

CHAPTER-ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

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

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

It is found a large gender inequality, male are given preference in any socio economic activities. We find involvement of male in district and national level programmed rather than women. Many opportunities are given to male rather than women from the household bases. Women's participation is minimum in every decision making and job opportunities.

The majority of women in Nepal where the choice for livelihood is limited to agriculture work than the father in law, husband, landlord and brother. Most of the females are economically dependent on male. They have to ask to their male partners to spend their own income also. Very few women are economically independent and they have little bit higher decision-making power. Socio-economic status of female affects the women's participation in society. However they are capable and potential,

their capability and potentiality do not respect if they have low socio-economic status. As females are less educated they have low decision-making power. These woman who have higher education and sound economic background, have higher chances in decision making.

It is essential for the development that male and female should enjoy equal opportunities for decision-making, in policy making and programmed implementation as well as in monitoring and evaluation. But women are out of mainstream of development and participation of decision-making process. Women have been suffered from exploitation and injustice to empower women. Social-cultural norms, values and practices are being changed positively. As well as decision-making process should be addressed to lunch many formal and informal programme. Policy and programme should be formulated and implemented properly to address the problems of women. This study has tried to show the impact of education and occupation status on household decision-making.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Women are under the decision of father in her childhood, under the decision of husband in her adulthood and under the decision of son in her old age of life. The decision making power of female is very low in Nepal. The women educational status is very low in Nepal due to the employment status so economic factor is the fundamental element for decision making. If women would have equipped with well economy then her decision power was higher.

Women in Nepal hold the triple work responsibility of reproduction, house holding and employment for these all work they do not have power to decide independently. The employment status is very low for females, which plays significant role for decision making. Most of the domestic burdens and responsibilities should be solved by women. The last and critical decisions are strongly handled by males

It is believed that the female dominated family is considered to have so called loose commanded *pothi baaseko*. The women are deprived from this power respecting so called cultural and traditional values.

The 1981 and 1991 national census showed that the literary rate of females was 12 percent and 25 percent respectively as a whole in the country. According to 2001 census 42.5 percent of female were literate. The state literacy is improving but it is not satisfactory. (CBS, 1981, 1991 and 2001)

This study aims to fill the partially gap by identifying the status of female household decision making of Ghorahi Municipality Dang. Therefore a fair understanding of how female played decision making role in household.

Men have major role of decision-making and men ask women only formally, in 2001 census, women's population is more than half of the total (CBS,2001) but women's decision-making power in household activities is negligible. Decision making is important part, which measures the relative status of the household members. Any research works have not been done in Ghorahi Municipality of Dang district yet. This study has proved low socio-economic status of women found as a variant in less access in household decision-making in the research site. This study shows the current situation of married women in household decision-making according to their age group, caste/ethnicity and educational status in the study area. Which further pays way outs and provides guidelines to other researcher to conduct research on this issue and contribute in improving women's status in decision-making process.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to examine the household decision making status of women in urban area like Ghorahi municipality Dang. The objectives are as follows.

- To examine the household decision-making power of women.
- To examine the socio-cultural status and difference of decision making power of women. In household, political, economic, contraception and their own individual freedom.
- To examine their decision making power by their age group, cast/ethnicity and level of education.

1.4 Significance of the study

The study signifies at both applied and theoretical level. The study centralizes upon women's ability as strength as well as their weaknesses. The male dominated society has discarded the women's participation in social, political and economical fronts. The planners and policy maker advocates and professional needs to concentrate and characterized their energy as power in order to address. The issue of gender discrimination and should implement various programs based on women's self-confidence decision-making skills and ability to envision a better life. The importance of the study is as follows:

- This study is important to explain socio-economic and household decision-making power of women.
- It will be helpful to those organizations which are working in this field to identify the situation of women in household decision-making and implement some welfare program to improve their status.
- It is also helpful for other researcher to conduct further research in the issue of women's participation in household decision-making power according to their age group, cast/ethnicity and educational status.

Decision-making skills and ability to envision a better life, and which address the concern of Nepalese men, as they are the one's who will need to share power with women. This study directly illustrates the roles are holding of women in the family. In the light of the finding many new dimensional part to accelerate and enhance the participation of women in development sector.

1.5 Limitation of the study

- This is a micro level study which focuses on Ghorahi Municipality of Dang District.
- The study concerned only the married women to the household decision-making.

1.6 Chapter Plan

The study is divided into six chapters

Chapter-one holds the background of the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study organization of the study.

Chapter-two deals with the literature review from the various books, journals, publication etc. Theories and research reports on the concept the regarding the status of women, role of women in decision making, women's rights and legislation regarding the women's rights and empowerments.

Chapter-three comprises of research methodology used in the study like sampling, procedure, sources of data method of data collection etc.

Chapter-four holds the background characteristics of respondents.

Chapter-five deals with the data analysis and interpretation section where the information gathered by questionnaire interpreted specially regarding to household decision making and variables like age group, caste ethnicity and educational status.

Chapter-six deals to the summary of finding and conclusions of the whole study. It also includes recommendations on the basis of the findings.

CHAPTER-TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empowerment is an all comprehensive process. One definition of empowerment says it is “The process of gaining control over the self over ideology and resources which determine power (Batiwala, 1993, cited in Acharya, 1997). It is all embracing because it must address all structure of power.” It is process which enables women to meet both their practical as well as strategic needs. Practical needs relate to immediate problems such as poverty, water, health etc. These needs may be met to a certain extent within the existing social structure meeting strategic needs like access to property and wealth, changing the division of labor and the system of unequal wages, and gaining control over their own bodies on the other hand is challenging the existing structures of oppression (Acharya, 1997).

You can not get power by asking, demanding or complaining. You get power by claiming it. First you need to make yourself powerful. Women in general have been weakened emotionally and intellectually by the relentless challenges of a patriarchal misogynistic and materialistic culture .So these are the components of women empowerment.

Women’s empowerment is an important issue of development discourse appeared in the late 20th century .It envisages the promotion of women’s right and participation in social, economic, political and cultural paradigms that have close bearing in women’s respectful and visible existence. So, if the nation wants to gain something from women, their first duty should be to given equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc (Pokhrel, 2009).

Women’s empowerment can be defined as building capabilities of women enriched by political, economic, social, legal and cultural power so that they utilized their potentiality for optimum well being. This is further to expand the choices so that they can decide-Who they are, what they want to be and how they want to be. Women’s empowerment is to remove the limits which are against the well being of women

imposed by unfair social, Economic cultural, political and legal system (Pokhrel et all).

(Acharya, 1997) On the issues of women's Empowerment various conventions and conference are held. Gender equality has become a motto for international conventions & conferences sponsored by institution under UN-umbrella. All UN conventions and conferences have emphasized women's participations and their empowerment and main streaming. Since 1975 UN conferences as women (Mexico) the world community has acquired or great deal of knowledge about the situation of women world wide and gained valuable insight in to process of development from a gender prospective (Pradhan, 2009).

Women's Participation in politics is fundamental requirement for equality. Unless women are brought into the decision making level there remains a sort of discrimination in legislation which ultimately influences all aspects of economic, social and political life. Equal participation of women in all spheres of social, political and economic agendas is a milestone for empowerment (Pokherel, 2009).

Demand for empowerment follow with the struggle for freedom and justice that continued for generations in various parts of the world. Government should be initiative in the areas where women are deprived and suffered. Poverty health, politics, education, environment, civil service and household works are the areas the progresses have to intervene. The agreements made in several conferences and the international instruments are the land marks for the way ahead. They provide directives for the all those involved in raising women's status. Integrating women into main stream development is not making them a voiceless witness but on active participant and decision maker (Khanal, 2006).

The universal declaration of human rights states that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his as her country. The empowerment and authority of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential to the achievement of both transparent and accountable government, administration and sustainable development. The power relations that prevent women

from leading fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the highly public. Achieving the goal of equal participation among women and men in decision making shall provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society. Women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for simple justice and democracy but is also a necessary condition for their interests to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of their perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goal and objective of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved. So measures to ensure women's equal access and full participation with respect to power structure and decision-making processes (ILO 2002: 110-111).

The ICPD (1994) Program of action states that countries should act to empower women as soon as possible by establishing mechanisms for women's equal participation in and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life and enabling women to articulate their concerns and needs (SWP, 1995).

Women in power and decision making have become the subject of wider debate until now however the achievement is almost invisible. Women's decision making power has got two dimensions, first is the quantitative dimensions and second is the qualitative dimension. The qualitative dimension relates to the capacity of the women as their assertion capacity to exercise their rights, their demanding capacity and enabling environment for it. There have been some improvements in the quantitative aspect by introduction of some representation for women in the local election and representation of the political bodies (BBC 2004: 24).

