

**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN HOUSEHOLD  
DECISION MAKING**

**(A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN OF GIDDHA VDC IN DHANUSHA)**

**A Dissertation Submitted to**

**The Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology**

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**For the Partial Fulfillment Degree in Master's of Arts**

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**By**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The dissertation work entitled "**women's participation in household decision making**" (A Case study of women of Giddha VDC Dhanusha) is an independent work of Mrs. Lalita kumari yadav under my supervision. Mrs. lalita kumari yadav has analyse the condition of women in terms of their decision making within the household chores , based on the survey of Giddha VDC in Dhanusha and the findings appear to be useful for those interested in raising the status of women in rural society.

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## **APPROVAL SHEET**

This Evaluation Committee has approved this dissertation entitled **"Women's Participation in Household Decision Making (A Case Study of Women of Giddha VDC of Dhanusha District)** by Prof. Prabhakar LaL Das for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Sociology.

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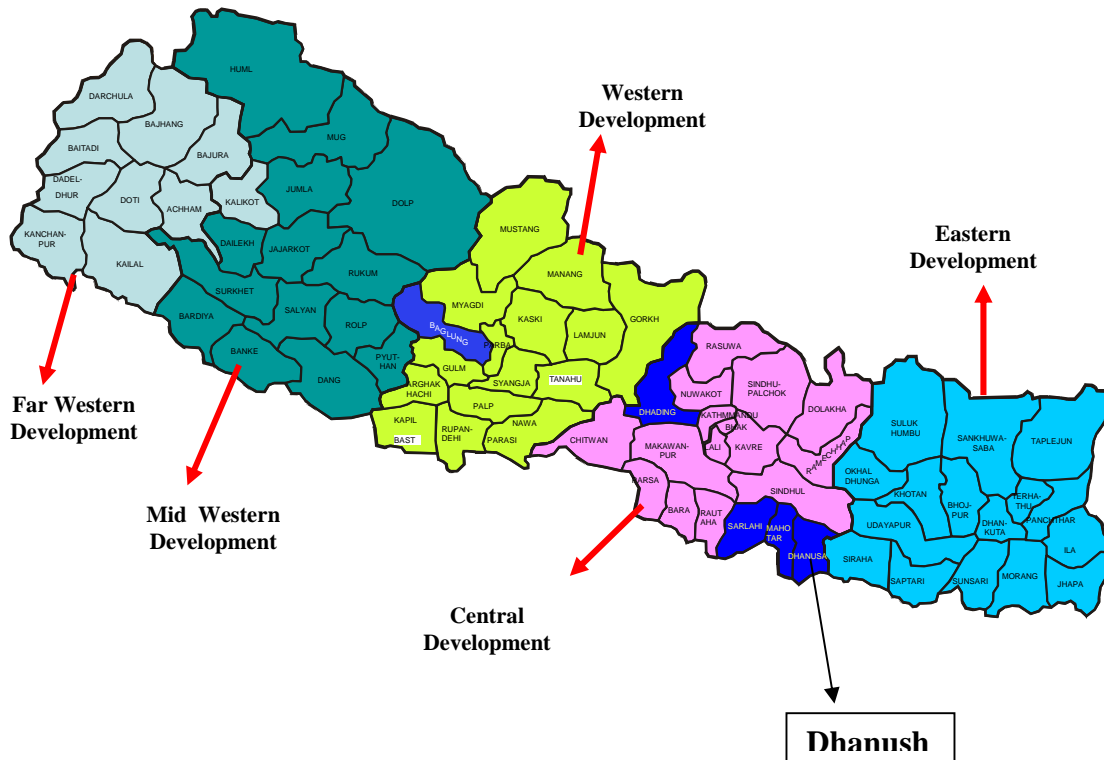
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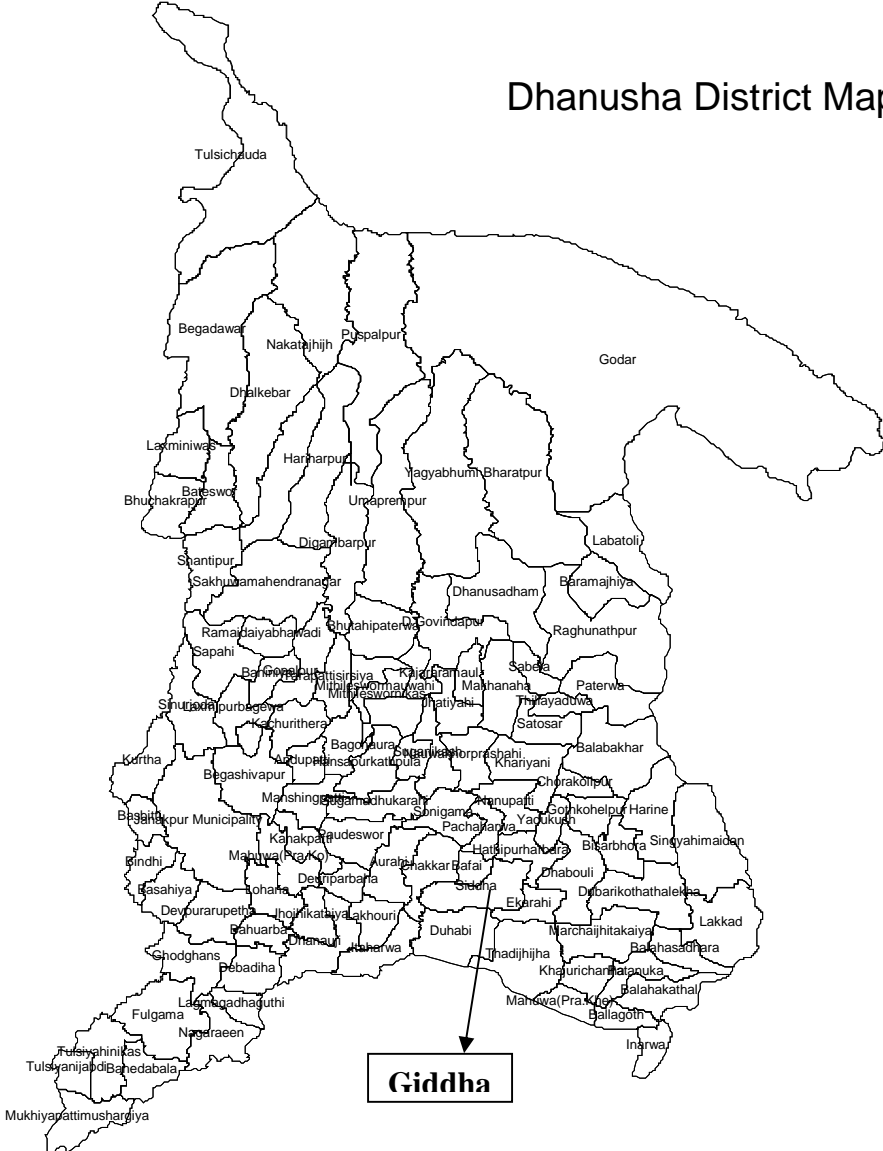
**(Lalita Kumari Yadav)**

**Date:...../...../2010**

## Map of Nepal with Five Development Region



# Dhanusha District Map



**Giddha**

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## ABBREVIATION

<b>CBS</b>	<b>Central Bureau of Statistics</b>
<b>CEAMP</b>	<b>Community Environmental Awareness and Management Programme</b>
<b>CEDA</b>	<b>Center for Economic Development Acedemy</b>
<b>GAD</b>	<b>Gender and Development</b>
<b>HHs</b>	<b>Households</b>
<b>HMG</b>	<b>His Majesty Government</b>
<b>IPM</b>	<b>Integrated Pest Management</b>
<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non Government Organization</b>
<b>PPS</b>	<b>Probability Proportion to Size</b>
<b>TU</b>	<b>Tribhuvan University</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>
<b>USA</b>	<b>United State of America</b>
<b>VDC</b>	<b>Village Development Committee</b>
<b>WAD</b>	<b>Women and Development</b>
<b>WDRPC</b>	<b>Warrington and District Rifle and Pistol Club</b>
<b>WID</b>	<b>Women in Development</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this study 60 percent (30 out of 50) respondents were said that consultation about their involvement in job was made while 40 percent (20 out of 50) consultation were made with their husband. In the final decision of women involvement in job, only 20 percent (10 out of 50) respondents were said that they were decide about their involvement in job , 40 percent (20 out of 50) HHs Head and 40 percent (20 out of 50) husband were decided about their involvement in job.

In this study 60 percent (30 out of 50) respondents were said that consultation about their involvement in organization was made while 40 percent (20 out of 50) consultation were made with their husband. In the final decision of women involvement in organization, only 20 percent (10 out of 50) respondents were said that they were decide about their involvement in organization , 60 percent (30 out of 50) HHs Head and 20 percent (10 out of 50) husband were decided about their involvement in organization.

Nepal is a developing country. Most of population living in rural area are illiterates .About woman involvement in family education, the study shows that high women consultation scores about 37 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 22 and 28 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 8percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 48 and 43 percent respectively.

There are many items that should be purchased for household needs such as food, clothes, daily consumption goods, livestock, ornaments, land/house and medicines. For purchasing households needs goods, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 45 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 11.5 and 35.25 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 16.5 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 42 and 41 percent respectively.

There are many items that should be sold for household needs such as food, livestock, ornaments, land/house and others. For selling household goods, the study shows that women consultation as well as involvement in final decision is not giving so importance. Women consultation scores about 38.4 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 13.2 and 44.4 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 19.2 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 41.6 and 39.2 percent respectively.

One may want to improve once own or family status for which one should have to invest in different field of investment. For Women involvement in investment, the survey shows that women consultation scores about 27.5 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 10.75 and 52 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7.25 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 43.25 and 48.5 percent respectively.

Many times one may have to lend /borrow to fulfill the family needs. For Women involvement in lending /borrowing, the survey shows that women consultation scores about 24 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 11 and 55 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 41 and 51 percent respectively

Nepal is an agricultural country. Most of population living in rural areas is involved in farming. About woman involvement in farming, the study shows that women consultation scores about 20 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 24 and 40 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 57 and 35 percent respectively

About woman involvement in family marriage, the study shows that women consultation scores about 26 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 32 and 32 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7 percent while men including HHs Head and Husband scores 59 and 33 percent respectively.

