## WOMENS'ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING

A Case study of Makranchuli- 6 of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC

## **A Thesis**

## **Submitted To:**

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts
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## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This Thesis entitled "Womens Role in Household Decesion Making: A Case Study of Makranchuli – 6 of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC", has been prepared by Birat Lamsal under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development. I hereby recommend this thesis to the Thesis Evaluation Committee for approval.

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This Thesis entitled "Women's Role in Household Decision Making: A case study of Makranchuli – 6 of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC", submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development under the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University by Birat Lamsal has been approved by the under signed members of the Thesis Evaluation Committee.

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The issue women's role in decision making process is deep rooted and out of sight in every society of Nepal and has gradually been attracting attention of all stakeholders. The study about this issue has not been done more indepth. While concerning about inclusion of whole issue of women the major nature of women i.e. the issue of meaningful women's role has to be addressed well.

Objectives of this study is to support in reduction the gender discrimination in household level in the forms of social evils, cultural bias, discriminations and barriers towards women thereafter promoting sustainable social inclusion of women in socio-cultural and economical spares of society.

This study has been done from a Makranchuli community of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC where has been available 373 members of mixed culture and cast. Out of them 80 members (67 female and 23 male) have represented from different cast/ethnicity, culture, occupation.

The study design has been tried to explore and investigate the socio-economic and familiar issue of our study area with special emphasis on the decision making processes of women as compared to men. The inquires and investigation made during the field study obviously speak of the exploratory nature.

Living in trauma, social discrimination and economically deprived conditions, the women have to live in isolation. According to Nepalese social and cultural practice, a women has to learn a way of life, which is completely different than that of men. However, women of Janjati and Dalit were found to be less restricted in customs than of high castes.

Most of the women in the VDC are illiterate and have no skills except doing household chorus. They are economically poor and having lack of resources to provide education to their children. They are mostly uneducated and don't have knowledge of property rights to use it effectively.

The role of women was found to be stereotypical that confined them to the household. They had only limited access to resources and control over those resources is far less than access to them. All these limitations, along with household confinement and low educational attainment, restrict their empowerment.

So it is indeed necessary to empower the women to change the whole status of women at all. To empower the women of Nepal, first of all it is important to create awareness in the society in terms of code of behaviors towards women. We need to sensitize ourselves to view the women and its trauma as a natural cycle of women's life.

It was found that some respondents stated the religion as a barrier but religious leaders we met commented against their statement and said that no discrimination and no discriminatory verse written in holy books. It can be said in our every day social life women have been forced guided to follow discriminatory customs.

So it is indeed necessary to empower the women to change the whole status of family and society at all. To empower the women of Nepal, first of all it is important to create awareness in the society in terms of code of behaviors towards women. We need to sensitize ourselves to view the women and its trauma as a natural cycle of women's life.

The study of women's role in decision making will fulfill the gap of study and be masterpiece in the study field of this type. The findings of this study will recommend the sustainable procedures to include the women in nation building and promote social solidarity.

## **ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS**

B S : Bikram Sambat

CBS : Central Bureau Statistic

FGD : Focal Group Discussion

HDI : Human Development Index

HPI : Human Poverty Index

INGO : International Non-Governmental

Organization

INSEC : Informal Education Service Center

KII : Key Informant Information

NGO : Non Governmental Organization

UK : United Kingdom

UN : United Nation

UNDP : United Nation Development Program

USA : United state of America

VDC : Village Development Committee

VDC : District Development Committee

WHR : Women For Human Rights

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#### CHAPTER – I

#### INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Women constitute about half of the world's population and a major part of the unrecognized labor force in the world. It has been a matter of great concern during the last few decades that conventional statistics reflect neither the substantial contribution of women in labor input and management of household production nor their progressive marginalization from modern forms of assist ownership and employment avenues (UN, 1991)

Women play a major role inside the household. In our country the goods produced in the households are remarked as non traded and we have no intention of giving monitory value to the services produced within household, i e cooking, feeding, caring babies etc. All household works such as preparing meal, doing laundry, childcare, cleaning dishes looking after agriculture are connected with women. So we can undoubtedly say that women's input in household chores is greater than that of men.

Women's household income activities began to draw attention only in the early 1970's. The situation of women in Nepal project provided the first input to the planners and policy makers with substantial women specific data as well as policy recommendation which help them to design projects that recognized and tried to build up on the important roles in subsistence rural households' economy (USA/CEDA, 1980)

In Nepal, women constitute the backbone of Nepalese agriculture, especially in the hill areas. Their contribution to household production and income was found to be at part with men both in terms of labor input as well as in decision making roles In the context of Nepal, The empowerment of women one of the important factor affecting the socio-economic development of a country, cannot be fully realized if women who constitute 50.04 percent of the total population enjoy a subordinate position to men. Due to conservative tradition, illiteracy, poverty and superstition women are considered to be born to serve their male counterparts smoothly without any comment. Our social belief is that women are basically inferior and their labor and efforts are less valuable than that of men

The history and geography of Nepal plays an important role for the inclusion and exclusion process of people. Nepal is a land of diversity in terms of geography, culture and level of socio-economic development of people. According to census 2001, there are 100 ethnical/castes, 92 languages and 9 religious groups in Nepal. In case of Makwanpur, there are 78 ethnical groups. Some majors are Praja, Raute, Tamang, and Magar. The population of Makwanpur is dominated by the Tamang i.e. more than 48%, (DDC, 2058 B.S)

The total female population of Makwanpur is 1, 93, 460 i.e. 49.27% of the total population of the district. The total illiterate women is 90,288 i.e. 47% of the total female (It doesn't include the population who can read). If we add the population the percentage was 52%. The data indicates that the more female population of Makwanpur is illiterate. (DDC, 2058 B.S)

Makwanpur is a centrally located district which has caste/ethnic diversity. The situation of women has been studied in Makranchuli community of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC. The settlements the community has been found to be multilingual, multi-ethical and multi-religious.

On the other hand the most of female population remains busy in household chorus that has no significant value in national economy. Female are uneducated and have no role in decision making so they are almost neglected ones.

