

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Status of women is lower in most of the developing and under developed countries like Nepal. Low literacy rate, high fertility rate, high maternal mortality rate, high infant and child mortality rate are some indicators of lower status of women. Further, they have no opportunities to get education, to have nutritional food, to make decision, to represent at various social sectors due to lower status and inaccessibility to empower. As in many South Asian countries, Nepal's entrenched religious and cultural practice gives preference to boys and men. Many Hindu rituals institutionalized the denigration of women, and systematically undermine their self worth. Females are discriminated in various fields even though recently country's law is activated. Nepal's constitution (1990) has guaranteed that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of general laws as well as in respect of political and civil rights, on the ground of religion, race, sex and caste. Hence, men and women are given equal rights under the constitution of vote; participate in government or inter-public service.

The Forth World Conference on Women, 1995 has stated that equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centered sustainable development.

Human beings have a dignity that deserves respect from laws and social institutions. This idea has many origins in many traditions; by now it is at the core of modern democratic thought & practice all over the world. The idea of human dignity is usually taken to involve an idea of equal worth: rich & poor, rural & urban, female and male, all are equally deserving of respect, just in virtue of being human, and this respect should not be abridged on account of a characteristic that is distributed by the whims of fortune (Martha, 2001).

But human dignity is frequently violated on the grounds of sex. Many women all over the world find themselves treated unequally with respect to employment, bodily safety & integrity, basic nutrition & health care, education & political voice. In many cases these hardships are caused by their being women, and in many cases laws and institutions construct these inequalities. Men feel superior to women since during the process of their upbringing many restrictions are imposed on the girls' activities. Unfortunately, women also perpetuate patriarchal values and differentiate between son and daughter because sons are preferred in the family and are seen as protectors and providers although girls and women contribute greatly to the household economy.

Women face multiple oppressions in terms of class, ethnicity and nationality. Women are not equal to men under the law, and they are economically and socially dependent on fathers and husbands. They are not heartily taken at birth, and destined through marriage to become the possession of others. Nepal is one of the few countries in the world where women's lifespan is shorter than men's.

Women's roles in most societies fall into three categories. **Productive** (relating to production of goods for consumption or income through work in or outside the home). **Reproductive** (relating to domestic or household tasks associated with creating and sustaining children and family), and **community management** (relating to tasks & responsibilities carried out for the benefit of the community). Women must manage & balance the demands of these three different roles but their contribution has still not been recognized.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The tasks women usually perform in carrying out their different roles do not generally earn them an income. Women are working very hard in the production but their activities were not recognized, recorded, protected, or regulated by the public authorities. In some cases, work done primarily by men becomes lower paid & less prestigious when women begin to do it, and "Women's work" earns higher pay when done by men. Similarly, women

frequently earn less than men in the same job. At the community level, men may tend to have formal leadership roles and perform high status tasks while women often do the organizing and support work.

Women are often defined exclusively in terms of their reproductive roles which largely concern activities associated with their reproductive functions. These reproductive roles, together with their community management roles are perceived as natural but because these roles do not earn income, they are not recognized and valued as economically productive. Women's contributions to national economic development are therefore often not unqualified and invisible. This is reflected in a range of socio-cultural and gender discriminate in which a women mostly has to be involved in household activities and child rearing.

Women are working very hard and more time than man. Even though the status of women is always lower than that of male counterpart, but the extent of the gap between the sexes varies across cultures and time (some arguing that it is inversely related to social evolution). In 1980, the United Nations summed up the burden of this inequality: Women, who comprise half the world's population, do two thirds of the world's work, earn one tenth of the world's income and own one hundredth of the world's property. Likewise in Nepal, female spent 75% of their time in non-market activities with comparison to 33% of males (HDR 2003). This statement shows that they spend almost all time in household activities but the values of their works are not recognized. They have more contribution in household activities in comparison than males. They have to bear extra burden so that quality of life is in vulnerable condition. In the household decision making process also female members are less involved in comparison to male members.

As a girl grows up she helps with household chore, fetching water, sweeping floors and learning how to prepare food. She also starts to participate in agricultural work so that when she gets married she already has many skills essential for family survival. In most rural community women plays a major role in agriculture. They are involved in planting and weeding, fertilizing the

crop with manure, harvesting and threshing. When agricultural work is slack women are rarely left unoccupied. They often scour the forest foraging for the household and earn small sums of money from wood cutting, basket weaving, spinning wool, extracting mustard oil and distilling liquors. Most of routine work inside the home is the responsibilities of women who cook, clean and care for children and elderly family members. Women also have to keep the home constantly supplied with water for drinking and cooking and with wood for fire.

Girls and women are neglected in every aspects of their life too. Women are neglected before their birth i.e. selective abortion. Most Nepalese parents prefer son. If daughter is born, both mother and daughter get less care than she would have got son. In some communities of western parts of Nepal "naming ceremony" (nwaran) is celebrated only for the male child on eleventh day but in the case of female child, parents just give name after six month in "pasni". Likewise, female child is given less priority for formal education than male child, at least in the rural areas of the country. Even if both are sent to school, usually female child goes to government school while the male child goes to private school.

Marriages are arranged and happen early for girls as young as 12 in some communities. After the wedding, a girl leaves her parents' house to move in with the husband's family. In the hierarchical family structure, she has the lowest status and is given the hardest chores and the least amount of food. She may be physically or emotionally abused and may be denied the right to the smallest personal possessions. These are common and accepted practices in rural areas. The birth of a son can raise the young wife's status but if she is not able to give birth of son, or if she displeases her husband in other ways, he may marry second wife. At that point, the first wife's status sinks and she may starve. If she is sent away to her parent's house or divorce, she may not be accepted back into her parents' home, because she is considered to have disgraced the family.

If a woman survives more than her husband, she may be blamed for her husband's death, cursed by the family and shunned by all for bringing bad luck. Her bangles are broken and she can no longer wear red, which is reserved for married women. No widow is allowed to marry again. All women, from high to low caste suffer from such cultural practices. Women without husbands are excluded and sometimes rejected from society.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to analyze the status of women of Nepal and the specific objectives of the study are:

- 1) To analyze the women's role and responsibilities in household activities.
- 2) To explore the economic role of women in income generating.
- 3) To explore the involvement of women in community works.
- 4) To analyze the situation of rural women in decision making.

1.4 Rational of the Study

Out of the total population 51% are the women in the country and more than 85% lives in rural area. The 2001 census shows that the female literacy rate is only 42.8% but male literacy rate is 65.5%. Rural women are in vulnerable conditions. They do not have education, economic rights, and good health. Most of them are suffering with malnutrition. A large number of rural women are dying in the process of giving birth to baby, which can be seen by the large number of maternal mortality rate. The maternal mortality rate (MMR) of Nepali women (539 per 100,000 live births) ranks among the highest in the world. (HDR, 2004). These conditions show the lower status of women and backwardness of the country. The rural women's condition is more miserable than that of their male counterparts. Even though women constitute one third of the total formal labour force, their participation in economics activities and in decision making seems negligible; only 29,64,003 women are economically active, which is nearly 32 percent of the total population of women (CBS,1991).

In spite of all these things, women of a family have very high responsibility towards the family. They have to take care about the children and older members, make food for them, take care of cattle, support male members in agriculture, actively participate in the socio-cultural functions etc. But all these activities are not so noticeable and they are always in the shadows with compare to male members of the family.

So in this study, the status of women in a family has studied. For the study, Mugu district is selected. Mugu is the least developed district of Nepal. According to HDI 2003 the gender discrimination Index of Mugu is 74 and women's empowerment Index is 75. There is no road link in this district and the only means of transportation is helicopter or sometimes aircraft which is so expensive unreliable and irregular so walking is only alternative for the people. The district is out of the mainstream of the development, so most of the male members of the family are out of the district in search of opportunities and employment and females have all the responsibilities of children, and elderly people.

Hence by the study of the females of this district some how we can get the general picture of the status of rural women.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

Since the study was limited on two VDC's of Mugu District, Shreenagar and Rowa. Considering the limited time, resources, language problem, geographical problem, respondent's nature of hesitation to speak with outsider, etc, only 54 respondents were selected for the detailed research. The study has been carried out in least developed district of the country so the findings may not be generalized for the comparatively developed districts. However, it is one step further towards identifying the status of rural women in mid western region.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The study is divided into six chapters. Chapter first includes background, statement of the problem, objectives, rationale of the study and limitations of the study. The review of literature is included in the second chapter, which is divided into general overview, concepts of gender, gender differences, role of

male and female, policy, priorities and approaches to women and gender issues, status of women in Nepalese context and conceptual framework. Chapter three includes general background of the study area, reasons for the selection of study area, research design, methods of collecting data, universe and sampling, techniques and tools of data collection, data processing and analysis. Chapter four includes introduction of study area, which is divided into introduction of Mugu District and Shreenagar and Rowa VDCs. Analysis and findings of the study is given in fifth chapter and chapter six summarizes and concludes the entire study with the recommendations required to fulfill gap found in analysis.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 General Overview

Some works made by previous researchers are reviewed to develop some theoretical background and conceptual framework for new research. The literatures have been reviewed following way.