About woman involvement in family festival decision, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 63 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 6and 23 percent respectively. But in final decision

also women scores high about 51 percent while men including HHs Head and Husband scores 19 and 28 percent respectively.

In this study 40 out of 50 respondents were said that their consent about child bearing was taken while 10 out of 50 were said that without their consent husbands want to get child taken made with their husband. But in the final decision of getting child, only 40 percent (20 out of 50) respondents were said that they were decide themselves , 20 percent (10 out of 50) HHs Head and 40 percent (20 out of 50) husband were decided about their involvement in child bearing as in Table No.4.11.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Nepal is a small mountainous, landlocked country situated in between two large countries China and India. It is small in area, population and economic resources. The total area of Nepal is 1, 47,181 square KM. According to population census 2001, total population of Nepal is 2, 31, 51, 423 and the gender composition of population is 1, 15, 87,502 female and 1, 15, 63, 921 male.

In Nepal, like other developing countries, the state of women is not satisfactory. Nepal is patriarchal—a woman's life is strongly influenced by her father and husband—as reflected in the practice of patrilocal residence, patriarchal descent, and by inheritance systems and family relations. Such patriarchal practices are further reinforced by the legal system.

South Asian society is basically a patriarchal society with feudal, semi feudal and capitalist social structure; which influences all aspects of social, cultural, economic and political life of the people. Women have complex identity, made of class, race, and ethnicity. A woman coming from certain class, or race or ethnicity or religion has altogether different problems than that of women coming from other ethnic group, race or class in South Asia. In South Asia, women are discriminated, because of son preference traditions of the society dominated by religious beliefs. Daughters are discriminated from birth to funeral ceremony. Women are also suffering from domestic violence, wrong tradition and cultural mal practices. Some awful examples of violence are: sex selective abortion, wife battering, child marriage, polygamy, rape, sexual violence, verbal divorce in Muslim community, trafficking of women & forced prostitution, sexual harassment, dowry, Tilak system, suicide, killings, and domestic violence. They are still accused of being a Witch. Some of the wrong traditions have been practicing in the name of religion e.g. *Kumari* (a living goddess), *Jhuma* and *Devki* (system of offering a girl and she is expected to devote her life in the name of god).

Nepal is patriarchal Hindu society. In traditional Hindu society, there is a range of hierarchies. Women have to pay respect to their husbands and *in-*

*laws* so they are not supposed to put their views freely in front of their respected *in-laws*. Women are not supposed to attend public meetings and it is difficult for them to speak up and oppose the men publicly. Their male counterpart dominates women. Therefore many women don't feel comfortable to join the meetings. Even though they participate in the meetings, they sit in the separate place generally at the back of the male members.

Woman plays a significant role in the development of the nation. Women in Nepal hold the triple work responsibility of reproduction, house hold chores and employment .Women suffered from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility in the process of skill development and independent discussion making is highly restricted.

It is universal truth that the society is made by male and female. By nature male and female are separate as a person but in action they are one, in other words male and female could not be a alternative to each other, they are not complete in individual basis for the creation of human being, they are integral part to each other, absent of anyone of them to create of human being and to continuation of society is impossible. So it can say that male and female are two wheels of a vehicle (society). For the smooth running of a vehicle both wheels should have equal position, status and other parts to run it. If one is better or weaker in position, higher or lower in status, and minimum or maximum in participation than the other then it can not move in equal speed then such situation may have to face accident to any time. Therefore for the smooth running the society equal status, position and participation of male and female is necessary for every aspect of development. The process of fertilization, period of pregnancy and the process of birth are same for male and female baby.

Modern history has shown that, discrimination between female and male was existed in worldwide which still can be found more or less everywhere both in developed and developing countries, which however, may differ in degree, issues and ethnicity context. Continuation of discrimination has created the situation of women exclusion or low participation, lower status and position in social, political, economic, professional and legal aspects comparing with the male. And it becomes a major challenge and critical issues in this contemporary development context. Realizing this fact, during the last 30 years, many literatures have been appeared to explain gender inequalities in development and women sources of subordination.



In the case of Nepal, the situation is not different as mentioned above. Socio-economically, men always feel superior to women and men are regarded as bread earner, caretaker and head of the family. Therefore men try to keep women subservient. Women have to face violence and discrimination against them both in public, private places and within family level also. As a result, women are limited in reproductive and productive roles within the household chores, which have no economic value added by the family as well as national level also in which women spent a lot of time and energy.

Women in Nepal find themselves in a vicious circle that drives the discrimination against their gender. Their generally low status means that most women are not given sufficient decision-making power to control their own access to resources such as information, services, money, etc. This restricted access to resources prevents women from developing their decision-making capacity. Their lack of decision-making capacity deprives them of the power to control access to resources, and restarts the cycle of low status and discrimination.

Women in Nepal lag behind men in their access to property, credit, income-earning opportunities, skills development, information and knowledge, education, and services such as healthcare, water and sanitation, and justice. Recent research based on data from the 2001 census shows that women's access to literacy, education, and decision-making roles, amongst other indicators, is below that of men, regardless of caste or ethnicity.

Women's restricted socialization leaves her shy. She is unable or reluctant to make decisions or express her needs. Her poor education means that she is barely literate or even illiterate. Her low status means that others take decisions for her. She is trapped in a cycle of dependency that is handed on from her natal family to her husband's family on her early marriage.

In organizing forums for stakeholder participation women's role have to be considered and appropriate methods of participation should be designed. The capacity of all stakeholder to participate in the decision making should not be automatically assumed. There may be many factors that limit the participation of women in household decision making. In order to ensure full participation of women at VDC level programs, the timing, day, venue of the meeting or training and language have to be considered appropriately. In order to make each activity gender responsive, gender involvement

including gender expertise should be fully considered right from the initial stage of the programme (EPM recourse book, UNCHF/UNEP).

Gender strategy of CEAMP by Gita Pandey states that gender responsive household activities program calls for a critical review of common trend whereby men tend to participate in household activities while women by large are involve in implementation. Both women and man know how their household activities should be planned in order to meet the requirements of the household and the large community. The man & women's interest most be integrated to insure the quality of life.

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

The most remarkable aspect of women's contribution to household production is the high value of work in all aspects of food processing. According to Acharya and Bennett food processing labour creates approximate 13% of entire household income and sometime even more. The data presented by Acharya on women related input to the household maintenance sphere show that women in Nepal are more involved in domestic work than men. The average adult women in the sample spend 4. 04 hours a day in household chores while male spends only 0. 80 hours a day in household maintenance activities.

Women play a vital role in many areas of development sectors. The issues related to their involvement activities have not been addressed well. In spite of the multitude of extension approaches currently existing in Nepal none has given adequate attention to reaching women. Women have remained excluded from development activities. The people oriented approaches have turned into "MEN ORIENTED "approach. Especially women of our country belonging to the rural areas are confined within their household activities. Men only interact with the outside world and women stay behind, in traditional role as house wives.

The status of women on a multidimensional concept has many important indicators operating within it. They are concerned in the subject of decision making which is an important subject household sphere. In our country the power of decision making women is very much neglected. The household decision making is one of the important indicators of the status of women.

So, the economic, demographic, and social factors directly affect the women. Women's involvement in the market economy given them greater power in term of household decision making in important matters. Women who are educated and involved in the house . On the other hand confinement of women to the domestic and subsistence sector automatically implies a low status conferred to them in terms of decision making power .

According to Acharya and Bennett, Nepalese women are not only silent workers who take direction from men. Their marginal role in agriculture production also appears to be commensurate with the level of their labour input. According to Acharya "confinement to the inside domestic sphere does reduce women's status measured by her input into the important category of decision while access to the outside increase it ' .

The National IPM Programme in Nepal is committed to provide women and men equal acces to their training.The Programme wants to implement its activities on a gender equal basis. That this is not easy and straightforward is an experience we gained during the three year implementation of the programme. In this report we like to share these experiences, reveal the problems we are facing, the mistakes we have made. However, we also want to show our good intentions and the progress we have reached so far. In the nearby future we intend to implement the suggestions as recommended in this report.

Considering upon these matters we may say that women have no identity and least decision make power as compared to their counterparts. So; women are being thought as incapable of any effective decisions.

Therefore present study is expected to explore the role of women in decision making in managing house policy. One of the objectives of the study is to analyses the relationship between decision making and women. It helps to get information regarding how the community people perceive to make participation of women in management policy and its importance.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The Beijing Conference on women 1995 has emphasized different aspects related to the problems of women and passed form of actions addressing twelve different critical area of concern as poverty, education , and training , health decision making power, armed conflict the girl child economy, environment violence, human rights, media and advancement of women. But they are still facing the problems of deprivation. They are deprived from their rights and responsibilities. Even their husband and family members are not ready to hear their voice.

In our country women after marriage , loses her identity without the consent of her husband even a single and be absent from the house of several days , months or years or may even come back with another wife . This is acceptable to society and culture. But a women is strictly prohibited from doing all these things, she is expected to look after children, herd the cattle, take care of cultivation, cook food and collect fuel and fodder (Gurung, 1994)

Women constitute half the population of the country. As reported by the 1991 new women constitute of the total population of Nepal .This shows that rural women suffer form hard work and have difficult social and economic condition. They are still deprived of equal opportunities compared to there is economic social and legal aspects are much low in the society. Their low students is mainly become of their less involvement in the economic actives .They work mostly inside the house .Their decision making in the household activates is very much limited.

In Nepal many development program failed due to default in concept design and implementation modalities poor participation of people, lack of identification of real problems and lack of women's participation in decision making are the few other religions for failure of the program . These problems are interrelated and no single issue can be dealt in isolation .How ever keeping this interrelationship in mind issues can be studied one at a time. For proper of family management participation of the women as decision making partners appears to be critical one because women are the primary users and actual managers of family environment. Women should have knowledge about sanitation and should have practices in their actual life which rely helps to bring towards sustainable development and also

helps to improve quality of life of the whole community. (Gita Panday, mainstreaming gender quality in CEAMP 2004.

Hence, the questions arise that women are directly linked with family management .Therefore, it is very essential know the role of women in household decision for family management to improve the quality of whole community people major problems that have been identified for the purpose of the study are as follows.

- ) What are present situations of women's is participation in decision making at various level of family management?
- ) What are the major factors that were responsible for affection the women participation in family management?

