

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The Word Cooperative is said to be derived from the Latin word 'Cooperat', meaning worked together. In boarder sense, it means the system in which people voluntarily associated and working together for achieving mutual goals. The motto behind cooperative is "each for all and all for each" and its system for self-help through mutual help. Cooperative is collectively owned institution established for mutual benefits and well-being of its members.

Cooperative is a form of economic as well social organization based on certain values. Cooperative effort is ultimately the group instinct which enables to live together, work together and help each other in times of stress. Cooperatives are voluntary oriented and self-help organization. They aim at meeting the human needs through collective action without any exploitation. It is voluntary and democratic association of human being based on equality and mutuality for the promotion of common interest. Co-operatives are regarded as one of the most effectives and important sector in rural development. The co-operative first formally started in Great Britian to break the broker system between [producer and consumer in 1884 AD. The world's first formally organized co-operative is "Rochdel Equitable Pioneet Co-operative Society" established in the participation of 28 members W 28 sterling capital. Founder of co-operatives were Robert Owem, charles Furrier, R.W. Raiffesin; and Herman Delitzeh Swhulse.

Cooperative has been growing popularity in the sphere of economic activities particularity among the economically week member of the community who by definition can't protect their interest on an individual basis. Generally speaking, Cooperation means living, thinking, and working together. It is technical sense; it denotes special method of doing business. An ILO Report define a cooperative society "A cooperative is an association of persons usually of limited means who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common economic and through the formation of a democratically controlled business organization on making equitable

contributions to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking”.

Nepal has a long cultural tradition of informal community based co-operatives including savings and credit associations popularly known as Dhukuti, and grain savings and labor savings systems known as Parma and Dharma bhakari. Similarly, Guthi provided a forum to work together for smoothly running different socio cultural practices. Many of these traditional systems of cooperation are still functioning in the rural areas of Nepal. The history says that the "Kirat" period of Nepal had a village base or non-informal cooperative organization or activities. During the "Lichchhavi" and "Malla" period of Nepal small community based organization conducted the cooperative activities which are set up and a lot of developments were achieved, in "Panchayat" era the cooperative institutions came up into exist as formal system. The formal concept of co-operative in Nepal was started from 2010 B.S. After the establishment of co-operatives department the first co-operative institution was established at Bakhanpur VDC in Chitwan district in 2013 BS as a pilot project of Government of Nepal. The main objective of that institution was resettlement to flood affected people in related area (Aryal, 2066).

Nepal government with the enactment of cooperative act 2048 BS has encouraged the extensive growth and development of co-operative institution in Nepal. The government of Nepal provides Financial and Technological support to develop cooperative. “Suphat Mulyako Sahakari Pasal” is an example of financial support through National Level. Nowadays there are many cooperatives running with different objectives. Cooperative as the third pillar of national economy (Government of Nepal, 2063 BS), the co-operative sector has been recognized as one of the three sector of development along with public and private. The government of Nepal has been accepting the co-operative sector as the medium of economic, social and cultural development from the previous three year interim plan. (Government of Nepal, 2063 BS). The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA, 1995) defines a co-operative as: A co-operative is an autonomous association of person united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspiration through a journey – owned and democratically – controlled enterprise. Co-operative has specific value, including self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equity and solidarity. In the

tradition of founder, co-operative member believe in the ethical value of honesty openness, social responsibility and caring other. In pursuit of these values, the co-operative movement has developed principles that guide the transaction of their activities these principles are contained in the 1995 ICA statement of the Co-operative and they include: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, co-operative autonomy and independence, education training and information, co-operation among co-operative and concern for community.

Nepal has been struggling since many years for its development. Many plans have been brought to remove poverty. Along with several schemes, the government undertook cooperative program based on sprit of mutual cooperation which is running in every nook and corner of the country. In the crowd of many cooperatives, Sworaj Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. is one which is located in the heart of historical city Kirtipur 17, town planning. For my research work I have chosen it to understand and investigate its role that it has played in the lives of its women members

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

More than half of the total populations of Nepal are women, without their contribution national development cannot be uplifted. The contribution of the women in households and agriculture is more than men. But their contribution is not accounted in the economy. Their participation on decision making is very low. Women's role in socio-economic development has not been properly recognized. Socially, economically, politically and educationally, the majority of the women of Nepal are backwarded. Cooperative society has established with the purpose of providing credit and encouraging for economic activities. Co-operatives movement is one such a measure to improve the economic condition and lower the blows of poverty and underdevelopment to the country and its people or members. Moreover, the cooperative organizations of Nepal are working in rural areas to uplift the economic condition of poor people by accepting their small saving and providing loan at reasonable rate of interest for investing in productive and income generating activities.

This study has concentrated on the role of Sworaj agriculture cooperative limited that it has played in the lives of its women members. The cooperative is located in Kirtipur municipality ward no.17 naya bazar, Kathmandu. The study has tried to find out the answer of the following questions.

- ) How the cooperative programs help to increase income and decision making power of the women?
- ) How the women are treated at family after their involvement in income generating activities?
- ) What changes have been brought in women's daily life?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to examine the changes that the Sworaj agriculture cooperative limited has brought in the lives of its women members. The specific objectives are:

- ) To find out the socio-economic characteristics of cooperative's women members in the study area.
- ) To examine the changes in living standard of cooperative's women members.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Nepal is an agro based country with rich in natural resources but the country is in the list of least developed country. It has challenge to convert the traditional cultivation system into business motive cultivation system, to make organized effort in agriculture products and providing capital to this sector as loan through cooperative business.

This study provides knowledge about Socio-economic impact of locally established co-operatives. From academic viewpoint, the researcher will seek to examine how Cooperative organization can lead to empowerment of women and their involvement in decision making in the family. Since, women empowerment i.e. women's capacity to participate in decision making is of national concern, and the issue of women empowerment is being addressed by both state and non- state agencies over decade, this proposed study thus will be relevant in policy matters as well as in various

program interventions. Definitely the study will facilitate feed-back to make policy to sampled co-operative as well as others. This study will be helpful to the co-operative Department, Co-operative Development Board and Federation of National Co-operative Association. It will be helpful to the government as well banks, co-operatives and research workers of the concerned field.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

For the systematic presentation, this research has consisted of altogether five chapters. They are as follows.

Introduction – It is the first chapter which has included general background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study and significance of the study.

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

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

Presentation and analysis of Data – In this fourth chapter, collected and processed data have been presented, analyzed and interpreted.

Summary and Conclusion– In this chapter summary of whole study and conclusion have been presented.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of relevant literature is an integral part of all research including academic and professional; without which completion of research is almost impossible. Review of literature widens the vision of the research in the subject matter of the study. The literature available for the purpose of the study has been reviewed basically, the role that the cooperatives have played in the lives of women.

#### 2.1 Cooperative- Meaning and Concept

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination. They are democratic controlled by their members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Women and men serving as elected representative are accountable to the membership. Members contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any on the capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Originally founded by co-operative organizations from 12 countries, today over 200 national co-operative organizations representing 92 nations belong to the ICA: the apex organization of all national co-operative movements. The ICA aims to promote co-operative development and trade worldwide and boasts an individual membership of more than 750 million memberships of more than 750 million people ([www.learningcentre.coopzone](http://www.learningcentre.coopzone), 2010).

According to International Labor Organization (ILO), (2010) "Co-operation is as association of persons, usually of limited means, who have voluntarily joined together, to achieve a common economic end, through and formation of a

democratically controlled business organization, making equitable contributions to the capital required and accepting a fair share of risks and benefits of the undertaking."

The ILO views co-operatives as important in improving the living and working conditions of women and men globally as well as making essential infrastructures and services available in areas neglected by the state and investor- driven enterprises. Moreover, co-operatives have the potential to advance the concept of decent works (ILO website, 2010).

ICA (2003) has suggested that a cooperative society is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of cooperative founders, members of coops believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

The basic characteristics of co-operative that differentiate it from other type of business are its values, norms and principle. They are:

**Cooperative Values:** Self-help, self-responsibility democracy, equality, equity, solidarity, honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for other are the important values of co-operatives.

**Cooperative Principles:** The International Cooperative Alliance has approved the following seven fundamental principles:

- ) **Voluntary, Open Membership:** Open to all without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- ) **Democratic Member Control:** One member, one vote.
- ) **Member Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. The economic benefits of a cooperative operation are returned to the members, reinvested in the co-op, or used to provide member services.