Women comprised 50.1% of the total population of Nepal in 2001. Patriarchy pervades most of the country's caste and ethnic groups; Nepal has one of the highest indices of son preference in the world. Boys not only pass on the family name, but represent "insurance" for parents for their old age and can carry out important rituals when parents die. Girls generally work at home and in the fields, considered too unimportant—and risky—to educate, given the high value attributed to virginity and the dangers that schooling in the company of boys and men outside the household might pose to virginity. By contrast, early marriage constitutes a kind of virginity insurance.

Women bear triple work responsibilities in Nepal: Reproductive, Productive and Community works. Given traditional divisions of labour, women concentrate more on their ascribed reproductive roles and responsibilities while men focus on "productive", income-earning roles. As in most households worldwide in both developed and developing countries, reproduction is not regarded as work and household work is not considered productive. However the work burden of women of Nepal (16 hours) is much higher than the global average for three reasons:

-) First, reproductive work is much more intense because the home continues to be the center of nurture and socialization.
-) Second, the participation the woman in Nepal in "productive" activities is one of the highest in the world.
-) Third, community works are relating to tasks & responsibilities carried out for the benefit of the community.

The boundaries of all these activities undertaken by women are influenced by factors such as household composition, i.e., extended/joint, nuclear and female headed families, household stratification by economic status-wealthy, poor or landless, the migration of male family members, education, knowledge and health status. Women are also confined to "culturally prescribed" and "socially acceptable" occupations. However, data on many Nepalese socio-cultural practices that discriminate against women are inadequate to date, in large measure because of the sensitivity of the subject. (HDR 2004)

Discrimination and inequality continue to dominate the discourse of gender equality and advancement of women for they are universal formidable barriers for the realization of women's human rights. As the saying goes, "Ignorance is bliss", many men and women take it for granted that the unequal power relations between men and women is a natural way of life and go through life without questioning the oppression and subjugation that women are subjected to. We now know that this unjust and unequal conditions and position of women is not pre-ordained and thus natural, but that it is nurtured and perpetrated by discriminatory traditional and customary beliefs and practices emanating from the social system of patriarchy.

It is precisely this discrimination against girls and women that has historically disadvantaged them in securing for themselves the status and position in society to negotiate a better life for them. South Asia is known as the classical belt of patriarchy. Nepal is the only South Asian country without criminal law provisions to deal with domestic violence and the situation is exacerbated by women's absence in decision-making. This is symptomatic of the patriarchal system that relegates women to the residual category of the society and views them, as commodities to be dealt with at will. Compared to all other countries in South Asia, Nepal has the lowest literacy rate in the region – 1 out of every 5 adult women is literate – and the gender gap in literacy and primary net enrolment are the region's highest, as education is not considered as priority for the daughter who will ultimately have to be a home-maker. Early marriage is the norm and statistics indicate that upon marriage 40% girls are less than 14 years old (Giri 2003).

Acharya (1981) writes, "In Sirsia, male children between 5 to 9 years of age spend 1.24 hours working each day while girls in the same age group put in 2.05 hours. Men spent 92.2 percent of their work time in productive work, while women spent only 38.8 percent of their daily work in productive work. But again, given that women work more hours than men, men have about 7 hours of free time; while boys of 10-14 age groups put in about 5 hours of works per day, girls of the same age group have almost full work day, i.e. they work for an average of 7.6 hour per day"

Acharya (1993) includes labour allocation within household decision. Acharya also includes women are deprived from inheritance to property right, they have to work in men's land from dawn to dusk not only to support themselves but also to their families – as being dependent of their male counterpart. In this if male members deny supporting female members for example, with respect to food, clothing, shelter, health and security, there will be hardship to survive women in such inhuman system. Women's position is still the same. It is because generated income mostly goes to hand of family head (certainly male or elder female). In some situation, even women are sometimes barrier for women's development and hence even in the absence of male members the elder female could play dominant development organization, this situation is continuing because of hierarchical power relation.

Acharya and Bennet (1981) included household labour allocation decision in household by analysis and summarized data obtained from eight villages. The report showed that 50% of males were involved in household labour allocation decision while 39% wee made by women and 11% jointly by both men and women in Nepal. The research also showed that predominance of joint decision for agricultural production and marketing activities.

In Asia, women provide much of the labour for the staple crop, rice. An in-depth study from Nepal (Acharya and Bennett, 1983) gives an unusually detailed picture of the labor contribution by sex for rice and other staples. It reports that women perform 66% of the labour involved in planting, 75% in weeding, and all of the cleaning and storage of rice. In the production of wheat,

they contribute 66% of the work; for maize, 94% for oil seeds, 85%, for millet, 94%. In addition, they make 42% of the agricultural production decisions and are most influential about seed selection and fertilizer use.

An attempt was made to determine the contribution of women in raising livestock for generating family income and employment in rural Bangladesh. For this purpose 600 households from six districts were selected randomly for in depth investigation. Results showed that the involvement of women in management practice for livestock rare depending on the type of management of practice and also a categories of farm families. The results showed that participation of women were 37.34%, 44.48%, 46.70% and 55.80% for large, medium small and landless farm respectively. It was observed that participation of men in livestock raising activities increased with increase in farm size but that of women increased with the decrease in farm size. Incase of livestock processing activities only 9.67% of women were found involved. In decision-making process of livestock production, the women participation in raising livestock was higher (53.40%) (Alam, Sayed and Sanjaya, 2003).

Asian Development Bank, (2000) examines Nepal, as one of the poorest countries in the world and its women are among the most disadvantages. The status of woman is always lower than that of their male counterparts women also lay behind men in access to education and in ownerships and access to asset. Women's economic participation is limited mainly to agricultural production within the household while the male labour force has been shifting towards manufacturing and service. More than 85% of economically active women are involved in agriculture. Social customs present more hurdles for women to participate in the economy. The book also focus that the preference with in household for educating sons and arranging early marriage of daughters.

In his reports, Bajracharya, (1994) showed women's role, including carrying for small livestock and home, kitchen, gardens, this impedes their participation in outside activities whereas men are mostly involved in outside activities such as marketing management participation in social affair and community work. This

report also included women make decision related to kitchen, gardening, while man makes most decision in relation to the cultivation of other food crops. However some decisions are made jointly men and women. Joint decision-making is common for crops cultivation practice. To understand gender issue in agriculture this report is very helpful. This includes households decision-making is a complex phenomenon that varies according to the nature of household activities and ethnicity and gender.

Women constitute almost half of the work force engaged in agriculture. The rural women participate in a broad range of agricultural activities such as production, processing, preservation, and utilization of food. They play key roles in the entire food system, starting from the selection of seeds through sowing, manuring, weeding, harvesting, threshing, winnowing, drying stacking and storing to feeding the family from the harvested produce. Most importantly, they play a major role in the decision-making process at the farm household level. They appear to influence the decisions regarding the choice of farm enterprise as well as the desirable production features of a particular commodity or crop or animal species. It has been shown that whether it is shifting cultivation, subsistence and low-input agriculture, or high-input agriculture, women work longer and harder than men though they are paid less (Bajracharya, B. 1994).

Both men and women engage in community activities, but there are distinct gender divisions of labour. Sometimes cultural and religious taboos do not allow women to participate in some social events, like funeral; don't know why women are excluded to take part in such events. Women are excluded to take part in political campaign and other gathering as well. Even if they are allowed, they have to finish their household chores first and only they can go and participate still only for a limited time. In this way women are always roaming around the within the household dichotomy that limits women to think outside world. This is simply because of male dominance in household affairs (Devkota, 1999).

The study on the involvement of women in socio-cultural farm and households activities in Darai community of Mangaplur village, Chitwan was carried out (Jha, and Ghimire 1989-1990). The entire households in the community were included in this study. The result showed that the role and responsibilities of women were comparatively more than in majority of the activities. Most of the decision were made jointly, but decision implementation were mostly done by men in household activities were negligible. All the activities like cooking, clearing childcare, water fetching etc were done by females. Activities like regarding livestock rearing were performed mostly by females, preferably by girls. It was found that land preparation was mostly done by males. Marketing was done by jointly, where as other activities like seed selection, planting, weeding, pesticide application, harvesting and marketing of farm products, were done by the female.

