

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

**(A Case study in Damachour VDC Ward 9, Salyan District)**

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology  
for the partial fulfillment of the Requirement of Master  
Degree of Arts in Sociology**

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**RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

This is to certify that Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Oli has worked under my supervision and guidance for the preparation of this dissertation entitled "Women's Participation in Household Decision Making: A Case Study of Damachour V.D.C. Ward No. 9 Dahagaon, Salyan" for the partial fulfillment of Master's Degree of Arts in Sociology. To the best of my knowledge, the study is original and carries out useful information. I, therefore, recommend it for the evaluation and approval to the dissertation committee.

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**Lokendra Bahabur Oli**

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This section provides a context to the study including a general background as well as the research problems and objectives for the research study with conceptual framework of the study.

### **1.1 Introduction of the Study**

The key difference between sex and gender is that sex is biological fact defines male and female, gender with defines men and women is the result of cultural process. Gender is a socio-economic variable to analyze, roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities of both men and women involvements in development and also the ways interrelate (Shrestha, 1994). Gender is not only a source of difference, but is also one of the structuring principles of society.

Gender issue currently is perhaps something most written, talked and heard about. Women have been the target group till now. Women should be the subject and the center of development because historically even today women have the triple role of reproductive, productive and community managing activities while women are involved in productive, reproductive and community politics activities. The reproductive role refers to child bearing and rearing responsibilities and domestic tasks within the home. The productive role refers to work payment in case or kind. It includes anything with a potential exchange value, whether for market or the home. For example field labour may be exchanged for fuel-wood and rice. Similarly, the community managing role refers to activities



undertaken at the community level meeting, present in decision making processing the mounting as VDC representatives, member of management committee etc.

Addressing the practical gender needs and strategic gender needs of the women has come to the fore for the fact that their status vis-à-vis men are relatively low in Nepal. This status of women can be attributed to the fact that Nepal is a male-dominated society, which has given way to innumerable disparities between men and women. According to a recent survey carried out, it showed that men are twice likely to be literate as women, with rural women and men being less literate than their urban counterparts (New Era, 2001). Furthermore this survey has shown that with the exception of what food to cook, husbands have a greater say in decision making processes than their wives. As such women in Nepal lag far behind in all areas of health, education, economy, legal proceeding, employment and politics. Given this situation of women of Nepal, even the government has deemed it necessary to give due recognition to the women for their upliftment as a result in the tenth five-years plan, the government addressed the issue of women's role in national development. Its main focus was to enhance women's efficiency through productivity by imparting education and training, where as the seventh five-year plan focused on women's participation in development programmer. Likewise, in the eighth five-year plan several women development policies were adopted to involve women in the national development mainstream. The policies were enacted in order to ensure their participation in all sectors of development. Furthermore, this commitment has been reiterated in the ninth five-year plan, which states that "in this

competitive age on the eve of the twenty first century Nepalese women are still because of illiteracy, ill health, poverty, orthodox traditions and discriminatory legal system" (tenth year plan). Thus one of the objectives of the tenth five year plan had been focused on women's empowerment for achieving its overall aim of poverty alleviation ensuring women's share in decision-making processes at all levels. However, despite the efforts of three decades, seventy five percent of women are still illiterate, only four percent of the women were members of parliament and only two percent are first class officers (Acharya, 1997).

## **1.2 Background of the Study**

It is obvious that women constitute half of the population of the world. Hence their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but essential as well as speed up the development process. The Slogan of Development remains in paper only unless women participate equally in sharing the Fruits of the development.

One of the problems that predominate among the third world countries in the failure to recognize women as productive potentials, if timely lapped carefully channeled could emerge as able to co-partners in almost all development efforts.

In the development of a nation the women play vital role. In male dominated country like ours female are considered of low standard and of less value. But in recent years people have started realizing the importance of women's participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio-economic standard of

women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Men and women have now started participating equal footing development activities in many development countries having fath and relationship as that of “muscles with the nail of the finger.” This mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic changes in the socio-economic status of a nations.

Women as the traditional procedures are managers of the domestic and subsistence’s sector were highly undermined their activities being automatically labeled as “non-monetized”, “non-marketable” and “non-productive”. Such acute statistical bias reflected in national accounting further fed by stanuch traditional norms, values and perceptions can be held responsible for the shift in women’s status to non-status.

Nepal is also victim of such unpleasant situation. Over the last three decades from the 1960’s to 1980s, the focus of development policies and objectives have shifted from being growth oriented to people oriented. Although the main emphasis in now on the poor, the deprived and people from, the lowest economic status women, however have remained excluded from all development activities. The people oriented approach has now become the main oriented approach. It is always the men who interact with the outside world and the woman unquestioningly slips back into her traditional role as housewives with in the farm-household sphere.

The focus of the Nepal women’s organization established in 1960, was directed more towards social welfare activities like knitting, sewing and weaving. Although its interest was not purely in the upliftment of women, nevertheless, its efforts to initiate and

interest and concern for women and their development cannot go unappreciated.

The economic, demographic and social factors are found as the most important factors which directly or indirectly affect the decision making process. Women's involvement in the market economy lands them greater power in important matters. This can be attributed to the contribution of women towards the household income. 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 powers.

In connection to the above view greater confinement of the women to the household implies higher fertility rates. Such a demographic phenomenon further implies low economic participation among these women and consequently a low status attached to them, again conventional social norms and beliefs tend to diminish the overall status of women both within and outside the household. The general belief is that women belong to the domestic sector with little time left from their overwhelming work load for any kind of productive economic participation.

Dahagaon village is moderately populated with people from diverse ethnic communities, the Chhetri, Magar, Dalit.

Agriculture is the major occupation for most households. Although the people profess various kinds of wage labour and community activities as their alternative source of income, however, entrepreneurial activities such as small business, herb collection, case farming, tailoring as an income generating activity for women.

The women were found to shoulder most of the work both within and outside the households in the fields and in many cases for fodder and fuel wood collections as well. Their working hours, therefore, was naturally longer than that of their male counterparts.

Given this background, the present study attempts to analyze how women's participation in decision making intervention has helped women to address their strategic needs as a means of their empowerment at household level. The emphasis of the study will be on the impacts on the lives of the women as brought about by the intervention. This study has been conducted in Dahagaon, Damachour VDC of Salyan district.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Nepal is a secular state (Interim Constitution 2063 BS.) Nepal has an immense amount of diversity both ethnically and geographically. Around above the sixty different ethnic groups speak thirty different languages in Nepal. Total population of the country is 2321481 of which 11581547 (49.9%) are male and 11627134 (20.1%) are female (National Census 2058 B.S.). Thus women cover more than half of the country's population but socio-economic and political condition of Nepali women is very poor due to the traditional values, which gives higher importance and favors to male. The Hindu ideology hold a rigid and discriminated concept about the roles of women unlike in Hindu communities, Mongolian clan has relatively been found liberal in terms of women mobility and their access to decision making within the households. However the prevalent superstition, social taboos and rituals have caused very poor situation of Nepali women. Low literacy rate, higher maternal

mortality, lesser average age and malnutrition low wages for some work, negligible presence in the key post/politics administration and technical field are the few examples to justify the backwardness of women in Nepal.

In Nepal, most of the rural areas are poverty-ridden. Due to women's low status in comparison to males; it is women and girls who bear the brunt of the hunger, which will certainly have an impact on their health and well being.

Cultural and social customs limited female participation to work outside the home. There are substantial pressure with respect to wealth, education, mobility and job entry, which keep women in lower wage works.

Of the many factors contributing to women's lower status, the roles and responsibilities assigned to them is one it has come to the fore that gender is socially constructed roles and responsibilities assigned to men and women in a given culture, location and societal structures that women considered to be the exclusive domain of women thus confining them to the domestic sphere (Bhasin 2000).

There is no doubt that is our society. Women are relegated to lower status than their male counter parts. This subordination of women has been further perpetuated by the system of patriarchy. Bhasin (1993) notes that patriarchy, which is prevalent in many societies, including South Asia has controlled:

- ) Women's productive labour (women's labour is exploited by their husbands and others)
- ) Women's reproduction (women do not have the freedom to decide how many children they want to have)

- ) Women's mobility (limiting women into the domestic sphere)
- ) Control over property and resources

Furthermore, the triple roles performed by women viz. reproductive, productive and community roles (see Moser, 1993) are often obscured and devalued in a society dominated by male.

In Nepal men are considered to be the bread winners of the family, which has vested them with the sole authority of decision making, control over resources etc. as such among other factors, women from low-income groups face gender-specific causes of disempowerment which stem from patriarchal system that is in fore throughout the region. Many women have limited geographic mobility, economic independence or personal autonomy and as a remain economically dependent on male kin more so because of their perceived liabilities and their limited bargaining power, women and girls often receive less health care, education and training than men.