The Nepali cultural and social phenomenon has been developed with the inheritably effect of traditional customs, religious books like epics, and by which women have been praised and condemned. In fact, women are neglected, isolated and dominated in our Hindu-lead society. Women have only limited access to resources and only limited control over those they can access. Of the total landholdings, females own only 8.1% and the average size of their land is just two-thirds that of an average male holding. Only 4% of the households have female ownership of house and land, (Nepal human development report 2004, empowerment and poverty reduction)

Realizing the fact that the need of meaningful promotional participation of people of all caste and creed, sex, class, region and culture for the sustainable institutional development of democracy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> people's movement in 2063 was started and successful. The norms have been reflected in present interim constitution and national policies.

Accordingly, the Interim constitution (2063) of Nepal has stated the state policy of making special social provision for the protection and progress of women, *article 20*. Likewise, the issue has also been mentioned in the present 3-year strategies of government interim plan, (Three years interim Plan 2064/65-2066/67).

In conclusion women are socio-culturally dominated, economically deprived and psychologically traumatized. They are living just supportive role of men in any circumstances.

Thus, it is the need of time to mainstream the women by providing equivalent role for the decision making in household activities.

## 1.2 Statement of the problem

Women constitute 50.04 percent of total population of Nepal, (CBS, 2001). This vital section of the society has minimal access to resource, information and services both within and outside the household spheres. Rural women are

overburdened and have low social, economic and legal status. A cultural cause of this is their lower level of involvement in economic activities. The productive roles they perform are over shadowed by their reproductive roles and the tasks they perform are not even regarded as work.

Women constitute more labor to the economy than men do. Women generally work from sunrise to the evening. Besides agriculture, they have to perform many other households' activities like child care, cooking washing cleaning etc. It was recommended by the international labor organization ILO that women's work in the household be also recognized as productive activity (ILO, 1982)

In our country, especially in our rural areas women's decision making is considered unimportant epically by men. So they still remain excluded from important decision making. But at present it is being realized that if given opportunity, women are capable in performing different activities effectively and can also make important household decisions because they are the main provider of basic needs of household sector.

Thus, if timely actions are not taken in this direction, women of the future generation also suffer the same oppression as their predecessors. If women are endowed with the decision making power, they deserve a significant improvement in household setup and subsequently in the society at large.

Therefore many policies and programs should be designed to reach this exploited class of society to enable them to come to forefront with their productive power of effective decision making.

Having realized these issues, the study was designed to answer the following questions:

- What was the role of women on household management activities?
- How did the women manage the labor utilization pattern?

- What was the role of wome in active participation in community level activities?
- What was the role of women on the adoption of family planning measures, selection of family size and on educational aspects?

## 1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objectives of the study was to examine women's role in household decision making in rural Nepal. However the specific objectives are:

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

## 1.4 Significance of the study

After the international women year of 1975, many studies were conducted in this women's field. But a study of women's empowerment especially in household management as compared to their male counterparts is lacking. Thus this study helps to find out the gender identify and their differentiation in community and shows the status of women as well as their role in decision making process in household management.

It is true that women are playing their crucial roles and responsibilities in reproductive and productive works in household from century. But these roles and responsibilities are not appraised as important one. It is misfortunate that the reproductive roles and responsibilities, which is very important for live daily life of human being is not recognized as important because it is regarded that these roles and responsibilities are defined by their birth. In other hand, women's productive roles are also not recognized as it directly link with economic values. The one of the major reasons behind it is women are always excluded from each and every activities of decision-making process of daily life. Unless and until women cannot play the vital role for each and every

decision making process in household, it is not accounted to increment of women's meaningful role in decision-making. Therefore, it is essential to find out the root causes and reasons of gender discrimination, which is start from individual and household level.

Therefore, this study will be helpful to find out the present status and condition of women's roles in decision-making process in household level, which ultimately make effect on women meaningful participation and their empowerment process. These findings will help to explore the better measures to be carried out to increase women decision-making role at household level, which will definitely help to build the common understanding among men and women in individual level. It will also be helpful to governmental and non-governmental organizations for formulating appropriate programs and policies to change gender role even in household level. My study also prepare some recommendations on the basis of factors effecting about men engagement at household level activities, which ultimately support to increase women meaningful role in decision-making process at household level.

#### 1.5 Limitation of the study

Every research does have some limitations and this research has also no exception either. The research has been done by the student research for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of Master Degrees of Rural Development. Due to the time and financial constraint this study has been covered only one community (Makranchuli) of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC#6.

Due to the lack of research experience this study may have some constraints on the theoretical and literature aspects also.

The study result of Makranchuli community of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC may not be enough to generalize all over the nation. But it will be useful for the same ecological area of the nation.

## 1.6 Organization of the Study

This Thesis has been constituted five chapters. First chapter has been deals with the background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, signification of the study limitation of the study and the organization of the study.

Second chapter has been deals with literature review where some books and reports have been reviewed for the preparation of this thesis. Third chapter has been prepared for explaining the methods used in the study particularly about the rationale of the selection of the study area, research design, sampling technique and sample size data collection techniques. There has been mentioned interview schedule, observation of the women focus group discussion, key informant, case study, method of data analysis. Chapter Four has been presentation and interpretation of the data. Chapter Five has been contain the conclusion and recommendation on the women's role in the household decision making of the study area

#### CHAPTER – II

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

During the Vedic period, a wide gap between the men and women is not seen. Women were also honored as a man in academic, spiritual and social life. Women equally participated in religious and social functions. They also took part in agriculture and making war weapons like arrows and bows. The women who were academically qualified could teach and were called Acharaya, Gargi, Atria, Indrani, Sachi, Sulasha were some of the academically qualified women of that period. (Lunia, 1986).

Gradually after Vedic period we find the development of human society males have progressively attained dominance and the female have been punished down to a secondary position. (Jimee,1996).

The situation was further strengthened by the institution of family after the primitive communism; the rise of sexual domination of men over women was brought about an economic change, chiefly the growth of wealth and feelings of private property. As a result men wanted to pass on their property to their own children. Hence they over throw matrilineal and instituted patrilineal decent. Thus monogamy was decided. In the family, males and females had different specific roles to play. Men were required to protect their families provide for them while women were restricted to the household job, (F Engles 1884).