Apart from women extensive involvement in household chores and subsistence farming, women in Sri Lanka are engaged in non-farm income-generating activities to supplement farm income. They mostly enter home-based cottage industries using the local materials collected from the forests. For example, in the wet zone, women boil the treacle and produce jaggery, while men tap the inflorescence and collect the sap from Kitul (a multi-purpose tree species) and earn cash income in the family. Kitul products account for more than 70% of the total income from non-wood forest products. Though the male member in the family does the marketing of home items garden produce, the selling of surplus (over household consumption) of various items such as coconut, papaya, banana, cashew nut etc. in roadside stalls and weekly markets is mainly done by women. These stalls are also used to sell pillows and mattresses with attractive designs made by women at home (Kumar, 1998).

NGO Federation of Nepal (Jan, 2002) shows the gender relation. In almost all poor categories men and women in the family were found struggling for the necessities of food, shelter and clothing. In this situation women could not afford to stay at home looking after children and doing household chores but were required to work shoulder with men for earning. The compulsion of earning has added productive work to their reproductive work. Since the

women are also seen as the equal earning pattern in the household, they are playing a consultative role in household decision but the final decision making at community level is virtually less. It is clearly seen that the mobility of women has not changed significantly despite their heavy involvement in the productive work force. In once area (Badi community) the males are living on earning of women, doing nothing but in trade most of decision fund to be taken by women in this community. The wealthy women have most power over men and then lower income women among Badi community.

Beijing Conference is the latest one held in 1995, and “platform for action” was the major slogan of this conference. The critical area of Beijing Conference women and education, women and domestic violence, women and politics, women and policy approach, women and trafficking, women and sexual harassment, women and their right, women and development, and women and law, women and the media, women and health and women and their status in society. Beijing Conference has a positive impact to the Nepalese women as well. Although much of the work after conference have been concentrated to the program and policy level-table work by elite and educated women, women groups have been formed due accordance to materialize resolution in Nepalese context that were passed in the conference (United Nation Fourth World Conference on Women, Sept. 9-15, 1995).

Shrestha, M.M. and S. Shrestha (1991) gives the gender encompasses social values, norms and role played by men and women. All farm activities in the small farm are jointly run by male and female members of a family but the nature of work is different and special for male and female farmers. Household members can be desegregated in several ways i.e. by age, sexes, gender which can complicated the method for identifying the constraints and problems. Gender has proved to be the most useful categories to disaggregate the farm household and analyses intra-household behaviors. Therefore it is necessary to analyze the gender specific production system of farm to identify the problems and to enhance the farm productivity.

Despite policy framework and legislative provision for address access, equally and empowerment issues, weaker section of society have Marquette access to resources and decision making process. Gender equity needs to be integrated into all follow up and monitoring support services such as social mobilization awareness building and gender sensitization have to be promoted at all levels. Social mobilization is seen as catalyzing process by which people are organized to become more active participants in decision making process that their lives UNDP (2001).

2.2 Policy, Priorities and Approaches to Women and Gender Issues

Nepal has made specific policy declarations to integrate women in development since the early 1980s. Successive five-year plans have made appropriate policy declarations for improving women's status. Such efforts have focused on credit and employment generation, education, and health. A few women's mechanisms have been set up, including the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare (MWSW), the Women's Division in the National Planning Commission, and the Women and Development Division in the Ministry of Local Development. Initiatives have been taken towards some legal reforms, making women's right to property a little more secure and strengthening punitive measures against violence as incorporated in the bill pending in Parliament.

The Sixth Plan (1980-085) formally addressed, for the first time, the issue of women's role in National development. However, it does not contain operational strategies for the integration of women in sectoral programs. While it stressed the need to increase women's participation in agricultural development, for example, no indications were given concerning how this might happen. Recognizing these limitations the task force of senior policy makers was mobilized in 1981 under the auspices of the SSNCC's Women's Social Coordination Committee (WSSCC), to formulate a National plan of Action for women's development. This plan proposed strategies to be implemented by Government and non government agencies and institutions in the fields of education, health, employment, agriculture, forestry, cooperative

development and the legal system. It also called for increased recruitment of women at all levels in extension and administrative fields through a program of incentives and quotas. The plan failed, however, to have any significant impact on subsequent government plans and policies (NPC, 1980)

The Seventh Plan also recognized that the situation of women was a problem relevant to the development of the country as a whole, but, once again, no provision were made to introduce measures through which the greater participation of women in development might actually be achieved. While the plan stressed the important of providing women with better educational opportunities in the section on women, this was not included among the priorities of the section on education. In addition, women's health was only discussed in the context of family planning (NPC, 1985)

The Eighth Five-Year Plan emphasized women's participation in mainstream in development and stressed the need to formulate an institution for coordinating and monitoring Women in Development (WID) activities. Initiated in the seventh plan, the eighth plan further promoted the role of non government organization (NGO's) in WID activities (NPC, 1992).

The Ninth Five-Year Plan Approach Paper (1998) sets triple objectives of **mainstreaming, eliminating gender inequality, and empowering women** along the lines proposed by the Beijing Platform for Action. Each of the three sections strategically target key areas to be improved. The plan emphasized on evaluating household labour contribution of women scientifically and objectively by reviewing the national accounting system as well as refining gender disaggregated indicators for evaluating women participation in national development. The plan also promoted the elimination of gender discrimination by introducing egalitarian legal framework between men and women (NPC, 1997).

The Tenth Plan (2002-2007) identifies women as the focal point for development in order to enhance human development indicators by achieving targets such as sustainable economic growth of the nation, poverty alleviation and guaranteeing development to the general people. In this respect, strategies

on emphasizing education of women, improving women's health and enhancing women's participation at the decision making level (NPC, 2002).

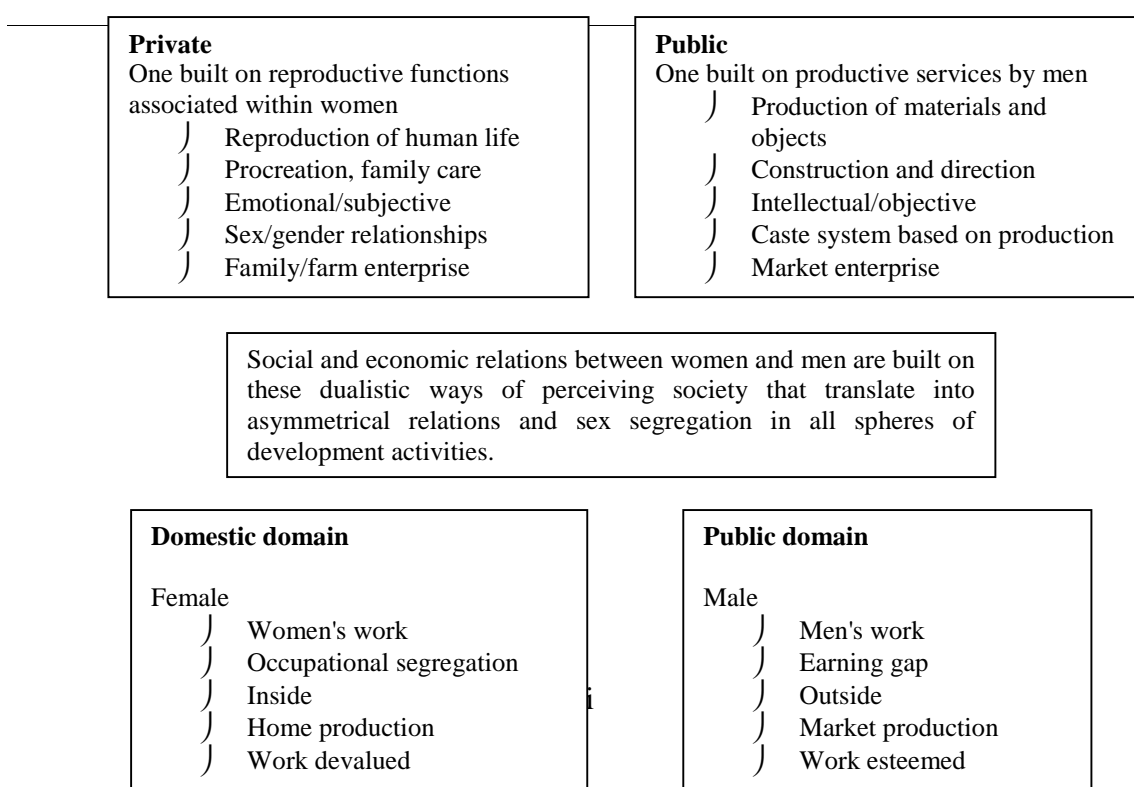
The basic needs policies also stresses women's involvement in development, and recommended expanding the PCRW program, but again provides no guidance on how the increased participation of women in any of the sectoral programs could be accomplished. It therefore appears that women's issues if addressed at all, will be relegated to a "special" component of the overall development program, rather than being integrated as a central concern of programs in each sector. As long as this situation continues, women will tend to remain at the periphery of the development process.