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

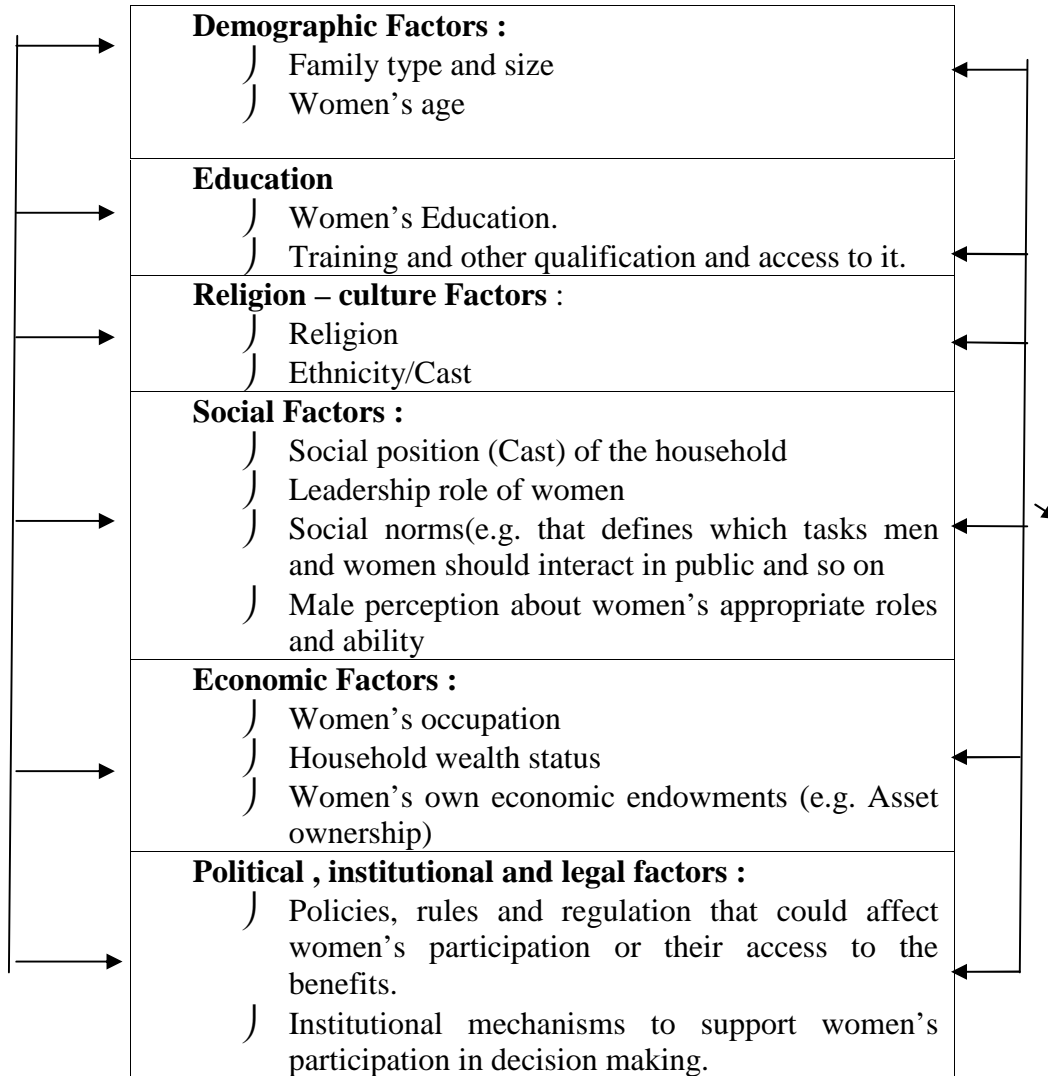
The general objective of this study is to find out the status of women's participation in decision making and their parties on household management program. Specified objective are as following.

- ) To identify the knowledge and practices of women in household management activities.
- ) To find the women's participants in decision making process on selected issues.
- ) To analyse the pattern of decision making on the used of household management by men and women.

### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

The study is narrowed to only household decision making and a sample of only women respondents of age 16 to 50 years old. Therefore, the generalization about existing situation of this study will be difficult as this study includes not all age group women and not men respondents. Also the study is limited to only 50 women of Giddha VDC of Dhanusha.

## Conceptual Framework for analysis Women's Decision Making Role



**Women's**  
**Decision Making**  
**Role in:**

**General Decision:**  
Job, Organization,  
Education

**Economic**  
**Decision:**  
purchase, sale,  
investment,  
lending  
& borrowing,  
farming,

**Socio Decision:**  
Marriage, Festival,  
Child bearing

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

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

In the last few decades, there has been growing acceptance of the gender-focused approach to development. Gender analysis and project planning are essential tools in the development process. Gender-focused development recognizes that gender is an organizing principle of society that affects women and men in all activities and relationships. Gender relations consequently influence the outcomes of development interventions in the process of social change and nation building. Despite its influence, gender concepts are not well understood and gender is often confused with sex.

The relationship between men and women are marked, through the human civilization, by religious attitude, cultural bond, ethical values, social norms and psychological reliance. The meaning of their life as well as her roles and activities largely hinge upon the environment and their outlook of each other. Sometimes men dominates women and the vice versa. But the reality lurks somewhere. One sex is necessary as the other if both of them should get their full meaning ( Loutfi, 2002)

Nepal one of the poorest country of the world where about 60% of its population live below the poverty line, half of the population is women. If the women are neglected then how can this country develop? Women have status, which is only secondary to that of men. For Nepali women, life is complex web of constraints, obligation and scarifies; many of which are determined from the day of her birth. Women have few options for survival other than getting married and producing male children ( Dhakal and Sheikh, 1997)

A project on “The situation of women in Nepal “(USA/CEDA 1980), provides the first input to the planners and programme implementers with



substantive women specific data as well as policy recommendations. The aggregate data from this study depicts women's contribution heavily focused on farm and in subsistence agricultural activities e.g. 86 percent of the domestic work times and 57 percent in subsistence agricultural activities. Total contribution of women to the household income remains at 50 percent as opposed to only 44 percent for males and 6 percent to the children between the ages of 10 to 14. Women participation in Hindu communities are largely confined to non-market domestic and subsistence production and display a much less significant role in major household decision making.

The Status of Women report series shows that women in the Terai were equally active in the economic sphere, albeit invisibly, but that their activities were not reported as being economic. In fact, they were active in the household production system, e.g., in food processing and cooking for farm labor; post harvesting cleaning and storing of farm products; kitchen gardening; and cooking food for village shops run by male members of the family. In addition, women performed domestic chores as unpaid labor, which is not reflected in any economic statistics. As distinction between activities outside and inside the household become clearer during the process of modernization and urbanization, women tend to be driven towards the household, being confined to reproductive and consumption activities. Such a "domestication of women" may cause a decline in women's decision-making power inside the household.

Acharya and Bennett (1983) have also observed that women are primary supporter of the domestic and subsistence sector. The decision making data shows women's major role in agricultural production both as labourers and as managers of the production process.

The relationship between women's economic participation and their input into household decision making was investigated in 7 village studies in Nepal. 2 distinct cultural traditions were represented in the sample: Indo-Aryan/Hindu and Tibeto-Burman/Buddhist-Animist. The village economy is conceptualized in 4 concentric spheres:

- 1) Household domestic work,
- 2) Household agricultural production activities,
- 3) Work in the local market economy,
- 4) Employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Aggregate data revealed that women are responsible for 86%, 57%, 38%, and 25% of the input into these 4 spheres, respectively. It was hypothesized that women's participation in the market economy increases their status (defined in terms of household decision making), while confinement to non market subsistence production and domestic work reduces women's status.

Women in the more orthodox Hindu communities, who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production, were found to play a less significant role in major household economic decisions than women in Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate more actively in the market sector. Money earned in the market sector allows women to make a measurable contribution to household income, and thus appears to enhance the perception of women as equal partners. In addition, women's decision making input was found to be inversely related to the income status of the household. These results indicate that integrating women into the market economy is not only an efficient use of local resources, but also improves women's status and economic security.

According to Acharya M. and Bennett L. (1982) women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A woman brings more dowries from her father's house she has a greater power in decision making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women.

From economic data we found that women from top economic stratum are participating in outside income earning activities. No women from high economic stratum worked either in the domestic or the non organized services sectors like sewing, cooking, clearing etc. But for women from the bottom economic strata, agriculture sector provides the largest no. of working days. The study shows, women from bottom strata spend 72.9 percent of their total working days in agriculture sector. Most of the women from low caste are wage labourers.

Nepalese women also play managerial role for decision making i.e farm management, resources allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variations between the communities regarding the male / female input the farm management decisions ( Acharya and Bennett :1982 ).

Women have very low participation in decision making process, 70 percent of households related and external decision are entirely made by male members of house (Acharya, 1995). Though females spend their time in household activities, they have less chance to decide for these activities.

Women in Development (WID) concept emerged in the early 1970s, after the publication of Easter Boserup's book in title, "The role of Women in economic development" in 1970. Boserup prepared her Book on the base of African agriculture system. According to Vojendra Aryal;-Boserup has pointed out these major points about the women;

- 1) Women had economic contribution,
- 2) Women economic contribution has been made individual,
- 3) The development process has adverse impact on women due to not constant their economic contribution.

As a result of this analysis of Boserup, the concept of "integration" emerged and Integrating of Women in Development (WID) Approach emerged. Its basic premise was that since women per se had been left out of development processes, integrating them into development would automatically ensure gender equity. WID approach made analysis about that, there was the contribution of women in economic activities but invisible scene in the developmental process and make worsened position of women in all spheres of life by the efforts of development.

In the second half of the 1970s, Women and Development (WAD) approach emerged in the field of women development sector. Women were involving in subsistence work, self sustaining farming, rather than market-oriented activities. Although they were economically active people of the society, they invest their more time for work comparing with men, therefore the question is recognition rather than integration has emerged. So WAD approach made focused on the relationship between women and development process rather than integration of women into development process. In other words women have been important economic actors in their societies and they do both inside and outside work for the maintenance of their livelihood. And more working hour of women invested on family maintenance, child bearing and rearing, take care of old age and ill person and takes care of livestock which have not given any more economic value Case studies had shown that women had longer working hour comparing with men but women contribution did not get importance in the field of

development. As a result, another approach, (GAD) Gender and Development approach to development evolved in the 1980s.