Engles declared the overthrow of mother right was the world historical defeat of the feminine sex. With the shift from matriarchal to patriarchal society, women were excluded from the public economic sphere and consigned to household labour. Men had taken over heavy agriculture leaving women only with menial domestic tasks. Males also gained complete control of politics and excluded women largely from religion and public culture as well (Ibid, 1884).

Against to this situation of women, the women movement in the world has found to take place since the beginning of enlightment period. In 1972 Marry Wellstone Craft wrote against the norm: women are means of pleasure to men in the book "A vindication of the right of women." The book has primarily focused on the equal opportunities for women.

After the industrial revolution in Europe, movement against slavery begun and it gave voting power to women. Simon De Behaviour laid emphasis on the freedom of women is the freedom of men in the book 'The second sex' in 1953 and Fridan also gave emphasis on the concept that the right of husband and wife is equal inside house. Both the works helped raise awareness on rights of women.

Likewise, the women movement during 1970s had been classified as feminist movement and divided into two categories and during 1980s the women movement of third category started. In the name of freedom, justice and equality for women different summit of women have been completed in Mexico in 1975, in Copenhegun in 1980, in Kenya in 1985, in China in 1995 and later on the UN has declared the period of 1975-85 as decade of women. (South Asia International, 2007).

The status of women study series published between 1979-1981by Center for Economic Development and Administration CEDA taking sample of women from eight ethnic groups of different geographic areas of Nepal is the main source of information on the status and roles of women. The study provides comprehensive information on eight different ethnic groups of Nepal, taking into account the socio-cultural religious and economic variables that influence the status and role of women in those ethnic groups. The study shows the aggregate patterns of differention of the status of women between different groups and religions and its linkage with the existing patterns of education, religion, work pattern fertility and the role of decision making in order to

understand the central role that status of women plays on the society, CBS,1995

Taking the issue of women so many study and research have been done in public and private sector among them Acharaya and Bennet have undertaken several studies related to the status and role of women in Nepal.

In first study, Acharaya and Bennet is relating to the time allocation pattern of women and men at the household level reveals that expect plugging women perform almost all the agricultural activities and their daily labour input is nine hours against five hours by men. But the degree of involvement varies considerably across ethnic groups and social classes. In fact, women are far more involved in farming activities than men. They also have to perform the domestic task of household (Acharaya and bennet-9181:9

The findings of the model show that in the first sphere women's participation in farming and domestic activities constitutes 86 percent. Women input accounts for 57 percent in agro-production or in sphere second while their inputs sphere third and fourth drop down to 38 percent and 25 percent respectively. Their total contribution to the household income remains 50 percent as opposed to 44 percent for males. The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed by children of 10-14 years.

The aggregate analysis and summary of 8 village studies 1981 gives a wider overview of women's status in term of their decision making power with the household.

Their first hypothesis reiterates from economic data we found women from top economic stratum are participation in outside income earning activities. No women from high economic stratum worked either in the domestic or the non-organized service sector like sewing, cooking, cleaning etc. but for women from the bottom economic strata, agriculture sector provides the largest number of working days. The study shows that women from the communities with

economic participation in the wider spheres of society will have a higher status vis-à-vis men that women in groups where their input is confined to non-market production within the household units. Or the women from the low strata spend 72.9 percent of their total working days in agriculture sector.

Likewise from the side of government has taken after seventh and eight five years plan 1985-90, 1992-97 spent out some programs on women. The seventh plan had adapted a national policy in relation to women's participation in development. Similarly in eight plan had included, appointments of a female teacher in every primary and high school in the future, introduction of quotas in technical and higher education, reservation of a few seats in national and international scholarships and emphasized on women's participation in health related higher technical manpower. Its efforts to initiate and concern for women and their outputs have to be appreciated nine and tenth plan special focus on women empowerment

Women constitute more labour to the economy than men do. Women generally work from sunrise to the evening. Besides agriculture, they have to perform many other households' activities like child care, cooking washing cleaning etc. It was recommended by the international labour organization ILO that women's work in the household be also recognized as productive activity (ILO, 1982).

#### **General Status of Women**

According to the population census 2001, the educational status of women at 42.5% is way below, both the national average (53.7%) and that of men above six years of age at 65.1%. Women are poor, uneducated, unemployed and so on. According to the population census 2001, in Nepal the number of female headed household is 15%, ownership of land is 10.84%, ownership of livestock is 7.24% and ownership of house stead is only 5.51%, this shows the poor socio-economic status of the women (CBS, 2002).

"Women constitute 50% of the population of Nepal. The religious background and socio-cultural settings might bring about differences in the status of women in the family and society. But, in terms of using equal rights and opportunities, all women are disadvantaged. The patriarchal social structure precludes women from having their share of resources for health, education and nutrition earlier from family level. In fact, Nepalese women have one of the poorest health and lowest literacy rate in the world" (SDC, 2001).

"Women are out of land, time and money; they are often poorly organized, have restricted access to political power, and a limited ability to influence policy/decision makers. They are often illiterate than men, and have no collateral to offer for credit. They are also restricted in the jobs they are allowed to do and the distances they are allowed to travel" (FAO/SIDA).

"Senior males (patriarchs) enjoyed absolute authority over all members of the households, and women were brought under systematic control. Father became not only economically responsible for their families, but also socially, legally and politically, heads of the households. The idea developed that a father was directly responsible for the behavior of his women: his honor and that of the family were at stake" (ICIMOD, 1996/98).

Nepalese women have been involved in the political movement since the fifties but several factors have prevented them from actively participating in local or national politics. These factors include: the dominant ideology of patriarchy, male chauvinism, criminalization of politics, lack of equal property rights, restrictions on women's mobility and domination of men in all political parties and the media politics is commonly thought to be controlled by the five 'M's they are Men, Money, Music, Manipulation and Mafia (Chaulagai, et. al., 2003). In 1999 only 5.85% women were members in the House of Representatives (12 women members only) likewise in Upper House (Rastriya Sabha) women members were only 13.33% (8 women members only). It shows

the poor representation of women in decision-making level (Chaulagai, et. al., 2003).