Development programs directed exclusively at women have often failed to provide ways in which women can also be integrated into more general development activities. Many have been patterned on occupations for women that are culturally foreign meaningless, emphasizing "domestic" and unprofitable skills like sewing and knitting skills, rather than productive activities. Fortunately, however this pattern is gradually changing and instruction currently offered is more concerned with fostering the capacity of women to earn cash income. Almost all funding for women's development program is derived from foreign aid. This suggests that, despite progressive statement on the subjects, there has been a low level of commitment and interest in government to improve the situation of women. Too often women's issues have been perceived and treated as special problems to be dealt in the context of separate programs under the responsibility of "women's section" within implementing agencies, rather than as integral parts of the overall development program for the country

Nepal also committed itself to the Platform of Action for the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. A recommended Action Plan prepared recently by MWSW for the implementation of the platform expands what is laid down in the platform and specifically pins down the responsible agents for each action required. The issue now is how to translate the policy into practice. The activism of non-government organizations (NGOs) in Nepal

has increased tremendously since 1990. However, barring a few, most NGOs lack capacity, regular access to resources, and a long-term vision. Gender perspective is lacking even in programs implemented by women's NGOs. A number of NGO networks have been formed. The most important of them is the Women's Pressure Group, comprising 84 NGOs of various categories. Other networks are theme oriented and focus on advocacy on particular themes such as media, HIV/AIDS, and trafficking. Both multilateral and bilateral external funding agencies have played a positive role in making women/gender an issue in development since the mid-1970s. Their efforts have evolved through time, passing through various phases of women in development (WID) and gender and Development (GAD). First, in the late 1970s, it was small women's components in development plans and programs. In the 1980s, it was women and development (WAD). Since early 1990, it is GAD. Since the Beijing Conference, voices have been raised for empowerment of women and a fundamental change in the socioeconomic structure. Within this general framework, approaches to women's problems have varied among various funding agencies. Some of them, particularly multilateral agencies, see women's problems as part of a larger problem of poverty and would like to concentrate on women's programs for achieving efficiency of resource use and the eradication of poverty. Others aim at empowerment of women directly.

Fig 2.1 Dualistic ways of perceiving and describing society



Source: Nepal: Reading in Human Development 2006, UNDP

2.3 Status of Women in Nepalese Context

Since the 1970s, the Government of Nepal has committed itself to a variety of policies and strategies for promoting gender equity and equality, as well as women's empowerment in national development. Their programs are slowly being redesigned to incorporate the gender perspective processes. If we look back over the last four decades of Nepal's overall development, we see remarkable progress. People live much longer, they are better educated, participate in the development process much more than they ever did, they have greater voice in decision making process and access to resources/credit. However, despite the years of effort to bring about redistributive change favoring women, outcomes have been, at best, mixed. Measured by standard socioeconomic indicators, women's share of the benefits of the development has remained minimal. Different surveys and studies reveal a wide spectrum of gender gaps in health and education, the vulnerability of women to market forces and SAPs, pronounced inequalities in ownership and control over assets, and a comparative lack of access to income, employment and decision making positions. All these phenomena exist alongside a growing feminization of poverty (UNDP 2006).

2.3.1 Educational Status of Women

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. The increasing literacy rate of female population from 1954 to 2001 is 0.7, 1.8, 12.0, 25.0 and 42.1 percent in each Census period respectively. But the current gender gap in literacy rate is nearly 23 percent points. The literacy among girls and women in terms of percentage points grew much faster than for boys and men during these years even these still only two fifths of female population is literate. The census indicates that literacy rate

among men from 6 years older was 65.7 percent comparing to female literacy rate is 42.8 percent and net enrollment is 86 percent. Literacy rate of women by development region is EDR-45 percent, CDR-41.6 percent, WDR-49.1 percent, MWDR-37.7 percent and FWDR-33.2 percent.

2.3.2 Health Status of Women

Women's life expectancy has improved significantly-from 53.5 in 1991 to 61.5 in 2001- surpassing the life expectancy of 60.5 for men. The sex ratio as an indicator of women's status has also improved slightly in favor of women: from 105:100 in 1981 to 99.8:100 in 2001. Women as well as girls also suffer from inadequate nutrition in both quantity and quality of food, perform excessive labour, and have limited access to health and family planning services. Approximately 70 % of the women of childbearing age are anemic-and an estimated 40 % have given birth to at least one child between the ages of 15 and 19. Because of poor maternal health and nutrition, 27% of newborns have low birth weights. In addition, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) OF Nepali women (539 per 100,000 live births) ranks among the highest in the world. One out of every 185 pregnant women dies because of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications. Currently, only 53.4 % of women receive any antenatal care, though this has increased from 28.4% in 1991, and only 18.8% receive post-natal services. Almost all deliveries take place at home: only 13% of deliveries are assisted by a skilled birth attendant (HDR 2004).

2.3.3 Labour Force Participation

Women's participation in employment in non-agricultural sector has increased, according to inter census data from 1971 to 2001. But male/female participation in some selected occupations reveals a substantial increase in the participation rate of women in low-level, unstable work, while men's participation in such employment declined substantially compared to other occupations between 1981 to 2001. During the inter-census periods between 1971, 1981 and 2001, women appear to have replaced men in labour-intensive and low-paid occupations, while men moved on to dominate technical/professional and higher production-oriented occupations. Moreover, women are visibly concentrating in subsistence agricultural occupations (from 36.4% in 1981 to

49.3% in 2001, as table 2.1 indicates), as men increasingly leave the land (a decline from 64% in 1981 to 51.3% in 2001). Although the percentage of female participation is still lower than that of males in these occupations, their rate of increase is higher (UNDP, 2006).

Table 2.1 Distribution of economically active population by occupation and Sex in Nepal, 1981-2001(%)

Selected occupation	1981		1991		2001	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agricultural workers	63.6	36.4	54.9	45.1	50.72	49.28
Service workers	85.5	14.5	74.9	25.1	86.94	13.06
Production workers	89.8	19.2	81.2	18.8	59.60	40.40
Sales workers	85.4	14.6	77.4	22.6	75.31	24.69
Professional workers	83.4	16.6	84.9	15.1	80.33	19.67

Source: CBS/HMG/N1984, 1993 and 2002.

2.3.4 Contribution in Agriculture and Non-agriculture Sector

Women are increasingly replacing men in subsistence agriculture due to increasing male out-migration in the wider market employment sphere (both within Nepal and abroad). However, statistics also shows that the participation of women in non-agricultural occupations has increased rapidly over the years. As to non-agricultural work, women's participation increased from 1.8% in 1971 to about 20.3% in 2001, while the percentage for the men were 7.2% in 1971 and 37.3% in 2001-an incremental rate of 3.1% per year for females against 2.7% per year for males. Between these two phenomena, an increasing number of women are being employed in the most vulnerable sectors of the economy-by implication, exposed to greater risks of poverty and deprivation and disadvantaged in comparison to their male counterparts (UNDP, 2006).

Table 2.2 Agriculture and non-agriculture occupation by sex in Nepal

Sectors (%)	1971		1981		1991		2001	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agriculture	92.8	98.2	88.9	96.1	74.8	90.5	62.7	79.7
Non-agriculture	7.2	1.8	11.1	3.9	25.2	9.5	37.3	20.3

Source: CBS/HMG/N2003.

2.3.5 Women's Representation in Public Office and their Access to Other Decision Making Positions

Women's share of seats in parliament and in the local government bodies remains insignificant. Moreover, a decline has taken place in the number of women in senior administrative and professional positions: from 15% in 1998 to 12.7% in 2003. However, greater numbers of women have been contesting for local elections over the years (NESAC 1998 and UNDP 2004b).

2.3.6 Legal Status of Women

The legal status of women is mixed. While the 1990 Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all citizens without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, caste, religion, or sex, including property inheritance, there have been no specific laws in Nepal to back this up. On the contrary, the family laws in Nepal that govern marriage, divorce, property rights, and inheritance, reinforce the patriarchy and put severe limits on women's command over economic resources. For example, the National Code of Nepal *Mulki Ain* of 1963, which codifies the inheritance system, derives from the Hindu system of beliefs emphasizing patrilineal descent and a patrifocal residence system. Some of the provisions severely limit economic options for women.

