.1.4 Household's Occupation

Occupation is an indicator of economic condition of a person. Table 4.4 shows that overwhelming proportion of household populations' were agriculture (33.9%) followed by students (19.0%). Other occupations

identified in the household populations were foreign employee (12.3%), household works (10.5%), daily wage labour (8.5%) and service (5.0%).

Table 4.4: Distribution of Household Population by their Occupation

Occupation	Sex		Total
	Male	**Female**	**Percentage**
Agriculture	56	79	135 (33.9)
Student	36	40	76 (19.0)
Foreign Labor	36	13	49 (12.3)
Household work	10	32	42 (10.5)
Daily Wage Labour	14	20	34 (8.5)
Service	12	8	20 (5.0)
Business	8	4	12 (3.0)
Teaching	4	7	11 (2.7)
Physically Not able to work	6	2	8 (2.0)
Social worker	6	-	6 (1.5)
Don't Know	4	1	5 (1.2)
Total	192	206	398 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The involvement of female was much of less than male in income generating occupation. Broadly the population engaged in non agricultural activities including service, student, household work, teaching, daily wage labour. It was also found that female proportion in agriculture and daily wages were high than the male proportion (Table 4.4).

4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondent

This sub-chapter deals with the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

4.2.1 Caste/ethnicity of the Respondents

Nepal is a state of multi cast and ethnicity. In the sampled area various caste and ethnic groups were found. Among these identified caste and ethnicity, they were categorized into six broad caste groups i.e. Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Magar, Limbu and Damai.

Table 4.5: Distribution of the respondents by their caste/ethnic group

Caste group	Total Number	Percentage
Brahmin	24	40.0
Chhetri	16	26.6
Newar	11	18.3
Magar	6	10.0
Limbu	2	3.3
Damai	1	1.6
Total	**60**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The majority of the respondents were from Brahmin (40.0%) and Chhetri (26.6%). Other caste groups were Newar (18.3%), Magar (10.0%), Limbu (3.3%) and Dalits like Damai (1.6%) (Table 4.5).

4.2.2 Age-Composition of the Respondents

The age structure plays a significant role in demography whether it influences the values, roles, social mores, responsibilities, social relation and fundamental social hierarchy. In the study from the 60 sampled respondents, their ages were broadly grouped as 15-29, 30-59 and 65+ years of age.

Table 4.6: Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group

Age group	Total Number	Percentage
15-29	18	30.0
30-59	38	63.3
60+	4	6.6
Total	**60**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

In the sampled population, 63.3 percent respondents were found in age group 30-59 years, where 30.0 percent respondents were in age group 15-29 years. Only one respondent above 60 years was included in the study (6.6%) respectively (Table 4.6).

4.2.3 Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital status is another important determinant, which changes the life cycle of a woman. As we know, marriage is essential and universal in our society. It determines women's position within family as well as her status within society. Females' roles are increased in family only after her marriage and her decision making power is accepted if she is considered to be married.

Table 4.7: Distribution of the respondents by marital status

Marital Status	Total Number	Percentage
Married	58	96.6
Widow	1	1.6
Separated	1	1.6
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Out of 60 respondents, 96.6 percent respondents were married followed by widow and separated in each 1.6 percent respectively (Table 4.7).

4.2.4 Age at Marriage of the Respondents

The age at marriage is also an indicator of socio-health status of the women. In this study, the age at marriage of the respondents were categorized into 4 groups such as; <14 years, 15-19 years, 20-24 years and 25+ years.

Table 4.8: Distribution of the respondents by their marital age-group

Marriage age-group	Total Number	Percentage
<14	1	1.6
15-19	22	36.6
20-24	23	38.3
25+	14	23.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

It was observed that more than one third of the respondents had got married at the age in each 15-19 years and 20.24 years (36.6% and 38.32%). This study had shown that almost three quarters of female had got married within their teenage period (Table 4.8).

4.2.5 Religion Status of the Respondents

Religious composition is the important social characteristics of respondent. Religion also plays a vital role to unite a society and keep solidarity among respondents. It is also a factor that determines the role and responsibilities of a woman; because different religious groups have their own traditional values and systems which govern people beliefs.

Table 4.9: Distribution of the respondents by religion

Religion	Total Number	Percentage
Hindu	51	85.0
Buddhist	4	6.6
Kirant	2	3.3
Christian	3	5.0
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

In the sampled population, four religious groups were found. The majority of the respondents from Hindu religion (85.0%) followed by Buddhist (6.6%). Out of the 60 respondents, only two persons were found Kirant (like Limbu) and 5.0 percent also found Christian religious (Table 4.5).

4.2.6 Educational status of the respondents

Education is the main part of personal as well as societal development. It has a multidimensional significance. Education is also considered to be an indicator of women empowerment. Greater participation of women in education is the backbone of their empowerment.

Table 4.6 : Distribution of the respondents by Educational status

Literacy Status	Total Number	Percentage
Literate	5	8.3
Illiterate	11	18.3
Primary	19	31.6
Secondary	15	25.0
SLC, IA or equivalent	8	13.3
Bachelor	2	3.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Out of total 81.6 percent of the respondents were found to be literate and remaining 18.3 percent were illiterate. Among the literate respondents, the majority of the respondents had attended the primary level education (31.6%). Very negligible percent of the respondents had attained higher education (Table 4.6).