Cultural beliefs about women's role, social and cultural restrictions and sometimes limited involvement in decision making largely confines women's activities to home, often compelling them to forego opportunities for training, on topics of interest to them (Gurung, 1995).

According to a study conducted by Shrestha (1999) in Nuwakot, men and women do not consider women's position higher or better than men in decision-making, self-image, and organizational capacity. Women's status is always lower than that of men. She further states that women only have access to resources, but actual control lies with men, even the labor, which by definition belongs to the person concerned, is controlled by men which means that women can only sell their labor with the permission of men and even the income from women's labor is controlled by men. Women do not have access to and control over resources, as they do not own any property therefore they are not credit worthy. Food is the only area in which women have controls, mainly because they prepare and distribute it. Health, education, and training are areas to which women have access but again are controlled by men in these areas.

Legally the constitution of Nepal has given women the freedom of expression and religion, freedom to own property, freedom to vote, the right to run for office, and the power to raise their children as they see fit. Unfortunately, practical application of these rights has yet to be realized by Nepali women (Thapa, 1999)

## **CHAPTER – III**

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3. 1. Rational Area Selections

The target VDCs of Makwanpur has been spread in Mahabharat range and Siwalik hills. The target community has domination of rural settlements. From the viewpoint of caste/ethnicity, there is diversity which can contribute in drafting findings and making recommendations.

The Makranchuli community of Makwanpur Gadhi VDC has been selected due to potentiality of women, accessibility of researcher, composition of ethnicity, budget and time constraints and where has active women cooperatives and different type of ethnics women are associated with this and the cooperative is conducting different type of actives of this community

#### 3. 2. Research design

The study design has been adopted for our study can be said as exploratory in nature. In other words our research has been tried to explore and investigate the socio-economic and familiar issue of our study area with special emphasis on the decision making processes of women as compared to men. The inquires and investigation made during the field study obviously speak of the exploratory nature of our research.

However this particular features of our research design translated into a descriptive-analytical from which has been been utilized during our data analysis process. This means that the data interpretation has been supported by tabular analysis followed by their explanations.

#### 3. 3. Nature and sources of data

Both primary and secondary data has been used in this study. Primary data has been collected by field study and secondary data has been obtained from different published books, reports and so on related materials..

# 3.4 Tools and Technique of Data Collection

## 3.4.1 Questionnaire survey

Questionnaire survey has been carried out for the detail information to identify female's role and importance in the family. This also helped to collect the information about actual socio-economic practice, reorganization in the decision making of women. Open and closed-ended structured interview question schedule were used to collect the above mentioned information. Quantitative data and a few of qualitative data gathered through the questioner survey.

Questioner Annex-1

#### 3.4.2 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion was conducted in participation of women representing from different religious and socio-economic status group.

This method has been adapted to verify the information obtained from the women respondents and key informants. Two FGD were conducted in this method and eight women and three men, seven women, three men were participated first and second FGD respectively.

Checklist Annex-2

#### 3.4.3. Key informant interview

When contradiction and confusion come in the course of data collection and gathering the information from the different respondents of users groups, then unstructured interview become importance to be clear indepth, so the

unstructured informal interview has been done with key person of the social institution. Two key informant have been taken.

Checklist Annex -3

# 3. 5 Sampling Method

First of all detail information of the selected area has been collected. The household has been selected according to density of population of required ethnic group. Then random sampling has been done for questionnaire survey, which has covered about 20% household of the selected community. The target respondent of questionnaire survey has been conducted with both Brahaman/Kshetri and non Brahaman/Kshetri, male and men female.

## 3. 6 Secondary Data Collection

The secondary data has been collected from published and unpublished books, journals, research reports, unpublished official records, internet search, maps and other recent literatures about women

#### 3.7 Method of Data analysis

For the collection, the above mentioned technique has been separated and categorized according to the need of the study. Collected data has been edited from presentation and analysis of the study.

Collected data has been analyzed to make them meaningful and to meet the objectives of the study. Edit data has been quoted, tabulated and analyzed to meet the objectives of the study. Qualitative information relating to the historical aspect has been analyzed and mentioned.

#### CHAPTER – IV

#### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This study has been completed with comprising the 23 male and 57 female direct respondents who are above 18 years old from total survey population No 373 of the study area..

The first half of this chapter has dealt with socio-economic characteristics of the respondents specially women and in the second half role of women in household decision making (recently conducted survey report) has been presented.

#### 4.1 Socio Economic characteristics of the Respondents

Nepalese society is the outcome of the long historical process under which people of different ethnic groups, races, languages and cultures were united. Even to this day, the multi-racial and multi-linguistic characterities are quite visible in the population of Nepal.

It is well known socio-economic characteristics of the people explain many aspects of their lives. In this first half an attempt has been made to highlight some of the socio-economic characteristics of the sample respondents of the study area. The socio-economic background taken into consideration includes ethnic composition, family structure, age and sex composition, marital status, occupational status, educational status, working hours, knowledge about medical treatment, land holding/ownership, control over cash and so forth.

## 4.1.1 Ethnic Composition.

Five types of ethnics cast has been found in the study area among them respondent of Brahaman/Chhetri has been seen in large percentage 47.5 respectively which is followed by Tamang 30 % Gurung (8.75 %), Damai/Kami (7.50 %), Magar (6.25 %), respectively. (See table 2)

**Table 4.1 : Ethnic Composition** 

Caste / Ethnic Groups	No. of	Percentage
1.Brahmin / Chhetri	38	47.5
2. Tamang	24	30
3. Gurung	7	8.75
4. Damai / Kami	6	7.5
5. Magar	5	6.25
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

# **4.1.2** Age and sex of the respondents

Age and sex distribution of the sampled population shows that the adultcent population in the village is little bit higher of male (21.75 %) than female (19.29%) while the matured population is higher of female (66.67%) than male (65.21%). Similarly above 55 aged like same percentage (See table 2)

Table 4.2: Age and sex of the respondents

Age	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
group						
18-29	5	21. 75	11	19.29	16	20
30-55	15	65.21	38	66.67	53	66.25
55 above	3	13.04	8	14.04	11	13.75
Total	23	100	57	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey: 2010