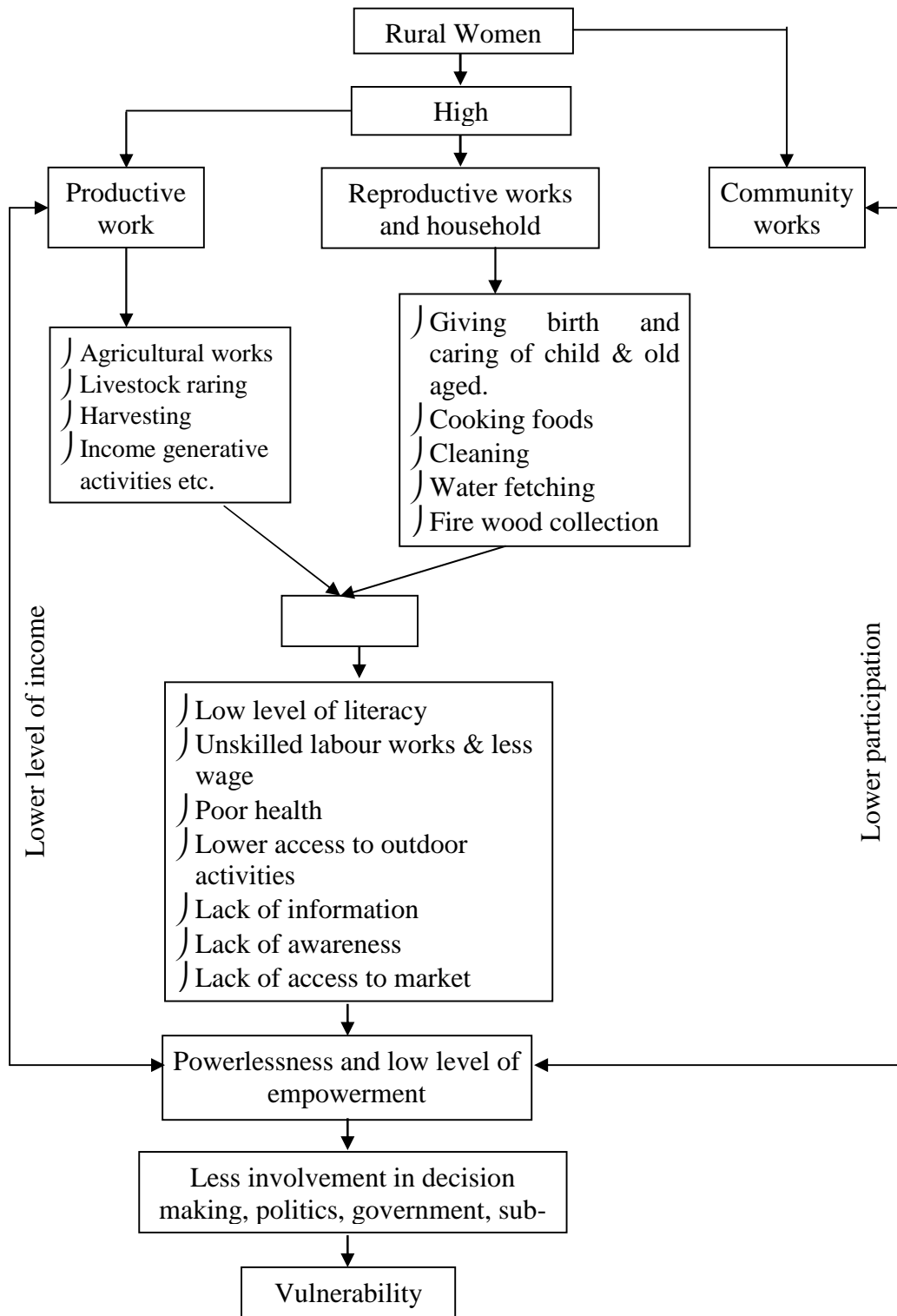
The constitution stipulates that non-discrimination and equality are fundamental rights. The national country, in its eleventh Amendment, sets out women's right to property and a conditional right to abortion, an increase in minimum age of marriage (from 16 to 18) and equality in the grounds for

divorce. However Nepal's State laws, as well as traditional values, still relegate women to inferior status, particularly in the gaps between legal initiatives. For example, a daughter had to return her share of family property after marriage until very recently, when a new court decision has overturned this agreement. Above and beyond such particular statutes, the failure of legislators, legal interpreters and law enforcers to accept the concept of sexual equality prevents women from exercising their fundamental rights and freedoms.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

From the above review of literature, following conceptual framework has been formulated, which helps to understand the overall status of rural women.

Fig.2.2 Conceptual Framework



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the research methods employed for the fulfillment of the objectives of the study.

3.1 General Background of the Study Area

Mugu is least developed district of Nepal, situated at the Northern part of mid-western region. It covers 3535 sq. km. The total population of this district is 43937 resided in 24 VDC's. The district is totally out of road link with other district. The literacy rates for males & females of this district are 12% & 49% only. There are 124 secondary schools at higher secondary schools. According to Human Development Report (HDR) 2004; HDI rank of this district is 75 i.e. it has least HDI rank among the districts of Nepal. Similarly life expediency of females of this district is 45.27 which is quite less than 70.61 of Katmandu. Likewise adult literacy of females of this district is only 5.2 percent and estimated earned income is 0.37, which are much more less than 60% adult literacy and 0.479 estimated earned income of Katmandu district.

When we observe the data of Mugu district only, there also we can see the vast difference between the males and females. For instance, in case of adult literacy, for male it is 41.6% while for female it is only 5.2%. Similarly mean years of schooling for male is 2.45 while this figure for female is only 0.34.

The study has carried out in two VDC's, Shreenagar and Rowa. District headquarter of Mugu lies in Shreenagar VDC and Rowa lies at about five hours walk from the district headquarter Gamgadi.

3.2 Reasons for the Selection of Study Area

Shreenagar and Rowa VDC's of Mugu district has been selected for this study. The reasons for selecting these areas are:

-) Mugu is least developed district of Nepal and situation of women of the district is vulnerable. According to HDI 2003, the gender

discrimination Index of Mugu is 74 and women's empowerment Index is 75. From this study somehow we can generalize the women's status, living conditions and household responsibilities of rural women of Mid Western and far Western Development Region.

-) In the past, No similar studies have been carried out in this issue of the females of these VDC's.
-) The result obtained can be generalized to the entire northern part of mid-western and far-western region.

3.3 Research Design

The present study is based on descriptive as well as exploratory research design, because it describes the status of females of those areas and explores their difficulties and responsibilities. In some issues, case study research design has also been adopted to find the condition of females of these areas.

3.4 Methods of Collecting Data

The study has followed a multi-pronged approach involving the collection & analysis of primary as well secondary data from the entire relevant source at the national and community levels. Both quantitative and qualitative information had been taken into account. Both primary and secondary data were the basis for the research. Generally data referring to following components has been collected.

- Demographic
- Economic
- Educational
- Health
- Social issues
- Policy issues

3.4.1 Primary Sources Data

The primary data was collected at household level; interview, informal discussion, focus group discussion, key information and field observation are the major methods that had been used for data collection. Structured questionnaire for respondent were used for Household survey .The

questionnaire mainly covered the biophysical and socio-economic characteristics of the study area. A Semi-structured check list was developed for observation and used for recording the data.

3.4.2 Secondary Sources Data

Related documents (rules, plans, regulations etc), publications, research papers, reports, books, journals, newsletters, magazines, documentary and related websites were the major source for secondary data. Demographic data like caste composition and economic status were obtained from secondary data sources like VDC/DDC, NGOs/INGOs, CBS, Human Development Report 2003/04/05, T.U. Central library etc.

3.5 Universe and Sampling

The study area consists of two VDC's namely Shreenagar and Rowa. Total population of Shreenagar is 2972 with male 1513 and female 1459 and the total number of household is 689. Similarly total population of Rowa is 3469 with male population 1789 and female 1680 and the total number of households is 623.

Since people of different caste & ethnicity are found there, stratified random sampling has been used to select the sample unit. First of all the total household of each of the VDC's were divided into 5 strata as Thakuri, Chhetri, Bramhan, Dalits & Sherpa & others. The sample units has selected according to the proportionate allocation from each of the stratum. All the respondents were females. The detail sampling procedure is shown in the following table.