Women's participation in the other part of governance (civil service) in higher position is also another highly ignored sector. The current hiring and promotion rules in the government services are not enabling for women to be in decision-making position. More positive discriminatory provisions are required to allow more women to reach in higher positions in the civil service sector. And more gender friendly in the services rules. In household there is no major change in patriarchal thinking of males in decision-making positions. Household chores are through only to be women's, responsibility, so that they have very little access to power positions (CEDAW, 2004).

As a strategy, the process of empowerment may start with any of the multiple approaches such as income generation, awareness rising, and adult education, family planning health clinics etc. provided the ultimate goal of freedom from all kinds of oppression is clear and a path to reach this goal is charted out. The end product of empowerment is the development of a personality, which is self-confidence, which understands the processes of social interaction, economic resources allocation and has the power to decide and also has enough options for choosing where to work and how one wants to live (Acharya, 1997).

Women's social participation is visit to enhance their capability and understand. The social problems as well as improve household scenario. This is two fold works as encourages them to establish their rights and status with in the family and contribute to the development of society with their potentials. Political participation, membership in non-governmental organizations and also in various groups gives them insight of collective behaviour and process of decision making. Participatory activities would further ensure safe and secured environment in local level due to their enhanced prestige and recognize in less physical and mental abuse. Involvement of women indecision making thus benefit, them individually, families, community and Nation as a whole (Acharya, 2009: 21).

Husbands were the main decision maker as to whether to terminate a pregnancy. It was found that if the husband decides to keep the unintended pregnancy to term his wife would have few or no options to alter the decision. It was not possible in this study to assess whether women with unintended pregnancies had resorted to abortion without informing their husbands. Nevertheless, the finding indicates discordance in responses between husbands and wives regarding the final outcomes. For example, of 12 husbands who said their wives had successful abortions, two of these wives responses did not match with their husbands' responses. Like as, among those seven husbands who reported abortion failures, these responses matched only with four wives (CREHPA, 2007:3).

When the male head of the household is faced with a decision to be made (often brought to his attention by his wife), he first presides over an open discussion, looking for consensus, and then announces a decision that expresses the consensus. Other family members actively participate in this process. Children, old people, even hired ploughmen may contribute to the discussion (Which for convenience usually takes place around mealtime as just after a meal). But he listens most carefully to his wife's contributions and in practice often defers to her in the decision, relying on her experience, especially in agricultural matters, and formulating a consensus that reflects her position. She in her turn defers to him as the one whose role is to make and announce the decision. Thus in public, private and mirrored in the functioning of the decision-making process. So, intended to reveal Nepalese village life as a dynamics can be of ultimately practical benefit to the decision (but decisive in their own way) village people of Nepal (Casper and Miller, 2002: 239, -240, 252).

About half of the women participate in decisions about their own health care, making major household purchases, making daily household purchases and visiting family and friends. However, one third of women do not participate in any of those decisions at all (MOH, 2006:12).

Women's access in economic assets and property, there is no ground to believe that women's access to land and other economic resources has increased in the last 20-25 years as their legal rights over property and inheritance has not changed much during this period. Even the recently promulgated amendment, to the law on property rights of women does not change her access to parental property substantially. The law does provide easier access to property in her final household. As the census 2001, about 11 percent of the households reported some land in female legal ownership (Acharya, 2003: 47)

Women's position in the family and society determine by religion. The existing religions differ in their approach to God and salvation; one common feature they share is the allocation of inferior status of women. In spite of religious tenets, taboos also play a role in establishing women's lower position in the society. Nepal has two major religions: Hinduism and Buddhism, among them 86.5 percent are Hindus and

7.8 percent are Buddhist. Broadly speaking, Buddhist women do enjoy better position compare to Hindu women, but within their own community, their status is lower in compare to men. The notions of purity and impurity, which are dominant caste system, are even more stringent in relation to women. Menstruation and childbirth are considered impure and these accords women lower status than men from lower caste. The religious scriptures also influence women that they consider themselves subordinate to their male counterparts, as especially Hindu women consider it their duty to take orders from their husbands. Their whole life revolves around their husbands and children and only few have individual identities. Thus, women's status is poor compared to the men (FWLD, 2003:3).

A wide overview of status of women's decision-making power in household is claiming that economic factor affect women's role in decision-making both directly and indirectly. If a women has a greater economic participation. She has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making e.g. Small size of children imply higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women (Acharya 1981).

Women in Nepal are much less likely to be educated then men. Half (49 percent) of women, in the households interviewed in the NDHS had never attended school compared to only 23 percent of men. More than a third of men in the households had attended at least some secondary school, while only one in five women reached this level of education. Men are also more likely to be employed then women (99 percent versus 83 percent) and in 70 percent of cases men earn more than their wives (MOH 2006:12).

A change in the status of women requires a change in both men's and women's attitude towards interpersonal relation and behaviour. The harmonious partnership between men and women improve the decision-making power of women. An improved decision-making power results in higher gender equality and lower level of fertility. Men play a key role in bringing about gender equality. A better communication between men and women on all issues including sexually and

reproductive health ensures in the understanding of their joint responsibilities. Efforts to improve the state of equal partnership of men and women in public and private life would eventually improve the status of women resulting in desired demographic consequences (ILO, 2002 63).

Literacy is the most important means of attaining socio-economic development and of opening for the individual, the door to innovative ideas and actions. Literacy enhances access to information that may be necessary to conduct various essential activities in daily life and work. It enable a person to improve his knowledge base, acquire education information and make progress in life, which is directly or indirectly related to the decision making power of people. The overall literacy rate in 2001 was 54 percent for both sexes, 65.5 percent for the males and 42.8 percent for females. The widened gap (i.e. 22.7) percent in literacy between women and men. So, here is less access of women in decision-making (CBS, 2002, 23-238).

Women's empowerment must involve women making choice that enhance their individual well-being. In addition to that, there well being further enhances their families and communities. Integrated empowerment programs results in measurable behavioural change in women. Women who have participated in such programs often become more active participate in their households and communities and as a result contribute more to the growth of Nepal's economy. Although the constitution offers women equal educational opportunities, many social, economic and cultural factors contributed to lower enrollment and the higher dropout rate among girls. Illiterate women are caught and in a vicious circle imposed on them by Nepal's patriarchy. Women's comparatively low societal status has hindered their education, and intern their lack of education has hindered their status within society (BBC, 2004).

In domestic work, women play a significant, it not a predominant, role in agricultural production. One participatory research project found that women do more agricultural work than men in the high mountain areas, equal to or more than men in the middle hills, and slightly less than men in the terai. Women both as participants and decision makers, share the responsibilities for planting, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, carrying grains to the mill for grinding, and collecting woods, water and fodder.

Women's involvement is also significant in the care and management of livestock and poultry, and as well as in kitchen gardening, while women participate in agriculture throughout Nepal; the character of their participation is not uniform. The participation of women in agriculture is quite different in the hills and in the terai. In the complex social system of the hills, women's participation in agriculture furthers various tremendously according to social group. Despite women's important role in agriculture, traditional social norms and customary laws, which are often gender biased area barrier to women's equitable access to productive resources (BBC 2004: 23-24).

It has been found that lower literacy status among the women is the result of economic, social and cultural early marriage involvement of agriculture work, lack of awareness and ignorance of the parent are the major causes behind lower literacy rate and low education levels. Due to the low educational levels, decision making power of women is low (Limbu 2007:82).

The higher education available to women, greater ability to control their reproductive and sexual lives and the more opportunities for participating in economic and social activities, including employment. Equally significant higher education also enables women to influences policies and decisions that affect the empowerment of women in other areas of public life at both national and international levels (PPD, 2003).

The proportion of women employees declines as one move up the administrative hierarchy of the total 647 special and first class officers. Only 26 are women (4.02) (HRN, 2003:76).

The women are struggled to reconcile activities outside home with their traditional roles. They cannot participate fully in economic and public life, have limited access to position of influence and power and have narrower occupation choices and lower earning than men. In the majority of the countries, women comprise 10 to 30 percent of managers and occupy less than 5 percent of the very highest economic position. In addition, there has been significant improvement in the percentage of females among, managerial and administrative worker, individual countries report significantly higher

percentage in the United States, Botswana and Guatemala; for example, women constitute 40 percent, 26 percent and 32 percent of these positions, respectively (Limbu, 2007:10).