Amartya Sen (1981) places considerable importance on a women's earning outside the home for giving her a stronger fall-back position, a clear precision of her own well being and a higher valuation of her contribution (cited in Agrawal 1994). So, one factor perpetuating women's low status and disempowerment can be traced to arise from their lack of access and economic resources resulting in dependence and lack of decision making because women's economic position is weak both within the family and outside women are viewed more as liabilities than assets. They are unable to assert themselves (Batliwala 1994). She further notes that as women become major economic contributors, their own men folks and society at large will view them differently and is forced to involve them in decision-making processes.

Women's (specially of this study area ward no. 9 of Damachour VDC of Salyan District) are involved in agriculture but their contribution in household economy is not recognized. Majority from village are involved to sell their domestic production like milk, vegetable, peanuts but they are not getting chance to use that money according to their will. Even though they bear the triple burden of working in the field, household works from early in the morning to late night. Economic activities of women are always under estimated because household works are not classified under the economic activities. It can be seen that these women are capable of making effective and important decision, if given the opportunity. If timely actions are capable of making effective and important decisions family actions are not taken in this direction women of the future generation might also suffer from same oppression of their predecessors. On the country if women are endowed with the decision making power they deserve a significant improvement in the household set-up and subsequently in the society itself could be achieved. Therefore programmer and policy should be designed to reach this exploited class of the society to enable them to come to the fore front with their productive powers of effective decision making. Major problems that have been identified for the purpose of this study are as follows.

1. What are the present situations of women's role in decision making at household level?
2. What are the major factors that were responsible for affecting the women's participation in at rural community?
3. Have the benefits of the intervention been casually felt by the poorest of the poor women in that particular society? Did



women from all socio-economic backgrounds and ethnicity/caste has access to program inputs?

#### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

The overall objective of the present study is to find out the status of women's role in decision making power in household level. More over, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the role of women's participation in socio-economic activities.
2. To find out the role of women in household decision making process and household decision making power.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Women's participation decision making in house hold level has been a topic discussed at length in recent times and many strategies have been implement to enhance women's condition women are the central figure in household, sanitation, collection firewood and grass, using pesticide for agriculture purpose. But they are being ignored in most of the participation of decision making activities. Men are the one who usually attend the meeting and decision. Women's are busy in household work and they do not know how to make decision. Women's participation in decision very poor in Nepal. Though the study has significance because the participation of women in decision making activities would definitely enhance the gender awareness status of women in the family and society. This study tries to show the several real picture of women in decision

making power of women. On the above circumstance the study signifies the following.

- ) This study aims at finding women's participation in decision and their practices household and community.
- ) This study might be helpful to the research scholars and students for further depth study in to women's sparticipation in decision making.
- ) This study will provide new set of literature on women's participation in decision making power, especially household level.

### **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

Likewise, this study is limited to Dahagaon ward No. 9 Damachour VDC of Salyan district. Thus the findings of the study derived from the particular area may not be generalized for all societies. Hence, the conclusion drawn from the particular area may be applicable to societies with similar geographical and socio-cultural setting.

Data generated from the field study allow as to measure the male/female status (in terms of decision making) only within the household, but not in the wider spheres of society. In other words overall data analysis is applicable only at the micro level of household, but not at the macro level of the society and the nation.

Therefore, the study suffers from the following major limitations.

- ) The study is based on a particular/single village of Damachour VDC 9 of Salyan district.

) The study focus on women's decision making power in household level so the context would centralize as regards.

### **1.7 Organization of the study**

We have divided our study mainly into five chapters. They are as follows:

**Chapter One:** The first chapter provides introduction or role of women in various sectors and civil society, statement of the problems, objectives, limitations and importance of the study.

**Chapter Two:** The second chapter deals with the literature review and theoretical framework from the previous studies/publications books, Theories and research reports on the concept the regarding status of women, role of women in decision making, women's rights and legislation regarding women's rights.

**Chapter Three:** The third chapter comprises of research methodology used during field study for data generation. Here I have touched upon the descriptive of our study area and provided a detailed explanation of the research design and procedure, the data generated and the statistical tools used during the process.

**Chapter Four:** The fourth chapters have been devoted to data analysis and concentrates on topic in question, namely "Women's participation in household decision making." This chapter contains the essence or finding of the study in table formats, generated from the data analysis.

**Chapter Five:** The fifth chapter is the summary, conclusion and derived from the whole study. On the light of the analysis and findings some recommendations have been forwarded.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Review of Theories and Concepts**

In this section, efforts have been made to review some past studies and publication pertaining to study. I have also quoted from them as and when appropriate. There is significant number of studies related to the participation of women in economic and decision making activities of which only a few are outlined here for simplicity. This section discusses following topics.

1. Status of women in Nepal
2. Role of women in decision making

#### **2.2 Status of Women in Nepal**

According to the constitution (2063) of Nepal, all citizens of Nepal are equal under the law, regardless of sex, caste and ethnicity, Nevertheless, in actual practice, illiteracy, poverty deep-rooted socio-cultural values and traditions, especially cast prejudices, and political factor have all often combined to prevent women from there is a large area in the human rights of women that are either not recognized or neglected.

Human rights is the right by birth being a human. Thus there should not be any biasness in ethnicity, sex, language, religion, politics, socio-economic and cultural aspects regarding human rights. So to honor one's respect and development of human UNO in 10 December 1948 announced worldwide layout about human rights.

“The constitution guarantees all citizens the before law and equal protection of law. No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of sex. Despite there constitutional and ledger provisions, Nepalese women are suffering from social, economical and political discrimination. Major areas of discrimination include citizenship rights, property, employment, reproductive health rights, marriage, family relations and punishment and legal proceedings, Deep-rooted cultural norms and patriarchal values are themselves unfavorable to women. As a result, social preference for sons in schooling, neglect of women’s health needs, child marriage and unmatched marriage bigamy/polygamy are still part of the reality. Dowry and domestic violence are still other problems.” (CEDAW, 1995:44-49)

“Discrimination between males and females starts in the family females are not included in the decision making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women’s participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husband/fathers/parents/male relatives.”

To avoid any social, economical and cultural discrimination to the women UN in 18 December, 1979 prepared convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women known as CEDAW. Nepal also signed this treaty in April 22, 1991.

Commenting upon the different between pre-and post-1990 years, almost all the women respondents stated that in the post-1990 days, “women have the opportunity to speak and exchange views their husband, to participate in public forums, institutions and political parties, and also get elected in different tiers of local government bodies, particularly the VDCs, but they also pointed out

that women still are not often encouraged to participate in socio-cultural and political activities, and when they do, their 'character' is questioned and, worse, the male members of their families citizen them

The fourth worldwide women's conference organized by UNO in 1995 in Beijing is the historical milestone of women's empowerment and their rights. From 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June in 2000 A.D. UNO organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference regarding women which is also known as Beijing+5. To unsecure the layout of Beijing +5 and to improve the hindrances and face the present challenges national women commission in 24<sup>th</sup> Falgun 2058 was established in the chairmanship of Mrs. Durga Pokhrel.

Education is the most important factor for the development of human personality as well as for the development of a nation. As women make half of countries population, education of women is very important and it should receive top priority in the context of development of modern Nepal.

The economy of Nepal is totally dependent on agriculture production and women play a major role as they actively participated in the various farm activates. 98.1% of the economically active rural women are workers, hence women importance.

The role of women in various farming activities is crucial not only because of the number engaged but also because of the variety of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, fruits and live stock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of the nation, but all these workers by women are considered voluntary.

Marital status makes a woman totally dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family property is only through husband. About the women's right upon family property Bennett wrote that "men are endowed with the right to property by virtue of the biological fact of birth. Women's rights to property depend almost entirely upon the social fact of marriage (i.e. on their role as a wife)." Therefore women's economic security is entirely dependent on their adherence to strict social norms of proper marital behavior (Bennett, 1981, p. 89).

In the Nepalese society the status and position and of women depend on their economic condition. Women play significant role in the development of the nation. In the past, women were considered a second grade citizen in most of the countries including Nepal. The status of Nepalese women is very poor. They have very less access to health, security and other basic needs of life.

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resource and political power and their personal autonomy in the process of decision-making. Women from different cast/ ethnic groups have different social status in their respective communities and women from the ethnic groups seem to process better status than the women from Hindu caste group. The dominant Hindu culture and the partriarchal value system of the country has influenced the status of women as their subordinate.

Although there is imbalance in status between men and women as in the most of the developing countries, women in Nepal are also engaged in domestic chore along with the social and economic activities required in survival. Despite their important roles

undertaken for social and economic life capacity and potential, women have more disadvantage than male partners due to an inadequate access to exposure, technology, credit and environment.

Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision-making (UNDP, 1995).

Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers, but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented from taking part in public life. Women's economic dependence on men, mainly stemming from the fact that men earn cash incomes, contributes to their social status. The few women who earn cash a salary are often held in higher esteem than women who do not.

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands, conflicts or through wishes and blessings alone. Experience has also shown that laws and regulations are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where the feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all. Women are bounded by socio-cultural norms. Even parents discriminate against the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awareness and education.