According to Sajal Bhattarai; “women have always had lower status than men, but the extent of gap between the sexes varies across cultures and time. In 1980, the United Nations summed up the burden of this inequality: women, who comprise half the world’s population, do two thirds of the world’s work, earn one tenth of the world’s income and own one hundredth of the world’s property.”(National Book Center, 2006, p. 11) a lot of discussions have been made both at national and international level. Different approaches have evolved to address the problem of low or no participation of female in developmental processes. However, female status in economic, political, social, professional and legal domain remains the lower comparing with male. But we have to accept that the status, position and participation of women in many aspects of development is in the process of change comparing with the past, a little bit participation has occur that means, the consequences of the past efforts are occurring in the present scenario . But the comparing with the composition proportion of male and female it is not in representing status. Therefore for the equal status of women in every domain of development, demands a more efforts from the all stakeholders of the society.

Situation Analysis of children and women in Nepal 1991 by National planning Commission and UNICEF explains the real situation of Nepalese women. In general, women have less access to income, wealth, and modern avenues of employment, and education and health facilities than men; are suffered from higher rates of malnutrition and morbidity than men; especially in property and family matter. In the hill communities women enjoy greater freedom in marriage and mobility and have greater decision making roles within the household , but suffer from overwork and poor physical and social infrastructures ( National Planning Commission HMG and UNICEF children and women in Nepal, a situation analysis, 1981; 77

Men and women activities differ geographically too regionally by caste, and by society. Boserup (1970) identified African countries where women work to produce food crops for domestic subsistence and men work in production of cash crops for the market sale. She further identified that in the developing countries women are found to be engaged in the income generating activities, explaining why the poorer the households the greater

the farm work and income generating activities hour of women are clearly observed.

Whilehead (1984) reported of Conjugal Contact which exchange of good, services, income and labour between husband and wife in the households. The status of women in Nepal (1981 ) reported that women spend long working hours in relation to animal husbandry , crop production, gathering firewood , food processing , walking a long distance to fetch water in pots , grinding the grains, house cleaning, cooking , washing clothes and child bearing activities . This statement might be supported if a meaningful survey is conducted at the farm level during the peak agricultural season where women are found to work about 11 to 12 hours per day (UNDP, issue paper, contribute more to household activities than men. Shtrii Shakti on " Women Development Democracy 1995" has stressed that women in Nepal contribute much time and actual input of income to the household but the more decision making is being taken by men. (Shakti Shtrii- Women Development Democracy - 1995).

A Research study conducted by Women's Development and Publication center (WDRPC , 1992 ) states that of the total population aged 10 years and above , the percentage of inactive population was more among male, indicating more women in labour force. It was found that women spent about 11 hours a day, 75 percent of working time was spent on household's chores: cattle grating, collecting of fuel / fodder, fetching water, cooking, bearing the child etc, 20 percent on farming and 5 percent on income generating activities. Hill women were found contributing more labour in farming than Terai women which may be due to "social cultural differences of the population, constraints imposed by topography and level of socio economic development including level of mechanization existing in different district ".

Discrimination on the basis of gender is still widespread in Nepal and it has a great impact on rural development. The productive role of women in agriculture management is not reflected in proper representation and decision making power. Neither in indigenous institutions nor in externally sponsored institutions. Women are only involved in the informal sphere of day to day activities and decision making. These roles of men and women are to be understood.

In Nepal more than 90% of the populations live in rural areas, and their lives depend on subsistence farming. Women farmers make up the majority of the total farming labour force (63 % versus 27%). Women work 10.8 hours /day versus men 7.5 in agriculture. Men and women are both involved in decision-making in agriculture, whereby women decide what to do preplanting, weeding and during harvesting and beyond. At household level men dominate decision-making and also at community level men take policy decisions.

Nepalese agriculture is dominated by small-scale subsistence farming. The majority of households (66 percent) have less than one ha of land on average. More than 40 percent have less than 0.5 ha. The size of land holding is smaller in the Terai but much less productive in the hills and mountains. Hill agriculture has come to be primarily dependent on women due to male migration from the hills, leaving women to operate most of the farms. In the Terai, the majority of women, especially in smallholder agriculture, also contribute substantially to agriculture, both in terms of labor input and decision making. Women also play a major role in the livestock raising. Overall, women contribute 70 percent of the labor and up to 26 percent of the farm level decisions<sup>31</sup> in the livestock sub-sector. Care of livestock stall is primarily an activity of women, while boys and girls are engaged in herding activities on a large scale. Only in the case of the big herds in the mountain areas, which require seasonal movements for grazing, are men engaged on a large scale. Men are also involved in animal care and herding as hired labor, while mainly women are hired for fodder collection.

In Nepal, the land and other assets of the households are inheritably goes to the sons and women lack the personal property. Due to the lack of personal property, women do not have access to the credit from bank and local moneylenders. Women have fewer opportunities for income earnings as most of them involve in traditional farming activities. All these things put women in weaker bargaining position so; they are hesitant to participate in decision-making forum which ultimately limits their leadership.

In the Agricultural Perspective Plan (1997) it is clearly stated that the government wants to create an environment for equal participation of men and women in agricultural decision-making process and give equal access to agricultural inputs such as credit, extension service, training programmes. With more and more men leaving rural hilly areas in search for lucrative jobs in cities and abroad, women are left to cultivate the land and sustain

their families. Women constitute the larger proportion of the agricultural labour force.

Population Monograph of Nepal, Volume I, 2003 cites from CBS 2001 that women have occupied 50.1% of the total population in Nepal. Though women are more in number than men, everywhere in Nepalese families and societies we find gender discriminations. "Nari Purush Bara Bari" is one of the most popular catchphrases in Nepal, which is frequently heard in Radio and Television, and appears even on the newspapers too. Several workshops/seminars are organized in order to aware the people with this slogan which is meant to treat men and women equally. But since a long past, male domination has become a culture and deeply rooted in the Nepalese society. That's why Nepalese people themselves have not realized any kind of disparity yet. Moreover the women themselves also have never realized that men, in attaining several opportunities in life, are oppressing them. To understand the discrimination against women in education, we need to carry out some truths and facts exist in the family, society, culture, school level education, higher education, etc. in Nepal.

In the early 1990s, a direct correlation existed between the level of education and status. Educated women had access to relatively high-status positions in the government and private service sectors, and they had a much higher status than uneducated women. This general rule was more applicable at the societal level than at the household level. Within the family, an educated woman did not necessarily hold a higher status than her uneducated counterpart. Also within the family, a woman's status, especially a daughter-in-law's status, was more closely tied to her husband's authority and to her parental family's wealth and status than anything else.

National statistics shows that women's literacy rate is 30 percent while 66 percent to male and the national literacy rate is projected as 40 percent. The enrollment of women in higher education is only 24.95 percent. Women's involvement in technical and vocational education is also lower than men. The literacy rate of women varies in rural and urban areas of Nepal. The rural literacy rate of females is 36.5 percent while 61.5 percent in urban area of Nepal. . (Source: Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) 1996, 1998)

Satnam Kaur (Women in Rural Development, A case study; Mittal Delhi; 1987) emphasizes upon the female decision making specially in the areas of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She goes on to emphasize education of women as an important factor in the matter of decision making

process. In her words "Educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterparts".

The Terai women are far behind in every walk of life than the Mountain and Hill women. Terai women are not allowed to talk, move, and join school or campus according to their own choices. Dowry related crimes are very common in Terai. Most of Terai women are married in their teen ages. The average age at marriage for the Terai women is 14.5 yrs. Most of them depend upon their husbands and very few of them are independent economically. They are tortured too much if they give birth of daughter only. Most of women are considered as machine of child production. They are not involved in decision making.

General laws of Nepal reflect Hindu patriarchal ideology. Most of the formal rules existing in Nepalese society are in favour of men. Son has the birthright to family property but for women either she should get marry to gain the property from husband or she should remain unmarried to entitle a share of her ancestral property. Such laws make men always a breadwinner and the decision maker leaving women in a bargaining position.

It is found that women who are more satisfied with her status in family and in society are more likely to make family decision with her husband together or even with her own, and is less likely to consider her parents and parent-in-laws opinion for childbearing decision.

Women with a higher status are more likely to think that one child is enough for a family, and are less likely wanting another child. If the childbearing cost is expected to be high, a woman will less likely to have another child, while the cost of childbearing for a woman seems higher if she works as an enterprise employee. However, the result shows that there are significant regional differences.

The lack of systematic information on women's decision power has been much debated. The United Nations Fourth Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), as follows: Women contribute to development not only through remunerated work but also through a great deal of unremunerated work. On the other hand women participate in the production of goods and services for the market and household consumption, in agriculture, food production, or family enterprises. On the other hand, women still also perform the great majority of unremunerated domestic work and community work, such as caring for children and older persons preparing food for the family,



protecting the environment, and providing voluntary assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups. This work is often not measured in quantitative terms and is not valued in national accounts. Women's contribution to development is seriously underestimated, and thus its social recognition is limited. The full visibility of the type, extent and distribution of this unremunerated work will also contribute to a better sharing of responsibilities.

So, we can conclude the review of literature reveals that women are still behind men and they have been mostly confined within the boundaries of the household. Participation in implementation of plan without any stake in decision-making has been making women more vulnerable. So the aspiration and the interest of women should be taken into account during the formulation of rules and regulations and women's voice should be heard in every decision-making forum. Though it is not possible to change the inherited social norms and structure at once. Since the support of men is the prime factor in improving the gender relation to both men and women is beneficial to change the social norms and perceptions towards women. Benefiting women and improving gender equality in the long run requires a complete gender mainstreaming throughout the policy and implementing structures and mechanisms. Process oriented empowerment approach and capacity building of women is necessary to increase the bargaining power of women.