Decision-making power of female especially, in the study area at home and farm affairs among the rural families. She goes on to emphasis education of women as an important factor in the matter of decision process. In her words `Educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counter parts`. She has stated that she has never seen women as final decision makers in many household matters except for cases for food and nutrition of children. The male members of the family solely do the financial activities. She claims that women have greater input in household decision-making if they are from medium status. She also claims that the socio-economic status is closely linked with women's power of decision-making (Kaur, 1987:120).

Large number of women was literate in study area out of 150 respondents, 58 percent are literate but they are concentrated on primary level and non-formal sector. Brahmin/Chhetri, women are more literate then the other caste groups. It is found that increase the levels of education means decreasing the number of females attainment in school. The major cause of dropout is early marriage. Brahmin/Cheetri, women have high decisive role in household expect decision on dowry and age and decision on children's education. Among the respondents about 78.7 percent have decision on usually cooked their food. Women have loose command over their own property showing (Paudel, 2003).

“Role of women in household decision-making, A comparative study of Dalit, Janajati and Khas married women in vyas Municipality of Tanahun District.” In this study, Gurung cleared that the socio-economic status among the Dalit, Janajati and Khas community. The major findings of this dissertation as: The majority of the respondents are married expect in Dalit, 20 percent are separated and 2 percent are widow and in Janajati, 2 percent are widow. Among 3 ethnic groups 30 percent of Dalit, 14 percent of Janajati and 10 percent of Khas respondents are illiterate. Majority of the respondents from each ethnic group are housewives. Among Dalit 20 percent, Janajati 40 percent and Khas 36 percent respondents are engaged in

agricultural activities. Majority of the respondents expect Janajati respondent take decision on cropping themselves. Among three ethnic groups, only 20 percent of Dalit respondents take decision on dowry in children's marriage. About 53 percent of Dalit, 50 percent of Janajati and 43 percent of Khas take decision on income generating activities by themselves. As per the occupation majority of Janajati respondents (48.3 percent) engaged in agriculture activities and 50 percent of Dalit respondents engaged in non agricultural activities take decision on type of fuel themselves (Gurug, 2007).

“Impact of occupational and Educational” status of married women in household Decision-making: A case study of Sanischare VDC of Morang District. The major finding of his dissertation as large number of women engaged in agricultural works in study area. Out of 108 respondents, 84.3 percent are engaged in agriculture along with self-agriculture and other agriculture. Large number of women is literate in study area. Out of 108 respondents, 65 percent are literate but they are concentrated on the secondary and primary level. Huge share of literate respondents belongs to secondary level and 25-39 years age group. Brahmin women are more literate then other caste groups. It is found that increasing the levels of education means decreasing the number of females' education attainment. The major cause of dropout is marriage. Respondents with secondary level and agriculture occupation have high decisive role on all sectors expect dowry, selling home/land and 'Pewa' cattle. Majority of respondents choose husband and husband/self as final decision maker (Limbu, 2007).

“Woman's Education status and Their Decision Making Power in Household Activities: A case study of Itahari Municipality, Sunsari.” The major findings of her dissertation as: Out of the total female respondents 104 of them were found to be currently married, 4 of them widow and 2 of them are divorced. Most of the women in survey were Hindu (90 percent) followed by Buddhist (6.4 percent) and Muslim (3.6 percent). 40 percent of women are forced to have baby without their own choice. 65.5 percent women respondent use family planning where only 20 percent of their husbands use family planning. Only 10.9 percent respondents have ownership in business and industry. 80 percent of women who have to take permission to spent money even though they are keeping money and only 20 percent women spent money without permission. The survey of Itahari women's outdoor participation is high and

maximum women i.e. 69.1 percent said that they have freedom to decide upon outdoor participation but only 30.9 percent said that they have no freedom in such participation and only 20 percent are involved in politics (Gautam, 2006).

The above referenced studies show that the decision-making power is surrounded by various factors. In Nepal, female constitute more than half of total population with poor status, more than half of total population with poor status. More female are engaged in household activities without decision making power. They have to follow their male partners in most cases. It can be concluded from the above studies, that females have low decision-making power due to lack of proper socio-cultural, economic and demographic status specially lack of education and agricultural work. Females have more responsibilities in household chores, agricultural activities or labor force but they have less chance to decide freely but participate more. The massive literatures in the field of role of women in decision-making show that there are very few women in political decision-making level. Women from Tibeto-Burman groups are socially less constrained to women of Indo-Aryan groups. Men are found more participated in household decision-making than women. In this context, men are superior to women, Thus, Those women should bring into the mainstream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully decision-making power in every sector of development.

CHAPTER -THREE

METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the chain process or method applied from data collection, processing and analysis to finding conclusion. It is also general plan of how the research is going about answering the research questions the researcher has set. This chapter is deals with methods employed while constructing the research study in order to achieve the research objectives. The major contents of research methodology are as follows.

3.1 Introduction of the study area

Among the five district of Rapti Zone Dang is one, which has covered 2955 sq km its bordering districts are Kapilvastu and Arghakanchi in the east, Surkhet and Banke in the west, salyan, rolpa and Pyuthan in the north and northern part of the India in the South it is situated in inner Terai. This District comprises of five electoral constitution, 2 Municipality and 39 village development committee. The Headquarter of this district is Ghorahi. The population of this district is 462929. Among them 228763 are males and 234166 are females (2001 census)

Ghorahi municipality is divided in to 11 wards. The municipality is situated in the center of the Dang Districts. This municipality is the biggest valley of southern Asia. Total area of this municipality is 75 square k. m.(sources Ghorahi municipality 2067). According to CBS report 2001, the total population of the municipality is 431124 and the total household is 8945. The density of this district is 579.26. Among the 11 ward of this municipality, the study covered ward no.5 where total population is 2162 (1043 are males and 1119 are females) and the total household are 446. The study area was particularly selected to study, featuring low age at marriage and educational status as well as suffering from many kinds of discrimination. Tstudy is an urban area even though this area is a bit far from urban facilities. It is like a village. Low status of decision making persisted significantly. I think this is the first study of decision – making power of women in this study area.

3.2 Method of data collection

To fulfill the objectives of research, collection of data is very important. During the research study, the data were collected with the help of both structure and non-structure questionnaire including all questions, which were needed to collect the information, related to respondents socio-economic activities. According to the needs, the researcher had to use other techniques such as informal Interview schedule.

3.3 Sampling procedure

The total sample size for this study is 151 among 446 households. All of them were chosen from ward no. 5 of Ghorahi municipality of Dang district. Out of 11 wards, ward no. 5 is taken for the study of women's household decision making status by their age group, caste/ethnicity and education. Purposive sampling method has been adopted because of the time restriction. In this study 151 married women were interviewed to have the required information.

3.4 Sources of data

Sources of data are the primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected from the direct field visit, (personal interview. The secondary data were collected from the various type of relevant literature, such as articles, books, municipality profiles, website, journals, news papers, reports etc. publications and concerned offices and an unpublished dissertation also.

3.5 Data processing, presentation and analysis

After collection of data, data processing is done for drawing out meaningful results. The researcher gets raw data from the field then editing and coding it. So, it needs to be analyzed to get fruitful results. The collected data are analyzed by using the methods such as frequency distribution, Figure, and cross tabulation to help the SPSS computer software programs. To present the result in more simple way different cohort has been presented where necessary.

3.6 conceptual Frame Work

Figure 3.1 Conceptual Frame Work of the study

CHAPTER-FOUR

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENT:

This chapter deals with the demographic, social and economic characteristic of respondents. The characteristics of respondents in many aspects like age composition, religious composition, education status, income level etc. deals in this chapter

4.1 Characteristics of the Respondents

4.1.1 Age group of the respondent

In demography, age group is the group of a population according to the number and proportion of population. Decision –making roles are different in people according to their ages. The five years composition of respondents as follows:

Table 4.1 Distribution of the respondents by age group

Age group	Number	Percent
15-19	3	2.0
20-24	9	6.0
25-29	23	15.2
30-34	21	13.9
35-39	29	19.2
40-44	22	14.6
45-49	27	17.9
50-54	9	6.0
55-59	7	4.6
60-64	1	0.7
Total	151	100

Sources: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.1 shows that highest respondents are found in age group 35-39 ie.19.2 percent and lowest respondents are found in age groups 15-19 years ie.2.0 percent.