So, if the nation wants to gain something from women, their first duty should be to give equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc. and control of family, by the use of family planning measures and drastic change will come in the nation automatically in every field like economic development, status of women's decision-making power etc.

According to a preliminary report of "Census 2001" presented by Central Bureau of Statistics, women outnumber men by over 25 thousand. As elsewhere, women in Nepal hold the triple responsibility of reproduction, production and community work (Moser, 1993). Women suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education. Likewise, personal mobility, which is required among others for skill development and independent decision-making, is highly restricted.

As in most of the world, women in Nepal work for longer hours than men, have lower opportunity for gainful employment and possess extremely limited property rights (NESAC, 1998)

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, promulgated in 1990, guarantees that there shall be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of general laws as well as in regard to the exercise of political and civil rights on the grounds of sex, religion and caste. Moreover, women's concern and issues also came to be accepted as part of the national development plans and programs. Nonetheless, according to a recent study, it has stated that discriminatory laws with regard to women still exist. There are 118 Clauses/Sections/Rules, and two Rules in their entirety, along with 675 Schedules/Annexes/Forms (in 54 different laws) including the constitution, have discriminatory provisions (FWLD, 2000).

Main areas of discrimination against women can be found in relation to nationality, property, trafficking, sexual abuse, education, employment, health including reproductive health rights, marriage and family and legal proceedings and court proceedings (FWLD, 2000). Furthermore, the patriarchal norms, which are prevalent in Nepalese society, have rendered women with little access to resources and services and their work goes unaccounted for (Bhadra et. al, 1994).

According to a study carried out by “Stri Shakti” in 1995, it has stated that women work for 10.9 hours per day as compared to men’s input of 7.8 hours-- a difference of 3.1 hours. The study also depicts that there is an increase in male-control over decision-making (61.7%) and a corresponding lessening influence of women (29%) over these decisions.

According to 1991 census, the directly productive work force participation rate among women is approximately 46 percent compared to approximately 69 percent for men (CBS 1995, cited in NESAC 1998). However, the 1996 Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS) data set on the other hand reports a rate of 66 percent for women and 75 percent for men.

The unemployment rate for women is higher than that of men; the female unemployment rates are 68.69 percent while that of the men stands at 5.99 percent. Even the unemployment rate of educated women (21.95%) far exceeds that of men (8.75%) mainly, because of the lack of non-formal employment opportunities (Shrestha, 1989). Furthermore, the research states that the proportion of women in the labor force has always been less than that of men; in 1991 women constituted only 40 percent of the country’s economically active

population or labor force. Maternal mortality rate in Nepal is very high, estimated at 415 per 100,000 live births in 2001. Life expectancy censuses (B.S. 2058) (62 %) at birth is lower for females than for males (UN, 1995).

The gender related development index (GDI), which portrays gender disparities in basic human capabilities, is high in the case of Nepal even in regional terms. The GDI, which is prepared by using gender-equal distribution of indices of life expectancy, educational attainment and income show that the overall capability attainments in human development in Nepal are reduced by approximately 17 percent if the disparity in men's and women's attainment is taken into account. The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), which focuses on the participation of females in economic, political and professional spheres as a means of their empowerment also indicate that the gender empowerment is abysmally low. As such, low income earning opportunities together with absence of right to property has limited the role of women in decision-making about the allocation of household income. Lack of decision-making power has deprived women more than men of the basic elements of decent life such as food and nutrition, education and skill development and health and family planning. This has ultimately undermined their access to gainful employment opportunities, participation in professional jobs and mainstreaming in the developmental and political process (NESAC, 1998).

Thus, it can be stated that though the Constitution of Nepal upholds, that there shall be no discrimination against any citizen, gender inequalities is still pervasive in Nepalese life. As such women lag far behind in all aspects of social, political and economic

life compared to their male counterparts. The traditionally sanctioned position of women in the household sphere has perpetuated this disadvantaged status. And due to this disadvantaged position, they lack the power to make decisions. This lack of decision-making power has deprived women from the basic elements of life such as education, skill development for gainful employment, thus relegating them to lower status as compared to the males.

### **2.3 Role of Women in Decision Making**

Women have very low participation in decision-making process, 70% of household related and external decision are entirely made by male member house.

Acharya and Bennett (1982) high light upon the fact that women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The time allocation studies and the decision making data reveal women's "Major role in agricultural production both as laborers and as managers of the production process" (Acharya and Bennett, 1982).

Acharya and Bennett (1981) give a wider overview of women's status in their decision making power in household. Acharya and Bennett claim that economic factor affects women's role in decision making both directly and indirectly. If a woman has a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influences the role of decision-making e.g. small size of children imply higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women.

In the same study Acharya and Bennett, highlights another interesting pattern, that different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities, which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the households. Women from Hindu communities have greater concentration in domestic and subsistence production. Women from tibeto-Burma groups have concentration in market activities. This implies “women in the wore orthodox Hindus communities who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display much less significant role in major households economic decision those in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate activity in the market economy”. (Acharya and Bennett, 1982)

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstruction women from participation fully in economic development, which result low decision-making power in the women’s hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only woman is responsible for the reproduction of human being, conception, delivery and upbringing of the child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low even political social and culture development follows the economic development of a country. In this context, the committee constituted by united nations in the status of women trying to gain for equal rights for women in various field of their social and economic life, suggestion for removal of gender inequalities in legal economic, social and educational matters.

Acharya (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performed under national and international auspices activities involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention to such things as making specific studies about the economic, social and culture activities of women in Nepalese societies. Providing similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance rights, family rights and all over legal rights, involving the educated women in office and involving them in seminar and symposia from the time-to-time etc.

Greater participation of women decision making will be a great steps towards ensuring women of their right to voluntary motherhood and in turn improve her status summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal (CEDA, 1981) that among high cast group (Brahmin and Chhetri) the authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and property. Among the women for Baragaule, Loharung Rai and kham magar, they have liberal social structure, which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise the newar, the tamang and the tharu women can have their own independent source of property. Out of that, among the newar of kirtipur a woman cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family.

Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's

participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape the cultures worldview and governed individual self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position (Shtri Shakti, 1995).

According to Shrestha (1994) the decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour and input contribution and consultants but as active change agents at the concerned level. It does not mean the involvement of one of two women or the wives of the leaders, but the involvement of women and men in the same proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communicates at large.

According to her, the women of Nepal are so dependent to men, if the partners of members deny giving shelter to them; it is question of basic survivals. This system has made women so helpless, houseless, and dependent that without men they will not survive. So, in this inhuman system the rights of survival are laid on the hearts of men.

Different books and prospectus supported a lot for my study. I have consulted various writings and magazines which inspired me to study about the women of a typical VDC which finally gives the national status of the women as a whole. Some of the references are: World bank report, human rights in Nepal. Economic participation and household decision making in Nepal, wives and sacred sisters, women in rural development and Shtri Shakti etc

## **2.4 Women's Participation in Household Activities in Decision Making**

Most of the routine work inside the home is the responsibility of women. Generally Nepali women look after clean and care for the children and elder family members. Likewise, woman has to constantly fetch water, collect firewood, involve in agriculture works, collect fodder and grass etc.

It was found that women spent about 11 hours a day working with 75 percent of time spend on household chores, 20 percent on farming and 5 percent on income generating activities. Hill women are found contributing more labor force than Terai.

A project on “The Situation of Women in Nepal” (USAICEDA 1981) provides the first input to the planners and programmer 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. -

It has been found that women tend to be more reliable than men when asked to recall the amount of time spent on an activity with specific beginning and end times but women tend to be less reliable than men when asked to recall the amount of time spent in



tasks with non-specific ends. Men make the major household policy decisions (SERED, 1987).

Similarly in the study of Shtrii Shakti on socio-economic changes in the status of women in Nepal 1989-1993 has stated that some men are engaged in unproductive activities and other go out of home for services so that women are over burdened. (Shakti Shtrii-Socio-Economic Changes in the status of women in Nepal 1995).

## **2.5 Feminist Theories**

There are some feminist theories which can be classified as a theory of gender difference or of gender inequality, or of gender oppression, or of structural oppression. Some of the contemporary feminist theory that deals with gender and work are discussed here.

Liberal feminism encompasses two genres of political thought: classical liberalism and welfare liberalism. Liberal feminism is concerned to uncover the immediate forms of discrimination against women and to fight for legal and other reforms to overcome them. Liberal feminists desire to free women from the oppressive, patriarchal gender roles. They stress that patriarchy defines women's lives by placing them in "women acceptable roles" that are in line with feminine ideals. Classical liberal feminists want to overcome these obstacles by erasing gender discriminatory laws and policies from the books, enabling women to be believed equally with men. Welfare liberals, on the other hand, want society to believe that women should be compensated for past injustices, as well as eliminating socioeconomic legal barriers (George 1996).