### **Social Perception**

In Nepal, community perceptions are mostly dominated by the perception of men, which are obviously in favor of men. There are some proverbs frequently used in the society to insult women, which reflect the belief of people. Some common proverbs, which reflects the belief of Nepalese society on women:

- *Dhilo hos, Chhora hos* ; (“Let it be late, but let it be a son”)
- *Chhora paye swarga jaane*; (“The birth of a son paves the way to heaven”)
- *Chhori ko janma hare ko karma*; (“A daughter is born with a doomed fate”)
- *Chhora bhaye sansar ujjalo, Chhori bhaye bhanchha ujjalo*; (“Son brightens the whole world, whereas a daughter brightens only the kitchen”)

- *Swasni bhaneko paitalako dhulo ho*; (“Wife is the dust of the foot”)
- *Pothi base ghar nahscha*; (“A woman ruled house is sure to be destroyed”)
- *Swasni mancheko buddhi pachhad* ; (“Women are always shortsighted”)

Such proverbs have developed the misconception towards the leadership capacity of women both in household and the community sphere.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Study Area**

Giddha VDC of Dhanusha district was selected for the present study. It is situated at the cross point of east west Hulaki Rajmarg and south north Mahinathpur Goddar road of Dhanusha district. Giddha VDC is selected as the study area due to followings purposes:

- ) Mixed castes culture (i.e. upper, OBC, Dalit castes)
- ) Such type of topic in this site has not been chosen before
- ) Researcher is being well familiar with this area as it is her own VDC

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The present study is descriptive in nature. It attempts to describe on the impact of gender mainstreaming in household decision making in different socio-economic fields like: income, expenditure, lending and borrowing, agriculture, livestock, marriage and festivals.

#### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

The proposed study is based mainly on the data collected from primary and secondary sources by using different data collection technique.

Secondary data were taken from various published and unpublished information sources i.e. library study, website, research reports, relevant literatures, annual reports and other project reports.

Primary data were collected by taking interview from 50 women respondents of age group 16 to 50 years of the Giddha VDC of Dhanusha district.

#### **3.4 Universe and Sampling Procedure**

The universe of this study is the whole women of Giddha VDC. Out of those, about 50 household's women is selected as the individual

respondent using PPS sampling from all the nine wards of the VDC. The key informants of this study are the women of age group 16 to 50 Years.

### **3.5 Technique of Data Collection**

The informations are collected by direct interview method using schedule sent through enumerator method. The schedule contains blanks as well as multiple choice questions. Here no one is enumerator but the investigator herself.

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

Questionnaire method is a method in research, in which information is obtained with the help of a questionnaire, which is prepared exclusively for the purpose. In this study structure questionnaire had been prepared and asked to the women of Giddha VDC of Dhanusha district. The question was prepared in such a way that it can provide both quantitative data and qualitative information. From this method all the information about respondent's socio-economic condition such as income, expenditure, lending and borrowing, agriculture, livestock, marriage and festivals were collected.

#### **3.5.2 Interview**

The interview method was used during the fieldwork. This study was based on interview with the 50 respondents. They were of outmost help and necessary help whenever required. This method helps to collect information about unknown facts through face to face contacts. This technique helps to get reliable information from the respondents' household chores.

#### **3.5.3 Observation**

Observation method is a method under which data from the field is collected with the help of observation by the observer or by personally going to the field. In observation the investigator must be present in the field and collect relevant data of this study. Observation in the field can provide so many in formations, which were not actually obtained through questionnaire and interview. Using observation, information on structure of house, living standard, housing facilities were obtained. Observation

has been done in Dhanusha district of Giddha VDC. Often women are found to be shy in answering the questions. Primary data is collected through this method. In this study it was found that decision making of women were quiet low as compared to men in the aspects of education, involvement , occupation, festival , agriculture, land –holding. The roles in decision – making of the respondents were dominated by male.

### **3.6 Data Process and Analysis**

Data analysis is the most critical constituent of any research work .Data do not speak themselves unless the researcher categorizes, manipulates and deposits them in certain orders so as to make them easily comprehensible. For which collected raw data were fist edited and then data entry were done in a statistical package SPSS. SPSS means the Statistical Package for Social Science which was used to calculate necessary descriptive statistics like: count, mean, percentage, etc.

## CHAPTER IV

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION STUDY

Various socio-economic and demographic characteristics such as castes, age, sex marriage, education and occupation are the basic indicators to provide many more information about a population in a single glimpse. Beside, they can also serve as the basis for the various studies on population. So, in this chapter deals with the socio-economic characteristics of the population study, this may influence the level of women participation in decision making.

#### 4.1 Households Survey by Ward in Giddha VDC

Probability proportion to size (PPS) Sampling:-A selection procedure in which the units are selected with varying probabilities in proportion to some measure of the size of the sampling units is known as sampling with probability proportion to size (PPS).

Table No.4.1 Households survey by ward in Giddha VDC										
Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
HHs	44	79	76	62	82	134	107	99	65	748
HHs Survey	3	5	5	4	5	9	7	7	4	50

Source: Field survey, 2009; Aasman Nepal, Household survey system, 2007

Sampling with probability proportion to size (PPS) was used to select 50 households from 1 to 9 wards of Giddha VDC of Dhanusha district. The maximum 9 and minimum 3 households were selected from ward no. 6 and 1 respectively as in above Table No.4.1.

#### 4.2 Households Size

Household size is the total number of kinship member living together and cooking food on a single Chuloha.

HHs sizes	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Frequency	3	7	11	7	12	4	4	2	50
Average HHs size	5.12								

Source: Field survey, 2009

The average household size of the surveyed family is 5.12 with maximum family size of 9 and that of minimum 2 as in above Table No.4.2.

### 4.3 Households Survey by Castes

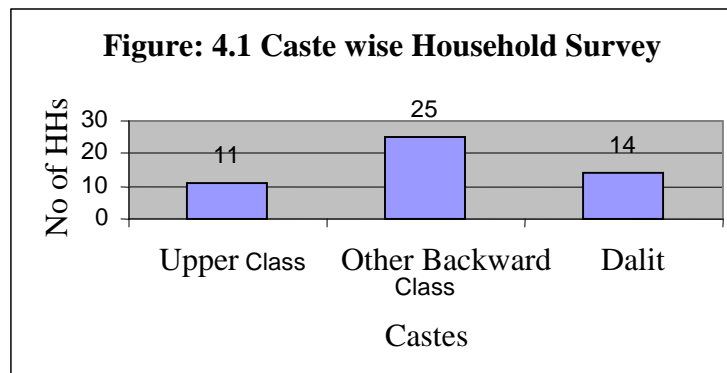
Caste-based discrimination is one of the most widespread social maladies of human civilization throughout history and should not be tolerated in the 21st century. It is observed that the targeted population is the diversity society by castes.

**Table No. 4.3 Households Survey by Castes**

Castes	Frequency	Percent
Upper Class	11	22
Other Backward Class	25	50
Dalit	14	28
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

The study includes the maximum 50 percent (i.e.25 out of 50) other backward class, 28% (i.e.14 out of 50) Dalits and minimum (i.e.11 out of 50) survey family upper class as in above Table No.4.3.



#### 4.4 Type of Family Structure

Nuclear family:-Family formed by the union of mother, father and their unmarried child is called a nuclear family.

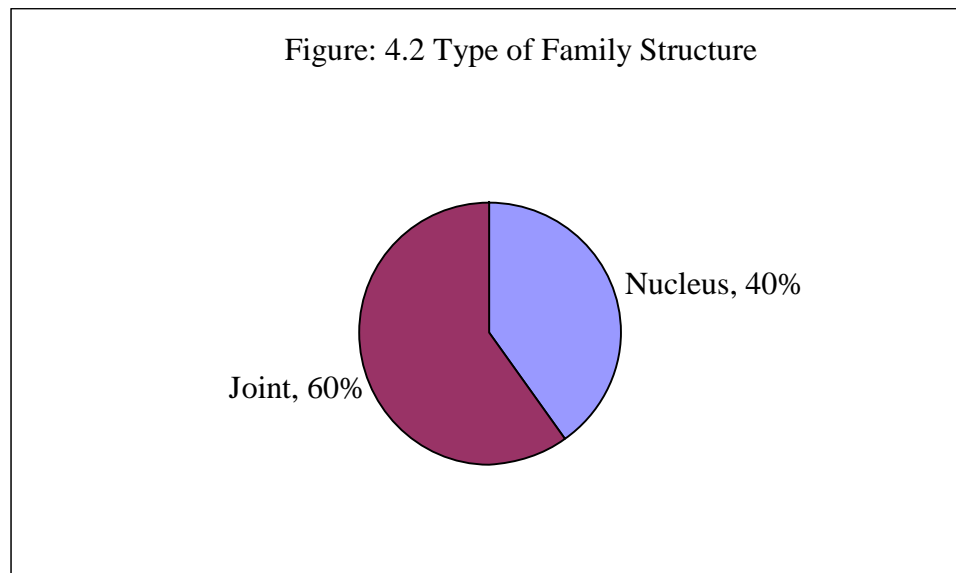
Joint family: - Family formed by the union of three generation i.e. grand mother father, uncle aunt and cousins etc. is called a joint family.

**Table No. 4.4 Type of Survey Family Structure**

Family	Frequency	Percent
Nucleus	20	40
Joint	30	60
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

This study includes two types of family structure. Out of 50 survey households 60 percent i.e. 30 households is joint family and 40 percent i.e. 20 households is nucleus family as in above Table No.4.4.



#### 4.5 Age Composition of Respondents

The study includes population with various ages that can play different roles in family. As feeling, responsibility and work changes according age of the



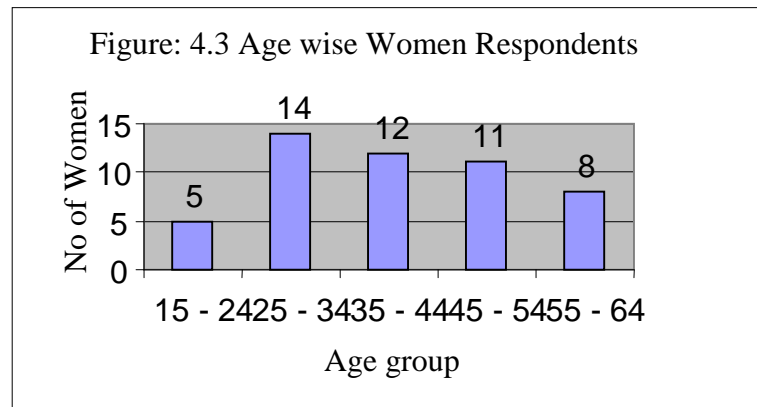
human being, women of different age composition are the respondents of study.