We further describes this Table mainly three groups of age first i.e. Less then 30, second 30-49 and third 50-64

4.1.2 Age at marriage of the respondent

Age at marriage is one of the most important factors, which is a key determinant of the fertility. Marriage marks the point in a women’s life when childbearing becomes socially acceptable. The early age at marriage contributes a relatively long period of childbearing age for women, while the marriage is postponed to some extent contributes respectively shorter span of their childbearing. The women who tend to marry early in their reproductive ages are likely to bear more then that of women who marry late. Information on age at marriage was obtained by asking respondents the year of the age at marriage at the study area

Table: 4.2 Percentage of age at marriage by age group cross table

Age group	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	Total
>30	3.31	11.25	8.60	0	23.18
30-44	4.64	19.87	21.85	1.32	46.68
45+above	6.62	17.88	4.64	0	29.14
Total	14.57	49.01	35.10	1.32	100

Source: Field Survey: 2011

Table 4.2 represents the age at marriage of the respondents. It is found that highest (49.01 percent) for 15-19 years of age group and lowest (1.32percent) for 25-29 years of age group. Similarly 14

14.57 percent are found in age group 10-14 years and 35.10 percent are found in age group 20-24 years. The mean age at marriage is 18.19 years.

4.1.3. Occupation of the respondents

Decision making power inspires empowerment and that ultimately help in deriving the quality of life. Decision-making power is determined by various factors such as socio-economic, political, etc. Among them, the income source plays a vital role. Occupation enhances women to step in equal footing with men and believed that it

will empower women and bring about a reduction in the inequalities between male and female.

Table 4.3 Distribution of the respondents by their occupation

Occupation	Number	percent
Agriculture	93	61.6
Service	44	29.2
Business	4	2.6
Other	10	6.6
Total	151	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.3 shows that agriculture is the major occupation of the respondent ie.61.6 percent. It is found that 2.6 percent respondents are involved in business as their occupation. Like wise; the respondents engaged in services occupation also recorded 7.5 percent. Similarly, 'other' category constituted 9.2 percent of the respondents.

Table 4.4 percentage of occupation by caste/ethnicity cross tabs

Caste	Agriculture	Service	Business	Other	Total
Brahmin/chhetri	10.6	32.8	10.6	0.01	45.7
Hill janjati	9.3	11.9	4.6	0.01	26.5
Tharu	16.6	2.7	0.01	0	19.9
Dalit	2.6	2.7	1.3	0	6.6
Other	0	0.01	0.01	0	1.3
Total	39.1	41.7	17.88	1.3	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.4 shows the percentage of occupation to their caste/ethnicity. Out of total Brahmin/chhetri respondents 32.84 says their occupation is service. 11.92 percent Hill janjati are engaged in service. 16.56 percent tharu are engaged in agrtculture.

4.1.4 Level of education of the respondents

Education is one of the most influential factors affecting an individual's attitude, knowledge and behaviour in various aspects of life. Not surprisingly, educational attainment in Nepal is very low among women, who are much more disadvantaged than men. Educational attainment is directly related to the economic status of respondents. Education of women plays vital role on mainstreaming toward the empowerment that sharply needed in Nepal. Female education brings greater opportunity to participate in society by allowing exposure to command over resources inside as well as out side the home. Education is an important institution shows the way to make the advanced society. It further helps provide the changing attitude and for attribute conventional one. It provides vision skill and improves ones social status. In this way education is very important characteristic of all member of society. So to know their education status it is important. Here below education status of women was investigated during their marriage.

Table 4.5 Distribution of respondents by level of education

Level of education	Number	percent
No education	48	31.8
Literate	37	24.5
Above SLC	42	27.8
Higher degree	24	15.9
Totel	151	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.6 shows the distribution of respondents by the level of education. Most of the respondents (24.5 percent) were only literate. And 27.8 percent reach SLC level, only 24.5 percent in higher degree and highest percent ie.31.8 wesre also illiterate.

Table 4.6 Percentage of level of education by caste/ethnicity cross tabs

Caste/ethnicity	Primary	Secondary	Intermediate	bachelor	Master	Total
Brahmin/chhetri	4.9	11.7	19.4	10.7	3.9	50.5
Hill janjati	10.7	6.9	4.9	5.8	1.9	30.1
Tharu	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.9
Dalit	0.0	2.91	1.0	1.9	1.0	6.8
Total	16.5	27.1	29.1	20.4	6.8	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.6 shows the distribution of respondents by caste/ethnicity. Out of total respondents Brahmin/chhetri was more educated among others i.e. 4.85 percent primary, 11.65 percent secondary, 19.42 percent intermediate, 10.68 percent bachelor and 3.88 percent master degree. (50.49 percent total)

Other caste/ethnic groups, hill janjati 30.10 percent educated tharu 2.91 percent and dalit 6.80 percent only educated.

4.1.5 Caste/ethnic composition of the study population

The group of population is defined by common culture or castes that have some collective identity referred to ethnicity. These groups have common language, religion and occupation in certain territory. Distinct castes are found inhabited at ward no. 5 in Ghorahi Municipality. But these all caste/ethnic groups are Hindu religion.

Table 4.7 Distribution of caste/ethnic composition in the study population

Caste/ethnicity	Number	percent
Brahmin/chhetri	69	45.7
Hill janajati	42	27.8
Tharu	30	19.9
Dalit	10	6.6
total	151	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.7 shows that the most prominent caste/ethnic group is Brahmin/Chhetri ie.45.7 percent. Followed by hill Janjati i.e. 27.8, tharu and dalit are found 19.9 and 6.6 respectively.

4.1.6 Dowry system

Dowry system reveals as a cultural practice of Hindu traditional society initiated throughout the Nepalese society as well as Indian society. Practicing of dowry system, an wealthy elite person can presented or endowed dowry that include, ornament, expensive, jewels, money, land and other properties bride daughter on the occasion of marriage ceremony. Dowry is completely pertinence to the social prestigious and status because excess of wealth can be given bride daughter, to maintain the social prestigious. Since, a daughter is given birth traditionally, she inherent the dowry as her mother originated. Impact of dowry descended since last long century ago, commenced by feudal lords of king's, elite etc, to give her daughter pleasure and bright future. Later it developed as dowry system to which it should be followed on compulsory basis in Hindu society wishing on the helpful and pleasure life of couples'. At the same time, a woman in Hindu Society could not inherit the father's property so she must be given or presented the dowry from the father's side.

In the context of Nepal entire situation of practicing dowry system least diminishes. Theoretically, more people persistence against the dowry system, but in practice only exceptional people have abandoned or took up. Neither intellectual, educated person neither could give-up this system nor implemented effective procedures against the conventional practice of dowry system. So far to talk in the case of Dang district though the dowry system is not saw dense but indirectly them except to have more dowries from bride side.

Table 4.8 Distribution of the respondents of dowry in marriage

Dowry in the marriage	Number	percent
Yes	1	0.8
No	118	99.2
Total	119	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.8 shows that 99.2 percent respondents are dislike dowry of their marriage and only 0.8 percent like dowry.

4.1.7 Use of the family planning of the respondents

Family planning is to make the family life happy through appropriate management of family size and mobilization of various sources. The greatest contribution of family planning program lies in avoiding unwanted pregnancies and thereby unplanned births and making sure that all births are planned. Family planning means the conscious effort of couples to regulate the number and spacing of births through artificial and natural methods of contraception. Family planning cannot conception control to avoid pregnancy and abortion, but it also includes efforts of couple to induce pregnancy. Family planning program play a key role in providing the information and services that help people make informed reproductive rights and use contraception safely effectively.

4.1.8 Ever use of family method of the respondents

Ever use of family planning method are indicates their history of using family methods. Data on ever use of contraception has especial significance because it reveals the cumulative success of program promotion the use of family planning among couples at any time, with no distinction between past and present use. In 2006 NDHS, respondents who had heard of a method of family planning were asked if they had ever used a method.

Ever use of family planning methods may have significant impact to manage the rapid growing population and environment problems. Most of the under developed and developing countries are out of its proper use because of the traditional, low level of education non availability. Ever use if contraception varies with women's age. The pattern of ever use is curvilinear, with use being lowest among women in the youngest age group (15-19) increasing with age and reaching a level among in their thirties before declining thereafter. In the study ever married women were asked about the ever use of family planning methods. The respondents are tabulated 4.7.

Table 4.9 Distribution of the respondent use of family planning methods

Ever use of family planning	number	percent
Yes	101	66.9
No	50	33.1
Total	151	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.9 shows that among 151 respondents only 101 respondents ever use contraception ie.66.9 percent.

4.1.9 Participatory Institution of the respondents

In this segment, participation of respondents in different level of the committees such as female committee, political, and social management committee that shows the self-confidence build of future life

Table 4.10 Distribution of the respondent participation in social activities.