# **4.1.3 Family Structure of Respondent:**

Among 80 households, the structure of family of 47 households are nuclear and 33 households are joints as percentage 58.75 percent and 41.25 percent respectively. (See table 4)

**Table 4.3: Family structure of respondents** 

Family Structure	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Nuclear Family	47	58.75
Joint Family	33	41.25
Extent	0	0
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

# **4.1.4 Marital Status of the Respondents:**

Among the 80 respondents, 63 are found to be married, 10 are unmarried, 6 are widow and male widow and only 1 is separated with her husband. And table 5 shows data separately of male and female whereas not so different ratio in married and unmarried case and one woman separated from her husband (See table 4)

**Table 4.4: Marital Status of the Respondents** 

Marital Status	Female		Male	
	No. Of Percentage		No. Of	Percentage
	Respondents		Respondents	
Married	44	85.0	19	82.6
Unmarried	8	7.5	2	8.7
Widower/widow	4	5.0	2	8.7
Single	1	2.5	0	0
Total	57	100	23	100

Sorce: Field Survey, 2010

## 4.1.5 Educational status of the Respondents

Table 5 shows first, literate and illiterate No and then shows level of education male and female separately. From this table shows that gape in education b/w male and female. Table shows only 58 female are literate while there is 82.5

male are literate. Out of the literate male 31% and 50%, 18% male have got primary, secondary and higher secondary or university level education respectively and literate female 48.5%,42.5% and 9% have got primary, secondary and higher secondary or university level education respectively. (See table 5)

**Table 4.5 Educational status of the respondents** 

Education	Female		Male	
	No.of Percentage		No.of	Percentage
	Respondents		Respondents	
Illiterate	24	42.	4	17.50
Literate	33	58	19	82.50
Literate				
Primary	16	48.5	5	31.25
Secondary	14	42.5	8	50
Higher	3	9	3	18.75
secondary/university				

Source: Field Survey, 2010

# 4.1.6: Major Occupation of respondent

Agriculture is the main occupation of the respondents likewise service (governmental, nongovernmental), business (small scale), wage labor, unpaid household work has been seen but huge gaps in b/w agriculture and others occupation. Table shows separately different occupation adopted by male and female

Table 4.6 Major occupation of respondent

Occupation	Female	female %	Male No	Male %
	No			
Agriculture	46	80.75	10	43.50
Service	4	7	7	30.50
Unpaid Household work	3	5.25	0	0
Business	1	1.75	4	17.50
Wage labor	3	5.25	2	8.50
Total	57	100	23	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## 4.1.7. Working Hours among the respondents

The female input in terms of working hours per day is definitely higher than that of their male counterparts. This can be attributed to their involvement in both domestic as well as the agricultural sphere of activities.

From table 7, we can see that only men are found in the category where as working hours per day is 4. On the other hand only women are found in the category the highest working hour per day (viz 12 + hours) except only one man. Our overall finding is that comprising a larger portion of the lesser working hours where as women constitute greater percentage of the higher working hours

**Table 4.7 Working hours among the respondents** 

Working Hours	Male	Male %	Female	Female %
/day				
below 4 hours	7	30.50	0	0
4 to 8 hours	12	52	5	8.5
8 to 12 hours	3	13	35	61.5
12+ hours	1	4.50	17	30
Total	23	100	57	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

# 4.1.8. Land holding / Ownership of respondents

Among the 80 respondents 2 No respondents have no land. And in the remaining no respondents, small scale land are holding by female and large scale land are holding by male.

Tale 4.8 Land Holding / Ownership

Land	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage
(Khet/bari) in	registered		registered	
Katha				
No land	2	3.5	0	0
below 5	19	33.5	2	8.75
5-10	22	38.5	3	13
10-20	7	12.5	5	21.75
20-30	5	8.5	7	30.50
30+	2	3.5	3	13
Total	57	100	23	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### 4.1.9 Control over the cash

Control over cash has been analyzed among the husband wife side by side male and female member of the family. From the table 9 shows that 57.5% husband and 11.25% male member control over the cash. And this percent is more the double percent of the female.

**Table 4.9 Control over Household cash** 

Person	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.Husband	46	57.5
2.Wife	19	23.75
3.Male Members	9	11.25
4.Female Members	6	7.5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## 4.2. Role of Women in Household Decision Making:

In this section, efforts have been made to analyze women's status within the households with special emphasis on their decision making power as compared to their male counterparts. The information included is in consonance with our methodology which is collected from women of different ethnic groups mainly Brahmin/Chhetri, Tamang, Gurung Magar, and occupational castes comprising of Kami, Damai .

Data has been analyzed compare to male counterparts in the same table with no and percentage. It helps to compare the role of female and male in household decision making and find out the effective result. In analyzing the role of women as household decision makers attempts have been made to cover all relevant aspects.

# 4.2.1 Access and control of male and female over the economic activities under household.

There has been analysized six major economic activities (buying and selling of house and land, gold and ornament, big livestock, small livestock, farming production, expenses on health and education) compared with three parameter (female, male and joint ) which one easy to find out the situation of decision process within household.

From the table 2.1 shows that above mention activities has been decided by jointly in grater no of household and follow the male decided house hold but female decided household is very few and it also shows that specially female has right to take a decision on little worth. i e no number of female in buying and selling of land and house while 30% male has taken right on it.

Table 4.10: Access and control of male and female over the economic activities

Activities	Femal	e/wife	Male/hu	sband	joi	nt	Total
Buying	No. of	Percentag	No. of	Percent	No. of	Percent	percent
and selling	responder	e	responden	age	responde	age	age
of	S		ts		nts		
house and	0	0	24	30	56	70	100
land							
Gold and	17	21.25	23	28.25	40	50	100
ornament							
Big	1	1.25	63	78.75	16	20	100
livestock							
small	11	13.75	31	38.75	38	47.50	100
livestock							
Farming	14	17.5	22	27.50	44	55	100
production							
Expenses	5	6.25	47	58.75	28	35	100
of Health							
and							
Education							

Source Field Survey, 2010

# 4.2.2 Role of male, female in socio-cultural activities of society.

In the context of decision on socio-cultural activities also has been taken six factors (religious and cultural ceremonies, married- choice of bride and bridegroom, physical construction of society i e road, bridge irrigation, participation of community user groups, participation of local representation) compared with three parameter (Female, Male and joint). Table shows that greater no of household decided in jointly such type of activities and male decided HH has followed this no but female decided has been few no.