- ) **Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- ) **Education, Training and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for members so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
- ) **Cooperation among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, regional, national and international structures.
- ) **Concern for the Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

### **2.1.1 Cooperative Development in Nepal**

Nepal has a long cultural tradition of informal community based co-operatives including savings and credit associations popularly known as Dhukuti, grain savings and labor savings systems known as Parma and Dharma Bhakari. Similarly, Guthi provided a forum to work together for smoothly running different socio cultural practices. Many of these traditional systems of cooperation are still functioning in the rural areas of Nepal. The formal concept of co-operative in Nepal was started from 1953 with the establishment of the Department of Cooperatives (DOC) under the Ministry of Agriculture for Planning and Development. After the establishment of co-operatives department the first co-operative institution was established at Bakhanpur VDC in Chitwan district in 2056 as a pilot project of Government of Nepal. Due to a fundamental lack of understanding of cooperative, the cooperative movement was very weak in Nepal till 1992. The government transferred DOC to different Ministries and cooperatives were not considered as an independent peoples' organization. The shifting of the DOC from Ministry to Ministry further illustrates the Governmental struggle to effectively use the cooperative system in this country.

A major change in the sector of cooperatives of Nepal took place in 1992, when the Cooperative Act 1992 was promulgated. The Act stipulated that government would no



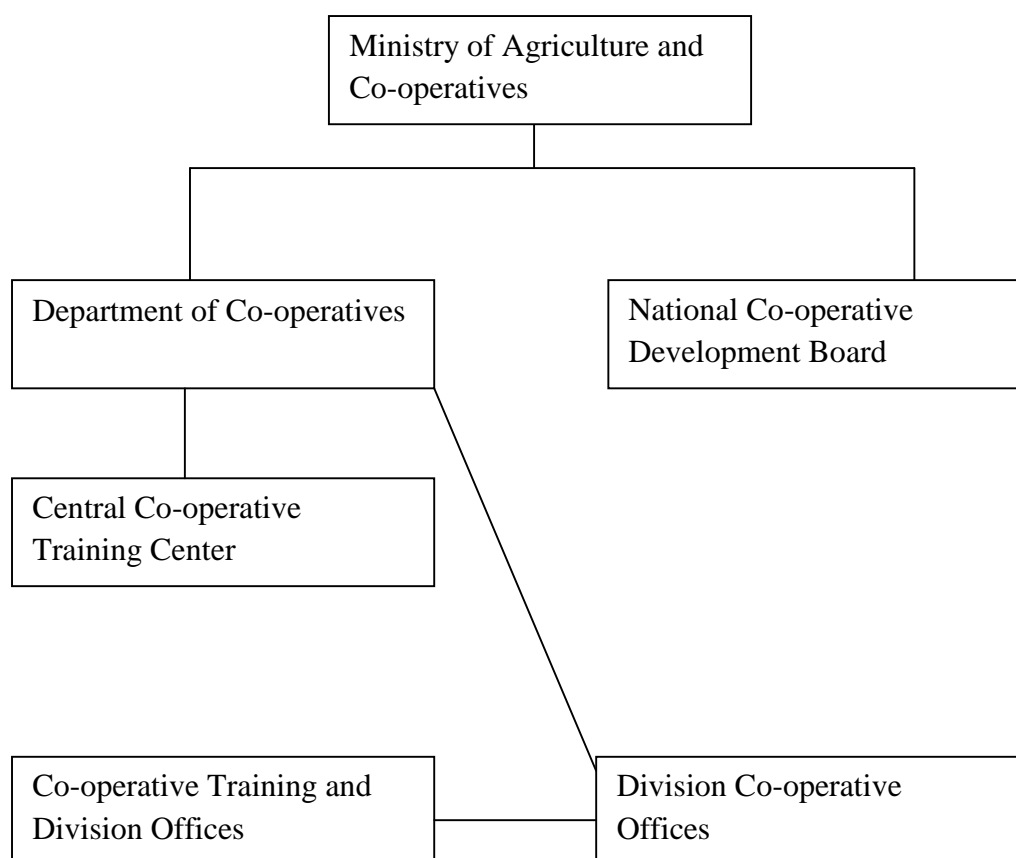
longer directly promote or manage cooperatives. The Government would limit its role to support and monitoring activities.

After restoration democracy in 1990, Government of Nepal has considered civil societies (NGOs, INGOs, Cooperatives and other players in private sector) as key players of socio economic development of the countries. Experiences around the globe have proved that people participation, ownership and institution building are the key aspects for the success of development interventions. Therefore, over the last two decades, development practitioners in Nepal have understood that sustainable development is only possible if it is backed by strong grass-root level organizations. Unless people in the communities play an active role, development becomes a conventional supply-driven approach that has long proved impractical. Therefore, social mobilization has been one of the common interventions in the developmental programs in Nepal. And it is through social mobilization that thousands of cooperatives have emerged in Nepal. As of October, 2012, growth is marked there were over 26500 registered cooperatives functioning in Nepal (DOC, 2012). An additional sign of their growing importance was conversion of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to the Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation in 2012 (Simkhada, 2013).

Today, the Interim Constitution of Nepal has considered the co-operative sector as one of the three pillars for national development. The major types of co-operative societies operating in Nepal are saving and Credit, Multipurpose, Dairy, Agriculture, Fruits and Vegetables, Bee Keeping, Tea, Coffee, Consumers, Science and Technology, and Energy. It is believed that some 3 million people are already affiliated in approximately 19,724 cooperatives and more than 50,000 people are employed directly in Cooperative business (DOC, 2011).

## Status of cooperatives in Nepal:

Fig 1: Cooperative Institution in Nepal



*Source: Autonomy of Co-operation in Nepal 2010*

In Nepal more than twenty two thousand, small cooperative societies are registered. These cooperative are of different categories, like saving & credit, coffee producers, Dairy, Vegetable and fruits producers, Tea producers, Health, Multipurpose, Consumers, Bee keeping, Herbal, Electric, Agriculture and small farmers etc. Cooperative is registered all over the country and functioning in the specified area in the respective zone. The cooperative societies are divided into 13 different categories on the basis of their specified scope of functioning. They can group into four board categories by their nature. Out of the total number of the cooperative societies the agricultural cooperatives including the small farmers, dairy, herbal, tea, coffee, vegetables and fruits, bee keeping etc. are 24% scattered all over the country from rural to urban areas. They are very rudimentary stages in respect of production and marketing survived in subsistence condition. The reality of consumers and other

service related cooperatives including health, electric and miscellaneous cooperatives is almost indifferent of agricultural cooperatives.

### **2.1.2 Objectives of Cooperative Movement in Nepal**

The basic objective of co-operative movement in Nepal is to enhance the social and economic condition of general Nepalese people through the group effort. This objective can be fulfilled by the grouped and organized effort in the following activities through the co-operative institutions:-

- a. Collection of the scattered savings from the members of the society and flow this capital to the productive sector related to the profession of the members.
- b. Making the people of the remote area self-sufficient to get economic and financial services from the co-operative institutions who are far away from the government and private sector's services.
- c. Making co-operative institutions as a mean of social awareness and physical infrastructure development in the rural area along with the economic activities of such areas.
- d. Making a reliable market channel of co-operative institutions for the marketing of the agricultural and non-agricultural products and services.
- e. Developing co-operative sector as a mean of poverty alleviation of Nepal which is the national goal of the country.

To meet the objectives, Nepal government has encouraged organizing and operating co-operative institutions in agriculture; diary, saving and credit, tea production and so on field and most of the co-operative institutions are doing their activities in these fields.

## **2.2 Theoretical Review**

### **2.2.1 Empowerment**

Empowerment is a process of enabling people to take charge of their own lives, and escape from poverty which arises not from lack of productivity but from oppression and exploitation.