Table 4.7: Distribution of the respondents by taking education after marriage

Education After Marriage	Total Number	Percentage
Yes	23	38.3
No	37	61.6
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

After marriage, only 38.3 percent respondents had taken education. Remaining 61.6 percent had not taken any formal or informal education. Almost all caste/ethnic groups' respondents had not taken any kind of formal or informal education (Table 4.7).

Table 4.8: Distribution of the respondents by reasons for not taking education after marriage

Reasons for not taking education after marriage	Total Number	Percentage
Not Interested for further Study	10	27.0
Husband/family didn't want	9	24.3
Due to Early Marriage	7	18.9
Economic Reasons	5	13.5
Due to Early Pregnancy	4	10.8
Household Activities	2	5.4
Total	37	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among the reasons for not taking education after marriage, majority of the respondents (27.0%) said that they had no interest for further education. More than one fourth (24.3%) had the response that their family members didn't like to send them to educational institutions after marriage. They also reported that because of early marriage (18.9%), economic reason (13.5%), early pregnancy (10.3%), and household activities (5.4%), they were not getting opportunities for further study after marriage (Table 4.8).

Table 4.9: Distribution of the respondents by satisfaction with current educational status

Satisfaction With their education	Total Number	Percentage
Yes	40	66.6
No	20	33.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Less than one third percent (33.3%) respondents had reported that they were not satisfied with their current educational status whereas 66.6 percent said that they were mildly or fully satisfied with their educational status (Table 4.9).

4.2.7 Family types of the respondents

The family background determines the future of an individual. Family plays an important role to determine the career of a woman because of the social structure. In our society, a woman should fully depend upon their family, and without their permission and decision she is helpless to do

anything on her own. It is believed that in nuclear family, a woman can get some extent of choices to do something freely than in a joint family.

Table 4.10: Distribution of respondents by their family types

Family type of the respondents	Total Number	Percentage
Nuclear	42	70.0
Joint	18	30.0
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Less than one third (30.0%) of the respondents were from the joint family and remaining 70.0 percent respondents were from nuclear family (Table 4.10). In the both nuclear and joint families in the study area, majority of the Brahmin women's working hour ranged from 6-8 hours per day such as cooking, fetching water, carrying of children from school, cutting grass, farming vegetable, etc. In the household observation, most of the joint family's women have done tending the livestocks and fetching fodder where nuclear family's women have engaged in cooking and manage of children from schooling. Most of the households have using firewood for cooking. Nuclear households are in this study area; male members are more involved in work as an outside the household like go to market, involved in Job and social participation, taking and giving loan than female members. Male members are rarely involved in inside household management and household chores than females in nuclear family's households.

Head of the household receives higher respect in Nepalese society. Generally, the eldest male member of household is regarded as head.

Being male dominated society, most of households reported the male members to be the head of the household regardless of their age, social position and economic activity within household. In the study area, out of 60 sampled households, only 10 (16.6%) female-headed households were reported where remaining 83.3 percent households were male-headed household.

4.3 Economic Characteristics

In this segment, the economic characteristics of the respondents such source of income, ownership of land, etc were analyzed.

4.3.1 Sources of income

Source of income is that factor which helps to improve socio-economic status of the people. In Borbote VDC, major occupation or sources of income are their traditional farming. However, they are shifted in many kinds of occupation like service, business, etc. Among the respondents who were involved in income generating activities, majority of the respondents' sources of income was agriculture/livestocks.

Table 4.11: Distribution of the respondents by sources of income

Sources of income	Total Number	Percentage
Agriculture/ Livestock	36	60.0
Business	6	10.0
Labor	10	16.6
Job/ Services	4	6.6
Teaching	4	6.6
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Majority (60.0%) of the respondents were engaged in agriculture/livestock where as 16.6 percent respondents were in wage labour, 10.0 in business, 6.6 percent in each job/service and teaching profession in service including in governmental and non governmental sectors (Table 4.11).

4.3.2 Monthly Income and Income Keeper of the respondents

The income level of the respondents was not seen well. Almost 21.6 percent respondents' income level was below Rs. 5000. This category ranges from Rs. 1000 or lower than that to Rs. 5000 monthly. Only 30.0 percent respondents were able to earn above in each Rs. 5001-10000 and Rs. 15001 and above monthly from different occupations. This shows that level of income is only subsistence based. The lower proportion of the respondents in higher income level might be imperfect because of the perceived fear to tell their income level to the new interviewer. There were very negligible income levels seen among all the respondents (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12: Distribution of the respondents by their level of income & Income Keeper

Income level	Total Number	Percentage
Below Rs. 5000	13	21.6
5001-10000	18	30.0
10001-15000	11	18.3
15001+	18	30.0
Total	60	100.0
Household income keeper		
Husband	27	45.0
Parents	14	23.3
Self	8	13.3
Husband and wife Both	10	16.6
Sons and Daughter	1	1.6
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

For sound and healthy family life, male and female both are equally responsible. They need to share benefits in family. The study had shown that 13.3 percent women kept their family income where 16.6 percent kept both of them. The result shows that little number of respondents had engaged in any kind of income generating activities and negligible percent of women had land or houses in their own name. Quite contrarily, most of the income is kept by them. This shows that the female right to handle household property is not fully accepted in the study area (Table 4.12).