Social institution	number	percent
Female committee	119	90.8
Social management committee	12	9.2
Total	131	100

Source: Field Survey 20110

Table 4.10 shows that 90.8 percent of the respondents were participate in female committee (female committee was saving and credit committee, these committee was organized by poverty alleviation programme, these was Governmental and Non Governmental institutions). Similarly only 9.2 percent of the respondents involved in social management committee (social management committee is that types of committee where the involvement means the females are in decision making position

like school management and community forest program). In this study area social management committee participation of the respondents is negligible i.e. 9.2percent.

4.1.10. Preference of son

Nepal is a multi religious country, with diverse religion and cultural tradition beliefs. But most of the people are Hindus. In national level 8.6 percent people are Hindus (census 2001).But the study area is Hindu religion area. In that area there was no any other religion found. In Hindu religion son is most important to fulfill the different traditional rituals.(like death ceremony and other functions).

Table 4.11 Preference of those respondents who have only two daughters in the study area.

Preference for son	Number	percent
Yes	5	45.5
No	9	54.5
Total	11	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.11 Shows there are negligible cases of son preference about 151 respondents only 11 cases are found who have only two daughter and there is only 5 cases are found in the side of compulsion of son.

4.1.11 main sources of income in the family

Income level signifies the economic standard as well as living standard of people. The more income allowed affording the various things that are necessary for modern livelihood.

Table 4.12 Distribution of respondents by main sources of income

Source of income	number	percent
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Agriculture	59	39.1
Manufacturing	2	1.3
Business/industry	27	17.9
Service	63	41.7
Total	151	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.12 shows that service was the main source of income of the respondent i.e.41.7 percent and followed by Agriculture which was 39.1 percent. Other source of income was Business/industry i.e.17.9and manufacturing was only 1.3 percent.

CHAPTER-FIVE

HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING

This segment of dissertation deals with the information of the women's decision-making power of household of the study area .Decision regarding to use of contraception, education for children, buying household purchases, involvement of income generating activities, social activities etc. In course of analyzing the role of

women in household decision. Women participation in decision-making on household sphere may affect the every aspects of life.

Women participation in the decision making process is an important indicator of their empowerment. In Nepalese society very low women get the opportunity of decision making on household sphere because Nepalese patriarchal society have traditional belief that women should live under the shadow of son, husband and parents in her old age, youth and childhood respectively. Even in a highly educated and cultured family women are judged as a human being of second stage. They are not asked even to decide the case of related with women. As for example selling and purchasing land livestock male take their self decision. Nepalese society assigns some strict gender roles for men and women that lead to discriminatory practices against women.

5.1. Decision on currently use of family planning method

Use of family planning methods are indicates their history of using family planning methods. Ever use of family planning methods may have significant impact to manage the rapid growing population and environmental problem. Most of the under developed and developing countries are out of its proper use because of tradition, low level of education, non availability etc. most of the un educated couples in the study area are seen away from the discussion between husband and wife for using contraception. Though, wives have been using the means of contraception secretly with the help of female health assistance or midwife. Most of the women in the study area are using injectable methods of contraception. Ever use of contraception varies with women's age. The pattern of ever used is curvilinear with use being lowest among women in the youngest age group (15-19), increasing with age and reaching a level among in their thirties before declining thereafter.

Table 5.1 Percentage of ev Other caste group are Brahmin and chhetri, most of the Brahmin and chhetri respondents are literate however high age differences and educational gap between husband and wife determine the decision making power of respondents. Ranju Rijal says, she is married when her age was 17 years with 28 years old husband. The age difference is 11 years, so she is fully depends on her husband in all aspect life like number and spacing of children, decision for children's education,

selection and use of contraception and major household purchases etc. similarly literate women is also depend upon their husband because of their educational gap. Average respondents are above SLC and their husbands are of higher degree or service holder. They feel they are women and women are weak from every aspect and they are happy to their husband's decision and their husband's working style as well.

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Table 5.1 Percentage of ever use of contraception by age, caste, and education

Age group	Self	Husband	Total
>30	13(81.3)	3(18.8)	16(100)
30-44	13(52.0)	12(48.0)	25(100)
45+above	11(61.1)	7(38.9)	18(100)

Caste/ethnic			
Bramhin/chhetri	6(26.1)	17(73.9)	23(100)
Hill janjati	12(92.3)	1(7.7)	13(100)
Tharu	15(88.2)	2(11.8)	17(100)
Dalit	2(50.0)	2(50.0)	4(100)
Other	2(100)	0(0.0)	2(100)
Education			
Illiterate	22(95.7)	1(4.4)	23(100)
Literate	10(83.3)	2(16.7)	12(100)
Above SLC	3(17.7)	14(82.4)	17(100)
Higher degree	2(28.6)	5(71.4)	7(100)
Total	37(62.7)	22(37.3)	59(100)

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 5.1 shows the percentage of ever use of contraception by their age group, caste/ethnicity & education. Out of total respondents 62.71 percent use self contraception. Only 37.29 percent respondents say their husband use contraception. (case study number 2)

According to their age group, 81.25 percent, of age less then 30 use contraception, 52 percent of age group 30-44 and 61.11 percent of age group 45+ above were using contraception respectively.

By caste/ethnicity 26.09 percent Brahmin/chhetri, 92.31 percent Hill janjati, 88.24 percent Tharu and 50 percent Dalit respondents use self contraception.

By their educational status, 95.65 percent illiterate women use self contraception and only 4.35 percent male use contraception by these categories (according to case number 2). Similarly 88.33 literate respondents, 17.65 percent above SLC and 28.57 higher degree respondents were using contraception self respectively.

5.2 Decision about family planning to use

Table 5.2 percentage of decision about family planning to use by age group, caste/ethnicity & education

Age group	Husband	Both	Other	Total
<30	2(12.5)	6(37.5)	8(50.0)	16(100)
30-44	3(12.0)	18(72.0)	4(16.0)	25(100)
45+above	8(44.4)	7(38.9)	3(16.7)	18(100)
Caste/ethnicity				
Brahmin/chhetri	3(13.4)	19(82.6)	1(4.4)	23(100)
Hilljanjati	5(38.5)	5(38.5)	3(23.1)	13(100)
Tharu	4(23.5)	3(17.7)	10(58.8)	17(100)
Dalit	1(20.0)	3(60.0)	1(20.0)	5(100)
Other	0(0.0)	1(100)	0(0.0)	1(100)
Education				

Illiterate	9(40.9)	3(13.6)	10(45.5)	22(100)
Literate	3(23.1)	5(38.5)	5(38.5)	13(100)
Above SLC	1(5.9)	16(94.1)	0(0.0)	17(100)
Higher degree	0(0.0)	7(100)	0(0.0)	7(100)
Total	13(22.0)	31(52.6)	15(25.4)	59(100)

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 5.2 shows the percentage of respondents according to their age group, caste/ethnicity & education concerning the matter of using contraception. Out of total respondents, 52.54 percent respondents were taking decision both in use of family planning, which is followed by 22.0 percent for husband decision and 25.42 percent for other decision.

According to their age group, 37.50 percent respondents says they both decide about the use of contraception in age group <30. Similarly 72 percent of age group 30-44 and 38.89 percent of age group 45+above decide both about the use of contraception respectively.

By caste/ethnicity 82.61 percent Brahmin/chhetri decide both about the use of contraception. Other caste than 58.82 percent says other decide about the use and the selection of contraception methods (by case study 2).

By educational status 40.91 percent illiterate respondents says their husband decide about the use of contraception. Similarly 38.46 percent literate, 94.12 percent above and 100 percent higher degree women says they both decide about the use of contraception respectively.

5.3 decision on major household purchases

Most of the women engaged in household activities and they spend more time for these activities. Women are not involvement in outdoor activities like shopping and other. So, major household purchases are one of the most important aspects of the household activities. Decision on major household purchases shows the women's decision in household.