**Table No. 4.5 Women involved in interview by age group**

Age group	Frequency	Percent
15 - 24	5	10
25 - 34	14	28
35 - 44	12	24
45 - 54	11	22
55 - 64	8	16
Total	50	100

Sources: Field survey, 2009

In this study, the maximum 28 percent (i.e.14 out of 50) participants lies in 25-34 years and that of the minimum 5 percent(i.e.10 out of 50) participants lies in 15-24 years as in above Table No.4.5



#### 4.6 Job Status of Women Respondents

The representation of women in Nepalese civil service is very low.

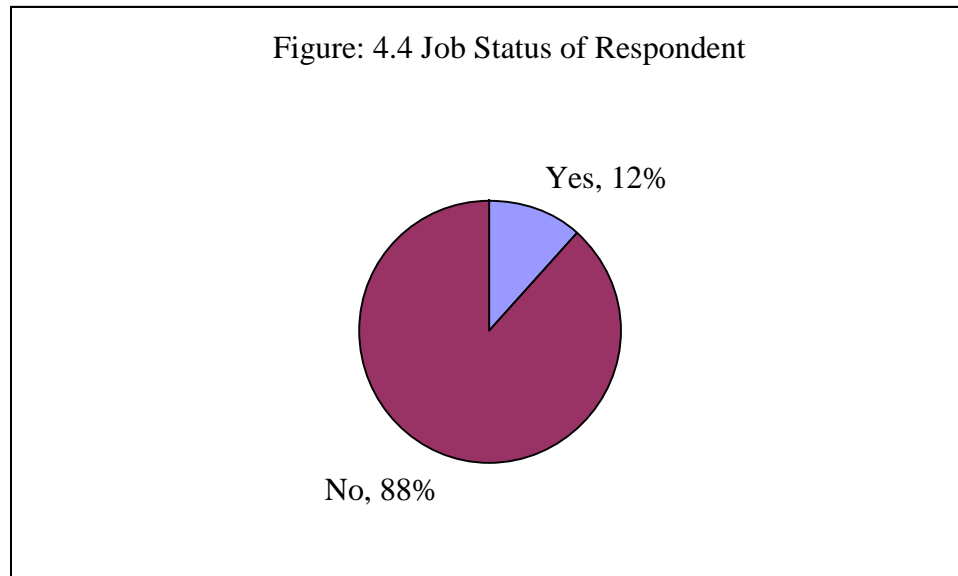
**Table No.4.6 Job status of women respondents**

Job Status	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	12
No	44	88
Total	50	100

Sources: Field survey, 2009

The study shows that job status of women respondents is very low.

Only 12 percent (6 out of 50) women are in job and 88 percent (44 out of 50) are without job as in above Table No.4.6.



#### 4.7 Women Participation in Organization

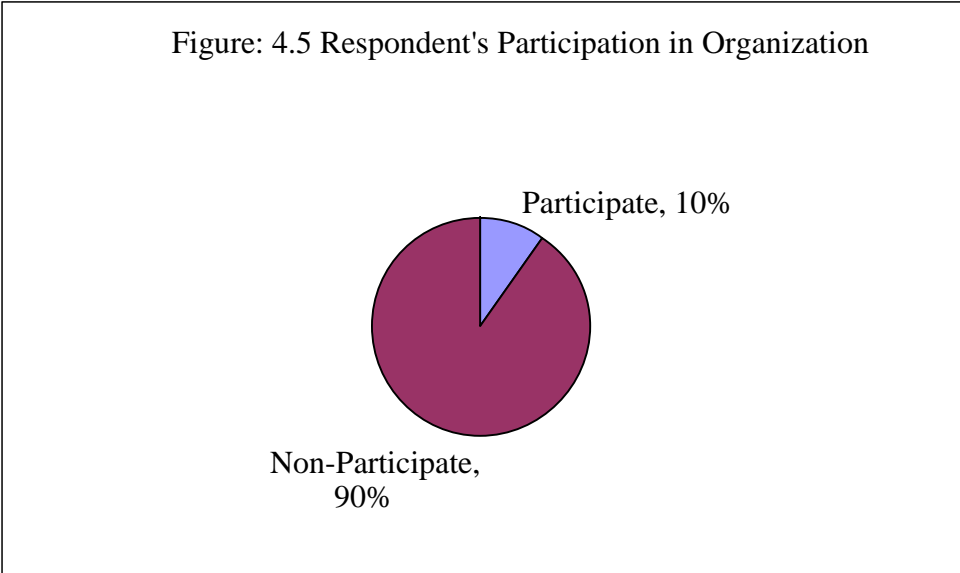
The study shows that status of women participation in any organization is very low.

**Table No.4.7 Women participation in organization**

Participation	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	10
No	45	90
Total	50	100

Sources: Field survey, 2009

Only 10 percent (5 out of 50) women are participate and 90 percent (45 out of 50) are not participate in any organization as in above Table No.4.7.



**4.8 Respondent's Education**

Education should focus on the values, attitudes and behaviors which enable individuals to learn to live together in a world characterized by diversity and pluralism. Educated women are seen as good mothers for the child's wellbeing, their health necessary for the same purpose. Small income generating, skill training and employment programs for women are seen a good source of additional household income

National statistics shows that women’s literacy rate is 30 percent while 66 percent to male and the national literacy rate is projected as 40 percent. (Source: Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) 1996, 1998)

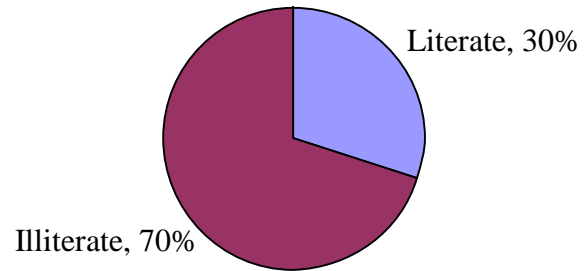
**Table No.4.8 Respondent's education**

Education	Frequency	Percent
Literate	15	30
Illiterate	35	70
Total	50	100

Sources: Field survey, 2009

Unfortunately, this study also includes 30 percent (15 out of 50) literate and 70 percent (35 out of 50) illiterate women participation as respondents as in above Table No.4.8

Figure: 4.6 Education of Respondent



## CHAPTER V

### WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN HOUSEHOLD/DECISION MAKING

In this chapter efforts have been made to analyze the extent of women's status within the households with special emphasis of their decision making powers as compared to their male counterparts. The information collected from women's of different ethnic group and age groups are included.

In analyzing the role of women as household decision maker almost all attempts are made to cover all relevant aspects that would reflect women decision making power in different matters within and outside the household. Accordingly, matters are classified into three classes such as

General Decision:-Job, Organization, Education

Economic Decision:-purchase, sale, investment, lending & borrowing, farming,

Socio Decision:-Marriage, Festival, Child bearing

The concept of making decision has been decided into two different stages such as

- ) Making consult for the decision making and
- ) Making final decision to execute the idea.

The above process is utilized to measure the degree of input by the household members/ women in each stage of the decision making process. As in this study woman has a stronger hold on first stage while less hold on the second stage.

## 5.1 Women Involvement in Job

The Table No.5.1 reveals the picture of women involvement in job.

**Table No. 5.1 Women involvement in job**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Yes	Count	4		2		6	4	2			6
	%	67		33		100	67	33			100
No	Count	26		18		44	6	18	20		44
	%	59		41		100	14	41	45		100
Total	Count	30		20		50	10	20	20		50
	%	60		40		100	20	40	40		100

Source: Field survey, 2009

In this study 60 percent (30 out of 50) respondents were said that consultation about their involvement in job was made while 40 percent (20 out of 50) consultation were made with their husband. In the final decision of women involvement in job, only 20 percent (10 out of 50) respondents were said that they were decide about their involvement in job , 40 percent (20 out of 50) HHs Head and 40 percent (20 out of 50) husband were decided about their involvement in job.

About woman involvement in job, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 67 percent while HHs Head consultation is completely ignored with husband consultation scores 33 percent. But in final decision also women scores high about 67 percent while men including HHs Head scores 33and ignoring the Husband final decision.

About woman involvement who is not in job, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 59 percent while HHs Head consultation is completely ignored with husband consultation scores 41 percent. But in final decision also women scores about 14 percent while men including HHs Head scores 41and Husband scores 45 respectively.

## 5.2 Women Involvement in Organization

**Table No. 5.2 Women involvement in organization**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Yes	Count	4		1		5		1	4		5
	%	80		20		100		20	80		100
No	Count	26		19		45	10	29	6		45
	%	58		42		100	22	64	13		100
Total	Count	30	0	20	0	50	10	30	10	0	50
	%	60	0	40	0	100	20	60	20	0	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

In this study 60 percent (30 out of 50) respondents were said that consultation about their involvement in organization was made while 40 percent (20 out of 50) consultation were made with their husband. In the final decision of women involvement in organization, only 20 percent (10 out of 50) respondents were said that they were decide about their involvement in organization , 60 percent (30 out of 50) HHs Head and 20 percent (10 out of 50) husband were decided about their involvement in organization.

The Table No.5.2 reveals the picture of women involvement in organization. About woman involvement in organization, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 67 percent while HHs Head consultation is completely ignored with husband consultation scores 33 percent. But in final decision also women scores high about 67 percent while men including HHs Head scores 33and ignoring the Husband final decision.

About woman involvement who is not in organization, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 59 percent while HHs Head consultation is completely ignored with husband consultation scores 41 percent. But in final decision also women scores about 14 percent while men including HHs Head scores 41and Husband scores 45 respectively.

## 5.3 Women Involvement in Family Education

**Table No. 5.3 Women involvement in family education**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Son	Count	28		18	4	50	4	15	29	2	50
	%	56		36	8	100	8	30	58	4	100
Daughter	Count	37	5	2	6	50	12	17	21		50
	%	74	10	4	12	100	24	34	42		100
Man	Count	4	19	17	10	50		37	13		50
	%	8	38	34	20	100		74	26		100
Woman	Count	18	8	16	8	50		25	25		50
	%	36	16	32	16	100		50	50		100
Others	Count	2	22	17	9	50	4	26	20		50
	%	4	44	34	18	100	8	52	40		100
Total	Count	89	54	70	37	250	20	120	108	2	250
	%	35.6	21.6	28	14.8	100	8	48	43.2	0.8	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Nepal is a developing country. Most of population living in rural area are illiterates .About woman involvement in family education, the study shows that high women consultation scores about 37 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 22 and 28 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 8percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 48 and 43 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.3 reveals the clear picture of women involvement in family education.