Table No 4.11: Role of male, female in socio-cultural activities

Participated	Fem	nale	M	ale	join	ıt	Total
Activities	no. of	percent	no. of	percent	no. of	percen	Percent
	respond	age	respon	age	responde	tage	
	ents		dents		nts		
religious and	12	15	21	26.25	47	58.75	100
cultural							
ceremonies							
choice of	2	2.5	24	27.5	54	70	100
bride							
bridegroom							
meeting of	6	7.5	56	67.50	18	25	100
community							
level.							
physical	5	6.25	54	67.5	21	26.25	100
construction							
of							
society(road,							
bridge,							
irrigation							
participation	19	23.75	38	47.5	33	41.25	100
of community							
user group							
participation	13	16.25	48	60	19	23.75	100
of local							
representation							

Source Field Survey, 2010

# **4.3 Health and Family Planning**

General observation reveals that respondents from all 80 households have heard about family planning measures from friend and via the media.

Among the 80 no, 70 respondents are married and so question of use the family planning measure is attracting only for them. Thus, in the 70 no married respondents only 51 no has been used (past/currently) the F.P. measures. They constitute 72.85 percent of these 70 respondents. While who does not use any F.P. measures constitute only 27.15 %. (see table 4.12)

Among the FP measure users 72.5 % have been used permanent and 27.5 percent used temporary measures. See table 4.13.

To use this measure 47 % husband single decided, 8% wife single decide and 45% jointly decided. See table 4.14)

Table No 4.12: Health and Family Planning Users

Type	No. of Respondent	Percentage
FP measure users	46	67.25
Non user	24	32.75
Total	70	100

Source Field Survey, 2010

Table No 4.13: Types of Health and Family Planning Users

Type	No.of Respondent	Percentage
1.Permanent	37	72.5
2.Temporary	14	27.5
Total	51	100

Source Field Survey, 2010

**Table No 4.14: Decision Making on Family Planning** 

Decision Maker to use	No.of Respondents	Percentage
the FP		
1.Husband	31	60
2.Wife	1	2
3.Joint	19	38
Total	51	100

Source Field Survey, 2010

## 4.5 Suggestion

In this chapter, an effort has been done to include suggestions of respondents have been included.

## 4.5.1 Suggestion to end the socio-cultural discrimination

a) Having asked about the role of women to build the parallel role of male and female in household decision making, 7 respondents replied didn't know anything, 42 respondents said they develop or build self confidence about what they should do, 46 respondents said awareness in society to receive the women role in house hold decision making and rest 10 percent respondents said they should strongly oppose the discrimination. The following chart shows more:

not know
7%
Strong oppose
10%

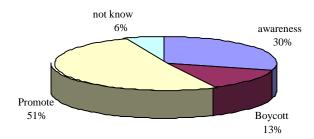
Awareness

43%

Figure No. 4.1: By women oneself

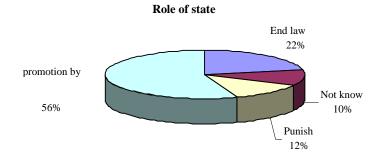
b) Having asked about role of society to build the parallal role of male and female in household decision making 51 percent respondents said awareness in society should promote positive attitudes 30 percent respondents replied that awareness in society, 13 percent respondents said the society should boycott the discriminatory behaviors of society, 31 respondents said they didn't know anything about what society should do, and activities towards the widows ensuring social inclusion. The following chart shows clear:

Figure No. 4.2: By Soceity



c) Having asked about the role of nation to build the parallal role of male and female in household decision making, 22 percent respondents said the state should end the discriminatory laws fostering women, 10 percent replied that they didn't know anything about what the nation should do, 13 respondents said the government should punish the discriminatory behaviors of people and rest 56 respondents said the state should provide training and free education. The following chart shows more:

Figure No. 4.3: Role of State



Training/employment /free education

#### CHAPTER - V

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Women's issue is one of the most neglected issues in Nepal. Basically a woman's life is viewed as no specific and individual value without her husband, son male guardian

Living in trauma, social discrimination and economically deprived conditions, the women have to live in isolation. According to Nepalese social and cultural practice, a woman has to learn a way of life, which is completely different than that of men.

Makwanpur district is a socially, economically and culturally diverse as it is found that here people of different social and cultural backgrounds and different religions with clear social, caste and ethnical stratification prevailing in our society. The study has found that women have been socially, economically and culturally discriminated. In more open and economically rich society the social barriers towards the overall situation of women have been found to be low while as that in rural and rigid society the situation of women has been looked down upon, trapped within a cultural and religious framework.

Likewise, women of Janjati and Dalit were found to be less restricted in customs like social movement, talking to male counterparts, participation in community work, decision on household job according to their wish than of high castes.

Most of the women in the VDCs are illiterate and have no skills except doing household chorus. They are economically poor and of having lack of resources to provide education to their children. They are mostly uneducated and don't have knowledge of property rights to use it effectively.

The role of women was found to be stereotypical that confined them to the household. Most of them were confined to self-employed, unpaid and low-wage informal sector activities. Women doing daily wage had been found to be paid discriminatory wages in comparison to their male counterparts. They had only limited access to resources and control over those resources is far less than access to them. All these limitations, along with household confinement and low educational attainment, restrict their empowerment.

So it is indeed necessary to empower the women to change the whole status of women at all. To empower the women of Nepal, first of all it is important to create awareness in the society in terms of code of behaviors towards women. We need to sensitize ourselves to view the women and its trauma as a natural cycle of women's life.

It was found that some respondents stated the religion as a barrier but religious leaders we met commented against their statement and said that no discrimination and no discriminatory verse written in holy books. It can be said in our every day social life women have been forced guided to follow discriminatory customs.