Table 5.3 percentage of decision on major household purchases by age group, caste / ethnicity & education

Age group	Husband	Self	Both	Other	Total
<30	5 (31.3)	1 (6.3)	9(56.3)	1(3.9)	16(100.0)
30-44	3 (11.5)	6(23.1)	17(65.4)	0(0.0)	26(100.0)
45+above	6 (33.3)	2(11.1)	10(55.6)	0(0.0)	18(100.0)
Caste/ethnicity					
Bramhin/chhetri	1(4.4)	5(21.5)	17(79.9)	0(0.0)	23(100.0)
Hill janjati	7(53.9)	1(7.7)	5(38.5)	0(0.0)	13(100.0)
Tharu	5(29.4)	0(0.0)	12(70.6)	0(0.0)	17(100.0)
Dalit	1 (20.0)	3(60.0)	1(20.0)	0(0.0)	5 (100.0)
Other	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1(50.0)	1(50.0)	2(100.0)
Education					
Illiterate	10(43.5)	0(0.0)	12(52.2)	1(4.4)	23(100.0)
Literate	4(30.8)	2(15.4)	7(53.9)	0(0.0)	13(100.0)
Above SLC	0(0.0)	4(23.5)	13(76.5)	0(0.0)	17(100.0)
Higher degree	00(.0)	3(42.9)	4(57.1)	0(0.0)	7(100.0)
Total	14(23.3)	9(15.0)	36(60.0)	1(1.7)	60(100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 5.3 shows the distribution of the respondents who report that they alone or husband or both or other make decision about major household purchases according to their age group, caste/ethnicity & education. The results indicate that among total respondents, 15.00 percent makes self decision. 23.33 percent respondents say that their husband make decision, 60.0percent respondents make jointly or both and only 1.67 percents say that other makes decision for major household purchases.

By age group 6.25percent take self decision about major household purchases under age 30. Similarly, age group 30-44 (23.08 percent) and 45+above age group (11.11percent) respondents take self decision about major household purchases respectively.

By caste/ethnicity, 21.47 percent Brahmin/chhetri respondents takes self decision about major household purchases. Similarly, 7.69 Hill janjati, 0.00 percent Tharu, 60.00 percent Dalit make self decision about major household purchases respectively. By education, wise 43.48percent says their husband take decision in major household purchases. Similarly 15.38 percent literate women, 23.53 percent above SLC and 42.86 percent higher degree women take self decision on major household purchases respectively. Illiterate women are not involved in decision about major household purchases.

5.4 decision on purchases for daily household needs

Purchasing for daily household needs is an important factor of decision-making. Basically majority of women in household do exercise the decision on daily needs because they have to run family smoothly. Regarding the something information are collected from respondents and presented in tables women's are know that what thing is need and what is sufficient and how many things need in daily household activities. But the decision on purchases for daily household needs is mainly depends on husbands.

Table 5.4 Percentage of decision on purchase for daily household need by age, caste & education

Age group	Husband	Self	Both	Total
<30	3(18.8)	4(25.0)	9(56.3)	16(100)
30-44	5(20.0)	9(36.0)	11(44.0)	25(100)
45+above	6(35.3)	7(41.2)	4(23.5)	17(100)
Caste/ethnic				
Brahmin/chhetri	1(4.6)	12(54.5)	9(40.9)	22(100)
Hill janjati	5(41.7)	1(8.3)	6(50.0)	12(100)
Tharu	4(23.5)	4(23.5)	9(52.9)	17(100)
Dalit	2(40.0)	3(60.0)	0(0.0)	5(100)
Other	2(100)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	2(100)
Education				
Illiterate	11(50.0)	3(13.6)	8(36.4)	22(100)
Literate	3(23.1)	4(30.8)	6(46.2)	13(100)
Above SLC	0(0.0)	9(56.3)	7(43.8)	16(100)
Higher degree	0(0.0)	4(57.)	3(42.9)	7(100)
Total	14(24.1)	20(34.5)	24(41.4)	58(100)

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 5.4 shows the percentage of the respondents who decide the purchase for daily household need by their age group, caste/ethnicity & education. The result indicates that among total respondents, 34.48 percent was decide self, 24.14 percent says their husband and 41.38 percent says they decide husband and wife both on purchases for daily household need.

According to their age group 25.00 percent respondents of age group <30 decide self on purchase for daily household need. Similarly 36.00 and 41.18 percent respondents of age groups 30-44 & 45+above decide self on purchases for daily household need respectively.

By caste/ethnicity, 54.55 percent Brahmin/chhetri respondents take self decision on purchases for daily household need. Other caste/ethnic groups 8.33 percent respondents of hill janjati, 23.53 percent respondents of tharu and 60.00 percent respondents of dalit were taking self decision on purchases for daily household need respectively.

By education status, 13.64 percent illiterate respondents take self decision on purchases for daily household need. Similarly 30.77 percent literate respondents, 56.25 percent above SLC and 57.14 percent higher degree respondents were taking self decision on purchases for daily household need respectively.

5.5 Works more in home

Works more in home is the important indicator of women's decision making status. This category shows that who works more in home among male or female.

Table 5.5 percentage of respondents who work more in home by age group, caste/ethnicity & education

Age group	Self	Husband	Both	Total
<30	10(28.6)	2(5.7)	23(65.7)	35(100)
30-44	20(27.8)	3(4.2)	49(68.1)	72(100)
45+above	13(29.6)	1(2.3)	30(68.2)	44(100)
Cast/ethnicity				
Brahmin/chhetri	21(30.4)		45(65.2)	69(100)
Hill janjati	19(47.5)		19(47.5)	40(100)
Tharu	2(6.7)		27(90.0)	30(100)
Dalit	1(10.0)		9(90.0)	10(100)
Other	0(0.0)		2(100)	2(100)
Education				
Illiterate	8(16.7)	2(4.2)	38(79.2)	48(100)
Literate	10(26.3)	2(5.3)	26(68.4)	38(100)
Above SLC	16(38.1)	2(4.7)	24(57.1)	42(100)
Higher degree	9(39.1)	0(0.0)	14(60.9)	23(100)
Total	43(28.5)	6(4.0)	102(67.6)	151(100)

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 5.5 shows the percentage of respondents who works more in home by their age group, caste/ethnicity and educational status. Out of total respondents 28.48 percent respondents work more in home. 3.97 percent respondents says their husband do more work in home and 67.55 percent respondents says they both work altogether in home. According to their age group, 28.57 percent respondents of age group <30 were doing more work in home. Similarly, 27.78 percent respondents of age group 30-44 and 29.55 percent respondents of age group 45+ above were doing more work in home respectively.

According to their caste/ethnicity, 30.43percent Brahmin/chhetri respondents were doing more work in home. Other caste/ethnic group, 47.50 percent hill janjati respondents, 6.67 percent tharu respondents and 10.00 percent dalit respondents were doing more work in home respectively.

According to their educational status, 16.67 percent illiterate respondents work more in home. Similarly, 26.32 percent literate respondents, 38.10 percent above SLC respondents and 39.13 percent higher degree respondents were doing more work in home respectively.

5.6. Participation in decision making

Participation in decision making is one of the most important factors for empowering women. This study provides the information about participating in household decision making.

Table 5.6 percentage of respondents who participate in household decision by age group, caste/ethnicity & education

Age group	Fully	Partially	Not involve	Total
<30	23(65.7)	11(31.4)	1(2.7)	35(100.)
30-44	50(69.4)	20(27.8)	2(2.8)	72(100)
45+above	25(56.8)	19(43.2)	0(0.0)	44(100)
Caste/ethnicity				
Brahmin/chhetri	51(73.9)	16(23.2)	2(2.9)	69(100)
Hill janjati	19(47.5)	20(50.0)	1(2.5)	40(100)
Tharu	20(66.7)	10(33.3)	0(0.0)	30(100)
Dalit	6(60.0)	4(40.0)	0(0.0)	30(100)
Other	2(100)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	10(100)
Education				
Illiterate	30(62.5)	17(35.4)	1(2.1)	48(100)
Literate	22(57.9)	16(42.1)	0(0.0)	38(100)
Above SLC	31(73.8)	10(23.8)	1(2.4)	42((100)
Hiher degree	15(65.2)	7(30.4)	1(4.4)	23(100)
Total	98(64.9)	50(33.1)	3(2.0)	151(100)

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 5.6 shows the distribution of the respondents who participate in decision of their household according to their age group, caste/ethnicity & education. The results indicate that among total 64.90 percent respondents were participate fully in decision of houe and 1.99 percent were never involved. Similarly 33.11 percent respondents participate partially in decision making.

By age group wise 65.71 percent of age <30 were fully participate in decision making. Similarly 31.43 and 2.86 percent respondents were participating partially and not involved respectively. 69.44 and 56.82 percent respondents were participate fully in age group 30-44 and 45+above.

By caste/ethnicity 73.91 percent Brahmin/chhetri women were fully participate in decision and 2.90 percent of these caste/ethnicity groups are not involved. Other caste groups Hill janjati 47.50 fully involved and 2.50 were never involved. 66.67 percent Tharu was fully involved and othe caste cast group 100 percent was fully involved they were in number only 2.