According to Marxist feminists, the oppression of women is not directly caused by an individual's intentional actions, but rather by the social, political and economic structure within which the individual lives. A person's entire identity is based upon production; we are what we are because of what we produce. Women, because of the second-class role in which they are placed, form negative concepts of themselves due to the socially and economically subordinate roles assigned to them by their family and workplace. They blame the liberal feminists who advocate for WID approach, for ignoring real issues as women's least access to resources and their less contribution to economy.

Radical feminism is a "current" within feminism that focuses on patriarchy as a system of power that organizes society into a complex of relationships producing a "male supremacy" that oppresses women. Radical feminism aims to challenge and to overthrow patriarchy by opposing standard gender roles and male oppression of women, and opposing standard gender roles and male oppression of women, and calls for a radical reordering of society. Radical feminists locate the root cause of women's oppression in patriarchal gender relation, as opposed to legal systems (liberal feminisms) or class conflict (socialist feminism and Marxist feminism). Thus the radical feminists see the male control of women as the main problem and argue that women must fight to free themselves from this control.

### **2.5.1 Key Concepts**

**1) Households:** Defining the household as a commercial and residential unit composed of members sharing one hearth and roof,

and the family as a wider kinship group whose members may be living in more than one household. (cited in Agrawal)

Households can be commercial and residential units, and /or unit of joint property ownership, production, consumption or investment or they can constitute some intersection of these dimensions. They also vary in membership composition from units of single persons, to those of parents and children, and those with additional relatives: sibling, grandparents, and so on (cited in Agrawal).

**2) Decision Making:** Women's equal participation in decision, making is not only a demand for simple social justice or democracy. It is essential for achieving transparent and accountable government. It will also provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society.

Despite the widespread movement towards democratization in most countries, women remain largely underrepresented at most levels of government, especially in ministerial and other executive bodies all in reaching the target of having 30 percent of decision-making position held by women in 1995, as endorsable by the uneconomic and social council. They have achieved little progress in attaining political power in legislative bodies. Globally only 10 percent of legislative position and a lower percentage of ministerial position are held by women.

Similarly, the under representation of women in decision making position in the arts, culture, sports the media, education, religion and law, here prevented women from having a significant impact on many key institution and policies.

**3) The Access:** It signifies resources and benefits associated with the productive and reproductive roles in question and whether men or women control and benefit them. Resources and benefits should be as broadly interpreted as necessary to adequately describe the community being analyzed. Besides physical resources such as land, capital, input and includes less tangible resources such as time access to education (gender studies).

## **2.6 Conceptual and Theoretical Framework**

The variable of primary interest in this research is the dependent variable of decision making activities. The framework includes bargaining power (decision making power) developed by (Agrawal, Bina, 1996) has been applied for the purpose of the present stud. This framework has been used to assess the extent bargaining strength within the family.

Acharya and Bennett have singled out “decision making” from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some model from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the villages were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

**Bargaining Power:** It can be defined by a range of factors; in particular the strength of the people’s fallback position and the

degree to which his/her claim is seen as socially and legally legitimate.

Bina Agarwal (1996) states that a person's bargaining power will depend on his/her fallback position which in turn depends on five factors, in particular:

1. Private ownership and control over assets, especially arable land;
2. Access to employment and other income generating activities;
3. Access to communal resources such as village commons and forests;
4. Access to traditional external social support systems
5. Access to support from the state or from NGOs.

The above statement is based on the premise that the greater a person's the ability to physically survive outside the family, the greater would be his/her bargaining power. These factors can be complementary to, as well as substitutes for, one another. The significance of the ownership of privatized land and access to employment in strengthening a person's survival ability outside the family is self evident that of access to communal resource and social support system needs elaboration.

Social support systems of patronage, kinship, caste groupings, and even friendship built up in different ways by male and female family members can be extremely important of economic support, especially in living individuals and families over social and economic crisis.

Access to wage employment and to other income-earning opportunities may themselves be linked with access to land for

instance, that the opportunities for and earnings from non-farm activities tended to be substantially greater among households with some land, relative to the totally landless.

Alongside the factors mentioned above are external systems of potential support in the form of the state and NGOs. These can add to a person's intra house hold bargaining power both of direct provision of subsistence and indirectly by increasing access to come of the other mentioned factors such as employment, assets, etc.

Some of the relevant studies suggest some factors that affect women's decision making power at household and community level. The factors constraining women's participation in decision making at household and formal institutions or could broadly classified under following heads: rules, norms, education, territorial claims, the household's economic and social claims, the household's individual economic endowments and personal attributes.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Research methodology is a way to solve systematically about the research problems. It is a general plan of how the research is going to answer the research questions that the researcher has set. It is also the chain method applied from data collection, processing and analysis to reaching conclusions. This section deals with methods employed while conducting the research studying order to achieve the research objectives.

#### **3.1 Selection of Study Area**

Damachour, one of the 47 Village Development committee of Salyan District, is selected purposively for the study. In this study, Chhetri communities are main inhabitants of the village. The research was carried out in Damachour VDC ward no.9. It is near the VDC headquarter.

The reasons to this site for the study are as follows.

1. The area is being occupied groups like Chhetri, Magar, Tailors (Damai) etc. having social participation, poor household decision making power, and economical status so to investigate the real problem of the woman.
2. Due to lack of any investigation or research/study carried out about the women of this area.
3. Due to lack of the participation of various NGOs and INGOs as well as government sector in development of this area and researcher being the permanent settler of study area so to investigate the miserable reality of the women.

### **3.2 The Research Design**

The research design that has been for this present study can be said as exploratory in nature. In other words, this research tries to explore and investigate the socio-economic and family based Damachour VDC word no. 9 or study area with special emphasis on the decision making process household of the women as compared to the men. The inquires and in questions based on primary first hand qualitative as well as quantitative data.

However, researcher has used this particular feature of descriptive and analytical research design form has been utilized during data analysis process. These means that the data, interpretation has been supported by table analysis followed by their explanations.

### **3.3 Nature and Source of Data**

In the present study, the primary data were collected from the study area for this purpose, a brief and intensive field work was conducted in one month (May 2010). During the field work, primary data were collected from the individual respondent and key. The secondary data are taken from published and unpublished literature such as books, journals articles, research reports, VDC office and different sources.

### **3.4 Universe Procedure**

Among there are total of 60 households in Damachour VDC Dahagaon village. All these households are covered in the present study. The community is predominantly Chhetri which constitutes 40



households and 15 households belongs to Magar and 5 households belongs to the Dalits (Damai).

### **3.5 Tools of Data Collection**

In order to obtain necessary and reliable data for this study the researcher has used traditional methods such as direct participation observation, structure questionnaire and some case study.

#### **3.5.1 Semi-structure Questionnaire**

Semi-structured questionnaire was used to collection conducted with women, which are the carried out age group, marital status, and family income and they participant of decision making power. There refers to the question were both open and closed and question. A total 60 questionnaires can be designed to secure different: demographic, education, social income, Health and Economic factor and other.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

Observation method to collect the observable information such as women's participation in activities, their role in household activities, their relationship with the members of the family. The decision making process in the households was observed to find out the women's role in the household decision making. The data collected through observations have been used to support the structured data in relevant place in the text.

#### **3.5.3 Case Study**

In order to see the process of decision making and other aspects of households activities, some 'case studies' were developed

in women. Four women were taken purposively for case studies. The cases were chosen with level of income education, martial status as well as different age groups.

#### **3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion**

Three Focus group discussion in ward No. 9 of study areas. The focus group sessions was conducted among age group of 20-30, 31-40, 41-50. Each focus sessions include (6-10) respondents. Who were 20-50 years age group. Focus group discussion was conducted with the '**Lashune Saving and Credit Group**' in the afternoon, when most of the women came home from the field. The focus group discussion was centered on practical and strategic gender needs of the women and how successful the intervention had in fulfilling. These needs of the women and how successful the intervention had in fulfilling these needs.

#### **3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Data collected was processed and tabulated towards the completion of the study. The data was broadly categorized according to the research objectives and data were presented both quantitative as well as qualitative forms.

#### **3.7 Problems of Data Collection**

Initial entry was a problem for the study to be undertaken because it is my birthplace. During the interview schedule some women poured down their grievance. Because they are relative and some women also be attributed to the fact that women asked about thesis.

Furthermore, women were not open when asked questions about the amount of land and the number of livestock, they owned in household. However, with the help of my village friends and teacher, focus group discussion with the member of the saving and credit group was carried out the following day. Beside these, the researcher did not encounter any problems in the community.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **FINDINGS: WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING**

In this chapter, efforts have been made to analyze women's status within the household with special emphasis on their decision-making powers as compared to their male counterpart. The information included is in consonance with our methodology used which was collected from women of three ethnic communities, namely caste or ethnic group Chhetri, Magars, Damai.

The major source of income for almost all the households was from agriculture. Greater confinement of women to the domestic sector is probably one of the reasons for a very low literacy rate evident among them as compared to the male literacy rate.