#### 5.2 Recommendations

While analyzing the information provided by the respondents, KII and FGD, the recommendation has been grouped in two categories as policy level and practical level. The following recommendations have been made based on the findings and a through observation of study:

### a) Policy level recommendations

This recommendation include the state's policy, government role and laws that could benefit the women in long term. The major recommendations are as follows:

- Existing schemes of the government towards women should be redesigned to include empowerment mechanisms whereby women have better controls over resources.
- ➤ Government should have made a long term strategy on social and economical inclusion of women to empower them in sustainable way.
- ➤ Donor agencies could cooperate government to fulfill the strategy.
- There should be provisions for increase in the new skill developmental and economic empowerment programs such as skill-based trainings, collateral free loan and market linkage etc.
- ➤ Integration of rights and roles of women with national and international organization should be done through advocacy, training, workshop and meeting.
- Provision for access to resources and control over them should be made.

### b) Practical level recommendations

The points mentioned here are directly linked with the practical difficulties they face in their life of women. The practical recommendations would ease their life; therefore it is necessary to implement the following activities.

- ➤ The role of women should be made participatory in development activities. Many women have become actors in a variety of economic improvement projects, as well as anti-alcoholism and cleanliness campaigns; this has raised their status in family, community and village life.
- ➤ The access of women to economic opportunities should be increased vegetable farming has generated income and improved health and nutrition by making Vitamin-rich foods available for their family consumption.

- Awareness building campaigns should be done in villages and towns in favour of women which could welcome them in their society and help live respectable life. This should be done for parents, families, in-laws and community people.
- ➤ Most of women have been found to be ill irate; therefore priority should be given to literacy classes to make them literate.
- ➤ All forms of social barriers against women should be eliminated for which they need to be empowered to struggle to break the barriers.
- ➤ Health care facilities and access to them should be ensured.
- There should be income generating programs for them so that they can earn their livelihood.
- They should have right to freely move to learn new things.
- ➤ There should be no restriction of the remarriage to widow. If widows are in marriageable age they should be encouraged to remarry and the parents and in-laws should support for it.
- Some social customs such as restriction to wearing, nutrition, movement, social gathering and talking to male etc. should be corrected. The discriminatory cultures should be discouraged.
- ➤ They should be taught the importance of relation verification certificates and encouraged to get them as soon as possible.

### c) Directions for the future research

- ➤ A nation-wide research is needed to assess the situation of women specially rural areas.
- ➤ The situation of inclusion/exclusion of women should be assessed for the overall development.

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### ANNEX - I

## THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE:

## WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING

1. General Information	on:						
1.1 Name:							
1.2 Caste:							
1.3 Marital Status: I	Married		ii U	Jnmarrie	d		
1.4 Age:							
1.5 Education: i) Lite	erate:		ii) Ill	literate:			
If literate							
Grade							
1. 6 Occupation:							
1.7 Family Structure	(	a) Nuclear					
	(ł	o) Joint					
	(0	e) Extended					
Social Aspects							
2.1 Who takes main re	sponsibilit	y of your inc	loor jo	bs?			
I Female	ii Ma	ale		iii Jo	int		
2.1.1 Why?							
2.2. Who takes decision	ons given y	our job?					
2.3 What kind of marr	iage do you	ı usually hav	ve?				
2.4 In the case of bridegroom, and		marriages,	who	usually	decide	about	the
2.5 Do you use family	planning	measures ?					
a) Yes		b) No					

2.5.1 If yes, what type of F.P. measures do you use?					
a) Permanent					
b) Temporary					
2.5.2 If No, why?					
2.5.3 Who decided to use this method?					
i husband ii wife					
2.6 Who decides upon the selection of the family size?					
i husband ii wife					
2.7 Do you usually have delivery at?					
a) Home					
b) Hospital					
c) Others specify					
3. Economic Aspect:					
3.1 What is the main source of your household income?					
i Agriculture ii Business iii service iv daily wages					
3.2 Who's name belongs to your land certificate ?					
3.3 Do you have any buying and sell your land within two years					
i Yes ii No					
3.3.1 If yes whose name has it been registered?					
3.3.2 Who decide on it?					
i Female ii Male iii joint					
3.4 Who contribute labor and what type ?					
3.5 Is the crop production sufficient for the whole year ?					
a) Yes b) No					
c) If yes surplus					

3.6 Ho	3.6 How is the surplus utilized?					
3.6.1 V	3.6.1 Who decides?					
	i Female	ii	Male	iii joint		
3.7 Wh	o generally	keep	s the ho	usehold money?		
	i Female	ii	Male	iii joint		
Gende	r Aspects					
4.1 W	hat kind of a	activ	ities is p	erformed by female counterparts?		
4.2 W	ho decides t	hese	activitie	es?		
4.3 Do	your childre	n go	to scho	ol?		
a) `	Yes			b) No		
4.4 Are boys given priority over girls to go to school?						
a) <b>Y</b>	es			b) No		
4.4.1 If yes, why?						
4.5 Do	you think th	at g	irls shoul	ld go to school?		
a) `	Yes			b) No		
4.6.1 It	no, why no	t?				
4.7 Who decides whether your children go to school?						
	i Father		ii m	other		
4.8 Are you participating in adult literacy classes?						
a) Y	es			b) No		
4.9 If y	4.9 If yes, who made this decision?					

# 4.10 Access and control of male and female under the household job

Activities	Access and control	
	Female/wife	Male/husband
Buying and selling of house and land		
Gold and ornament		
big livestock		
small livestock		
skill oriented production		
buying and selling of farming production		
labor wages		
Expenses of Health and Education		

### 4.12 Role of Female in Social Activities

Activities	who does		Why
	Female	Male	
social activities			
Marriage, Religious and Cultural ceremonies			
Meeting of community level.			
physical construction of society(Road, Bridge, irrigation			
Birth and Dead event			
participation of community user group			
participation of local representative			
Voting			

- 4.13 Do you think about the household job should be evaluated?
  - i Yes ii No iii don't know
- 4.14 In your opinion, what should be done to make parallel role of male and female in to household decision process?
- 4.15 What types of role are playing the society to determine the household job?
- 4.16 What should be done to change the existing role of society?