Empowerment is the process of generating and building capabilities to exercise

control over one's life. Empowerment means transforming existing power relations in favors of those (women, disadvantaged groups and more generally the poor) who faced severe limitations in exercising power and making voluntary choices. Empowerment concerns the transformative use of power in which a dominant agent also exercise his power in such a way that the subordinate agent learns certain skill that undercut the power differential between him/her and the dominant agent. In this sense, the notion of empowerment is inescapably bound up with the condition of disempowerment and refers to the processes by which those who have been denied the ability to make choice acquire such ability. (Nepal Human Development Report, 2004)

The substantial income gap by sex is high in both formal and informal economic activities. He has emphasized the poorest the household the greater the investment of women in low return activities, and their domestic and unpaid activities exceed sixty hours per week (Grown and Substad, 1995). Women's involvement in decision-making including households' decisions and decision-making in various matters, such as opting for family planning, buying and selling assets, participating in community development were taken as a proxy indicator of their empowerment. A large percentage of women lack access to productive resource specially land.

### **Qualitative Indicators of Empowerment**

#### 1) Legal Empowerment

It means enforcement of legislation related to the protection of human rights. Find out number of cases related to the legal rights of divorced and widowed women heard in local courts, and the results (ILO, 1998).

#### 2) Political Empowerment

It denotes percentage (%) of seats held by women in local councils, decision making bodies (ILO, 1998).

### 3) Economic Empowerment

It depicts changes in employment/unemployment rates of women and men. Ability to make small or large purchases independently (ILO, 1998).

### 4) Social Empowerment

Increase in numbers of women in local institutions (e.g. women's associations, consciousness raising or income generating groups, and ethnic and kinship associations) relative to project area population, and numbers of women in positions of power in local organizations (webinfo@ilo.org, 1998).

Empowerment through co-operatives represents an attempt to establish moral involvement; which means that the person intrinsically values the mission of the organization and his or her job and is personally involved and identifies with the organization (Schein, 1988). Empowerment is the process of gaining control over the self over ideology and the resources which determine power (Batliwala, 1993). Johnson (1993) argues that empowerment is the realization and actualization of potential and opportunity just waiting to be unleashed. Over the past century, empowerment of women has been one of the best reforms in social evolution. Seen as a global challenge in world news today, now giving women rights similar to what men hold has been made necessary worldwide. Coupling men and women power both in development and various improvements have been monitored. A few years analysis graph clearly tells the latest world news story that Gender Gap Index in developing countries has decreased and the role of co-operative has remained very vital. Given this, the current research study draws some vital clues from the earlier researches establishing the vitality of co-operative.

## **2.2.2 Gender**

According to World Health Organization (WHO), the term gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behavior, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women.

Gender, in common usage, refers to the differences between men and women. Although gender is commonly used interchangeably with sex, within the social

sciences it often refers to specifically social differences, known as gender roles in the biological sciences. Historically, feminism has posited that many gender roles are socially constructed and lack any biological basis. Basically, sex is biologically defined, whereas gender is socially defined. Thus, sex refers to the biological fact that a person is either a man or a woman. Gender refers to socially learned traits associated with and expected of, men or women (Regmi, 2001). Therefore, 'to be a man or woman is a matter of sex, but to be masculine or feminine is a matter of gender and refers to the differences in the treatment or behavior between male and female children.

Today the word 'Gender' has increasingly replaced the term 'sex' in discussions of socially and culturally, determined differences in the behavior, role and status of men and women. The term gender is generally used to distinguish the cultural and social characteristics of being women and being men. Judith Lorber (1993) in her book 'Paradox of Gender' writes that Gender is an institution that establishes patterns of expectation for individuals, order the social processes of everyday life built into major social organizations of society. Gender is a human invention like language, religion and technology and like them gender organizes human social life in culturally patterned ways.

Discrimination against women means any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women of Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural civil or any other field. To sum up, women have always had lower status than men, but the extent of the gap between the sexes varies across cultures and time (some arguing that it is inversely related to social evolution). In 1980, the United Nations summed up the burden of this inequality: women, who comprise half the world population, do two thirds of the world's work, earn one tenth of the world's income and own one hundredth of the world's property (UN, 1980).

### **2.2.3 Gender Development Approaches**

#### **a. WID (Women in Development)**

The concept of women in Development was developed in early 1970s, after the publication of E. Boserup's "Women Role in Economic Development" (1970). The concept gradually shifted among the feminist academics and development professionals about men in the course of developmental activities. WID refers the need to integrate women in economic system, through necessary legal and administrative changes seeks the solution to incorporate women into the development stream. It focuses on Equity (in market, employment, and education), efficiency and employment (training, skills). Its goal is effective and efficient development of women in every field. WID, while it targets women to bring them into mainstream of development, it neglects to draw attention to the fact that women are already part of the development process. Their contribution cannot be more, already overstretched. It ignores the multiple roles of women: focus solely on productivity and increase of skill and efficiency for the integration in development process. It is a reformist perspective rather than radical one.

#### **b. WAD (Women and Development)**

In late 1970s the participation of women in development was thought to be making them (women) beneficiaries only, so a new approach of carrying women and development together (empowerment and participation) was developed by feminists WAD (Bhattarai, 2004).

It focus on bringing equitable international structures, and emancipation .Main point of separation from the WID approach is that WID draws its theoretical base that women are lagged behind not because of the malfunctions of the development process but due to defective international economic unequal relations. The women of core are also exploited but women of periphery are much exploited than women of the core. It is a redistributive approach focusing on the equal and logical access of women over the sources and equal distribution. Emerged during the late 1970s as a critique of WID inspired by Marxist and dependency theorists. WAD focuses on structure and socio-economic factors within which gender inequalities are embedded.

Both WID and WAD approaches focused only on the women's part in the development and hence couldn't become the holistic development strategy for the successful development process, it was essential to include man and women both in the process. Thus, the new strategy came into existence namely GAD (Bhattarai, 2059).

### **c. GAD (Gender and Development)**

It is theoretically based on socialist feminism. GAD is centered on the gender difference between men and women .This is derived from the 'socialist feminists' identification of the social construction of production and reproduction as a foundation of women's oppression .The fact to appreciate GAD instead of WID was that WID approach appeared to improve women's condition but it did not really materialize into changing the position of women. In many instances it further blunder women with added workloads and extra responsibilities deteriorating their condition and position and position. GAD instituted a gender perspective bringing under scrutiny the whole grant of difference in power, legal rights, roles, constraints, opportunities and needs of women compared to men (Bhattarai, 2004).

GAD focus on relations between men and women. Theoretically it foregrounds the interdependent character of women's and men's in society, referring to the cultural differences. Also cares women's empowerment and responsibility of the state in launching programs to bring about equality between the sexes (www.google.com, 2012). In broad spectrum these perspectives provides a theoretical guidance to this research study.

## **2.3 Empirical reviews**

### **2.3.1 Status of Women in Nepal**

Nepal is the poorest country in the world. More than 38% of the total populations are still living under the poverty line. Women's situation is being seen more serious. Acharya stated that women in Nepal are among the poorest and disadvantaged group due to social, legal and intra-household discrimination. As a result of which education, health and nutrition status of women including girl child are much lower than that of men. They work harder and longer than men, women's work at home and



outside, are 11 hours as against 8 hours per day for men. Even then women rarely own land because land is inherited patriarchal. This hinders the women from obtaining credit. Lack of credit limits access to improved technology, agricultural input and information. Therefore, there is a need of such programs for women which can make equal access to the economic activities and resources and other social programs because contemporary rural development programs have largely by passed them.

Gurugharana argued that the general condition and suffering of Nepalese women is the result of the intra-household and social discrimination against women and girls. The education, health and nutrition status of women is much lower than those of men, particularly in rural areas. Relatively larger percentage of female headed households belongs to the poor group, and both girl child and adult women suffer relatively more severally from the consequence of poverty (Gurugharana 1992). Disparity in access to economic resources and social services are the two major causes for the larger deprivation of females rather than discrimination in wages for the same job. The intra-household inequality between the sexes of often more acute than the extra-household inequality in rural areas.

A report of World Bank stressed that Poor women face a double disadvantage in access to resources and makes them more vulnerable women. Poor people have much less access to education and health care than the non-poor, and the gender gap in these services is larger among poor people. The same is true for credit and agricultural extension services: Unless strong countervailing measures are taken, the poor receive less than the non-poor, and women receive the least. Studies from many countries show that agricultural extension agent focus on male farmers, even though women are often the primary cultivator because husbands work off the farm. So women face disadvantages not only in land ownership but also in gaining access to the resources and information that would improve yields (World Bank, 1993).