Besides these general observations efforts have been made to include all possible socio-economic aspects of the study. Tables have also been illustrated to support findings.

#### **4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristic of Respondents Area**

Study Area is situated in Damachour Development Committee, ward no. 9 of Salyan District, Rapti Zone. It is 28 km east of the district headquarters. Damachour VDC is one of the 46 VDC of Salyan district. The topographical features of the VDC are hilly. It is a remote area.

According to field work in (month), 2010, the total population of this ward no. 9 is 320 out of which 148 females and 172 are male, while the total size of households are 60. Most of people here are engaged in farming and others are engaged on other occupations such

as business, government jobs, foreign labour, students etc. Agriculture uses the main occupation of the people Damachour VDC word no. 9.

#### 4.1.1 Caste/Ethnic Composition

Damachour VDC Dahagaon village comprises of 60 households with a total population of 300. The population of the area mainly consists of Chhetri followed by 40 households of Magar 15 and 5 household of Dalit. The house hold and population distribution by ethnicity/caste and sex is shown in table 1.

**Table 4.1**  
**Caste/Ethnic Composition**

S.N.	Ethnic groups	No. of Households	Sex		Total	Percentage
			Male	Female		
1.	Chhetri	40	111	94	205	66.66%
2.	Magar	15	43	39	82	25%
3.	Dalit	5	18	15	33	8.33%
Total		60	172	148	320	100%

Source: Field Work, 2010

The ethnic group revealed a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However, people from different groups were also found to be living together in certain areas of settlement.

The Chhetri community is seen as dominating the overall population. But the Magar and Dalit groups remain 25, 8.33 percent respectively in the population composition. The above table shows 66.66 percent of Chhetri. This clearly depicts the Chhetri domination over the other communities.

#### 4.1.2 Family Structure of Respondents

Family is a group of person united by ties of marriage, blood or adopting constituting single household, interacting and inter communicating with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife. Father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, cousins or a common culture.

The nuclear family is one where a married couple residence together with their child. A nuclear family is autonomous unit freeform the controls of the elders. Thus a nuclear family is mostly independent.

A joint family is a group of people who generally live under one roof, who eat food cooked at one hearth, who hold property in common and who participate in common worship and are related to each other as some particular types of kindred.

**Table No. 4.2**

#### **Distribution Types of Family**

Type of Family	Chhetri	Magar	Dalit	
Nuclear	31	13	5	49
Joint	9	2	-	11
Total	40	15	5	60

Source: Field Work, 2010

After studying table we can find that maximum number of family have a nuclear family (77.5) and 22.5 percent of the family lives jointly of Chhetri group. Similarly, 86.66 percent of family have a nuclear and 13.33 percent of family lives jointly in Magar Ethnic Group and all Dalits families live in.

However, an increasing trend for nuclear family mainly because of the following. As people started to move far and wide in search of jobs, business and other career development opportunities,

people started to break down giving rise to nuclear family. The low income and more expenses to fulfill the basic needs of the family people tend to think living separately so as to curtail their expenses.

#### **4.1.3 Marital Status of the Respondents**

Marriage is one of the universal institution. It is established by human society to control and regulate. The sex and life is loosely connected with the institution of family. The relationship between women's marital status and their involvement in external affair is based on the nature of social structure. In the field study three types of marital status were found.

**Table No. 4.3**  
**Marital Status of the Respondents**

S.N.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentages
1.	Married	49	81.66
2.	Unmarried	1	1.66
3.	Widowed	10	16.66
Total		60	100%

Source: Field Work, 2010

Out of total 60 female respondents 49 of them were found to be married, 10 of them widowed and only 1 unmarried. The married women, there fore, constitute a large majority of 81.66 percent, the unmarried a small minority of 1.66 percent and the widowed 16.66 percent out the total number of respondents.

Most widow have their responsibility in their hand and they are free to decide such widows are comparatively free to make decisions in the family participate in social work.

#### 4.1.4 Educational Status of the Respondents

Education is a mainstream of social change. Education provides new ideas for livelihood and it is a basic need of human life. The literacy ration describes the condition of education status and life style of women. For the purpose these people who can read and write literate and those who cannot read and write are illiterate.

**Table No. 4.4**

#### **Educational Status of the Household Couple**

S.N.	Education	Husband	Wife	Total	Percent		Total
					Husband	Wives	
1.	Illiterate	17	48	65	26.55	73.45	100
2.	Literate	32	12	44	72.73	27.27	100
	Total	49	60	109	44.95	55.04	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

The households couple here does not strictly mean husbands and wives. Since, questions were put up to only women during our research, women of different marital status are included. However, the number of husband among the 49 married couples remain the same. Out of the total 49 husbands 17 of them are found to be illiterate while 32 of them literate. Similarly, out of the 60 female respondents 48 of them are illiterate and only 12 of them literate. The total illiterate husbands and wives respondents amount to 65 out of which the husband constitute 26.15 percent and the wives 73.48 percent of it. In the same way the total number of literate women and husband are 44 out of which 72.72 percent are husbands and only 27.27 percent are females. This as a clear indication that the literacy rate among the women is negligible as compared to that of the men, Considering the felt that the men constitute only 44.95 percent as



opposed to 55.44 percent of females out of the total number of 109 persons.

The percent of women (27.27 %) was recorded the least. This shows that still women are far behind than male from educational aspect. Through the government has greater early expense still many people in the grass root level are deprived of education clearly signified by my study area.

#### 4.1.5 Occupational Composition of the Household Couple

**Table No. 4.5**

##### **Occupational Composition of the Household Couple**

S.N.	Occupation	Male	%	Female	%
1.	Agriculture	42	70	47	78.33
2.	Business	2	3.33	-	-
3.	Services	9	15	2	3.33
4.	Household work	-	-	15	25
5.	Others	7	11.66	-	-
Total		60	100	64	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

We see that 60 out of the 42 male are involved in agriculture, 2 in business (small shops). 9 in government services; out of the 60 females 47 of them concentrated mainly upon agriculture, 2 in government services, 15 in household work. Therefore we find a comparatively higher rate of men in agriculture (10) business 3.30, service 15, and others 11.6 percent as compared to women. But we also see no involvement of men in the household activities.

From this study it is found that the involvement of male in business service and other economical field in great deal. Female are involvement is negligible as compared to male still many of the female are as compared to male. Still many of the female are

engaged in agriculture and household activities and aren't conscious about other, than agriculture.

#### 4.1.6 Working Hours Among the Male and Female Groups

**Table No. 4.6**

##### **Working Hours Among the Male and Female Groups**

Working Hours	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Day up to 2 hrs	6	-	6	100	-
3-5 hrs	20	13	33	60	39.39
6-8 hrs	12	25	37	32	67.75
9-11 hrs	8	20	28	28.37	71.42
11 + hrs	3	2	5	60	40
Total			109		

Source: Field Works, 2010

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

We find only men in the category where the working hour per day is 2 hours on the other hand. Women constitute 71.42 percent and men 28.37 percent within the category of the highest number of working hours per day (11+ hours).

Overall finding is that men comprise a larger portion of the lesser number of working hours where as women constitute a greater percentage of the higher number of working hours. In the category of 3-5 working hours/day, men constitute 60 percent and the female only 33 percent. But for the category of 6-8 working hours/day women constitute 67.75 percent as compared to only 32 percent for men. Women, therefore have longer working hours as compared to men.

## 4.2 Participation in Household Decision Making

Women's Participation in household decision making have made attempts to cover all relevant aspect which would reflect their decision-making power in different matter with in the household. Accordingly I have divided the categories they can be listed as women's decision-making role.

### 4.2.1 Household Head Status of Respondents

Economic dependency, social status, level of awareness, education social norms and values plays vital role to determine house head status.

Due to the patriarchal and male dominated family structure, it is difficult to define women headed households. However, according to the leading role with in the family, this heading tries to define household head situation.

**Table No. 4.7**

#### **Distribution of Household Head among Respondents**

S.N.	Household head	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Female	12	20%
2.	Male	48	80%
Total		60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

The table reflects the status of people in terms of their position in the family in the family in some respects. 20 percent respondents of the female were household head while among 80 percent respondents, male members household head the family. Though the situation is not satisfactory seen in the light of women empowerment, this shows gradual improvement in women's hold in the decision making.

During the data collection period it was found that women headed houses. Similarly, women whose husbands are not in the country are heads and have strong hold in domestic activities.