#### **ANNEX-II**

### GENERAL CHECK LIST FOR FGD

- > Perception of different religion upon the women
- ➤ Role of different society upon the women
- Daily undergoing practices about the women and within different cast and ethnicity
- > Undergoing practices
- ➤ Are there differences or gap between different religious norms and its practices?
- > Forms of violence
- > Different behavior in different time towards the women
- ➤ Linkage between socio-cultural norms and women practice.
- ➤ How could be minimize in society such type of practices, if it is wrong practice.
- ➤ Trust by community and individual regarding the economic activities of women.
- ➤ Barriers to develop the social and economic condition of women.

### **ANNEX-III**

## **KEY INFORMANT**

Name:				
Address:				
Organization:				
Status:				
Education:				
Sex:				
Plz tell me about the role of male and f	emale in your community.			
Male	Female			
Condition Brahaman and Chhetri wom	en?			
Condition Brahaman and Chhetri men?	?			
Condition non Brahaman and Chhetri v	women?			
Participation of non Brahaman and Chlactivities?	hetri women in community level			
Participation of Brahaman and Chhetri	women in community level activities?			
In your opinion, what should be done in to household decision process?	to make parallel role of male and female			
What types of role are playing the socie	ety to determine the household job?			
What should be done to change the exi	sting role of society?			
What could be done to increase the active and meaningful participation of women in community level activities?				

### **ANNEX IV**

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF FGD

# Makwanpur Gadhi

SN	Name	Address	Age	Position
1	Ramchandra Sapkota	Gadhi 6	38	VDC secretary
2	Nirmala Devkota	Ghadi-6	36	Chairman of women cooperative
3	Dhruba Lamichane	Ghadi-8	20	Incharge of sub health post
4	Ram Prasad Chaurel	Ghadi-4	43	Local entrepreneur
5	Aaitaram Phakrin	Gadhi-5	37	Witchdoctor
6	Ramji Pokharal	Gadhi 7	46	Pandit
7	Chandra Pariyar	Ghadi -2	65	Tailor master
8	Dorje Rama	Gadhi -6	41	Head master of secondary school
9	Pemba lama	Gadhi -3	41	Lama of Baudha
10	Balaram humagai	Gadhi -5	53	Manager of milk cooperative

ANNEX - V MAKWANPUR GADHI VDC#6 MAKRANCHULI

SN	Name of the respondent	Age	Cast
1	Kumari Ghimire	60	Others
2	Nirmala Basnet	35	Do
3	Hira Ghimire	29	Do
4	Thuli kanthi Thing	50	Janajati
5	Dhana maya Bishokarma	28	Dalit
6	Harimaya Ghalan	26	Janajati
7	Seti maya Ghalan	45	Do
8	Aaitimaya Ghalan	45	Do
9	Laxmi Aacharaya	60	Others
10	Sanchamaya Syangtan	40	Janajati
11	Ganga Timsina	34	Others
12	Rammaya Bal	41	Janajati
13	Mangali Maya Bal	52	Do
14	Soiba dolmo Bal	77	Do
15	Birmaya Bal	43	Do
16	Santimaya yonjon	51	Do
17	Susila pariyar	52	Dalit
18	Lila shretha	43	Janajati
19	Jibica Ghalan	22	Do
20	Sunmaya sinhar	62	Do
21	Tika kumari Kapchaki	54	Do
22	Bishnu Maya Khadka	24	Others
23	Dev Kumari Thada	60	Janajati
24	Samikchaya pakharin	19	Do
25	Bimala Aale	39	Do
26	Sabita phuyal	40	Others
27	Sumitra Neupane	85	Do
28	Ranga Nayaki Dahal	80	Do
29	Bhaba Kumari Timsina	55	Do
30	Om Kumari Timsina	62	Do

31	Dil kumari lamsal	56	Do
32	Gira Kumari Dahal	62	Do
33	Lila Sangel	60	Do
34	Padma Lamsal	48	Do
35	Krishna kumari Pakharin	60	janajati
36	Indra Maya Gole	60	Janajati
37	Bishnu deve Devkota	64	Others
38	Yog maya Adhakari	60	Do
39	Shoma Gautam	29	Do
40	Ganga Devkota	54	Do
41	Goma Lamichhane	27	Do
42	Chunamati Pudasaini	23	Do
43	Sita Ghorasaini	59	Do
44	Garima Neupani	25	Do
45	Ambica Sapkota	18	Do
46	Sunmaya Sangel	55	Do
47	Bimala Pulami	60	Dalit
48	Dilmaya pulami	64	Janajati
49	Sanchamaya Thing	54	Do
51	Gita Pulami	47	Dalit
52	Samjhana Ghimire	31	others
53	Devkumari Waiba	46	Janajati
54	Nanu pakharin	44	Do
55	Chandra Lama	60	Do
56	Sun Kumari Sunar	65	Dalit
57	Tukamaya Ghalan	52	janajati
58	Mana prasad Silwal	43	other
59	Kailash Bhomjan	21	janajati
60	Man kumar koirala	56	Other
61	Indra Bd Syantan	51	Janajati
62	Gyan Bd Maharjan	20	Do
63	Santa Bd Shretha	49	Do
64	Bishnu Bd Lama	71	Do
65	Prem Bd Rana	50	Do

66	Jaya. B K	36	Dalit
67	Chabilal B.K	50	Do
68	Krishna Bd BK	24	Do
69	Kamal Thada magar	38	Do
70	Ram Bd Magar	38	Do
71	Samsher Thapa Chetri	60	Others
72	Bhes Bd Thapa	53	Do
73	Satish Thapa	36	Do
74	Manohar Rimal	47	Do
75	Bhagabath Koirala	60	Do
76	Durga Bd Thapa	39	Do
77	Lila Dahal	37	Do
78	Bishnu Bd Thapa	55	Do
79	Santa Kumar Lamichane	24	Do
80	Laxman Ghimire	25	Do

### **ANNEX VI**

### PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RESPONDENTS



Researcher with respondents



Priliminary discussion on thies proposal with members of Himal women cooperative