Although women work much harder and for longer hours, their contribution to the national economy does not get properly accounted for. This is because of traditional household chores which are usually not magnetized and as such do not get included in the National Account (Shrestha 2001). Despite these facts, the process of women empowerment economically and socially has not been taken seriously. Although very

few programs have been designed as a micro-finance program for uplift them for some years.

### **2.3.2 Women Empowerment and its Rationality in Development Process**

Women empowerment is very important to reduce the gender gap, as well as the gender discrimination. Gender inequalities and gender gap create inefficiencies that hamper growth. As recent studies find that higher the inequality, especially in the accumulation of human capital is a constraint on growth. Development process can go smoothly of there in no any kinds of constrain, between men and women. Gender equality is not only a matter of social justice but also of good economies, it is good for the society for good economy. Women tend to be more work less education than men and to do paid less. This disparities creates inefficient hampers growth, and towards potential well-being of society (WB, 1993).

Despite massive government investment in social and economic development supported by donors and international banks, an estimated: two-third of the world's poor and two thirds of the world's adult illiterate were female.

Gender empowerment plays vital role to reduce the illiteracy rate from the situation. It was not difficult to conduct that women who were poor were also these who were illiterate. There should be clear line between poverty, illiteracy and gender inequality. Regarding the gender empowerment, literacy program for adults, vocational training for out of school youth, business training, leadership training, tracing about community organization and gender sensitization are necessary element, for gender empowerment.

### **2.3.3 Women Empowerment in Socio-economic Sector**

As several reviews shows that women's role in decision-making as well as political participation directly and indirectly link with economic potentiality of women and men. If women have a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly, social and demographic fact also in favor of the role of decision-making, small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women in the study area.

Nepalese socio-cultural beliefs, poverty, traditional barriers, lack of resources and realization about women's rights are major constraints in implementing the provisions to enhance the status of women and secure women's human right, however, we should start our efforts from today to eliminate all forms of discrimination either created by societies, tradition and beliefs or statutory law and administrative policies to empower women and brought them into the mainstream of development. CEDAW is the only gender sensitive international instrument of which effective implementation; Nation can eliminate a gender-based discrimination and achieve equality between men and women.

Generally looking at the overall context of Nepal, Majority women are under poverty line. Among the total population of the country almost 50.05% of population is covered with women. Among this portion of population 90% are depended on agriculture. According to international agency of agriculture development, 56 percent of women of rural area live below poverty line. Besides agricultural work, they are mostly involved in household works like cooking, cleaning, fetching water, caring children and so on. These women work for about 14 hours in a day in their field or house. The report issued by National Planning Commission (NPC) in 2064 says that geographically we find 56 percent of Terai women and 45 percent of hilly women are disguised unemployed. Although women contribute to agriculture and household work, their labor and contributions are not recognized. Cooperative society helps the poor and back warded people in their economic uplift and has largely successful in recognizing their labor as a major contributing factor to family and national economy.

#### **2.3.4 Previous studies on women empowerment through Cooperative:**

The Beijing conference on women 1995 has emphasized different aspects related to the problems on women and passed frame of actions addressing twelve different critical areas of concern as poverty, education, training, health, decision making power, armed conflict, the girl child, economy, environment, violence, human rights, media and advancement of women. But they are still facing the problem of deprivation. Women are more and more deprived from their rights and responsibility. Even their husbands and family members are not ready to hear their voice. Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a speech to a standing-room with a crowd of 1500, saluted micro credit loan programs set up in Beijing to assist "100 million of the world's poorest

families." She cited advances since the 1995 Beijing Conference: new laws in many countries rising the legal age for marriage, banning female genital mutilation, criminalizing domestic violence and recognized rape as a war crime (UN 1995, Beijing Platform for Action, New York).

The study conducted by Center of Micro-finance (CMF) in 2010 reveals, the achievements of the partner cooperatives in improving the financial and institutional capacity and contribution of cooperatives for the socio-economic development of the society has clearly shown that women managed cooperatives have been a proper channel in improving the microfinance services in rural and remote areas of Nepal. The involvement of cooperatives in introducing new product and services and its implementation diversified the choices for the community members, irrespective of their ethnicity, caste or race, to increase active participation in the society. The cooperatives provided various form of saving products depending upon the needs of the members and more compatible with the seasonality of their income. Likewise, cooperatives concentrated on availability of loans regularly to their member for various purposes and provided micro insurance services to their members for security and improvement in the economic status, and thereby contributing to community development.

Technical assistance in the form of trainings, regular monitoring of the society and amalgamation of scattered groups around the similar geographical area, contributed in the improvement of financial health and the sustainability of the cooperatives in the community. Increased new loans disbursed to the members, improved institutional capacity and, most importantly, increased assets and net income of the cooperatives helped in the viability and institutional effectiveness of the women managed cooperatives.

The non-financial services in the form of training and awareness programs provided through cooperatives to the members enhanced their skill, which indirectly contributed in income generation of the members. In addition to that, social services provided to the members especially focusing on women rights, enhanced the efficiency of women members to the Report On Enhancing Efficiency and Impact of Women's Managed Savings and Credit Co-operatives in Nepal Report On Enhancing Efficiency and Impact of Women's Managed Savings and Credit Co-operatives in

Nepal various issues residing in the society. Exposure visits, various published materials and workshops organized through the cooperatives explored the quality hidden within and developed the leadership quality empowering the women members of the society directly and, indirectly by dissemination of such activities towards its family members and other households.

Networking and linkages programs to the cooperatives helped cooperatives to identify the various needs of the community that ensures a more holistic community development plan and implementation. These network and linkages helped to figure out the objectives and programs conducted by different agencies and choose accordingly by the MF coops in terms of community's needs. These services hence created a common platform of developmental agencies and its beneficiaries that ensured the greater use of the resources by complementing work of each other (CMF, 2011).

Bishal Bhardwaj discusses poverty is identified as an integrated strategy of socio-economic development. Reduction of poverty refers to improving of poor's condition and generation of a sustainable command of welfare. Cooperative is community business. Cooperative in Nepalese rural context can potentially support breaking down the vicious cycle of poverty. Cooperative means for income, social and perception based poverty reduction. Upcoming challenges are result of weak legal institutional arrangements with weak monitoring. A rupee in cooperative means different from a rupee in commercial bank from poverty reduction perspective. Government should be sincere regarding the sum of money in cooperatives and also the value of the services in most trust worthy and easiest way in those areas where private areas don't feel comfortable. Cooperative movement also meant poverty reduction. Soon before tragedy of collapse down, it is better we manage cooperative in principle and norms. This is the most important challenge in turning cooperative toward poverty reduction sector. A lot can be expected from ethical and democratically institutionalized cooperatives in rural Nepal (Bhardwaj, 2010).

Gender-based discrimination is one issue that is to be dealt by cooperative system for the empowerment of women. Gender-based discrimination takes several forms in Nepal, including but not limited to gender based violence (rape and sexual harassment), lack of freedom of movement for women, lack of access to education,

child marriage, trafficking of women and girls, female feticide and discrimination against women in the legal framework with regard to citizenship or property rights. In many cases, cooperatives addressed these structural forms of violence against women through legal action, legal advice for women, awareness campaigns, demonstrations and protests and mobilizing the community against these ills. The trainings' focus on women's rights encouraged women to break their silences, to speak out more and to exercise their voice against violence and injustice. The training also inspired women's leadership in building peace in their villages. 'The training made us (SACCO members) more aware about women's rights. Women who were victims of violence within the household and in other places could not really share their stories and sorrows. The training made it easier for people to come forward and speak about their issues (Ramnarain, 2013).

A report on microfinance in Nepal conducted by Vijaya Vikas Resources Center reveals that ensuring and enabling access to financial services is paramount to the socio-economic growth of the poor. Micro-finance services have so far proven to be a substantial tool to this end. Despite the help of micro financing, poor people are often still left vulnerable to risk and crisis that may threaten their economic and social livelihood. To assist in protecting people from unforeseen and costly risks, micro-insurance services are being devised in an effort to help mediate these risks. In attempting to increase micro-insurance services to Nepal, the Centre for Micro-finance undertook the following research project. The purpose was to determine the primary risks faced by rural women, establish how these women are currently coping with risks, and to ascertain products that might prove most useful to them. Nepal maintains a rich mix of micro-finance institutions. Among the different models, the community based savings and credit organization (SCO) has proven to be extremely effective in serving women clients. Accordingly, we selected to interview members of two leading women run SCOs; one from the terai (plain) and one from the hill region of Nepal. These two regions represent the primary geographical areas of Nepal and give good indications of the economic conditions and income generating activities with which women are involved.