### ***Case II***

*Nirmala Pun (Magar) is a 29 years old. Her husband go to Indian 8 years ago since has lived separately. During this period she has been facing many social problems just because she is only. She has to struggle to make her ends meet and face various psychological. Economic and physical problems.*

*She is a member who has changed herself through this opportunity. She is a single women who started commercial vegetable production and helped herself financially. She is a model women with in areas in managing fodder trees participation in many programme activities, producing vegetables and promoting various skills.*

*Her struggle is therefore an inspiration for many such women in a way she was successful in life. Because compelled her to search way for her survival and financial prosperity. This also improved her confidence and decision making power. It was otherwise very difficult to live for a helpless women in a traditional society like ours. But she is appreciated now for her confidence decision making ability that made her a successful women.*

### **4.2.2 Livestock Household**

Livestock plays a major role in the rural farm households, with contributes both to the consumption needs and the market. Among the people of Dahagaon farm animals have both socio-cultural

religious as well as economic values. Every household in varying numbers own cows, oxen, buffaloes, goat and poultry birds.

**Table No. 4.8**

**a) Livestock Purchase**

S.N.	Decision-Maker	Who first thought	%	Who was consulted	%	Final Decision maker	%
		No. of Household		No. of Household		No. of Household	
1.	Husband	22	36.66	17	28.33	23	38.33
2.	Wife	18	30	25	41.66	18	30
3.	Household head (father in law)	13	21.66	6	10	15	25
4.	Jointly	7	11.66	12	20	4	6.66
Total		60	100	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

We see that 60 out of total households are involved in a recent livestock purchase. Both the husband and wife a household 36.66 and 30 percent each as the initiator of the idea of livestock purchase. But wives score the highest 41.66 percent as the persons consulted as well as the final decision makers for these purchase 30 percent. But the household these purchase 30 percent. But the household head and jointly members score a lower percent than the husband and wife as the final decision makers in this matter.

Most women do not have any role in the purchase involving huge sense of money. In the same way if they have access to such resources their role in such transactions is more important.

**Table 4.9****b) Livestock Sale**

S.N.	Decision-Maker	Who first thought	%	Who was consulted	%	Final Decision maker	%
		No. of Household		No. of Household		No. of Household	
1.	Husband	15	46.81	8	25	15	46.82
2.	Wife	5	15.62	12	37.5	-	-
3.	Household head (father in law)	10	31.66	7	21.81	12	32.5
4.	Jointly	2	6.25	5	15.62	7	21.87
Total		32	100	32	100	32	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

It should be noted that only 32 out of the 60 household were engaged in recent sale of livestock.

The husbands shows greatest input as initiators (46.87%) and final decision makers (46.87) of livestock sale. Among the persons consulted, the wives score the highest percent (37.5%) but none as the final decision makers. The household head jointly members appear in lower stage of the decision making process.

Overall the household head members of the household appear to have a stronger hold over the decision making of livestock sale.

**Table 4.10****c) Livestock Maintenance**

S.N.	Grass Collector	No. of Household	%	Overall care taker	No. of Household	%
1.	Husband	8	13.79	Husband	8	13.79
2.	Wife	45	77.38	Wife	43	74.13
3.	Household head (mother in law)	-	-	Household head	2	3.44
4.	Jointly	5	8.62	Jointly	5	8.62
Total		58	100		58	100

Only 58 households are found to keep livestock. Among them the wives are seen as the major grass collectors (77.58%) for the livestock. Both make up a significant portion of the household members as the overall caretakers of livestock.

The male members however show the least in this respect. The greater involvement in female members is found in feeding and carving the livestock and involved in the regular check up of the live stock.

### 4.3 Control Over Family Investment

**Table No. 4.11**

#### **Control over Household Cash**

S.N.	Person	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Husband	15	25
2.	Wife	15	25
3.	Household head (father in law)	25	41.66
4.	Female Member (mother in law)	5	8.33
Total		60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

The household head make up the highest percent (41.66%) among the other members of the household as the ones to keep the household money. Husband and wife appear to have control case in 25%. However, the other female members appear to have control as case in 8.33%.

The household head (male) alone have a greater control over household cash required from the members of the household. The female members however, show little control in this matter (25 and 8.33 percent).

**Table No. 4.12**

#### **b) Control Over Land**

S.N.	Person	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Husband	33	55
2.	Wife	2	3.33
3.	Household head (father in law)	22	36.66
4.	Female Member	3	5
Total		60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010



The husband have a greater control over lands as compared to the other members of the household. The wives and female members however, show very little control in this matter (3.33% and 5%), which is in fact the least among the rest of the household.

**Table No. 4.13**

**Control Over Family Expenditure on Food Items**

S.N.	Decision-Maker	Who first thought	%	Who was consulted	%	Final Decision maker	%
		No. of Household		No. of Household		No. of Household	
1.	Husband	16	26.66	28	46.66	17	28.33
2.	Wife	34	56.66	13	21.66	33	55
3.	Male Member	2	3.33	16	26.66	2	3.33
4.	Female Member	5	8.33	-	-	2	3.33
5.	Jointly	3	5	3	5	6	10
Total		60	100	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

The wives appear to have a greater input as initiator (56.66%) and as final decision makers (55.1%) for the expenditure on food items as compared to the other members of the household.

While the other male members and female members shows an equal input in the same two stages of decision making, the husbands appear to be the ones who are consulted the most in the expenditure of food items.

Wives as major final decision maker may be attributed to their greater concern for providing sufficient food with in the family.

**Table 4.14****Control over Family Expenditure on Clothing**

S.N.	Decision-Maker	Who first thought	%	Who was consulted	%	Final Decision maker	%
		No. of Household		No. of Household		No. of Household	
1.	Husband	14	23.33	35	58.33	15	25
2.	Wife	32	53.33	12	20	31	51.66
3.	Male Member	5	8.33	9	15	7	11.66
4.	Female Member	6	10	1	1.60	3	5
5.	Jointly	3	5	3	5	4	6.66
Total		60	100	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

All the household 60 spend on clothing. The same pattern of wives as the major initiators (53.33%) and husband as the persons consulted. The most (58.33%) in the decision-making process is repeated. However input from male member in all three stage of decision making is higher than that of the other female members. But the joint and traditional decision for expenditure on clothing score the least, similar to that of the previous items.

**Table No. 4.15****Control over Family Expenditure on Social / Religious Ceremonies**

S.N.	Decision-Maker	Who first thought	%	Who was consulted	%	Final Decision maker	%
		No. of Household		No. of Household		No. of Household	
1.	Husband	21	35	23	38.33	15	25
2.	Wife	29	48.33	24	40	29	48.33
3.	Male Member	3	5	10	16.66	6	10
4.	Female Member	7	11.66	-	-	2	3.33
5.	Jointly	-	-	3	5	8	13.33
Total		60	100	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

Wives are mainly responsible for the two stages of decision making process namely as initiators final decision makers. For expenditure as social/religious obligations but their input as persons consulted equal that of the husbands. While the male members, show greater input as final decision makers than the female members. The latter show greater inputs initiators than the former. While joint decisions although low, are found in the second and third stages of decision making.

All the households (60) spend on social religious ceremonies. The same pattern of wives as the major initiator 48.33 percent and male the 23.33 percent. The most 48.33 percent in the decision making process of wives and 25 percent by the male.

**Table No. 4.16**

**a) Type of Family Planning Measures Used**

S.N.	Types	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Permanent	5	7.35
2.	Temporary	50	90.90
Total		55	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

Among the 55 women (out of 60 households) who practice family planning measure, a large majority are found to use the temporary methods (90.90%) a compared to the permanent ones 7.35%.

**Table 4.17**

**b) Decision making for the use of family planning measures**

S.N.	Decision Maker	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Husband	17	30.90
2.	Wife	20	36.36
3.	Jointly	18	32.32
Total		55	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

These 55 women using family planning measures reported their decisions for its use a being the strongest. Their input in this process constitute 36.36 percent. The joint decisions rank second 32.32 percent among the 55 household with the decisions of the husbands following behind with 30.32 percent.

Thus family planning was adopted in few households in my study area. Both husband and wife jointly decide which family planning measures to adopt .however, temporary family planning measure to adopt. However, temporary family planning measure was practice is great deal.

Currently married women of reproductive age who say they do not want anymore children or that they want to wait at least for two year before having another child but are not currently using any contraception are considered to have unmet need for family planning.

**Table 4.18**

**a) Women Participation in Adult Literacy Classes**

S.N.	Yes/No	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Yes	48	80
2.	No.	12	20
Total		60	100

Source: Field Work, 2010

A large majority (80%) percent of women among the 60 households are found to participate in adult literacy class.

**Table 4.19**

**b) Women Participation in Community Activities**

S.N.	Yes/No	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Yes	43	71.66
2.	No.	17	28.33
Total		60	99.99

Source: Field Work, 2010

See that women from 43 out of the 60 households participate in community activities like exchange labour (Parma). These women form a large majority of 71.66 percent of the total as opposed to the 28.33 percent of the women who do not participate in such activities.

**Table No. 4.20**

**c) Freedom for Women in Participation of Community Activities**

S.N.	Yes/No	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Yes	22	36.66
2.	No	38	63.33
Total		60	99.99

Source: Field Work, 2010

Out of the 60 households 36.66 percent of the women professed at having freedom in their participation in community activities. But the remaining 63.33 percent women denied having any such freedom. Therefore, women's input as decision maker for their participation in community activities is very low.