Table 3.1 Allocation of sample size of respondents

VDC's	Thakuri	Chhetri	Bahun	Dalit	Sherpa & others	Total
Shreenagar's Pop. ⁿ	1146	822	240	574	180	
Households	265	190	55	133	41	
Sample size	11 HH's	8 HH's	1 HH	6 HH's	1 HH	27 HH's
Rowa's Pop. ⁿ	12	2368	6	1055	28	
Households	2 (approx)	425	1 (approx)	190	5 (approx)	
Sample size	1 HH	18 HH's	0	7 HH's	1 HH	27HH's

3.6 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection

3.6.1 Techniques

Following techniques were used in the collection of primary data

3.6.1.1 Household survey

Household survey was conducted to assess the knowledge about different aspects of the respondents. For this semi-structured questionnaire was administered to the respondents. The questions have been asked to the respondents and answers have been filled up by the researcher herself.

3.6.1.2 Observation

An unobtrusive type of observation was used during the course of field work. Observations were especially focused as socioeconomic setting, settlement pattern, dietary pattern, health and hygiene, social discrimination etc.

3.6.1.3 Key informant interview

Key informant interview was conducted with Mugu district's leaders, high school teachers, social workers, health personnel and local leaders. These key informants interviews provided some useful data regarding the study.

3.6.1.4 Focus group discussion.

For the purpose of focus group discussion, two separate groups of 13 respondents from Rowa and 12 respondents from Shreenagar VDCs were called for the discussion.

3.6.2 Tools

For using above mentioned techniques following tools were used.

-) Questionnaire for house hold survey
-) Checklist for observation
-) Interview schedule for informal interview
-) Guidelines for focus group discussion.

3.7 Data Processing, Presentation and Analysis

Collected data were sorted, edited, tabulated and processed manually using simple statistical procedures. Data analysis has been done on the basis of the major themes extracted out of the bulk of data. The statistical measures used were frequency, Percentage, average etc. Used formula for average is $\frac{\sum fx}{N}$.

3.8 Variable and their Operationalization

The study components and their operationlization are shown below:

a. Economic Situation

-) Socio-economic status of female | social prestige and economical condition.
-) Employment pattern | inside and outside the house

b. Education Situation of Female

-) Comparative education situation between male & female
-) Access of education of caste / ethnicity
-) Identification of main barriers of education

c. Intra Household Responsibility

-) Responsibility for children, old aged and other members of family
-) Responsibility for economic support
-) Responsibility for social activities
-) Responsibility for cultural activities

d. Political Awareness

-) Political representation in VDC's DDC & national level

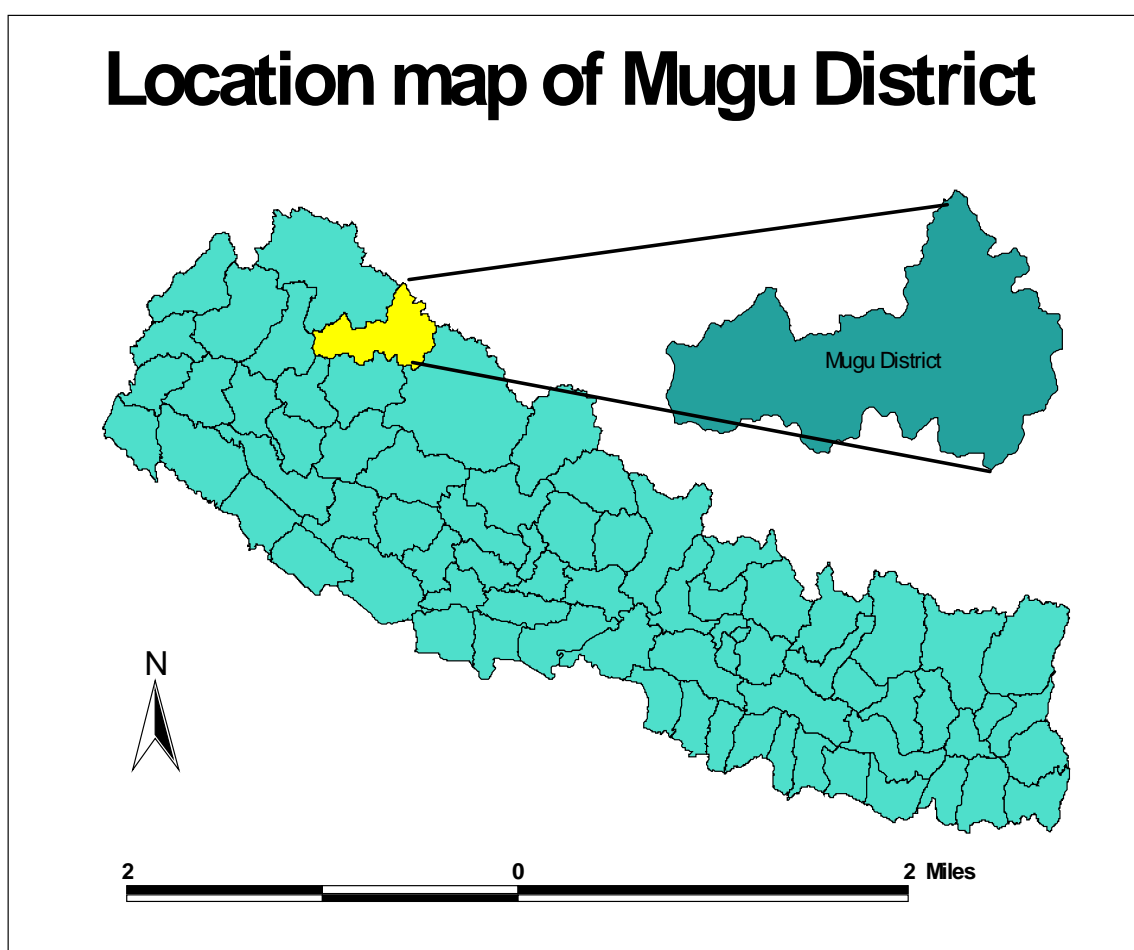
CHAPTER IV

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Position

“Mugu” the district of Karnali zone, falls under the Northern part and Mid-western development region of Nepal. It covers 3535 sq. km. It is situated between 29° 22’ to 29° 56’ north latitude and 81° 46’ to 82° 50’ east longitude ranged 1201 to 6815 meter of height from the sea level.

Fig 4.1 location map of Mugu District



Humla, Bajura, Kalikot, Jumla and Dolpa are other neighboring districts of Mugu and it is connected with Tibet in the North. The Rara Lake (Greatest Lake of Nepal) is a point of attraction and an asset of Mugu that is situated at the 2972 meter height from sea level.