By education 62.50 illiterate respondents were fully involve whereas only 57.89 percent literate were involved. 73.81 and 65.22 percent of educational status above SLC and higher degree were fully involved. Whereas 2.08, 2.38 and 4.35 percent respondents were not involved of illiterate, above SLC and higher degree respectively.

5.7 Take important decision in the household

Taking important decision in the household is the important issue of women empowerment. Male's role is dominant in the household, Women are always in back. The matter of any important decision women are not asked in our society. This table provides the information about household decision status of women.

Table 5.7 Percentage of the respondents who take important decision in the household by their age group, caste/ethnicity & education

Age group	household head	Husband	Self	Total
<30	5(14.3)	26(74.3)	4(11.4)	35(100)
30-44	20(27.8)	48(66.7)	4(5.6)	72(100)
45+above	14(31.9)	27(61.4)	3(6.8)	44(100)
Caste/ethnicity				
Brahmin/chhetri	19(27.5)	42(60.9)	8(11.6)	69(100)
Hill janjati	15(37.5)	23(57.5)	2(5.0)	40(100)
Tharu	3(10.0)	27(90.0)	0(0.0)	30(100)
Dalit	2(20.0)	7(70.0)	1(10.0)	10(100)
Other	0(0.0)	2(100)	0(0.0)	2(100)
Education				
Illiterate	8(16.7)	40(83.3)	0(0.0)	48(100)
Literate	14(36.8)	22(57.9)	2(5.3)	38(100)
Above SLC	13(31.0)	25(59.5)	4(9.3)	42(100)
Higher degree	4(17.4)	14(60.9)	5(21.7)	23(100)
Total	39(25.8)	101(66.9)	11(7.3)	151(100)

Source: field survey 2011

Table 5.7 shows the percentage of respondents who take important decision in the household by their age group, caste/ethnicity & level of education. Out of total respondents 66.89 percent husband take important decision in household, 25.83 percent household head take important decision and only 7.28 percent female respondents take important decision in their household.

According to age group, 11.43 percent respondents of age group <30 were taking important decision in the household, similarly 5.56 percent respondents of age group 30-44 and 6.82 percent respondents of age group 45+ above were taking important decision in household respectively.

By caste ethnicity, 11.59 percent respondents of Brahmin/chhetri were taking important decision of their household. Similarly 5.00 percent respondents of hill janjati, 0 percent of tharu and 10.00 percent of dalit respondents were taking important decision in household respectively.

By education, no any respondents of illiterate were taking important decision in household. Only 5.00 percent literate respondents take important decision in household. Similarly 9.25 percent respondents of above SLC and 21.74 percent higher degree respondents were taking important decision in household respectively.

5.8 Decision about health care for yourself

Decision about health care for yourself is an important factor of decision-making. Women do not think seriously about their own poor health condition. Though they seem conscious about their husband and children's health condition. But neither their husband nor their children ask their health condition. Because of this traditional procedure most of women in country have been losing their life without getting timely and proper treatment. Even for poor health a woman depends over her husband and son's grace.

Table 5.8 percentage of respondents on decision about health care for your self according to their age group, caste/ethnicity and level of education

Age group	Household head	Husband	Someone else	Self	Total
<30	4(11.4)	16(45.7)	0(0.0)	15(42.9)	35(100)
30-44	4(5.6)	26(36.1)	2(2.8)	40(55.6)	72(100)
45+above	5(11.4)	18(40.9)	0(0.0)	21(47.7)	44(100)
Caste/ethnicity					
Brahmin/chhetri	9(13.0)	25(36.2)	0(0.0)	35(50.7)	69(100)
Hill janjati	3(7.5)	17(42.5)	0(0.0)	20(20.0)	40(100)
Tharu	1(3.3)	11(36.7)	0(0.0)	18(60.0)	30(100)
Dalit	0(0.0)	6(60.0)	2(20.0)	2(20.0)	10(100)
Other	0(0.0)	1(50.0)	0(0.0)	1(50.0)	2(100)
Education					
Illiterate	1(2.1)	18(37.5)	1(2.1)	28(58.3)	48(100)
literate	4(10.5)	17(44.7)	0(0.0)	17(44.7)	38(100)
Above SLC	7(16.7)	14(33.3)	0(0.0)	21(50.0)	42(100)
Higher degree	1(4.4)	11(47.8)	1(0.0)	10(43.5)	23(100)
Total	13(8.6)	60(39.7)	2(1.3)	76(50.3)	151(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 5.8 shows the percentage of respondents on decision about health care for your self according to their age group, caste/ethnicity & educational status. Out of total respondents 50.33 percent respondents take self decision at their health care. 8.61 percent respondent says household head take decision about their health care. Similarly, 39.74 percent respondents says their husband and 1.32 percent respondents says someone else decide about their health care respectively.

According to their age group, 42.56 percent respondents of age group <30 decide self about their own health care. Similarly 55.56 percent respondent of age group 30-44 and 47.73 percent respondents of age group 45+above were taking important decision about their health care respectively.

According to their caste/ethnicity, 50.72 percent Brahmin/chhetri respondents take self decision about their health care. Similarly, 50.00 percent respondents of hill

janjati, 60.00 percent respondents of tharu and 20.00 percent respondents of dalit take decision about their health care respectively.

According to their educational status, only 2.08 percent illiterate respondents were taking self decision about health care for your self. Similarly, 10.53 percent literate respondents, 16.67 percent above SLC respondents and 4.39 percent higher degree respondents were taking self decision about their health care for your self respectively.

5.9 consult for property brought or sold

Consult for property brought or sold is an important indicator of decision-making power of women. Even though women have not been consulted regularly even in highly cultured and educated family

Table 5.9 percent of respondents consulted for property brought or sold

Age group	Yes	No	Total
<30	26(74.3)	9(25.7)	35(100)
30-44	64(88.9)	8(11.1)	72(100)
45+above	34(77.3)	10(22.7)	44(100)
Caste/ethnicity			
Brahmin/chhetri	63(91.3)	6(8.7)	69(100)
Hill janjati	29(72.5)	11(27.5)	40(100)
Tharu	23(76.7)	7(23.3)	30(100)
Dalit	8(86.0)	2(20.0)	10(100)
Other	1(50.0)	1(50.0)	2(100)
Education			
Illiterate	35(72.9)	13(27.1)	48(100)
Literate	32(84.2)	6(15.8)	38(100)
Above SLC	36(85.7)	6(14.3)	42(100)
Higher degree	21(91.3)	2(8.7)	23(100)
Total	124(82.1)	27(17.9)	151(100)

Source: field survey 2011

Table 5.9 shows the percentage of respondents who were consulted for property brought or sold. Among total respondents 82.12 percent was asked and 17.88 percent was not asked when property brought or sold. According to their age group 25.71 percent of age group <30, 11.11 percent respondents of age group 30-44 and 22.73 percent respondents of age group 45+above were not asked respectively. According to caste/ethnicity 8.70 percent respondents of Brahmin/chhetri was not consulted when property brought or sold. Similarly 27.50 percent hill janjati, 23.33 percent tharu and 20.00 percent dalit were not consulted when property brought or sold respectively. According to their education, 27.08 percent illiterate, 15.79 percent literate, 14.29 percent above SLC and 8.70 percent higher degree respondents were not consulted when property brought or sold respectively.

5.10 decision for children education

For selecting the good institute for their children's education, women are not asked where to admit and how to find out good school. The father decides these all alone.

Table 5.10. Percentage of respondents who are taking decision for children education according to their age group, caste/ethnicity and level of education.

Age group	Self	Husband	Other	Total
<30	1(6.3)	15(93.8)	0(0.0)	16(100)
30-44	4(14.8)	22(81.5)	1(3.7)	27(100)
45+above	2(11.1)	16(88.9)	0(0.0)	18(100)
Caste/ethnicity				
Brahmin/chhetri	2(8.7)	21(91.3)	0(0.0)	23(100)
Hill janjati	0(0.0)	13(100)	0(0.0)	13(100)
Tharu	2(11.8)	15(88.2)	0(0.0)	17(100)
Dalit	3(60.0)	2(40.0)	0(0.0)	5(100)
Other	0(0.0)	2(100)	1(100)	3(100)
Education				
Illiterate	1(4.4)	22(95.7)	0(0.0)	23(100)
Literate	2(15.4)	11(84.6)	2(15.4)	13(100)
Above SLC	2(11.8)	14(82.4)	1(5.9)	17(100)
Higher degree	2(25.0)	6(75.0)	0(0.0)	8(100)
Total	7(11.5)	53(86.9)	1(1.6)	61(100)

Source: field survey 2011

Table 5.10 shows the percentage of respondents who take decision about children education according to their age group, caste/ethnicity and level of education. Out of total respondents 11.48 percent respondents were take self decision about their children education. Similarly, 86.89 percent respondents says to their husband and 1.64 percent respondents says other decide to their children education respectively.