4.3.3 Ownership of the House and Land by the Respondents

Ownership of the house and land also represents the socio-economic status. The study had shown that all of the respondents had their own house. Among the respondents having own house, only (13.3%) of the respondents were legal owner of the house and 40.0 percent said that their husbands were the legal owner of the house. Parents also possessed some 31.6 percent of houses on their own name. Other categories like dual ownership of husband and wife (10.0%) and brothers and sisters (3.3%) were negligible for the analysis (Table 4.13).

Table 4.13: Distribution of the respondents by Ownership of the House and Land

Ownership of the House	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	24	40.0
Parents	19	31.6
Self	8	13.3
Husband and Wife Both	6	10.0
Brothers and Sisters	2	3.3
Sons/daughter	1	1.6
Total	60	100.0
Ownership of the Land		
Yes	12	20.0
No	48	80.0
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The study had shown that cent percent respondents' family had own land. Among the respondents having land, 20.0 percent women respondents had land on their own name and 80.0 percent respondents didn't have land on their own name. Thus, it can be concluded that most of the women were excluded from their legal rights on the land holding (Table 4.13).

4.4 Political Participation

In the context of women's role and influence in the society, political participation needs to be analyzed from several angles. Conventionally, politics is understood to cover the science of governance in the public

arena only. But in women's context it is imperative that politics includes gender politics within family and in the domestic scene, because that is where they are intensively exploited, repressed and excluded.

Women's political participation is defined as participation in social activities, participation in decision making roles within the domestic scene as well as in the community. Involvement in political movements and political parties forms another dimension of women's political participation. Awareness/knowledge about their rights and access to inheritance property are conceptualized as women's political empowerment.

4.4.1 Participation in Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Participation in any community based committees helps women strengthening their capacity and confidence power. It also shows inclusion of females in development activities where a female share equal right and opportunity as that of male. In the study area some community based organizations (CBOs) were found like Forest User Group (FUG), Drinking Water Committees (DWC), School Management Committees (SMC), Local Women's Committees (LWC), Religious Institutions (RI), Saving and Credit (S/C) and Other Committees.

Table 4.14: Distribution of the respondents by their participation in CBOs

Institutions	Regular		Sometimes		Never		Total Percent
	Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%	
FUG	6	10.0	22	36.6	32	53.3	60 (100.0)
DWC	5	8.3	17	28.3	38	63.3	60 (100.0)
SMC	8	13.3	12	20.0	40	66.6	60 (100.0)
LWC	23	38.3	10	16.6	27	45.0	60 (100.0)
RI	25	41.6	27	45.0	8	13.3	60 (100.0)
S/C	36	60.0	14	23.3	10	16.6	60 (100.0)
Other	4	100.0	-	-	-	-	4 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among those committees, most of the women had no regular participation. The highest proportion of women were never participated in such committees, very few women had participated regularly. In those committees, the highest percentages of women (60.0%) were regularly participated in S/C group whereas 41.6 percent respondents participated in Religious Institution ceremony. In other committees 10.0 percent in FUG, 8.3 percent in DWC, 13.3 percent in SMC and 38.3 percent in LWC, the respondents had participated regularly. Thus, it can be concluded that the regular participation of women was quite high in S/C than other committees. The never participants were high in all committees in the study area (Table 4.14).

4.4.2. Political participation and political awareness

In the study area, out of 60 respondents more than 65.0 percent reported that they didn't have membership of social institutions but 35.0 percent had been a member. More than a half (58.3%) percent reported that they were willing to participate in any social activities (Table 4.15).

Around 80.0 percent of the respondents had been utilizing their political rights by voting to any of the political parties in the past elections including the election of the Constituent Assembly. Around 33.3 percent of the respondents had the membership in any of the political parties and 16.6 percent had a willingness to be a local representative.

Table 4.15: Distribution of the respondents by their political participation and political awareness

Political participation and political awareness	Yes	No	Total Number
Having membership of any Social-institutions	21	39	60
Willingness to participate in any Social-activities	35	25	60
Voting to any political parties	48	12	60
Having membership of any political parties	20	40	60
Willingness to be a local representative	10	50	60
Having knowledge about the constitution	10	50	60
Having knowledge about the fundamental rights	12	48	60
Having knowledge about the property rights	25	35	60
Having knowledge about the divorce rights	15	45	60

Source: Field Survey, 2013

To collect the necessary information on the political and social awareness of the respondents, a set of questions was asked in the field. More than 16.6 percent of the respondents said that they were conscious about the constitution and constitutional provisions relating to women. Knowledge about fundamental rights (20.0%), female property rights (41.6%) and divorce rights (25.0%) show that the level of political consciousness is lower among the respondents irrespective of their utilizations (Table 4.15).

4.4.3 Reasons for being a local representative

Out of 60 respondents, 10 respondents reported that they were interested to be a local representative. Among 10 respondents, half of them said that they wanted to address women's issues' by being involved in local politics while 40.0 percent had the will to uplift the women earning of their village followed by 20.0 percent responses favored that being a local representative is a way to build up a self confidence, 50.0 percent wanted to be in a local position for the purpose of mere learning and 60.0% of the respondents wanted to be a assist village development (Table 4.16).