Fig 4.2 Map of Mugu District

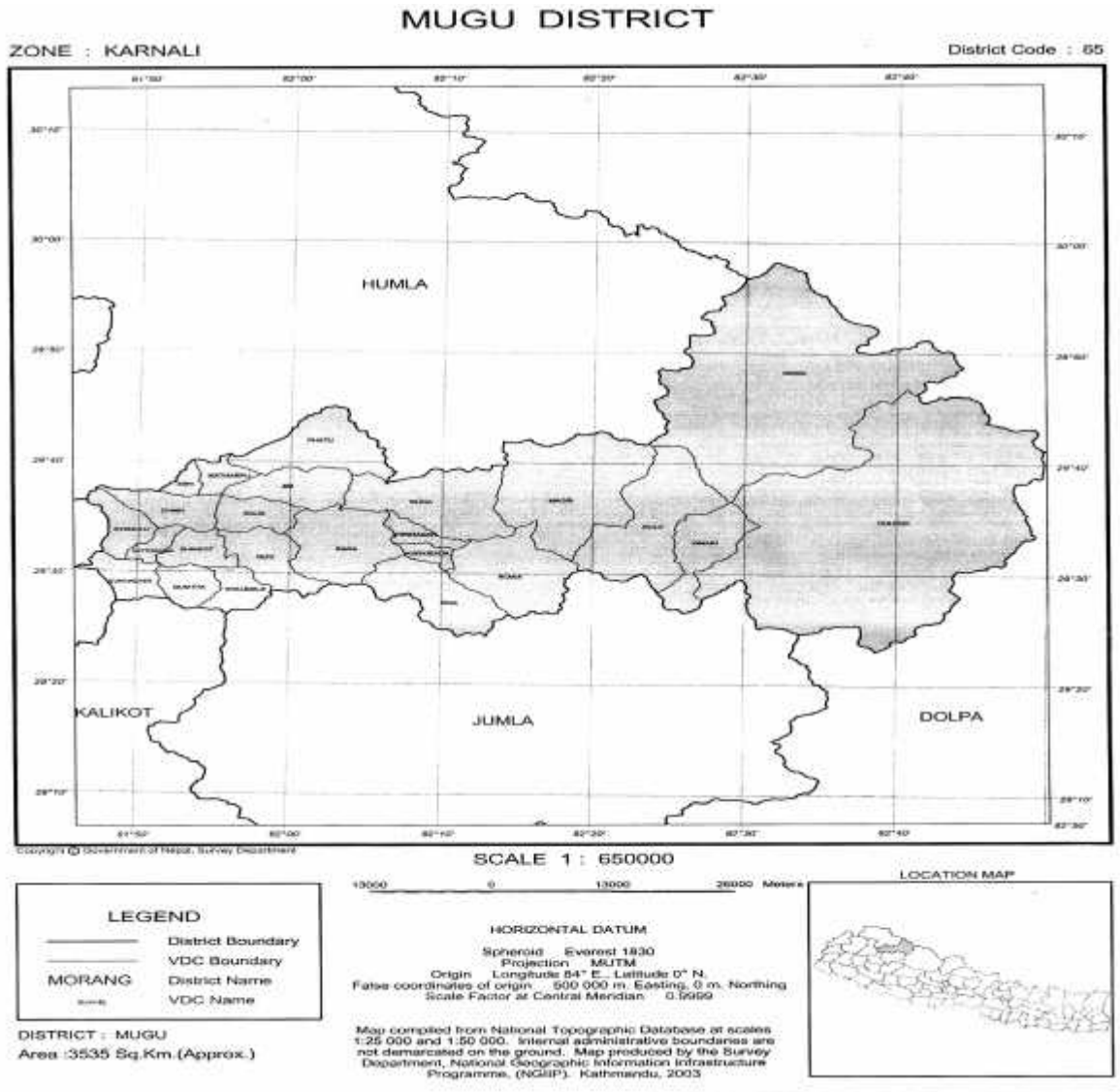


Table 4.1 General Description of Mugu District

Descriptions	Frequency
Household no. 048/058	6837/8261*
Population 048/058	36364/43937*
Area (sq km)	3535
VDCs, Municipality	24/0
Election area no.	1
Literacy rate (male/female)	12*/49*
Road facility (km)	0
Economically active population (10 yrs and above)	20309
Widow	977*
Disabled population	154
Piped drinking water receiving HHs	3218
Houses without toilet	4941
Schools	124
Campus / +2	0/2
Hospital/health post	1/25

Source: Oxfam, NLA 2003

**Data derived from CBS due to lack of information of some VDCs*

4.2 Climate

Due to the diversity of altitude and shadowed by showy mountains, the climate of Mugu is different at different altitude which is similar to semi-desert. In winter season the temperature remains up to 7° Celsius to (-) 4° Celsius and in summer it goes up 8° to 30° Celsius. The annual rain falls in the district in 800 mm to 938 mm in the southern belt and it is only 475 mm in the northern belt.

4.3 Land Use

The total area of Mugu district is 353, 500 hectare and hard rock and mountains covers 70% of this area, which is not useful for production purpose. Agriculture potentially is only in 11250 hectares of land out of which only 500 hectare has access to irrigation.

Table 4.2 Land use

Sectors	Area (hectare)	Percentage
Lakes and rivers	97	0.03
Doweling	240	0.07
Community forest	4752	1.34
Other forest	10142	2.87
Arable land	11250	3.18
Pasture land	79747	22.56
Hard rock & mountains	247272	69.97
Total land	353500	100.00

Source: (IEDI, 2004)

4.4 Population

According to the census of 2058 B.S. the total population of Mugu district is 46264 resided in 24 VDC's. The female population as compared to the male is slightly low. The density of population is only 11 people per square kilometer whereas; it is 136 in an average for the whole country. Most of the population of Mugu is concentrated around the district headquarter and VDCs of its vicinity. The population of northern and eastern part of the district is extremely thin.

4.4.1 Economically Active Population

The population age ranged from 15-54 is considered economically active. Among the total population, economically active population of Mugu District is 20,309 (Population Census, 2001). Which means the dependency rate is less than one. Estimated earned income of female of Mugu District is 0.37, which is much more less than 0.479 estimated earned income of Kathmandu district.

Carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, tailors, cobblers, potters, woolen clothes makers are found 295 in Mugu Districts. Bamboo goods makers are also found in good number within the Buffer Zone area of Rara National Park. They are distributed in different settlements. Apart from these traditional skills; there are also a few with modern skills such as overseers and health workers (15 persons

about 10 years ago). These skillful persons can be tapped for the development of the area. In the survey of 1995, there was 861 people with traditional and modern skills were found. These peoples come mainly from Karkibada, Pina and Shreenager VDCs. Their skills could be upgraded and made functional for modern work. The blacksmiths of this place also used purify the copper and alum ore available in the local mine in Dolphu though these mines are not used nowadays (DDC Mugu, 2054) that indicates severity of *khet* land. The occupation scenario of the economically active population is in table.4.3

Table 4.3 Occupation of economically active population of Mugu district

Description	Frequency
Legislator, Senior Officials and Managers	28
Professionals	329
Technicians and Associate professionals	296
Clerks or Office Assistant	277
Service workers and Shop, Market, Sales workers	248
Skilled and Semiskilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers	16,925
Craft Related Trade workers	772
Plant and Machine Operators, assemblers, Elementary Occupations and not stated	1434

Source: Population Census, 2001 (CBS)

The above table shows that occupation of 83% of economically active population is skilled and semiskilled Agriculture forestry and fishery. But the area of the cultivated land is only 5.2%, which is the main cause of "hand to mouth problem".

4.5 Land Holding

The average members per family are 5.74 in Mugu district, which comes to be more or less similar to national average. 41% HHs of Mugu holds 2 to 3 hectare less than 0.5 hectare. There is no landless HH.

Table 4.4 Land holding size

Land holding	HHs	Percentage
Less than 0.1 hectare	113	1.6
0.2 to 0.5 hectare	156	2.2
0.6 – 1 hectare	904	9.1
2 – 3 hectare	2872	40.9
4 – 5 hectare	1484	21.2
6 – 10 hectare	1251	17.8
Above 10 hectare	235	3.4
Total	7015	100

Source: (IEDI, 2004)

4.6 Migration

In 1995, about 500 people from the district (in 40,401 populations) have moved temporarily outside the village. This is about 1.23% of the population. Seasonal migration is very common and one of the main ways to meet the food shortage. Almost every household takes part in seasonal migration in the winter due to cold and snowfall. No people from outside this area have migrated here. Most of the economically active male populations are migrating outside in a seasonal basis for earning. In an average 25%, economically active male and 5% female leave their home once a year for about 3 month period. Field studies reveal that up to 75% households are involved in seasonal out-migration to India for various kinds of works, especially in agriculture and construction labour (DDC Mugu, 2054). They back to their community at the time of crops plantation and harvesting. These out-migration labour earn around 30-40 thousands Rs in a season and come back home with light Indian goods which they sell to Tibet and purchase Pasma, Sheep, & Goat from there. They resell these Tibetan products to local market as well as to Dolpa, Pokhara and Kathmandu and back home with daily consumption goods.

4.7 Transport

From the viewpoint of modern transportation Mugu is virgin district. The district is totally out of road link with other district. So road transport or the

regular air link to the other part of the country does not connect Mugu. Occasionally tourists and top ranking officials visit Mugu through chartered helicopter service, which is out of access to the general people. Someone who wants to take advantage of air transportation must wait long period for the flight in Talcha airport or must reach to Jumla or Bajura on foot because flight is irregular. Therefore the means of transport in the entire Mugu is either porter or horse.

4.8 Power

If we look into the entire life style of Mugu we get frustrated. The main source of energy to cook food is firewood and to light is *Jharro* (branch of pine tree). Only a few rich families we able to use kerosene oil for lighting. There is a solar electricity plant (50 kb) built by the assistance of French government which is capable to provide service for one hour in the evening to district headquarter only. Beside the solar plant, there are two micro-hydro plants and two peltries sets in operation. A small hydro electricity project (Gamgadi) is under construction.

4.9 Education and Training

Education and training is most urgent prerequisite for the economic development. The literacy status of Mugu district is 26% in which the literacy ratio of male and female are 55% and 15% respectively. Likewise adult literacy of females of this district is only 5.2 percent, which are much more less than 60% adult literacy of Kathmandu district. For this achievement of literacy, 123 schools and different GOs and NGOs have dedicated for non-formal education. The table below indicates the status of schools in Mugu district.

Table 4.5 Education & Training

School	No.	Students		Teachers	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
10 + 2	1	21	2	4	-
High school	11	523	55	40	1
Lower secondary	13	862	118	62	2

Primary	98	4182	2114	300	57
---------	----	------	------	-----	----

Source: DEO, 2004

The average enrollment rate of school aged (6 years) children is only 58%. The rate markedly decreases as the grade level increases. When children reach at economically active age the enrollment ratio falls down at 25% (higher secondary school). This indicates very low public awareness regarding children education.