Generally speaking, women in the locales of study appeared to have reasonable levels of independence when it came to the management of HH finances. 90% of female

clients spent HH income by their own decision and without having to take permission from their husbands or family heads. The majority felt more comfortable seeking advice from family members and/or husbands, particularly when spending in larger amounts. When female clients were asked how they perceived their income, 3% claimed it was their own to spend only as they chose, while 30% viewed the income as theirs for them or their family members to spend. The majority of clients, 67%, viewed their income as family income to be spent on HH expenses. Similarly, the majority of clients, 87%, viewed savings as family property, while only 13% viewed it as their own personal *pewa*. Consistent with this, 74% of clients claimed that accumulated savings was managed by both themselves and their husbands, and 3% claimed management was the responsibility of the family head. The conclusions drawn were representative of the female client sample and did not reveal any significant patterns across the different caste groups. While the majority of women maintained a strong role in the management of HH finances, only in a few instances did women choose to manage and spend their own income and savings independent of their HHs. This was largely due to the cultural perception of resources as communal within the HH, rather than placing focus on the individual self.

The majority of female clients tended to play a role in decision-making within the home and in their communities prior to gaining membership with an SCC and taking out loans, however, when surveyed after having applied an loan to a new or existing enterprise, 100% of female clients felt that their role was good or very good. They attributed this change to their ability to contribute to HH income, either through their own business or through application of the loan, under their name, on the husband's business. Female clients' increased access to resources after the loan was often interlinked with new leadership roles they had taken within their communities. For many, seeking membership with their SCC was only a first step. Subsequently, several clients became members of local community forestry cooperatives and other committees involved in key decisions affecting their entire communities. Some even took up leadership positions within these committees, demonstrating strong empowerment and leadership capacity that have impacted these women in other ways. Clients claimed they felt empowered to think for themselves, voice their opinions, and defend themselves when needed, rather than remaining silent, as they had been accustomed to doing (Sivalingam, 2010).

Khanal (2012) in his study impact of micro credit on women empowerment: A case study of Sarangkot VDC Kaski analyzed the socio-economic status of women at the study area, to examine livelihood security as well as empowerment of women in the studied VDC through the micro-credit programmers. He concluded that amount of land and food adequacy is better among the non-borrower women but annual income and saving habit is better among the loan borrower women. The activity implemented to improve the status of women by the program has been found successful to some extent to empower the poor women of the rural areas. He suggested that training for income generating activities is compulsory and such training should be provided by the professional institution not by the members of Micro Finance itself.



## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter has dealt with the overall methods, techniques and tools use in conducting the research on empowerment of women through the cooperatives. It has comprised research design, nature and sources of data, sampling size and procedure and data collection and analysis methods.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design is a master plan specifying the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing the needed information. The study has focused on women lives through co-operative in Kirtipur municipality, Kathmandu. It is embedded with gender perspective based on descriptive and exploratory method.

#### **3.2 Nature and sources of Data**

As per the need, both qualitative as well as quantitative data have been collected through primary and secondary source. The primary sources of data is the members of the study area. It is collected from the field visit, questionnaire and interview. The secondary source of data are collected from cooperative training and division office, published and unpublished books, Journals, thesis, newspaper, article, research report other publication, websites, international organization and TU central library, etc.

#### **3.3 Universe, Sample Size and Sampling Procedure of the Study**

A sample is a small separated part of the whole population, representing its qualities, as far as possible. It is a smaller set of values selected from the population, reflecting its characteristics. The sampling technique is a procedure for the selection of a sample from the given population. There are altogether 347 women members in Sworaj Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Kirtipur. In this study, 10 percent i.e. 35 women members have been selected using purposive sampling method to meet the objective of the study.

### **3.4 Data Collection Methods and Tools**

The following techniques and tools will be used to collect data for the study.

#### **Household survey / structured questionnaire**

Structured interview was undertaken to gather accurate and realistic information regarding different aspects of socio-economic characteristics from the respondents. The total 35 women members from the cooperative had been surveyed. The cooperative women members were the main respondent. The respondents were requested to fill up the questionnaire. In case of the respondents who could not fill up the questionnaire, the questions were asked to the respondents and answers were filled up to collect the required data. Besides this unstructured questions were also asked to other family members in course of informal talks.

#### **Focus Group Discussion**

Focus group discussions were held involving with mixed group. The discussions are mainly concentrated on what changes they have enjoyed after they got membership of the cooperative. A FGD guideline was developed especially for focus group discussion and in total three different FGDs were conducted among 8 members in each discussion, without repeating single member. The venue for FGD was Co-operative office. The FGDs mainly covers the information regarding their social support to be and remain as a member of the cooperative and social and economic benefits they have received from the cooperative. See annex-2.

#### **Field note**

Field note was maintained to record necessary information observed during field survey. Details of important incidents, events and discussions which was not included in structured or unstructured questionnaire and which were found to be important for the study were recorded in the diary. This was helpful to collect even minor but most important things which had not been possible to collect in a systematic way. Field note was taken during application of different techniques to gather information like during observation phase, during household survey and during informal talks.

## **Key Informants Interview**

Key informants were interviewed to generate more reliable data and also to confirm the data and information collected from the survey. Educated persons from the study area and administrators of the cooperative were the source of special information for the specific information about the social and economic benefits of women after being the member of the cooperative and its impact in women's empowerment process. Five key persons were interviewed in study area for specific information. A check list, including some structured and unstructured questions, were used for key informant interview.

### **3.5 Data Processing methods and Methods of Analysis**

All the collected data were processed and analyzed in accordance with the objectives of the research. Data and information were edited, coded and classified manually. After the assembling data, it was arranged and tabulated in columns and rows. All the data and information gathered through various sources mentioned above were analyzed and interpreted in both qualitative and quantitative ways. Most of the data had been analyzed in simple tables with percentage. Information of the family profile, economic profile like saving status of the women members, income and expenditure, using loan facility, housing condition, women's participation and their role etc. had been descriptively and statistically analyzed.

### **3.6 Limitation of the Study**

Each and every study has its own limitation likewise this study too is no exception. This study is confirmed on Sworaj Agricultural cooperative and the changes that it has brought in the lives of its women members. The main limitations of the study are given below:

- ) This study had carried out in Kirtipur municipality. Thus, confined to a specific area this study did not portray views and ideas of all the women of the country as views and ideas expressed by the women of study area.
- ) This is individual study made for educational purpose. There are time and resource constraints.

) The study had conducted within a short period of time for fulfilling the academic requirements. Hence, the result of the study might not be enough to meet the professional needs.

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter has attempted to analyze the information received from the respondents through questionnaires, observations and formal discussions. Analysis is basically focused on the examinations of the parameter, which are directly or indirectly related to the objectives of the research. The findings and data analysis has been organized into three major headings which are as follows:

- 4.1 General Introduction of the Sworaj Agriculture Cooperative
- 4.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents
- 4.3 Evaluation on Role of Cooperative in the Lives of Woman Members

#### **4.1 Introduction of Sworaj Agriculture Cooperative Ltd.**

Sworaj Agriculture cooperative ltd was established with the slogan, “Tapai Hamro Samuhik Abhiyan, Krishi Chhetra wa Anya Byawasaya Maa Aamul Pariwartan” in 2067/6/7 B.S. under the cooperative act 2048 B.S. in the heart of Kirtipur Municipality. Since then it started its service. At first there were only 55 members and the participation of female members were only 15, very low in comparison to male. But, the participation of female members in very short period of time has increased satisfactorily. Now out of total 547 members, there are altogether 347 female members. Sworaj Agriculture Cooperative ltd. has provided various loan and saving facilities to its members to engage in various economic activities more focusing on agriculture productions to increase the income of its members. After visit to the study area and formal and informal talks to its some members, it is noticed that there is good understanding, unity, purity, uniformity and harmony among members. It has targeted to uplift the economic as well as social condition of women through different programs and had tried to make them strong and self-confident.

The Cooperative has share capital amount Rs. 5,734,300, saving amount Rs. 80,115,762 and total credit investment Rs. 81,557,241. The cooperative has offered various saving programs like Daily saving, Weekly saving, Monthly saving and special saving like Children saving and Old age saving and women saving.