Table 4.16: Distribution of the respondents' views to be a local representative

Reasons for being a local representative	Toatal Number (10)	Percentage
To Address the women's issues	4	40.0
to Uplift the women Earning	4	40.0
For Learning	5	50.0
To build up the confidence	2	20.0
To assist village development	6	60.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013 (Note: the percentage may increase 100 due to the multiple responses)

4.4.4 Knowledge about the property rights

Access to property of women helps to be economic independent. But the property right to women is still lacking despite the legal provisions. Among 60 respondents, 25 respondents reported that they had heard about the property rights. Most of the respondent, 60.0 percent reported that equal share from husband when separated was the property rights where 64.0 percent reported that equal share for son and daughter from their parent as their property rights (Table 4.17).

Table 4.17: Distribution of the respondents' views about the property rights

Knowledge about the property rights	Total Number (25)	Percentage
Equal Share for Son and daughter	16	64.0
Share from husband when separated	15	60.0
Don't know	5	20.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013 (Note: the percentage may increase 100 due to the multiple responses)

4.4.5 Knowledge About the Devorce Rights

It was reported that 15 respondents had heard about the divorce rights. Among them, 53.3 percent reported that if husband brought another wife, then she could give divorce to her husband and 66.6 percent reported that she could give divorce to her husband if she felt neglected in the family. Similarly, 33.3 percent reported in each if frequent quarrel and tortured, and 20.0 percent in each if husband shows bad character and no respect

for self dignity, then she would give divorce. There were also reported that if husband is not fecund (26.6%), if husband is living separately for 3 years and if not satisfied with husband (13.3%) and if husband is mentally not well (6.6%), then a woman can give divorce to the her husband (Table. 4.18).

Table 4.18: Distribution of the respondents' views about the divorce rights

Knowledge about the conditions, in which a women can give divorce	Total Number (15)	Percentage
If step wife is brought	8	53.3
Frequent quarrel	5	33.3
If Neglected /Not respected in the family	10	66.6
If not fecund	4	26.6
If Husband lives separately for 3 years	2	13.3
If no respect for Self-Dignity	3	20.0
If tortured	5	33.3
If not satisfied with husband	2	13.3
If husband shows bad character	3	20.0
If husband is mentally not well	1	6.6
Don't know	2	13.3

Source: Field Survey, 2013 (Note: the percentage may increase 100 due to the multiple responses)

CHAPTER - V
DECISION MAKING, POLITICALAWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

This chapter analyses the respondent decision making process, political awareness and social participation of the study area. Decision has a great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role in terms of women's inclusive participation in different social activities. There is gender disparity in terms of decision making process. Improvements in women's decision making power minimize the gap between males/ female's status in any society.

5.1 Women in decision making process

Women in the process of decision making are another most important or the basic indicator of their empowerment. Household decision, decision of their own marriage, decisions of the schooling after marriage are some of the primary rights to be enjoyed by women for the overall empowerment of females. If females are failed in those matters, the talk of women empowerment is a buzz talk only.

5.1.1 Decision on their Marriage

It might be the patriarchy society; it was found most of the respondent's parent decided their marriage. There were 43.3 percent respondents' parent took decision on their marriage. It was also found that 16.6 percent respondents had made self decision on their marriage (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Distribution of the respondents' decision on their marriage

Decision makers	Total Number	Percentage
Father	14	23.3
Mother	5	8.3
Both Parents	26	43.3
Self	10	16.6
Brothers/Sisters	2	3.3
Relatives	3	5.0
Total	**60**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

More than one third (40.0%) of the respondents were married by the joint decision of their parents where as only 12.2 percent of the literate women had the decision on their marriage by themselves. The other decision makers were father (24.4%), mother (16.3%), brother/ sister and relatives by 4.0 and 2.0 percent respectively (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Respondents' decision making of their own marriage by their literacy status

Literacy	Decision on marriage of the respondents		
	Decision makers	**Number**	**Percentage**
Literate	Father	12	24.4
	Mother	8	16.3
	Both Parents	20	40.8
	Self	6	12.2
	Brothers/Sisters	2	4.0
	Relatives	1	2.0
	Total	49	100.0

	Decision makers		
	Father	2	18.1
	Mother	1	9.0
	Both Parents	6	54.5
Illiterate	Self	1	9.0
	Brothers/Sisters	-	-
	Relatives	1	9.0
	Total	11	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among the illiterate, the decision on their own marriage is less than those who were literate. Only the 54.4 percent of the respondents had their marriage decision by their parents but there were 9.0perecent is self decision of the illiterate respondents had their marriage (Table 5.2).

5.2 Decision making process in having children, using Family Planning Methods and children's schooling

5.2.1 Decision on their children's schooling

While taking decision on their children's schooling or not, majority of both husband and wife had decided for their children's education. There were 23.3 percent respondents had made self decision in their children's schooling. It shows that the female decision on the education of their children is still low compared to their husband. Around 15.0 percent of the decisions are done in mutual understanding of husband and wife both (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Distribution of the respondents' decision on their children's schooling

Decision on their children's schooling	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	22	36.6
Parents	15	25.0
Self	14	23.3
Husband and Wife Both	9	15.0
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.2.2 Decision on having children

It was found that almost cent percent respondents had given a live birth. Among them most of the couple (husband and wife both) 68.3 percent decided to have children. The dual decision to bear a baby may be considered to be good but self decision is a right to be a pregnant (10.0%), shows that they were not fostered the right of pregnancy. She alone was not able to decide on when, how much and how often should she be pregnant. Respondents were also liable to bear a baby on the decision of husband alone or because of the parents desire to have a grandchild (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Distribution of the respondents' decision on having children