In the case of son's education, women's consultation scores is high i.e. 56 percent. Husband has consultation scores about 36 percent and HHs Head consultation is ignored. But in final decision, woman involvement is only 8 percent while HHs Head has 30 percent scores and Husband has 58 percent respectively.

In the case of daughter's education, women's consultation scores is high i.e. 74 percent. While Husband has consultation scores about 4 percent and HHs



Head consultation scores 10 percent. But in final decision, woman involvement is 24 percent while HHs Head has 34 percent scores and Husband has 42 percent respectively.

In the case of man's education, women's consultation scores 8 percent only. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 38 and 34 percent. But in final decision, woman involvement is completely ignored while HHs Head and Husband scores 74 and 26 percent respectively.

In the case of woman's education, women's consultation scores 36 percent. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 16 and 32 percent. But in final decision, woman involvement is completely ignored while HHs Head and Husband scores 50 and 50 percent respectively.

#### 5.4 Women Involvement in Purchase

**Table No. 5.4 Women involvement in purchase sing items for family**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Food	Count	20	2	24	4	50	8	27	15		50
	%	40	4	48	8	100	16	54	30		100
Clothes	Count	29	3	16	2	50	6	16	28		50
	%	58	6	32	4	100	12	32	56		100
Daily Consumption Goods	Count	25	7	14	4	50	10	25	15		50
	%	50	14	28	8	100	20	50	30		100
Livestock	Count	6	18	24	2	50		29	21		50
	%	12	36	48	4	100		58	42		100
Ornaments	Count	34	2	14		50	15	10	25		50
	%	68	4	28		100	30	20	50		100
Land/House	Count	4	12	25	9	50		33	17		50
	%	8	24	50	18	100		66	34		100
Medicine	Count	26		18	6	50	5	18	25	2	50
	%	52		36	12	100	10	36	50	4	100
Others	Count	34	2	6	8	50	22	10	18		50
	%	68	4	12	16	100	44	20	36		100
Total	Count	178	46	141	35	400	66	168	164	2	400
	%	45	11.5	35.25	8.75	100	16.5	42	41	0.5	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

There are many items that should be purchased for household needs such as food, clothes, daily consumption goods, livestock, ornaments, land/house and medicines. For purchasing households needs goods, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 45 percent while men including HHs

head and husband with scores 11.5 and 35.25 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 16.5 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 42 and 41 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.4 elicits the complete picture of women involvement in purchasing the goods for households need as:

In the case of food purchasing, women consultation scores about 40 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 4 and 48 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores low about 16 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 54 and 30 percent respectively.

In the case of cloths purchasing, women consultation scores high about 58 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 6 and 32 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores low about 12 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 32 and 56 percent respectively.

In the case of daily consumption goods purchasing, women consultation scores high about 50 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 14 and 28 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 20 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 50 and 30 percent respectively.

In the case of livestock purchasing, women consultation scores about 12 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 36 and 48 percent respectively. But in final decision women are completely ignored with men including HHs head and husband with scores 54 and 30 percent respectively.

As ornaments are special goods for women, high consultation i.e.68 percent is made with the women. While in final decision of purchasing, women involvement is only 30 percent with men including HHs head and husband 20 and 50 percent respectively.

In the case of land/house purchasing, both women consultation as well as involvement in final decision are almost ignored while men including HHs head and husband establish their power in the discussion and decision of purchasing.

Women health situation is also at risk because of their involvement as consultation only and not in final decision of purchasing medicine.

## 5.5 Women Involvement in Sale

**Table No. 5.5 Women involvement in selling items of family**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Food	Count	28	9	13		50	13	21	16		50
	%	56	18	26		100	26	42	32		100
Livestock	Count	4	15	29	2	50		33	17		50
	%	8	30	58	4	100		66	34		100
Ornaments	Count	35		15		50	21	11	18		50
	%	70		30		100	42	22	36		100
Land/House	Count	2	6	40	2	50		26	24		50
	%	4	12	80	4	100		52	48		100
Others	Count	27	3	14	6	50	14	13	23		50
	%	54	6	28	12	100	28	26	46		100
Total	Count	96	33	111	10	250	48	104	98	0	250
	%	38.4	13.2	44.4	4	100	19.2	41.6	39.2	0	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

There are many items that should be sold for household needs such as food, livestock, ornaments, land/house and others. For selling household goods, the study shows that women consultation as well as involvement in final decision is not giving so importance. Women consultation scores about 38.4 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 13.2 and 44.4 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 19.2 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 41.6 and 39.2 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.5 reveals the complete picture of women involvement in selling the household's goods as:

In the case of food selling, women consultation scores high about 56 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 18 and 26 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores low about 26 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 42 and 32 percent respectively.

In the case of livestock selling, women consultation scores very low about 8 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 30 and 58

percent respectively. But in final decision women are completely ignored with men including HHs head and husband with scores 66 and 34 percent respectively.

As ornaments are special goods for women, high consultation 70 percent is made with the women while rest 30 percent consultation is made with husband. While in final decision of selling, women involvement is still high 42 percent with men including HHs head and husband 22 and 36 percent respectively.

In the case of land/house selling, both women consultation as well as involvement in final decision is almost ignored while men including HHs head and husband establish their power in the discussion and decision of purchasing.

## 5.6 Women Involvement in Investment

**Table No. 5.6 Women involvement in investment**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Business	Count	4	43	3	50	29	21			50	
	%	8	86	6	100	58	42			100	
Cottage Industry	Count	2	5	35	8	50	30	18	2	50	
	%	4	10	70	16	100	60	36	4	100	
Bank Balance	Count	30	2	18	4	50	7	6	37	50	
	%	60	4	36	8	100	14	12	74	100	
Livestock	Count	7	12	27	4	50	30	20		50	
	%	14	24	54	8	100	60	40		100	
Ornaments	Count	40	2	8	5	50	10	8	32	50	
	%	80	4	16	10	100	20	16	64	100	
Land/House	Count	2	12	31	5	50	28	22		50	
	%	4	24	62	10	100	56	44		100	
Farming	Count	7	6	24	13	50	29	21		50	
	%	14	12	48	26	100	58	42		100	
Others	Count	22		22	6	50	12	13	23	2	50
	%	44		44	12	100	24	26	46	4	100
Total	Count	110	43	208	39	400	29	173	194	4	400
	%	27.5	10.75	52	9.75	100	7.25	43.25	48.5	1	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

One may want to improve once own or family status for which one should have to invest in different field of investment. For Women involvement in investment, the survey shows that women consultation scores about 27.5 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 10.75 and 52

percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7.25 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 43.25 and 48.5 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.6 gives the clear picture of women involvement in decision making about the investment to earn money and to fulfill family needs and to improve their status.

About the investment in business, women's consultation as well as their involvement in final decision is completely ignored. Husband has high consultation scores about 86 percent and HHs head has only 8 percent. But in final decision HHs head has 58 percent scores and husband has 42 percent.

For the investment in cottage industry, women's consultation as well as their involvement in final decision is completely ignored. Husband has high consultation scores about 70 percent, HHs head has only 10 percent and others has 16 percent. But in final decision HHs head has 60 percent scores, husband has 36 percent and others have only 4 percent.

For bank balance, women consultation scores high about 60 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 4 and 36 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 14 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 12 and 74 percent respectively.

For investment in livestock, women consultation scores about 14 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 24 and 54 percent respectively. But in final decision women are completely ignored with men including HHs head and husband with scores 60 and 40 percent respectively.

As ornaments are special goods for women, high consultation 80 percent is made with the women. While in final decision of investment, women involvement is only 20 percent with men including HHs head and husband 16 and 64 percent respectively.

To invest in land/house, both women consultation as well as involvement in final decision is almost ignored while men including HHs head and husband establish their power in the discussion and decision of purchasing.

To invest in farming, both women consultation as well as involvement in final decision is almost ignored while men including HHs head and husband establish their power in the discussion and decision of purchasing.

## 5.7 Women Involvement in Lending/borrowing

**Table No. 5.7 Women involvement in lending/borrowing**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Son's Marriage	Count	5	7	34	4	50		20	28	2	50
	%	10	14	68	8	100		40	56	4	100
Daughter's Marriage	Count	16	9	21	4	50	3	21	26		50
	%	32	18	42	8	100	6	42	52		100
Industry	Count		11	35	4	50		27	23		50
	%		22	70	8	100		54	46		100
Purchasing of Land/House	Count	7	2	39	2	50		25	25		50
	%	14	4	78	4	100		50	50		100
Medical Treatment	Count	15	2	27	6	50	7	15	28		50
	%	30	4	54	12	100	14	30	56		100
Others	Count	28	2	8	12	50	12	15	23		50
	%	56	4	16	24	100	24	30	46		100
Total	Count	71	33	164	32	300	22	123	153	2	300
	%	24	11	55	11	100	7	41	51	1	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Many times one may have to lend /borrow to fulfill the family needs. For Women involvement in lending /borrowing, the survey shows that women consultation scores about 24 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 11 and 55 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7 percent while men including HHs head and husband with scores 41 and 51 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.7 gives the view eyes of women involvement in decision making about the lending /borrowing.

In the case of lending/borrowing for son's marriage, women's consultation scores about 10percent while HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 14 and 68 with others 8 percent respectively. But in final decision women were completely ignored while HHs head and husband score 40and 56 percent respectively.

In the case of lending/borrowing for daughter's marriage, women's consultation scores about 32 percent while HHs Head and Husband

consultation scores about 18 and 42 with others 8 percent respectively. But in final decision women involvement is very low 6 percent only while HHs head and husband scores 42 and 52 percent respectively.

In the case of lending/borrowing for industry, women's consultation as well as involvement in final decision is completely ignored while HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 22 and 70 percent respectively. But in final decision HHs head and husband score 54 and 46 percent respectively

In the case of lending/borrowing for purchasing land/house, women's consultation scores about 14 percent while HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 4 and 78 with others 4 percent respectively. But in final decision women were completely ignored while HHs head and husband score 50 and 50 percent respectively

In the case of lending/borrowing for medical treatment, women's consultation scores about 30 percent while HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 4 and 54 with others 12 percent respectively. But in final decision women involvement is 14 while HHs head and husband score 30 and 56 percent respectively.