From the finding of my study area we found involvement of women as he initiator in various decision making like education, expenses, family planning labour utilization etc. however, the final decision regarding all these matters was found to solely depended upon the husband. Very less involvement of other male and female members was found in decision making in different aspects.

The greater role of husband as final decision maker signifies that women are still far behind that male as major decision maker. One of the main problem was illiteracy in rural area which lead only the husband as final decision maker.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Overall study comprises the major conclusion drawn strictly based upon researchers assessment of women's participation in the household decision making the finding regarding the social economic characteristic of the selected 60 households also have been listed. But we have to keep in mind that these conclusion drawn can be applicable only at the micro within the VDC ward no.9 households.

A few pragmatic recommendations have also been included with the intent of raising women's status in terms of their decision making powers in present study. These suggestions, hope would initiate policy makers and local development practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programmers regarding the upliftment of women and their status within the households.

#### **5.1 Summary**

Entire analysis focuses upon the relative status of woman in terms of their household decision making powers vis-à-vis their male counterparts. Household decision making is envisaged to be a strong indicator of the different powers and positions held by the different members within the household.

Study includes households from three different ethnic communities comprising of Chhetris, Magars and occupational cast groups. However issue in question has been limited only within the households irrespective of castes and inter-class relationships.

Within these prescribed limits, women's role in decision making have been perceived mainly from three different aspects of household affairs, farm management, household resources procurement and its use and the labour utilization pattern etc. further, the three-stage decision making process comprising of initiators, persons consulted and final decision makers, has been utilized to provide a simplified, yet a wider overview of decision making.

Researcher find a distinct pattern of women as the main initiators and final decision makers of many aspects of the household affair. This can be attributed to their role as the basic providers and managers of the domestic sector. But a point to be considered here is that, women may have a greater say in many issues but which may be of lesser importance of e.g. decision making in mundane matters like food, clothing etc. they might also have a significant contribution in the decision making of important issues, but they heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husbands for the execution of both important as well as unimportant matters. On the hand, the husbands are found to be the final decision makers regartion pattern and so.

Another interesting pattern which emerged from derivations is that the other female members (comprising of daughters-in-law etc. excluding the wives or female household heads) have a comparatively low power of decision making vis-à-vis their male counterparts. The underlying implication here is that, women holding the status of "mothers" or rather, the female household heads have a greater control over the powers of decision making. Therefore, once the daughters are married off and the daughters-in-



law eventually replace their mothers-in-law as female household heads, they then become worthy of greater power of decision making which was earlier enjoyed by their mothers –in-law.

Research revealed that only 27.27% of the female household heads were literate, in the sense that they can at least read and write. In other words, female heads from approximately 12 out of 60 households were literate. The dissertation through general observations, discovered a vast difference in the manner in which the small minority of literate female household heads answered the questions from that by the remaining illiterate ones. The literate women showed greater confidence in their approach and seemed to command a greater power within the household as compared to the illiterate female household heads.

The conclusion derived from the analysis of socio-economic characteristics and subsequently the conclusion of women's role in household decision making process is as follows:-

## **5.2 Major Findings and Conclusion**

This study has been carried out in Damachour VDC to find out the socio-economic condition of that village. In my study area many women of the traditional view are prevailing. The society is the patriarchal type. In the community we find less involvement of women in different community based programs like ward meeting, School management, community forest and various other programs. Agriculture being the main sources of income of people of this area, women's participation is high in household farming. But outside the home various works like business, official works are mostly handled

by male member. We find high involvement of male in buying labour agricultural goods, tools or selling them. Male member decide paying labour wages, purchasing and selling livestock, fruits and vegetables. Male are paid moiré than women through they perform same work outside the household which indicates that there is still business between male and female in this society.

In male dominated country like our we find a large inequality male are given preference in many socio-economic activities. We find involvement of male in district as well as in national level programs rather than women. Many opportunities are given to male rather than women from the household bases. Women's participation is minimum in every decision making and job opportunities.

Women of the study area are living in a miserable condition. Regarding the educational aspects most of the women are illiterate and a few have managed to forward their study up to the +2 level.

Women of this area mostly involved in agriculture. There is very less involvement of women in other economical activities like business and government officials. Women do not have clear concept to elaborate various economical program to enhance their financial conditions.

Though various programs like Adult literacy programs, negotiations and seminar are organized by various governmental and non-governmental agencies still the women of this area are lagging behind in educational, economical and social aspects.

Economically Damachour VDC.9 Dahagaon village women's are contributing greater share of the farm workers. Besides, they have to take care of their children, cattle and manage family in

preparing foods and serving males. In other words, they cannot escape from their domestic drudgery.

### **5.2.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics**

- ) The Chhetri community dominates over the other ethnic groups in their population distribution.
- ) The large of women are found to be married while only a small minority are unmarried.
- ) Women are solely responsible for household chores and activities. In other words, men have no contribution at all this particular sphere of activity.
- ) The women have much longer working hours than men, their average working hours being 6-8 hour/day as compared to only 3-5 hours/day for men.
- ) Early marriages for women are still practiced. Their average age at marriage is 17-22 years which has naturally prolonged their child bearing age.
- ) The chhetris have a greater livestock holding among the selected four ethnic groups.
- ) The households have a moderate production of paddy and maize as their summer crops and wheat and mustared as winter crops.

### **5.2.2 Women's Role in Household Decision Making**

- ) The wives have a greater input in the decisios making of the cropping pattern scoring a 60.22% as compared to only 23.86% by the husbands.

- ) The wives are the main persons consulted and the final decision makers for the purchase of livestock while the husbands have a greater input as initiators and final decision makers for its sale. The other male members have a comparatively greater say in both these issues than their female counterparts. But the other male members including the husbands show the least input in the overall livestock maintenance as compared to the women.
- ) Regarding family expenditures, the wives are seen as the main initiators and final decision makers for items like food, clothing, medical treatment, social/religious ceremonies and gifts/loans to friends. This is due to their closer association to such mundane matters than the rest of the family. However, these wives rely upon the approval of their husband even for such unimportant items since the husbands figure as the persons to be consulted regarding all these expenditures. But the husbands are the main final decision makers for a crucial issue like investments. The other male members usually have either a higher or equal input to that of the other female members in the three stages of the decision making process. This clearly indicates that these female members are through incapable of making any effective decision. The joint decisions are found to be very low among the households.
- ) While wives have the greatest say regarding the use of family planning (F.P) measures, the joint decision of both husband and wife also appear to be quite strong. The same trend is evident in the selection of the family size.

- ) The wives have a greater contribution regarding the decisions in sending the children to school. This can be associated with their greater concern for the children's education.
- ) Regarding the women participation in adult literacy classes the husbands have a greater control 88.23 over the decision making of this particular issue. On the other hand, the wives themselves appear to have no such control whatsoever.
- ) Although women play greater role and take major responsibility in every aspect but in the vital and crucial areas men make decision where women's roles have been narrowed down only to follow or obey. The crucial areas are-sailing of property, marriage of children, migration or other deciding factors which in a long run effect in household or family.

Therefore, the women have the least or rather no power the decision making of issues that solely concerns them.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

Based on the review of the findings of the present study, the following recommendations have been proposed for the intervention to have an impact on women for their empowerment.

1. A detailed study of the household community, it's economy and the existing gender relationships have to be conducted to get a better understanding of the resources that women may have both in terms of ownership as well as accesses.
2. A detailed analysis of women's worth reality based on a sensitive understanding of their work and life is a critical starting point. It becomes necessary to understand the kind of

work they have to do from the time they wake up to the time they go to sleep. This understanding of the women's work reality would be good starting point to decide for income generation.

3. Given the women in households tend to be left on the one hand with a much more weakened fall-back position relative to men, and on the other hand with a diminished ability to contribute to family income. While a deterioration in the wife's fall-back position would improve the husband's bargaining position within the household.
4. In such communities where no organization has been formed, imparting awareness among women around some social issue or work related issues would have been appropriate with the training courses.
5. Give the disparity on women among the households in Dahagaon the economic and social support provided by her household/family and her skill and associated economic opportunities independent of the community.
6. Family planning programmes should be promoted for greater practice and adoption of these measures by both men and women. Again, the purpose is to reduce the confinement of women to their reproductive roles within the domestic sector and encouragement of economic participation among them.

Women could be encouraged by the support organization to put their thoughts which would come as a booster for the women of the community

## 5.4 Recommendations

To make them politically conscious, socially free and economically powerful, there must be significant change in our outlook toward women and their roles in different spheres of life. This must begin from family, more specifically, husband. This is important because traditional behavioural patterns and socio-cultural paradigms have helped men established their domination of women. Thus women are vulnerable to injustice, exploitation and unfair treatment.

The listed a few relevant recommendations based upon that have been derived. The purpose here is to make significant steps towards raising the decision power of women with in the household.

- ) Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated women which would encourage their economic participation and hence evaluate her status with in the household.
- ) Bringing the women into the market economy is another approach to increase their decision making. Power, policies and programmes intended to encourage entrepreneurial skills among the women should be promoted.
- ) Steps should be taken to make men and the rural society itself aware regarding the capability of women as effective decision makers on important issues as well. These women also include the other female members who do not hold the status of the female household head.

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## **Appendix - A**

### **Case - I**

**Name** : **Om Kala Bhandari**  
**Address** : Damachour V.D.C.-9, Dahagaon  
**Education** : Literate  
**Age** : 37

Om Kala is honest women of Dahagaon village. She is a member of "Saving and Credit Group", she has 2 sons and a daughter. They have 5 members her husband who go to foreign labour for 4 years ago She took advice of the family members. I have participated in different seminars of community forest programmes, seminars of saving and credit group etc. said Om Kala. She is also involved in important decision making in wards.

Though she is interested in social and political area she is unable to work in that field due to household activities. "Women are hated when she involve herself in social and political activities." Many people said many unnecessary things. If women bring any regarding social and household matters then people think the other way and talk unnecessarily. I feel easy in doing social work." She said.

## Case - II

**Name** : **Nirmala Pun (Magar)**  
**Address** : Damachour V.D.C.- 9, Dahagaon  
**Education** :  
**Age** : 29 years

Nirmala is the head of family in present. Because her husband went to India 8 years ago. But he did not return until. She has 2 sons.

Her landholding size is a 5 ropanies. She has one cow, 3 goats and several poultry birds. She does not have any education as well. I have been able to put in extra time as wage labours in the fields. I had also time to engage in literacy class.

Our saving and credit group able to me decision making in household and save to money.

### Case - III

**Name** : **Bishnu Devi Damai**  
**Address** : Damachour V.D.C.- 9, Dahagaon  
**Education** :  
**Age** : 42 years

She is already married and had a son, daughter in law, a daughter. Her husband and she is the tailoring and her son goes to headquarter for tailoring work.

She made a clothing people of Dahagaon in the wage labour. I did not worry about household work alone. But my husband rarely help me in my household chores. Now I participation in village work. I don't have to worry about household decision-making because we share with us.

#### **Case - IV**

**Name** : **Laxmi Oli**  
**Address** : Damachour V.D.C.- 9, Dahagaon  
**Education** : +2  
**Age** : 30 years

Laxmi is the teacher of government school. She has a daughter and a son. Daughter is 8 years old and son is 5 years old. They goes to school with mother. Her husband is foreign employment for last 2 years.

She share the any time household work in her family members. She is a decision maker in household. Brought land, animal, child education etc. and she give any information to take care of our natural resources for women. She is a president of saving and credit group. She has helped and talk to women's problems women's participation in development, household works.

## Appendix - B

### Semi-structured Questionnaire

#### General information

#### Group A

Household questionnaire

Date:.....

Name:.....

Age:.....

Name of household Head

District:

VDC/Tole:

Word no:

Name of Respondent

Cast:

Religion:

Q.1.

S.N	Name of the family members	Relation of respondent	Sex	Age	Education	Marital status	occupation	others
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								

S.N	Questions	Coding description
2	Does your family have own land?	1) Yes..... 2) No.....
3	If yes, who owns land?	1) H.H. 2) Husband 3) My self 4) Others.....
4	If yes, How much?	1) Ropani 2) Ana 3) Others.....
5	Does your house hold have following facilities?	1) Electricity 2) Solar 3) Radio 4) Telephone 5) Others.....
6	What is your occupation?	1) Agriculture 2) Services 3) Business 4) House work 5) Others.....
7	What is the type of your family?	1) Nuclear 2) Joint
8	Does your family have own house?	1) Yes 2) NO
9	If yes, what is the type of your house?	1) Pakki

		1) Ardha pakki 2) Kachhi
10	What are the income sources of your family?	1) Daily wages 2) Job..... 3) Agriculture 4) Animal husbandry 5) Others.....
11	How much do you earn per month?	1) Rs 1000 2) Rs 2000 3) Rs 3000+.....
12	Who generally keeps the household money?	1) Head of the H.H 2) My self 3) Others.....
13	Have you taken apart from family borrowing?	1) Yes 2) No
14	If yes, from which source?	1) Money lender 2) Friends

**B: Economic Aspect:**

S.N	Cropping pattern	summer	winter
1	Area Crop Production	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
2	Who decides this cropping pattern?		a) Husband b) My self c) Head of H.H
3	Is the crop production sufficient for the whole year?		a) yes b) no c) if, yes
4	How is the utilized?		
5	Who decides?		a) Husband b) Wife c) Head of H.H
6	If there is deficit production, how do you cope with the problem?		a) Agri - labor b) Construction labor

**C): Participation in decision making  
(Economic decision making)**

S.N	Decision maker items decided	Who first initiated the idea	Who made the final decision
15	Food items	( )	( )
16	Clothing	( )	( )
17	Medical treatment	( )	( )
18	Religious pleasure work	( )	( )

Key:

1) My spouse.  
female H.M.

2) Myself.

male household member.

3) other

4) other



**D) Participation in community Activities**

19	Have you membership of the community activities?	1) Yes 2) No
20	If yes, in which social organization?	1) Forest 2) Saving and credit 3) Aama shamuh 4) Other.....
21	Do the village women involve themselves in community decisions?	1) Yes 2) NO
22	If yes, how many times and when?	1) Monthly 2) Yearly
23	Do you have any freedom to decide upon such participation?	1) Yes 2) NO

**E) live stock management**

S.N.	Purchase of live stock	Who first thought of the idea	Who was consulted	Who decided to purchase sell	Coding describing
1) 2) 3)					
1	Do you give your ox (if they have) for hire?			a) Yes b) No	
2	If yes, who decides?			a) Husband b) Wife c) Head of the H.H d) Other.....	
3	Who collects grass for the livestock?			a) Husband b) Wife c) Head of the H.H d) Other.....	
4	Who looks after the overall maintenance of the livestock?			a) Husband b) Wife c) Head of the H.H d) Other.....	

**Individual Questionnaire/ Social Aspect**

The question will be only to women of reproductive age.

House hold no.

Ward no...

Cast:

Tole:

Respondents Name:

S.N.	Questions	Coding description
28	How old are you?	.....
29	Can you read and write?	1) Yes 2) No
30	What is your educational level?	1) No schooling 2) Primary 3) I.A 4) B.A+.....
31	Can your husband read and write?	1) Yes 2) No

32	What is your husband education level?	1) No schooling 2) Primary 3) I.A 4) B.A+.....
33	What is your occupation?	1) House wife 2) Agriculture 3) Business..... 4) Service.....
34	What is your age when you first got married?	.....
35	How many children's do you have?	1) One 2) Two 3) Three 4) Above+.....
36	In which child do you mostly like?	1) Son 2) Daughter 3) Both
37	What was your age when you first child birth?	1) Under-20 2) 20-25 3) 25-30
38	Do you usually have delivery at.	1) At home 2) Hospital
39	Who help you child birth time?	1) H.femal 2) Neighborly 3) Hospital nurse
40	do you think about family planning?	1) Yes 2) No
41	If yes, which family planning do you use?	1) Condom 2) Norplant 3) Other.....
42	Who decided about it?	1) Husband m 2) My self 3) Marital f. member
43	If , yes, what type family planning measure do you use?	1) permanent 2) temporary
44	Who should dress and feed the children?	1) My self 2) Husband 3) Other.....

**Decide whether the question should be open or closed.**

45	Open: it is believed that house hold head in home have too much power?	
46	Do you think this is true?	1) True 2) False
47	Who are they?	1) Male member 2) Female member 3) My self 4) Other.....
48	Closed: it is believed that some people in this community have too much power?	
49	Is this statement?	1) True 2) False 3) Don't know
50	If true, who are they?	1) Rich people 2) Educated people

		3) Political leader 4) Other.....
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**Control over family investment**

S.N	Kind of asset	Could you sell some of this property or give it away on your own, if yes how much could you dispose on your own?
51	Land 1) Khet 2) Pakho 3) Bari 4) Other land	1) My self 2) My spouse 3) Other male 4) Other female
52	Building 1) Residence 2) Cattle head 3) Others	1) My self 2) My spouse 3) Other male 4) Other female
53	Milk animals 1) Cow 2) Buffalo	1) My self 2) My spouse 3) Other male 4) Other female
54	Minor animals 1) Goats and sheep 2) Poultry head	1) My self 2) My spouse 3) Other male 4) Other female
55	Deposits in bank	1) Yes 2) No
56	Loans	1) Yes 2) No
57	cash	1) Yes 2) No
58	Starting small business	1) Yes 2) No
59	Who performs the following activities most often?	1) Cooking food 2) Making tea 3) Fetching water 4) Other.....
60	Do you usually work alone?	1) No, I never were alone 2) Yes ,I work alone