Decision on Having Children	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	10	16.6
Parents	3	5.0
Self	6	10.0
Husband & wife Both	41	68.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.2.3 Decision on using of family planning methods

Out of 60 respondents, only 30 respondents had used family planning devices. Among the 30 respondents, 13.3 percent couple had made decision together. More than one third (40.0%) decisions on using FP methods were taken by their husband and only 46.6 percent of the respondents decided to use the FP methods on their own (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5: Respondents' decision on using of family planning methods

Decision on using of family planning methods	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	12	40.0
Self	14	46.6
Both	4	13.3
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.2.4 Women in decision making process in having children, using FP methods and children's schooling by Literacy Status

Decision on having children, it was found that most of the literate women had discussed and decided with their husband. More than 42.8 percent literate women and nearly 18.1 percent of illiterate women decided in mutual understanding with their husband. But on taking self-decision

only 20.4 percent literate and illiterate women were successful. Similarly, on using Family Planning methods, the study had shown that 16.6 percent literate women decided in cooperation with their husband but among illiterate women mostly their husband had decided. It was found 33.3 percent illiterate women's husband decided. But on taking self-decision more literate women were ahead of illiterate women (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Respondents by decision on pregnancy, using FP and children's schooling

Literacy Status		Having children		Using FP methods		Children's schooling	
	Decision Makers	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Literate	Husband	15	30.6	10	41.6	18	36.7
	Parents	3	6.1	-	-	4	8.1
	Self	10	20.4	11	45.8	10	20.4
	Husband and wife both	21	42.8	4	16.6	17	34.6
	Total	49	100.0	24	100.0	49	100.0
Illiterate	Husband	5	45.4	2	33.3	4	36.3
	Parents	1	9.0	-	-	1	9.0
	Self	3	81.8	3	50.0	2	18.1
	Husband and wife both	2	18.1	1	16.6	4	36.3
	Total	11	100.0	6	100.0	11	100.0
	Grand Total	60	100.0	30	100.0	60	

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.3 Decision Making on Cropping Pattern

Most of the women are involved either in household activities or in agriculture activities. Their involvement in agriculture provided capacity in decision making on cropping pattern. It was found that more than thirty three percent women had taken decision on cropping in cooperation with their husband. While 32.3 percent respondents made self-decision on cropping (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7: Distribution of the respondents' decision on cropping

Decision makers	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	5	8.3
Parents	12	20.0
Self	20	33.3
Husband and Wife Both	23	38.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

It was found that most of illiterate women had made self-decision on cropping than literate women. There were 27.2 percent of illiterate had self decision on cropping while 24.4 percent literate women decided in the same matter. Most of the literate women took decision on cropping after having discussion between husband and wife (Table 5.8).

Table 5.8: Respondents by decision making process in cropping by literacy status

Literacy	Decision Maker	Total Number	Percentage
Literate	Husband	2	4.0
	Parents	14	28.5
	Self	12	24.4
	Husband and Wife Both	21	42.8
	Total	49	100.0
Illiterate	Husband	2	18.8
	Parents	4	36.3
	Self	3	27.2
	Husband and wife both	2	18.8
	Total	11	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.4 Decision on buying or selling surplus food and Livestock

Buying or selling surplus food in the house is the most important decision. Most of the Nepalese women have involved in household activities. Among 60 respondents, 70.0 percent respondents had made decision to buy and 23.3 percent had selling any surplus food (Table 5.9).

Table 5.9: Respondents' decision on buying/selling surplus food and livestock

Decision	Yes	No	Total Percentage
Buying food	42 (70.0)	18 (30.0)	60 (100.0)
Selling food	14 (23.3)	46 (76.6)	60 (100.0)
Buying livestock	25 (41.6)	35 (58.3)	60 (100.0)
Selling livestock	10 (16.6)	50 (83.3)	60 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Decision on buying or selling livestock, it was found that comparatively very less women had made decision to buy or sell any livestock in the household. Only 41.6 percent respondents had made decision for buying and 16.6 percent had selling livestock by her (Table 5.9). Majority of the women had no right of buying (58.3%) or selling (83.3%) their livestock or any other household assets.

Table 5.10: Respondents by having decision on buying and selling by literacy Status

Decision	Literate		Total	Illiterate		Total	Total (%)
	Yes (%)	No (%)		Yes (%)	No (%)		
Buying food	36 (73.4)	13 (26.5)	49	6 (54.5)	5 (45.4)	11	60 (100.0)
Selling food	11 (22.4)	38 (77.5)	49	3 (27.2)	8 (72.2)	11	60 (100.0)
Buying livestock	21 (42.8)	28 (57.1)	49	4 (36.3)	7 (63.6)	11	60 (100.0)
Selling livestock	8 (16.3)	41 (83.6)	49	2 (18.1)	9 (81.8)	11	60 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among having decision on buying any surplus food and livestock in household by literacy, 73.4 percent literate women had decided to buy food and 22.4 percent had sell where only buying 54.5 percent and selling 27.2 percent illiterate women did. Similarly among having decision by literate women on buying (42.8%) and selling (16.3%) livestock where buying (36.3%) and selling (18.1%) illiterate women made same decision (Table 5.10).