## 5.8 Women Involvement in Farming

**Table No. 5.8 Women involvement in farming**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Crops Selection	Count	4	14	27	5	50	31	19		50	
	%	8	28	54	10	100	62	38		100	
Use of Fertilizer	Count	4	22	20	4	50	28	22		50	
	%	8	44	40	8	100	56	44		100	
Use of Labor	Count	7	15	22	6	50	33	15	2	50	
	%	14	30	44	12	100	66	30	4	100	
Use of Medicine	Count	6	11	24	9	50	30	20		50	
	%	12	22	48	18	100	60	40		100	
Sale's of Agri. Products	Count	23	5	20	2	50	7	28	15	50	
	%	46	10	40	4	100	14	56	30	100	
Others	Count	17	6	7	20	50	13	22	15	50	
	%	34	12	14	40	100	26	44	30	100	
Total	Count	61	73	120	46	300	20	172	106	2	300
	%	20	24	40	15	100	7	57	35	1	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Nepal is an agricultural country. Most of population living in rural areas is involved in farming. About woman involvement in farming, the study shows that women consultation scores about 20 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 24 and 40 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 57 and 35 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.8 elicits the clear picture of women involvement in farming.

In the case of business, women's consultation as well as their involvement in final decision is completely ignored. Husband has high consultation scores about 86 percent and HHs head has only 8 percent. But in final decision HHs head has 58 percent scores and husband has 42 percent.

In crop selection, women's consultation as well as their involvement in final decision is ignored. Husband has high consultation scores about 54 percent and that of HHs head has only 28 percent. But in final decision HHs head has 62 percent scores and husband has 38 percent involvement in farming.

About the use of fertilizers in farming, women's consultation as well as their involvement in final decision is ignored. HHs Head and Husband has consultation scores about 44 and 40 percent. But in final decision HHs head has 56 percent scores and husband has 44 percent involvement about the use of fertilizers in farming.

About the use of labor in farming, women's consultation scores 14 percent and their involvement in final decision is ignored. While HHs Head and Husband has consultation scores about 30percent and 44 percent. But in final decision HHs head has 66 percent scores and husband has 30 percent involvement.

About the use of medicine in farming, women's consultation scores 6 percent onley and that with others scores 9 percent. While HHs Head and Husband has consultation scores about 11 percent and 24 percent. But in final decision woman involvement is completely ignored with HHs head and Husband scores 60 and 40 percent respectively.

To sale the agricultural products, women consultation scores high about 46 percent while that reduced to 14 percent only in final decision. While men including HHs Head and Husband consultation scores 10 and 40 percent but



in final decision HHs Head's scores increased to 56 and that of Husband decreased to 30 percent respectively.

## 5.9 Women Involvement in Family Marriage

**Table No. 5.9 Women involvement in family marriage**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Son	Count	21	3	22	4	50	4	20	26		50
	%	42	6	44	8	100	8	40	52		100
Daughter	Count	29	2	13	6	50	6	15	29		50
	%	58	4	26	12	100	12	30	58		100
Own	Count	2	35	7	6	50	4	43	3		50
	%	4	70	14	12	100	8	86	6		100
Others	Count		24	22	4	50		41	9		50
	%		48	44	8	100		82	18		100
Total	Count	52	64	64	20	200	14	119	67	0	200
	%	26	32	32	10	100	7	60	33	0	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

About woman involvement in family marriage, the study shows that women consultation scores about 26 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 32 and 32 percent respectively. But in final decision women scores only about 7 percent while men including HHs Head and Husband scores 59 and 33 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.9 reveals the clear picture of women involvement in family education.

In the case of son's marriage, woman's consultation scores 42 percent. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores 6 and 44 percent respectively. But in final decision, woman involvement is only 8 percent while HHs Head and Husband scores 40 and 52 percent respectively.

In the case of daughter's marriage, woman's consultation scores is high i.e. 58 percent. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 4 26 percent respectively. But in final decision, woman involvement is 12 percent while HHs Head scores 30 and 52 percent respectively.

In the case of woman's own marriage, women's consultation scores 4 percent only. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 70 and 14 percent respectively with others 12 percent. But in final decision, woman

involvement is 8 percent only while HHs Head and Husband scores 86 and 6 percent respectively.

## 5.10 Women Involvement in Family Festival

**Table No. 5.10 Women involvement in family festival**

Items		Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Goods Purchasing	Count	44	2	2	2	50	32	6	12		50
	%	88	4	4	4	100	64	12	24		100
Arrangement	Count	35		7	8	50	40	2	8		50
	%	70		14	16	100	80	4	16		100
Invitation	Count	12	8	28	2	50	3	21	26		50
	%	24	16	56	4	100	6	42	52		100
Others	Count	34	2	10	4	50	26	9	11	4	50
	%	68	4	20	8	100	52	18	22	8	100
Total	Count	125	12	47	16	200	101	38	57	4	200
	%	63	6	23	8	100	51	19	28	2	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

About woman involvement in family festival decision, the study shows that women consultation scores high about 63 percent while men including HHs head and husband scores 6 and 23 percent respectively. But in final decision also women scores high about 51 percent while men including HHs Head and Husband scores 19 and 28 percent respectively.

The Table No.5.10 reveals the clear picture of women involvement in family festival.

In the case of goods purchasing for festival celebration in family, woman's consultation scores high 88 percent. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores 4 and 4 percent respectively. But in final decision also, woman involvement is high 64 percent while HHs Head and Husband scores 12 and 24 percent respectively.

In the case of festival arrangement, woman's consultation scores is high i.e. 70 percent. While HHs Head consultation is completely ignored with Husband consultation scores about 14 others 16 percent respectively. But in final decision of festival arrangement, woman involvement is 80 percent with HHs Head Husband scores 4 and 16 percent respectively.

In the case of invitation in family festival, women's consultation scores 24 percent. While HHs Head and Husband consultation scores about 16 and 56 percent respectively percent. But in final decision, woman involvement is 6 percent only while HHs Head and Husband scores 42 and 52 percent respectively.

### 5.11 Women Involvement in Child Bearing

Table No. 5.11 Women involvement in child bearing

			Final decision				Total
			Own	HHs Head	Husband	Others	
Consult with	Own	Count	20		20		40
		%	50		50		100
	HHs Head	Count					
		%					
	Husband	Count		10			10
		%		100			100
	Others	Count					
		%					
	Total	Count	20	10	20	0	50
		%	40	20	40	0	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

In this study 40 out of 50 respondents were said that their consent about child bearing was taken while 10 out of 50 were said that without their consent husbands want to get child taken made with their husband. But in the final decision of getting child, only 40 percent (20 out of 50) respondents were said that they were decide themselves , 20 percent (10 out of 50) HHs Head and 40 percent (20 out of 50) husband were decided about their involvement in child bearing as in Table No.5.11.

## CHAPTER V

### MAJOR FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

The main purposes of this study is to examine the women participation in household decision making on the basis of survey conducted in VDC Giddha of Dhanusha district .This chapter includes the major findings drawn on the basis of information's collected .

#### **Major Findings:**

##### **A. General Decision:-Job, Organization, Education**

1. Regarding women job, the consultative role of women is high with respect to husband and HHs Head .But in final decision power is center lies to HHs Head more and less to them.
2. In the of organization participation also, the consultative role of women is high with respect to husband and HHs Head .But in final decision power is center lies to HHs Head more and less to them.
3. In the case education earning, the consultative role of women is almost same with as that of HHs Head and husband .But in final decision power is center lies to HHs Head and to husband.

##### **B. Economic Decision:-Purchase, Sale, Investment, Lending &Borrowing, Farming**

1. In purchasing households goods, the consultation role of female member is more important than male while this is reversed in final decision.
2. In selling goods, the study shows that women's role in consultation regard able than in final decision. While in final decision the power goes to HHs Head more and Husband less.

3. Regarding to the investment in different activities, the women's role is regard able in consultation while Husband's role is powerful both in consultation and in final decision.

4. For women involvement in lending /borrowing, women involvement is more in consultation than in final decision. However in final decision power is centralized to HHs head and husband.

5. About woman involvement in farming, women's role in consultation is more considerable than in final decision. HHs Head and Husband play more role than women in final decision.

### **Socio Decision:-Marriage, Festival, Child Bearing**

1. The male (i.e. HHs Head and Husband) have greater input than female in social activities like son, daughter and other members. Son and daughter must accept their parent's decision.

2. The women play grater role than men in family festival's activities like goods purchasing, arrangement and others. While HHs Head and Husband play major role in invitation distribution.

3. In the child bearing case, women are not free from influence of HHs Head decision but mainly women play major role with their husband.

### **5.1 Conclusions**

The survey result revealed the information about men's and women's control over participation in household decision making of Job, Organization, Education ,purchase, sale, investment, lending & borrowing, farming, Marriage, Festival, Child bearing and concluded that

- ) Traditional concept that women should work as housewives and not outside organizational work
- ) Persisting traditional attitudes towards women's education
- ) Traditional power of purchasing and sailing goods towards household owners and husband

- ) Traditional power of lending/borrowing and investment of assets towards household owners
- ) Traditional method and power of farming concentrated towards household owners
- ) Not directly but indirectly household owner (through female and Husband) has major control on child bearing
- ) In festival like marriage and other, woman has major role inside home activities while outside home like in the distribution of invitation male has major role.

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## 2. Participation in organization

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Yes										
No										

## 3. Education

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Son										
Daughter										
Man										
Woman										
Others										

## 4. Purchase

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Food										
Clothes										
Daily Consumption Goods										
Livestock										
Ornaments										
Land/House										
Medicine										
Others										

## 5. Sale

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Food										
Livestock										
Ornaments										
Land/House										
Others										

## 6. Investment

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Business										
Cottage Industry										
Bank Balance										
Livestock										
Ornaments										
Land/House										
Farming										
Others										

## 7. Lending/Borrowing

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Son's Marriage										
Daughter's Marriage										
Industry										
Purchasing of Land/House										
Medical Treatment										
Others										

### 8. Farming

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Crops Selection										
Use of Fertilizer										
Use of Labor										
Use of Medicine										
Sale's of Agri. Products										
Others										

### 9. Family marriage

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Son										
Daughter										
Own										
Others										

### 10. Family festival

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Goods Purchasing										
Arrangement										
Invitation										
Others										

### 11. Child bearing

Items	Consult with				Total	Final Decision				Total
	Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other		Own	HHs Head	Husband	Other	
Yes										
No										