According to their age group, only 6.25 percent respondents of age group <30 decide self to their children education, 93.75 percent respondents of that age group says their husband decide to their children education. Similarly, 14.81 percent respondents of age group 30-44 and 11.11 percent respondents of age group 45+ above were decide self to their children education respectively.

By caste/ethnicity, 8.70 percent Brahmin/chhetri respondents decide self to their children education. Similarly, 11.78 percent tharu and 60.00 percent dalit respondents were decide self about their children education respectively.

By educational status, 4.35 percent illiterate respondents decide self to their children education. Similarly 15.38 percent literate respondents, 11.76 percent above SLC respondents and 25.00 percent higher degree respondents were decide about their children education respectively.

CHAPTER-SIX

SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The chapter attempts to summarize the major findings of the entire study related to their age group, caste/ethnicity and educational status of household decision – making of married women of in Ghorahi Municipality -5 Dang districts along with summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

6.1 Summary of findings

This study analyzes the age group, caste/ethnicity and educational status of household decision-making of married women in age 15-64 Ghorahi, Municipality Ward No.-5 Dang. There were 446 household, 151 households were taken as sampled households to collect information.

Household decision-making power is strong indicator of women's empowerment of society. Analyses have focused upon the relative status of women in terms of women's participation in household decision-making power in many variables such as:

Out of total respondents 23.3% were under age 30, 65.6% were age group 30-44 and 11.3 were above SLC. The highest age at marriage is 49.0% in age group 15-19 and the mean age at marriage is 18.19 years. 60% respondents were engaged in agriculture and only 2.6% in business. Brahmin/chhetri were more educated i.e. 50.49% and only 2.91% dalit were educated. 90.8% respondents were engage in female committee. 36% respondents of age group less then 30 decide self for daily household needs. Highest 60% respondents of dalit take self decision about household need. 28.48% respondent works more in home and 64.90% respondents participate fully in household decision. But only 7.28% respondents take important decision in household. 70.85% respondents were not consulting for property brought or sold.

6.2 Conclusions

This analysis has focused upon the relative status of women in terms of their age group, caste/ethnicity and education to find out women's participation in household decision-making of the respondents. In the study area most of the respondents make decision together with husband and wife. Among 151 respondents, the large numbers of women were engaged in service i.e. (41.72%) and large numbers of women were literate, only 31.8% are illiterate. The main sources of income of the respondents are divided into four categories: agriculture, service, business and other. In this study area, the main occupation is agriculture. The age at marriage is high in age group 15-19 years and mean age at marriage is 18.19 years.

In the case of using family planning methods, illiterate respondents use self contraception under the suggestion of other's like Health assistance and mid wife. The literate respondents are above S.L.C and higher degree. They take a little high self decision about use of contraception, health care and children education.

This study concludes that an average all respondents (women) have low decision making power in the study area. So, it is essential to increase their self confidence in decision making process in every sector. High age gap and educational gap between husband and wife is the main factor of lack of decision-making power in this study area.

6.3 Recommendations

We have listed following recommendations based upon the conclusions and findings in the study. The purpose here is to make significant steps towards raising the decision making power of women within the household and in social sector.

1. Promotion of joint-decision within the household should be stressed upon via informal education programme. These joint decision by both the male as well female members seem more favorable to reach at effective decision.
2. Easily access of females to modern health facilities and family planning method.

3. The concept of gender equity and the attitude towards women need to be modified in our patriarchal society to boost up the women's status in the family or society.

4. Priority will be given to late marriage for girl by law.

Discriminatory Acts/laws and practices in all sectors such as legal, political, social and economical should be addressed carefully to enhance women's participations not only in household decision-making process but along with in all multi-dimensional areas.

6.4. Recommendations for future Research

This study has covered small urban area. So, for future research, coming researcher are requested to study in urban or rural separately.

It has analyzed only household decision-making process using quantitative tools. Thus, further research should be conducted using qualitative tools in different areas of decision-making issues.

This study has covered only selected demographic and socio-economic variables so that cultural characteristics or variables could also be used to cover the future researcher. And also other ecological, biological, religious and other variables can be taken for future.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

University Campus Kirtipur
 Central Department of Population Studies
 Women's Decision Making Power Household in ghorahi Municipality, Dang

General Information

1. Name of respondents: _____ age: _____ caste: _____
 Religion: _____ status and position of household: _____
 Occupation: _____

Social & Educational Status

Questions	Coding Categories
2. Educational Status	Illetrate01 Literate02 Above SLC03 Higher degree04
3. Marital Status	Married01 Divorced.....02 Separated03 Widowhood04
4. Age at marriage	
5. Education at the time of marriage	
6. Up to which level have you studied?	Primary01 Secondary02 Intermediate03 Bachelor04 Masters05
7. Why did you leave your study?	Due to marriage01

	Due to household02
	Lack of money03
	Other04
8. do you think that girls should go to school	Yes.....01
	No02

Marriage & Family Formation

9. What kind of marriage did you do?	Arranged marriage01
	Love marriage02
	Other (specify)03
10. If in case of arranged marriage who decided about the bridegroom?	Household head01
	Father & mother02
	Relatives03
	Other04
11. Were your consent taken before?	Yes01
	No02
12. On your marriage was dowry asked for?	Yes01
	No02
13. If, yes how much? (in Rs.....)	
14. Are you oppose or accept?	

RH & Fertility

15. What types of family do you have?	Nuclear01
	Joint.....02
16. How many children do you have?	Son
	Daughter
	Total
17. Were you ready to give birth at the time of your first delivery?	Yes01
	No02
18. If, not why couldn't you avoid pregnancy?	Father/mother in law force for
	Grand child.....01

	Husband force for child02 Contraception failure03 Other reason04
19. Who usually make decision about number and spacing of children?	Husband01 You02 Both03
20. Where did you have your first delivery?	At hospital01 At home02 On the way of hospital.....03
21. Who usually make decision about health care for yourself?	Household head01 Husband02 Someone else03 Yourself04

Economic aspects

22. Main sources of income of your family?	Agriculture.....01 Manufacturing02 Business/industry.....03 Services04
23. Who purchases goods/commodities from market?	You01 Husband.....02 Both03
24. Who usually keeps the earning money?	You/yourself.....01 Husband02 Other family member.....03
25. Who usually decides how the money that you earn will be used?	You/yourself01 Husband.....02 Other member03 Altogether.....04
26. Who usually decides how your husband's earnings will be used?	You/yourself01 Your husband02

	Both03
27. Who works more in home?	You01 Husband02 Both03

Decision - Making in the family

28. Do you participate in the decision making process in the family?	Fully01 Partially02 Not involved.....03
29. Who does take the important decision in the household?	Household head01 Husband02 Someone else03
30. Do you ask when any property brought or sold in the household?	Yes01 No02
31. Who decides children's education?	You01 Husband02 Other03
32. Who usually makes decision about making major household purchases?	Husband01 Self02 Both03 Other.....04
33. Who usually makes decision about making purchases for daily household needs?	Husband01 Self.....02 Both03 Other04
34. If you have only two daughters, would you still wait for son?	Yes01 No02
35. Would you allow daughter to visit outside as of son?	Reason.....

36. What is the ideal age at marriage?	Son Daughter
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Social/Political participation

37. Have you engaged in any social activities?	Yes01 No.....02
38. If yes, what is the type of social institution?	Female committee.....01 Social management committee.....02 Other03
39. Who makes decision in participating such social activities?	Husband.....01 Yourself.....02 Neighbor03 Other04
40. Do you know about political parties?	Yes01 No02
41. Have you involved in any political parties?	Yes01 No02
42. If yes, have you in decision making level?	Yes01 No02

Family Planning & contraception

43. Who decide upon the selection of family planning?	Husband01 Both02 Other.....03
44. Who decide about family planning to use?	Husband.....01 Both02 Yourself03
45. Who is using contraception?	Yourself01 Husband02
46. Why your husband not using contraception?	Reason

47. Did you face any side effect and RH problem due to use contraception?	Yes01 No02
48. If yes, are you consulting doctor/visit hospital?	Yes01 No02
49. Who decide to go for treatment?	Yourself01 Husband02 Other family member03