5.5 Decision on visiting the relatives

Visiting relatives is also a social affair. In this study, it was found that often the respondent's husband decided to visit their relatives. There were 20.0 percent respondents had followed their husband's decision. While 33.3 percent both couple decided for visiting their relatives and 30.0 percent respondents had taken self-decision to visit relatives (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11: Distribution of the respondents' decision on visiting relatives

Decision on visiting relatives	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	12	20.0
Parents	10	16.6
Self	18	30.0
Husband and Wife Both	20	33.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.6 Decision on participating in social activities

Most of the women were engaged in domestic/household chores. They are, to some extent, restricted to go out side and take part in any social activities due to the social and culture settings.

Table 5.12: Respondents' decision on participating in social activities

Decision on participating in social activities	Total Number	Percentage
Husband	17	28.3
Parents	6	10.0
Self	15	25.0
Husband and wife Both	10	16.6
Relatives	2	3.33
Son and Daughter	2	3.33
Other (friends	8	13.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

While taking decision to participate in social activities, women seem to be free to some extent. Around 25.0 percent of the respondents decided themselves whether to participate or not. In other cases, a female needs her husband's approval (28.3%) to take part in such activities. Only 16.6 percent of such decisions were made in mutual understanding between husband and wife. Sometimes, parents, relatives, and son or daughter remain the decision makers in such cases respectively for each case (Table 5.12).

5.7 Decision on to be member of political parties

Political membership helps increasing the social movement of the people. Political awareness helps people to know their rights and responsibilities.

Table 5.13: Respondents' decision on to be member of political parties

Decision Makers	Total Number (20)	Percentage
Husband	10	50.0
Self	5	25.0
Husband and wife Both	4	20.0
Relatives	3	15.0
Other (Friends)	5	25.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013 (Note: the percentage may increase 100 due to the multiple responses)

It was found that very less (20 respondents) women had taken membership of political parties. However, 25.0 percent respondents had taken her-self decision to be a member of political parties. Where as 50.0 percent their husband and 25.0 percent their friends encouraged them to be a member of political parties. Similarly 20.0 percent respondents took decision on to be a member of political parties in cooperation with their husband (Table 5.13).

The study had shown that political participation and political awareness were higher among literate women than illiterate women. Participation in any social activities and political parties were so low among illiterate women.

Table 5.14: Political participation and political awareness among respondents literacy status

literacy	Member of any Social-Institutions		Willing to participate in any Social activities		Member of any Political parties		Willing to be a local representative	
	Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
Literate	17	80.9	23	65.7	15	75.0	8	80.0
Illiterate	4	19.0	12	34.2	5	25.0	2	20.0
Total	21	100.0	35	100.0	20	100.0	10	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

In the study area 80.9 percent literate women were a member of any social institutions, 65.7 percent literate women had willingness to participate in any social activities, 75.0 percent literate women were a member of any political parties and 80.0 percent literate women had willing to be a local representative and rest were the illiterate women. Similarly more than 75 percent literate women had heard about the rights but only around 25 percent illiterate women had heard about such kind of the rights (Table 5.14).

5.8 Causes and consequences of exclusion of women

This sstudy had concentrated to identify the causes of the social exclusion of the women and its impact. But it was found that causes themselves are the consequences of exclusion.

In the study area, exclusion of women exists in every sector that is why their participation was found very low. These kinds of exclusion affect

women's social, economic, political and domestic status. And they are the blockade to uplift their status and their participation, leaving women in the condition of selflessness, powerlessness and isolation.

The some causes were identified in the study area:-
) Discriminating nature of parent
) Low level of education
) Economic dependency
) Socio-cultural settings and practices
) Lack of awareness among women
) Poor mechanism and system of government to implement laws, policies, plan and programs

These all causes were identified in research field. Majority of the respondents reported that discriminating nature and practices between male and female were the main cause of women's backwardness. They further put socio-cultural practices and conservative thinking as the causes of women's low status in society. Some respondents also reported that women herself responsible for her backwardness because they were not active and had no courage to fight against discrimination.

They reported that due to busy in household schedule and lack of education were main reasons of their less participation or involvement in social, economic and political sectors. They also added that they were not participated due to their economic dependency.

The respondents said that not only males were responsible or blockage for women's development. To extent, women were also responsible for their low social status. But all the respondents agreed that women have

full courage to run not only their household but also the nation as a whole.

Most of the respondents said that government's policies and programs were like "Haati Ko Dekhaune Danta". It was not implemented seriously. They said that lack of strong mechanism and system of the government was the main hindrances to implement the programs.

The respondents reported that to uplift women's status and empower them; awareness programs should be conducted to break and transform the existing traditional and socio-cultural practices, which were most hindrances of women's development. Further they added the government should strongly implement laws, policies and programs to enhance women's status. And all the rights of women should be ensured practically.

Lastly, all the respondents agreed that for women's empowerment, women should aware and active themselves and also family and community should encourage them and should include in all level of development sectors then only after women can contribute to build "New Nepal".

CHAPTER – VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter presents the summary of the findings of the study and it also includes conclusions of the study.

6.1. Summary of the findings

This study is conducted to show the situation analysis of social inclusion and women empowerment of Borbote VDC ward nos. 1 in Ilam district of east Nepal. The objectives of the study is to find out socio-economic status of women in the study area, analyze the social exclusion and inclusion of women in terms of social and political participation, and decision-making of the households in the study area, and identify the causes and consequences of gender exclusion in the study area.