The major areas of investment are agriculture, animal farming, small business and cottage industries. The cooperative has policy to provide credit investment without collateral but with the consensus of the group members in which he/she belongs. The shareholders can make their saving with interest rate 10 percent per annum while they can take loan with interest rate 15 percent. The shareholders can get loan 10 times of their saving with the collateral of their own saving for one year. Cooperative provides loan to its members for various purposes like; domestic, agriculture, business and emergencies (Annual Report of Sworaj cooperative, 2015)

## **4.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents**

This section has dealt with the description and the information related to the respondents. Different socio-economic characteristics like Age, Caste, Ethnicity, Family structure, Educational background, Religion, Occupation, Income sources etc. have been focused.

### **4.2.1 Age Composition of the Respondents**

Age composition means the proportionate numbers of persons in successive age categories in a given population.

The distribution of the respondents by their age is shown below in table No. 4.2.1.

**Table 4.2.1: Age Composition of the Respondents**

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>Age group</b> | <b>No. of Respondents</b> | <b>%</b> | <b>Cumulative %</b> |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1             | 20-30            | 6                         | 17.14    | 17.14               |
| 2             | 30-40            | 15                        | 42.86    | 60                  |
| 3             | 40-50            | 9                         | 25.71    | 85.71               |
| 4             | 50-60            | 5                         | 14.29    | 100                 |
|               | Total            | 35                        | 100      |                     |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table 4.2.1 depicts the age level of the respondents. All the women of any age group can be the member of the cooperative. There are altogether 35

representative women respondents. The table shows that the middle aged women i.e. (30-40) are more active in cooperative in comparison to other aged group women members.

#### **4.2.2 Caste/Ethnic Composition of the Respondents**

Ethnic composition is a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities such as common ancestral, languages, social, cultural or national experiences. The caste is mainly based on Hindu social system under rigid distinction i.e. birth. According to the census 2011 of Nepal, there are nearly 125 castes in Nepal.

The distribution of the respondents by their caste/ethnicity has been given below in table No. 4.2.2.

**Table 4.2.2: Caste/Ethnic Composition of the Respondents**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Caste/Ethnicity</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1           | Brahmin                | 5                | 14.29          |
| 2.          | Chhetri                | 8                | 22.86          |
| 3.          | Janajati               | 18               | 51.42          |
| 4.          | Dalit                  | 4                | 11.43          |
|             | Total                  | 35               | 100%           |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table No. 4.2.2 shows Caste/ethnic distribution of the respondents. The majority of women respondents are from Janajati category. Out of total Janajati covers 51.42 percent. Then after Chhetri, Brahmin, Dalit have 22.86, 14.29, and 11.43 percent respectively. The result shows that majority of the women members of study area are from Janijati. It is so because Kirtipur is originally Newar foundation.

#### **4.2.3 Family Structure of the Woman Members**

A family is a group of people related either by consanguinity (by recognized birth), affinity (by marriage or other relationship), or co-residence. In Nepalese context, the

empowerment of women depends on the family types too. In most of the joint family, the women have less authority and more family responsibility inside house. The distribution of the respondents on the basis of their family structure is given below in table.

**Table 4.2.3: Family Structure of the Woman Members**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Category</b> | <b>No. of Respondents</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1           | Joint           | 14                        | 40                |
| 2           | Nuclear         | 21                        | 60                |
|             | Total           | 35                        | 100               |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Above table 4.2.3 shows that the no. of Nuclear family is found more than joint family. 40 percent of the family in the study area are living in joint family whereas 60 percent in nuclear family.

#### **4.2.4 Religion Status of the Respondents**

The division of population according to religion is the definite basis for the study and research of social and cultural way of life of country. There is a religious tolerance and protection is given to every religion in Nepal. The religious composition of sampled population depicts the percentage of people under different religions.

**Table 4.2.4: Religion Status of the Respondents**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Religion</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1           | Hindu           | 25               | 71.43          |
| 2.          | Buddhist        | 8                | 22.86          |
| 3.          | Christian       | 2                | 5.71           |
|             | Total           | 35               | 100%           |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table 4.2.4 shows the distribution of respondents on the basis of their religion. It is noticed that majority of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. There are 71.43 percent Hindus, 22.86 percent Buddhists and 5.71 percent Christians.



#### 4.2.5 Marital Status of the Woman Members

Marriage is a social institution. It has very important role in any society. Marriage is a legally recognized relationship and the union between two opposite sex according to social, religious consent and legal procedure. The distribution of the respondents on the basis of their marital status is given below in table No. 4.2.5.

**Table 4.2.5: Marital Status of the Women Members**

| Status of Women | Number | Percentage |
|-----------------|--------|------------|
| Unmarried       | 5      | 14.29      |
| Married         | 28     | 80         |
| Widow/Single    | 2      | 5.71       |
| Total           | 35     | 100        |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table shows the result of marital status of respondents. 80 percent of the total interviewed women were married. 14.29 percent were unmarried. The percentage of widow members found very low i.e. only 5.71 percent. The married women were found the major beneficiaries of the cooperative as relatively they carry more responsibility towards their family after marriage.

#### 4.2.6 Education Level of the Woman Members

Education is an important factor that determines the person's attitude, behavior and practice which help to social and economic development.

A person can improve his/her family members' quality of life through the proper use of knowledge, attitude and skills attained by education. Likewise, education enables people to use modern services and facilities in an easier way, helping them to improve the quality of life. All women can be the member of the cooperative regardless of any educational background they possess. The distribution of the respondents by their education status is shown below in table No. 4.2.6.

**Table 4.2.6: Education Level of the Woman Members**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Education</b> | <b>No. of Respondents</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1           | Literate         | 10                        | 28.57          |
| 2           | Higher Education | 25                        | 71.43          |
|             | Total            | 35                        | 100            |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The table 4.2.6 shows the educational level of the respondents. The data shows that none of the respondents are illiterate. Overall, it depicts that majority of the respondents have completed their higher education and their percentage is 71.43. The literate percent of the respondents are 28.57 percent and only can simply read and write.

#### **4.2.7 Occupation**

Occupation refers to profession. Agriculture, industry, trade and services are kinds of occupation. Types of occupation depend on the development and prosperity of the country. In Nepal according to 2011 census there were 65.7 percent population engaged in agriculture, and non-agricultural involvement was 34.3 percent.

Majority of the women generates income from sectors of their family occupation like farming and small business. Though the majority of Nepalese people are engaged in agriculture but the attraction towards non-agriculture sectors like trade, business.

**Table 4.2.7: Major Sources of Income Generation of the Respondents**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Category</b>   | <b>Number of Respondents</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1           | Poultry           | 4                            | 11.43             |
| 2           | Vegetable farming | 10                           | 28.57             |
| 3           | Small business    | 12                           | 34.29             |
| 4           | Animal husbandry  | 2                            | 5.71              |
| 5           | Horticulture      | 2                            | 5.71              |
| 6           | None              | 5                            | 14.29             |
|             | Total             | 35                           | 100               |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table shows the source of income of the women members. Among 35 respondents, it was found that most of the women are engaged in vegetable farming and doing small business for their income source. In animal husbandry and horticulture very less women were found to be engaged and their percentage is equal i.e. 5.71. 11.43 percent were engaged in Poultry for their income source. Beside this, 14.29 percent of the members were found merely housewives and involved only in household activities.

#### **4.2.8 Monthly Income of Woman Members**

Income and its source highly make effect on the socio-economic status of any household in the society. For any households or individual, income is the sum of all the wage, salaries, profits, interest payments, rents and other forms of earning received in a given period of time. Sworaj cooperative provides loan to its members to enhance their family income through some income generating activities. The individual monthly income of the woman members is demonstrated in table No. 4.2.8.

**Table 4.2.8: Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Monthly Income**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Range of monthly income(Rs.)</b> | <b>No. of respondents</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1           | Below 5000                          | 0                         | 0                 |
| 2           | 5000-15000                          | 8                         | 22.86             |
| 3           | 15000-25000                         | 15                        | 42.86             |
| 4           | 25000+                              | 12                        | 34.28             |
|             | Total                               | 35                        | 100               |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table shows the result that woman members from Sworaj cooperative ltd. make good earning. They are found economically self-dependent to some extent. The range of income from Rs. 15000 above is 77.14 percent. Earning below Rs. 5000 is null. In the above data, the earning from house rent is also calculated. So, the earning has seen quite well.