Keeping in views of the problem formulation, the design of the study was chosen as a descriptive survey design. For this study, the respondent was only women of aged between 15 years and above. All the sampled households respondent was selected by random sampling method and applied interview schedules.

This study is depends on both primary and secondary data. The collected data were checked whether complete or not and edited for completeness, accuracy and uniformity. The data was analyzed and presented by simple frequency table, percentage wherever necessary.

Of the total 60 household population, 192 were male and 206 were female population. Majority of the population were found in age group

30-44 years (29.1%) and lowest percent found in age group 60 years and above (8.0%). It was found 76.8 percent economically active populations i.e. age group 15-59 years.

More than half household populations were married where the highest percentage of married population was 55.8% and unmarried population were 40.6%. Out of total household population, 94.1 percent were literate. There 34.2 percent had the educational attainment in SLC or Intermediate level education, which was higher attainment than other level.

Females' educational attainment was low in higher level education while males' was high. It was found 33.9 percent population were in agriculture (33.9%) followed by students (19.0%). Similarly 12.3% populations were in foreign employee, 10.5 percent in household works, 8.5 percent in daily wages and 5.0 percent in service.

Nepal is a state of multi caste and ethnicity. Out of sampled 60 women respondents, majority of the respondents were from Brahmin (40.0%) and Chhetri (26.6%). Similalry Newar was in 18.3 percent, 10.0 percent in Magar, 3.3 percent in Limbu and 1.6 percent in Dalits like Damai. It was found 63.3 percent respondents from age group 30-59 years followed by 30.0 percent respondents from age group 15-29 years.

Majority of the respondents were married (96.6%) where 1.6 percent in each widow and separated respondents.

More than one third of female had got married within their age 20-24 years where 36.6 percent respondents had got married at the age group 15-19 years. Majority of the respondents were from Hindu religion

(85.0%) followed by Buddhist (6.6%), Kirant and Christian (5.0%). 70.0 percent respondents were from nuclear family and rest 30.0 percent were from joint family. Among 60 sampled households, only 10 female headed household found and remaining 50 households were male headed households. 81.6 percent respondents were literate and remaining 18.3 percent were illiterate.

Majority of the respondents had attended the primary level education (31.6%). More than one third respondents had taken education after marriage and remaining 61.6 percent had not taken. Most of the respondents (27.0%) reported that they were not interested for further study where 13.5 percent reported that due to economic problem. Early marriage, Early pregnancy and busy in household works were also reasons for not getting chance to study. Nearly one third respondents were not satisfied with their current educational status.

Majority of the respondents' sources of income was agriculture (60.0%) where 16.6 percent respondents' source is wage labour, 10.0 percent business and 6.6 percent in service. Almost 21.6 percent respondents' income level was below 5000 per month.

It was found that cent percent respondents had land but among them only 20.0 percent respondents had land on their own name. More than eighty percent respondents were living in their own house but out of them only 13.3 percent respondents were legal owner of the house where 40.0 percent legal owner of the house was their husband alone. There were 13.3 percent respondents kept the household income.

It was found that majority of the respondents had never regularly participated in local community based committees. Among the regular

participants, majority of the respondents had participated in S/C groups (60.0%), 41.6 percent in religious activities, Local Women's Committee (29.6%) where 13.3 percent in School Management Committee, 10.0 percent in FUG and 8.3 percent Drinking Water Committee. There were 35.0 percent respondents were a member of any social institutions. There were only 33.3 percent respondents were affiliated as a member of any political parties while only 16.6 percent were interested to be a local representative. It was found that 16.6 percent had heard about Constitution, 20.0 percent Fundamental rights, 41.6 percent Property rights and 25.0 percent Divorce rights.

Fifty percent respondents reported that they wanted to address the women's issues being a local representative where 40.0 percent said 'to assist village development' and 20.0 percent 'to uplift women's status' were the reasons for being a local representative. It was reported 60.0 percent respondents said that 'Equal share from husband' was the property right of a woman where 64.0 percent reported 'Equal share from parents' was the property rights of a woman. Majority of the respondents reported that whether husband brought another wife then a woman would give divorce to her husband. Similarly, 66.6 percent reported 'If she is neglected and not respected', 33.3 percent 'if frequent quarrel' and 20.0 percent 'if tortured' were the conditions where a woman can give divorce. Other conditions were reported such like; 'If not satisfied with husband' (13.3%), and 'If husband is mentally not well' (6.6%).

There were 16.6 percent respondents had taken decision on their marriage though majority of them their parent had decided. Majority of the respondents had taken decision on their children's education in cooperation with their husband. Similalry, majority of the respondents

had taken decision to buy or sell any surplus food in the household and remaining 45.6 percents had not taken decision.While visiting relatives, 20.0 percent respondents had followed their husband decisions. Similarly 30.0 percent respondents had made herself decision. It was found that 25.0 percent respondents took her decision to participate in any social activities.

Out of 60 respondents, only 30 respondents had used family planning devices. Among them 13.3 percent couple had made decision together where 46.6 percent respondents were self decided to use Family planning.

It was found that most of illiterate women had made self-decision on cropping than literate women.

The socio-cultural settings and practices were the main causes of exclusion where lack of education, economic dependency, lack of awareness among women and poor mechanism of government were also seen the cause of women's exclusion.