#### 4.2.9 Monthly Expenditure of Woman Members

Expenditure is the act of expending. It is the use of resource or the money to run or improve the existing conditions by an individual or household or any other organizations. The total monthly expenditure of the respondents are given in table below.

**Table 4.2.9: Distribution of Household by Monthly Expenditure**

| S.N. | Range of monthly expenditure(Rs.) | Number of Household | Percentage |
|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1    | 5000-10000                        | 8                   | 22.86      |
| 2    | 10000-15000                       | 11                  | 31.43      |
| 3    | 15000-20000                       | 16                  | 45.71      |
|      | Total                             | 35                  | 100        |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The results in the above table shows that most of the members' expenses lies the ranges between Rs. 10000-20000. The percentage of the expenditure range between Rs. 15000-20000 is 45.71 which is seen comparatively higher than other range. After that the range between Rs. 10000-15000 is seen higher which occupies 31.43 percent. The range between Rs. 5000-10000 is seen lowest covering only 22.86 percent.

Here making comparison in between the income gained by the respondents and the expenditure made by them, shows that the majority respondents have surplus income.

#### 4.2.10 Motivation (Inspiration) for Joining in Co-operative

The word motivation is derived from the word 'motive' which means needs, desires, and wants within the individuals. It is the process of stimulating people to actions to achieve the goals. It includes the psychological factors stimulating people, behavior desire for money, success, recognition, job satisfaction, etc. The respondent's motive in joining co-operative is presented in table 4.2.10.

**Table 4.2.10: Motivation for Joining Co-operative**

| <b>Motivation</b>       | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Self interest           | 7                | 20             |
| Activity of cooperative | 5                | 14.29          |
| Friends                 | 13               | 37.14          |
| Family                  | 10               | 28.57          |
| Total                   | 35               | 100            |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The table 4.2.10 above depicts the real motivation of the sample respondents to join in the cooperative. There are different motive besides joining Co-operative. Out of the total, 20 percent respondents joined because of their self-interest to be part of the cooperative. The influence from the friend circle is most and occupied 37.14 percent to the total. After that, the inspiration from family occupied 28.57 percent which is good sign. Moreover, 14.29 percent respondents have involved due to the good activities of the co-operative.

#### **4.2.11 Respondents' Reason behind Joining Cooperative**

The respondents were asked the question about the reason of joining cooperative. The result is presented as below in the table.

**Table 4.2.11: Respondents' Reason behind Joining Cooperative**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Reasons</b>                              | <b>No. of Respondent</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1           | For Regular Saving                          | 5                        | 14.29          |
| 2           | For borrowing loan to utilize in business   | 10                       | 28.57          |
| 3           | Both (for saving as well as credit purpose) | 20                       | 57.14          |
|             | Total                                       | 35                       | 100            |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table shows the reason of the respondents to be member of the cooperative. The respondents were asked the close ended question giving them three options which

is in the above table and majority of the respondents gave their reason that they became the member of the Sworaj cooperative for both regular saving as well as for borrowing credit when needed i.e. 57.14 percent. Similarly, 28.57 percent respondents joined the cooperative for loan purpose for their business and 14.29 percent respondents are there for regular saving. As the respondents by own or the family members are already involved in agriculture, animal farming or small business. The above information shows that they are content with the income and productivity of those sector. They have a desire to improve the outcome from those sector and strive to be self-reliant and acquire better lifestyle. With these expectations they have become a member of the cooperative.

### **4.3 Evaluation on Role of Cooperative in the Lives of Woman Members**

#### **4.3.1 Benefits from Sworaj Cooperative Ltd.**

During the field survey, three group discussion programs were arranged to find out the overall situation of the members involved in the cooperative. The benefits they got from cooperative and the overall changes they experienced in their lives. According to the respondents, after joining the cooperative they have got gradual change in their economic activities. Most of them have initiated to save at least five hundred per month in a regular basis. It has created the saving habit. The saving they have in cooperative has helped them to celebrate their festivals, provide education for their children, start and expand business, manage household expenses etc. Moreover, it was also found that members are managing their leisure time and using it in some productive work. Some have started commercial vegetable farming.

The cooperative has conducted various programs in order to improve social and health status of the society. The cooperative also offer income generating training programs, honor and reward to those members who make significant contribution to the organization and the society. It has also started to provide scholarships to the topper students in SEE examination from its members annually to encourage further higher education after SEE. Involvement of women in income generating activities make them skillful and productive. Though the activities carried out by sworaj cooperative seems small but has very significant role. It not only has improved the income but also increased the sense of being and working together and helped to change the attitude and behavior of the members of the society.

It has helped to promote saving habits, invest loan with reasonable interest rate to fulfill the financial necessities of its members and also improve socio-economic conditions and has developed, promoted and strengthened the economic activities of the members.

#### **4.3.2 Financial Condition after Joining Sworaj Cooperative**

The question about the financial condition after joining Sworaj was asked to the respondents at the time of field study. The result of the question is shown in the below table.

**Table 4.3.2: Financial Condition (change) after Joining Sworaj**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Financial Condition</b> | <b>No. of Respondent</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1           | Good                       | 6                        | 17.14          |
| 2           | Better                     | 11                       | 31.43          |
| 3           | Improving                  | 18                       | 51.43          |
| Total       |                            | 35                       | 100            |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table shows that cooperative has financial impact on its members though the volume has differed among members. Out of 35 respondents, majority of the respondents (51.43 %) stated that their financial condition after joining Sworaj has been improving. Similarly, 31.43 % have better and 17.14 % have good financial condition.

#### **4.3.3 Respondents' Monthly Income Before and Now**

Income is the sum of all the wage, salaries, profits, interest payments, rents and other forms of earning received in a given period of time. Sworaj cooperative provides loan to its members to enhance their family income through income generating activities more focusing on agriculture productions. Loan taken by members of Sworaj have played a crucial role to enhance their income level.

**Table 4.3.3: Respondents' Income Before and Now**

| S.N. | Range of monthly income(Rs.) | Frequency (Before) | Percent | Frequency (After) | Percent |
|------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| 1    | Below 5000                   | 8                  | 22.85   | 0                 | 0       |
| 2.   | 5000-15000                   | 19                 | 54.29   | 8                 | 22.85   |
| 3.   | 15000-25000                  | 5                  | 14.29   | 15                | 42.86   |
| 4.   | 25000+                       | 3                  | 8.57    | 12                | 34.29   |
|      | Total                        | 35                 | 100%    | 35                | 100%    |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The above table shows that there is drastic change in the income level of the respondents after being the members of the cooperative. The respondents have got financial as well as technical support to increase their income. 22.85 percent respondents' monthly income was up to Rs. 5000 before but now there is no one having monthly income up to Rs. 5000. Similarly, 54.29 percent respondents were having monthly income in between Rs. 5000-15000 before but now only 22.85 percent respondents' monthly income is in between Rs. 5000-15000. Moreover, only 14.29 percent respondents' monthly income was in between Rs.15000- Rs.250000 before but now 42.86 percent respondents' have that range of income and there were only 8.57 percent respondents to have Rs. 25000+ income but now it has increased to 34.29 percent.

In the past, most of the respondents' income range was in between Rs. 5000-15000 but now it has changed and income range between Rs. 15000-25000 is seen highest in number.

#### **4.3.4 Effect of Cooperative Activities on Women's Decision Making Process**

When women engage in income generating activities and start contributing to the family expenses, the women start enjoying respect in the family. They became capable to share their family responsibility as well as can play a bread winner role in the family.



### **Children's Education**

The financial condition of family matters in case of children's education. The general picture is that the greater the family earning, higher the level of education of the children. The earning women now have shared their children expenses to pursue higher education.

### **Marriage Decision**

In social affairs still women have less involvement compared to the male counterparts. In the past, the decision about the spouse for the children is never made without the (formal) household head i.e. the husband. To some extent, it is still found but now women are also found to be coming up side by side with the male family heads on marriage decision making process. The women involved in cooperative showed commitment to let their children free to take decision about their marriage without any gender discrimination. Forceful marriage of women at small age prior to their studies (to the level that makes them self-reliant) is abolished.

### **Purchasing Decision**

Whatever small amount the women earn from their business or work, their contribution in the family is accepted. Since they contribute to the family, the family heads now pay more attention to the women's choices regarding purchase of lands, properties or other family necessities. If the decision making process is participatory, better and more acceptable decisions can be made. Income earning opportunities for women have pushed them ahead as decision maker in the family. Thus in overall, it's noteworthy that though there is a trend for women to work outside, but the society remains still male dominated. Even in the families, male remains the influential person traditionally.

The respondent women said that the women in present days are coming up, and the male members of the family and society, are also supporting them. Both male and female equally work and earn for houses. They further add in making family decisions both male and female play equal roles. In general, most of the women have dominant role in purchase decision especially in the case of the housewives.

## Family management

It is another important household task which is often labeled as instrumental and being a men's task in Nepalese society. After the involvement of women in economic activities they have also become able to support family by managing family and supporting economically, finding out the problem, coping the problems. Cooperative organizes different meetings and seminars focusing on women to increase their skills which have also helped them in family management.

### 4.3.5 Changes Experienced after Joining Co-operative

With financial and technical support and help it is found that cooperative has brought more or less positive changes in the life of people. To know about the benefits or the change that the respondents got from cooperative being its members beside financial were asked. The answers that I got from them is presented in the below table.

**Table 4.3.5: Benefits/ Changes after Joining Co-operative**

| S.N. | Changes                                    | Frequency | Percent |
|------|--|-----------|---------|
| 1.   | Increased Peer circle                      | 7         | 20      |
| 2.   | Increased confident level                  | 4         | 11.43   |
| 3.   | Increased decision making power            | 2         | 5.71    |
| 4.   | Increased involvement in social activities | 3         | 8.57    |
| 5.   | All of the above                           | 19        | 54.29   |
|      | Total                                      | 35        | 100     |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 5.3.5 shows the benefits or the changes felt by the respondents after being the member of co-operative. 7 respondents out of total sampled 35 women felt that their only peer circle has been increased in the society which is 20 percent. Likewise, 11.43 percent respondents felt that their only confident level increased to speak about gender equality, women violence and the problem. 5.71 percent respondents said that they have only increase their decision making power. Similarly, out of total 8.57 percent respondents said that only increased their involvement in social activities and majority of the respondents i.e. (19 out of 35) answered that they felt changes in all of the above mentioned changes which is 54.29 percent.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter summarizes the whole study and presents the conclusions on the basis of major findings.

#### 5.1 Summary of the Findings

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons who voluntarily cooperate for their mutual, social, economic, and cultural benefit. Cooperatives have been established in Nepal to improve the socio economic status of the poor, women and backward people. It also aimed at increasing the financial access to those areas where financial institutions are not reached. Cooperative is also viewed as the tool that can bridge the gap between urban and rural area through rural transformation. Cooperative plays vital role to overcome the problem of capital shortage through capital formation.

The main objective of the study was to analyze the present lives of women and the changes that brought in women's daily life through income generating activities by the Sworaj cooperative Ltd. in the study area.

The study was mainly based on primary source of data but secondary are also used for analysis. The primary data were taken from questionnaire, household survey, and key informant interview. The secondary data were taken from journals, reports, books, publications, and websites. After collection of required data, it was analyzed using statistical tools. Saving and credit are very important variable of the cooperative which helps to increase the economic activities in the society.

For my research purpose I had chosen Sworaj Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. Among 347 total women members 35 were taken as a sample. Various aspects of the sampled members were studied like their monthly income, expenditure, benefits received from cooperative and the changes experienced in the lives and were analyzed.

Some finding of the study can be summarized as below:

The sampled respondents who I choose for my research, all were found engaged in income generating activities. Majority of the respondents takes loan from the cooperative and used on agriculture production. The major sectors they involved as a source of income are Poultry, vegetable farming, small local business among which 11.43 percent of total women are found engage in poultry. 28.57 percent on Vegetable farming and 34.29 percent on small business. Regarding the level of monthly income majority of the respondents earn monthly Rs. 15000-25000. It shows that they are relatively economically strong to some extent. They want to foster their then existing economic situation and involve themselves actively in income generating activities. All of the women have saving habit in the cooperative. It can be understood that cooperative has been successful to encourage them to develop saving habit monthly by maximum women which is positive for them to get economically independent. The purposes to take loan were mainly found to be taken for productive work, improve the business and to settle household problems. All respondent women agreed that their level of income has been increased after being the member of the cooperative and many also shared that their own respect in own family and neighborhood has tremendously increased.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Cooperative plays vital role to provide financial service to its member and help to generate the economic activities in the society. Transformation of unproductive money to the productive sector is very crucial role played by cooperative. They accumulate the scattered resources and mobilize to the needy person of lower-middle class. Talking about economic impact of the cooperative the study reveals there is progressive change in income level of women. Cooperative creates the environment of cooperation among its members. They work together to achieve mutual objective. Knowledge, skill, behavior, attitude etc. of the members were increased. The women are being organized in an institutional process like cooperative group through which they are exercising the financial activities like loan taking and saving as well which has directly and indirectly worked towards their economic empowerment.

In addition, their involvement in the cooperative institution has increased their social mobility, interaction and participation, so this has given them to earn space in their social arena and respect for themselves and has encouraged them to find active role in the family and neighborhood.

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## ANNEXES

### Annex-1

#### Questionnaire for the survey

##### Respondent's Profile

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Education:
  - a) Illiterate
  - b) Literate
  - c) Higher education
4. Caste/Ethnicity:
5. Marital status:
  - a) Married
  - b) Unmarried
6. Family structure:
  - a) Joint
  - b) Nuclear

##### Economic Aspects:

7. What is your monthly income (in NRs.)?
  - a) Below NRs. 5000
  - b) NRs. 5000 - 15000
  - c) NRs. 15000 - 25000
  - d) 25000+
8. What is the main reason for your involvement in the cooperative?
  - a) For Regular Saving
  - b) For Credit
9. What is your total household expenditure per month?
  - a. NRs. 5000-10000
  - b. NRs. 10000 - 15000
  - c. NRs. 15000 - 20000

10. Which sector are you engaged in right now?

- a) Poultry
- b) vegetable farming
- c) local business (small)
- d) Other (Specify)....

11. For what purpose have you taken the loan from the cooperative?

- a) To start business
- b) To improve business
- c) To settle household problems.

12. Has your income increased after you became a member of this cooperative?

- a) Yes
- b) No

13. Was collateral needed to take the loan?

- a) Yes
- b) No.

**Social Aspects:**

14. What was your family member's response when you became a member of the cooperative?

- a) Very good
- b) Good
- c) Fair
- d) Poor

15. Who encouraged you to become a member of the cooperative?

- a. Self interest
- b. Activity of co-operative
- c. Friends
- d. Family

16. Do you feel good now that you are involved in the cooperative?

- a) Yes
- b) No

17. What problems did you face when you were a member of the organization?

- a) Psychological stress from within the family/neighbor/friends
- b) Economic stress
- c) Others (specify)

d) No problem

18. What changes did you feel after you became a member of the cooperative?

a. Increased Peer circle

b. Increased confident level

c. Increased decision making power

d. Increased involvement in social activities

e. All of the above

## **Annex- 2**

### **Guidelines for Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

1. Have your family supported you for being a member of the cooperative? How?
2. What kind of benefits have you got being a member of the Cooperative?
  - ) Economic benefits:
  - ) Social benefits:
3. Being a woman, what are the positive and negative changes that the cooperative has brought in your life?
4. Pattern of loss and profit in the investment you have made in your profession/business:
5. What are the challenges of being a member of cooperative?
6. What do you think about the effectiveness of the policies and programs formulated by the cooperative?

### **Annex- 3**

#### **Questionnaire for Key informant Interview (KII)**

Name:

Address:

Contact no:

1. Have families of the women supported them for being a member of the cooperative? How?
2. What kind of benefits have women got being a member of the Cooperative?  
J Economic benefits:  
J Social benefits:
3. Being a woman, what are the positive and negative changes that the cooperative has brought in their life?
4. Pattern of loss and profit in the investment they have made in their profession/business:
5. What are the challenges of being a member of cooperative?
6. What do you think about the effectiveness of the programs and policies formulated by the cooperative?