6.2 Conclusions

This study has focused on examining the social exclusion and inclusion of women in terms of their socio-economic, political and decision making process and its impact on their empowerment.

It has concluded that majority of the respondents were excluded from their socio-economic aspects as well their political and decision making participation. On an average all the respondents' socio-economic status were seen not well, majority of them were excluded from their higher

level education as well as income generating activities. They were compiled to busy in only household activities.

This study has also concluded that majority of the respondents were not participating in any local committees and other social activities regularly though they had willingness to participate.

Most of the respondents had heard about their rights, which ensured by constitution but in practice they were totally excluded from their basic rights. Due to exclusion of women, they were lag far behind to make self-decisions. However it was seen that educated women were more aware about their rights and also participated in social activities, income generating activities and decision making process than illiterate women. So, it is concluded that "EDUCATION" is the main factor to inclusion and participation of the women. Women's participation/inclusion is a good indicator of their empowerment. Therefore, it is essential to improve educational status as well increase their participation in all sectors of the society and development then only women will be empowered.

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ACRONYMS

AGI	Alan Guttmacher Institute
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
DFID	Department for International Development
ESP	Enabling State Programme
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SIRF	Social Inclusion Research Fund
TU	Tribhuvan University
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nation for Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VDC	Village Development Committee

APPENDIX-I

Social Inclusion and their Empowerment of Women

Survey Questionnaire

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur,Kathmandu

(To be asked to married women of aged 15 years and above)

Section A: General information

1, Name of respondent……………..

2. Age: 3. Caste/Ethnicity …………………

4. Address: Ward no……Tole ………….

5. Religion …………

6. Type of the family: 1. Nuclear   2. Joint

Section B. Household Schedule

SN	Name	Relationship with Hhs head	Sex	Age	Education (6+)	Marital status (10+)	Occupation (6+)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

7							
8							
9							

2.0 General Information for married women as identified during Hhs survey

2.1 What was your age at marriage/? (Age in completed years)………..

2.2 Who did decide your marriage?

     1. Father   2. Mother   3. Both parents

     4. Self   5. Brothers/ sisters 6. Relatives

2.3 What did you do at the time of marriage?

     1. Study   2. Services   3. Teaching

      4. Tailoring   5. Self activities   6. Household

activities

     7. Other (Specify…

2.4 After marriage, have you taken any formal or informal education?

     …………………………..

     If yes who decided for your education?

     …………………………..

     If no, why didn't you get the opportunity to study?

     ……………………………

2.5 Are you satisfied with your education?

     ……………………………

2.6 Have you ever given any birth to live child? and how many?

     …………………………………

2.7 Who made decision to have children?

1. Husband　　　　　　2. Parent

3. Self　　　　　　　　4. Both husband/wife

5. Sister/brothers　　　6. Other ……

2.8 Does your son and daughters go to school?

　　………………………….

2.9 Who makes decision of going to or not going to school?

1. Husband　　　　　　2. Parents

3. Self　　　　　　　　4. Husband and wife both

5. Brothers/ sisters　　6. Other (Specify)…

2.10 Have your any children got married?

　　…………………………….

2.11 If yes, who made decision about their marriage?

1. Husband　　　　　　2. Parents

3. Self　　　　　　　　4. Husband and wife both

5. Brothers/ sisters　　6. relatives

3.0 Property ownership and decision making

3.1 What is the main source of your income?

a, Agriculture/ livestock　b, Business

c, Labour　　　　　　　d, Job/services

e, Teaching　　　　　　f, Tailoring

g, Others (Specify..)

3.2 Who keeps the household income?

1. Husband　　　　　　2. Parents

3. Self　　　　　　　　4. Husband and wife both

5. Brothers/ sisters　　6. Relatives

3.3 Do you have any land in your own name?

　　…………………………..

3.4 Who owns the parental property?

    1. Husband   2. Parents

    3. Self   4. Husband and wife both

    5. Brothers/ sisters   6. Relatives

    7. Other ….

3.5 Who makes decision on cropping?

    1. Husband   2. Parents

    3. Self   4. Husband and wife both

    5. Brothers/ sisters   6. Other

3.5   Did you sell or buy any extra food by your own decision during the last year?

    ……………………………….

3.7 Did you buy or sell any livestock by your own decision during the last year?

    …………………………………..

3.8 Who usually decide to visit the relatives?

    …………………………..

3.9 Is it compulsory to ask permission to visit relatives?

    …………………………………..

3.10 Is your family income sufficient for household expenses?

4.0 Participation in social activities

4.1 What is your participation in the social activities of social institutions?

    1. Regular   2. Sometimes

    3. Never

4.2 Are you a member of any social institutions?

    …………………………………

4.3 If yes, who makes decision in participating on such social activities?

………………………………..

4.4 Have you ever voted to any political parties in any elections?

……………………………

4.5 Have you ever been a member of any political parties?

…………………………………..

4.6 Who encouraged you to be a member of the political party?

…………………………………………

4.7 Have you any willingness to be a local representative?

…………………………………..

4.8 Have you ever heard of our constitution?

……………………..

4.9 If yes, what are the constitutional provisions relating to women's welfare and empowerment?

…………………………..

4.10 Have you any idea about property rights?

……………………………

4.11 In which situation can a woman give divorce to her husband?

……………………….

Thank you