Apart from the schools, different NGOs and clubs are running adult literacy programs, which have contributed to generate 16.39% literate adults out of the total adult population.

4.10 Resources

From the development point of view resource is always and everywhere insufficient. Therefore the real development should have continuation of the cycle that starts from optimum exploitation of available resources and ends at the recharging of the resource so that it can be further exploited. This process gives sustainable development. The available resource from different sectors of Mugu district is mentioned below.

4.10.1 Agriculture

Like others 80% rural communities of Nepal, the main occupation of the people of Mugu is agriculture. However, agricultural productivity is very low. There is little productive land in the villages. In total farmland, the percentage of *khet* range from 5 % to 30% only (DDC Mugu, 2054). Perhaps due to the preciousness of the land, even a single terrace is vertically divided equally between sons when they inherit the land. It has caused severe fragmentation of the land. It is obvious that the subsistence agriculture is the fato of majority of Mugu people. The total arable land for agro-production is 11250 hectares and out of that only 500 hectare has regular irrigation facility. A large portion of upland slopes, lacking irrigation water means that paddy is not cultivated in large area. The main crops produced here include dry crops like barley, buckwheat, wheat and chino (millet) with large production of potato. These are

also the staple crops of these areas. The land available and annual production of cereal crops and vegetables of Mugu district as of 2059 B. S. is given in table no.4.4.

Table 4.6 Production of Crops

Crops	Cultivated area (hectare)	Production (metric ton)
Paddy	1850	3380
Wheat	1995	3602
Jau	1400	1960
Uwa	750	1350
Millet	1550	2325
Maize	550	830
Chino	-	875
Kaguno	-	817
Potato	275	2537
Phapar	500	950
Cauliflower	6.5	45
Cabbage	6.5	48
Mustard leaf	4	32
Switchyard	2.5	18
Radish	2.5	20
Brinjal	1.5	10
Chilly	-	4
Garlic	-	1.75
Spinach	2.5	18
Onion	5.5	35
Carrot	1.5	11
Tomato	2.5	18

Source: IEDI, 2004.

The food habit of Karnali zone is different as compared to others rural parts of the country. In Karnali zone, vegetable has been given low emphasis in daily food items. It is interesting to become the trend of vegetable production and consumption of Mugu district in past few years. During the past seven years the production of vegetables has been doubled whereas the population increment

rate is nor remarkable. Along with the increasing trend of the vegetable production there is also increasing demand of preservation facility (cold store) for perishable farm products.

Majority of the households can produce food for 3 to 6 months. Because of difficulties in transportation of food grains, availability of food is also extremely low. It is also often reported in the newspapers that food deficits are growing and becoming chronic in Mugu district. Government also supplies food through depots of Nepal Food Corporation (NFC). This is grossly insufficient and subject to misuse. Annually people of Mugu District receive insufficient amount of subsidized food from the government. Being in proximity of district headquarters, the people of Shreenagar and other nearest VDCs seems more benefited. It is reported that the amount is too little (10 kg/family /month) and hardly gets to the people who do not have enough food. According to an official of NFC itself food subsidy serves the interest of the government staffs including security personnel and local elites. Considering low income, low food grain production in Mugu, Government is investing huge amount of the money to food as given in table 4.7. A large proportion of developmental funds are also spent on transportation of food.

Table 4.7 Condition of Food Supply by the Govt. in Mugu District in 2055-2060

F/Y	Transportation of Food	Distributed Food	Government's transportation grant	Local procurement amount@Rs.23
55/56	741,400	689,700	34,485,000	15,863,100
56/57	875,800	838,900	41,945,000	19,294,700
57/58	915,900	912,700	45,635,000	20,992,100
58/59	556,800	553,100	27,655,000	12,721,300
59/60	490,000(allocated)		34,300,000	11,270,000

Source: Nepal Food Corporation, Mugu branch, 2003

Table 4.8 Food balance and food availability and requirement of cereals (unit in mt)

Year	Populatio	Ric	Whea	Maiz	Mille	Barle	Total	Reqd	Sur/Def
-------------	------------------	------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	----------------

	n	e	t	e	t	y	Edible	.	.
2000/01	43,331	392	803	0	1,227	203	2,625	8,276	-5,651
2001/02	44,361	409	1,770	0	1,444	506	4,129	8,473	-4,344

Source: District Development Profile of Nepal, 2004.

The table reveals that there is great food deficiency in the district which reflects the poverty of the district. Thus people more depend on extra activities for their livelihood.

4.10.2 Horticulture

Mugu is highly potential for horticultural production. Government has been promoting cash crops and fruits like apples in this region but due to lack of access to market, people are not benefited and motivated on it. The status of the district on horticultural production in the year 2059 is given in the table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Horticulture

Fruits	Cultivated area (hectare)	Production (metric ton)
Apple	107	412
Orange	13	48
Banana	-	4
Lemon	12	67
Peach	15	17
Walnut	29	133
Pears	0.5	16.5

Source: IEDI, 2004.

4.10.3 Forest

The total land occupied by forest is 14894 hectare including 4752 hectare community forest. Major outputs from all the forest are NTFPs, timber wood, firewood and fodder for cattle. The timber wood production is nominal and it consumed locally.

Forests in the populated area are mostly overused and destroyed; afforestation has been initiated recently with forest and fodder samplings. Grazing by animals has been controlled for five years and burning forest has been prohibited through organizing people in forest users groups (FUGs).

4.10.4 Herbs and forest products

Mugu district is an important place for high value NTFPs in the Karnali region. However, all types of forest products has its own typical value for the local livelihood, NTFPs are the most valuable resources to support the economic life of Mugu. Guchi Chau, Jatamasi, Satubar, Chiraito, Panchaule, Yarshagumba, Silajit and Pakanbed are the most important herbs found in Mugu District. Generally local people collect as much quantity of NTFPs as they can, to earn more money by selling them to the local traders (CECI,1997).The local NTFP traders purchase all types of *Jaributi* from the local people at low price. The NTFP harvesters get low benefits from the trade compare to the intermediary traders. The NTFPs are airlifted now to Nepalgang directly from Mugu then go to India. The following NTFPs are collected and exported from Gamgadi.

Table 4.10 NTFPs exported from Gamgadi & revenues collection (Qty in kg)

Types	(Quantity) 1998/99	Revenue collected 1998/99
Silajit	25112.5	1255625
Katuko	12442	62610
Jatamashi	2342	35130
Atis	1089	10890
Chiraito	990	2970
Sugandhwal	851	12765
Kaladana (Tunna)	636	3180
Guchi Chyau	220.5	44100
Somlata	195.5	391
Bikhmajadi	209.5	2095
Khoto	184	552
Bikhjara	167	1232
Kakudsinghe	64	128
Nirmasi	59.5	1785
Satuwa	13	65
Total	44,603.5	14,33,118

Source: Economic opportunity survey and feasibility for enterprise development in Mugu district

By Dr. Tulsi Prasad Shrestha, 2000.

4.11 Gender

Mugu is the least developed district of Nepal so situation of women of the district is vulnerable. According to HDI 2003 the gender discrimination Index of Mugu is 74 and women's empowerment Index is 75. So, some of the facts about gender of Mugu are given in Table 4.11

**Table 4.11 Ever married women by number of children ever born (10-19 yrs)
2001**

Literacy status	No. of ever married young women aged		No. of ever married young women aged 15-19 years who have had given birth to				Child born not stated
	10-14 years	15-19 years	0 child	1 child	2 children	More than 2 children	
All status	32	660	520	118	16	5	1

Source: District Development Profile of Nepal, 2004

Table 4.12 Female ownership in livestock (2001)

Sex	Without female ownership in livestock	With female ownership in livestock		
		Big head only	Small head only	Both Big and Small head
Female	349	39	4	7
Both Sexes	5456	236	79	73

Source: District Development Profile of Nepal, 2004

Table 4.13 Female ownership in Fixed Assets (2001)

Sex	House only	Land only		Both House and Land		Neither House Nor Land
		Number	Area	Number	Area	
Female	4	9	1.83	76	38.59	310
Both Sexes	24	79	40.08	176	109.57	5565

Source: District Development Profile of Nepal, 2004

Table 4.14 Age at First Marriage (By 5 Years Age Group (2001)

Population who married for the first time at the age of								Age at first marriage not stated
Less than 10 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-35 years	35-39 years	50+ years	
0	1207	7978	4817	1265	199	77	1	17

Source: District Development Profile of Nepal, 2004

4.12 Overall Composite Index of Mugu District

According to Human Development Report (HDR) 2004, HDI rank of Mugu district is 75 i.e. it has least HDI rank among the districts of Nepal. (See in detail in table 4.15)

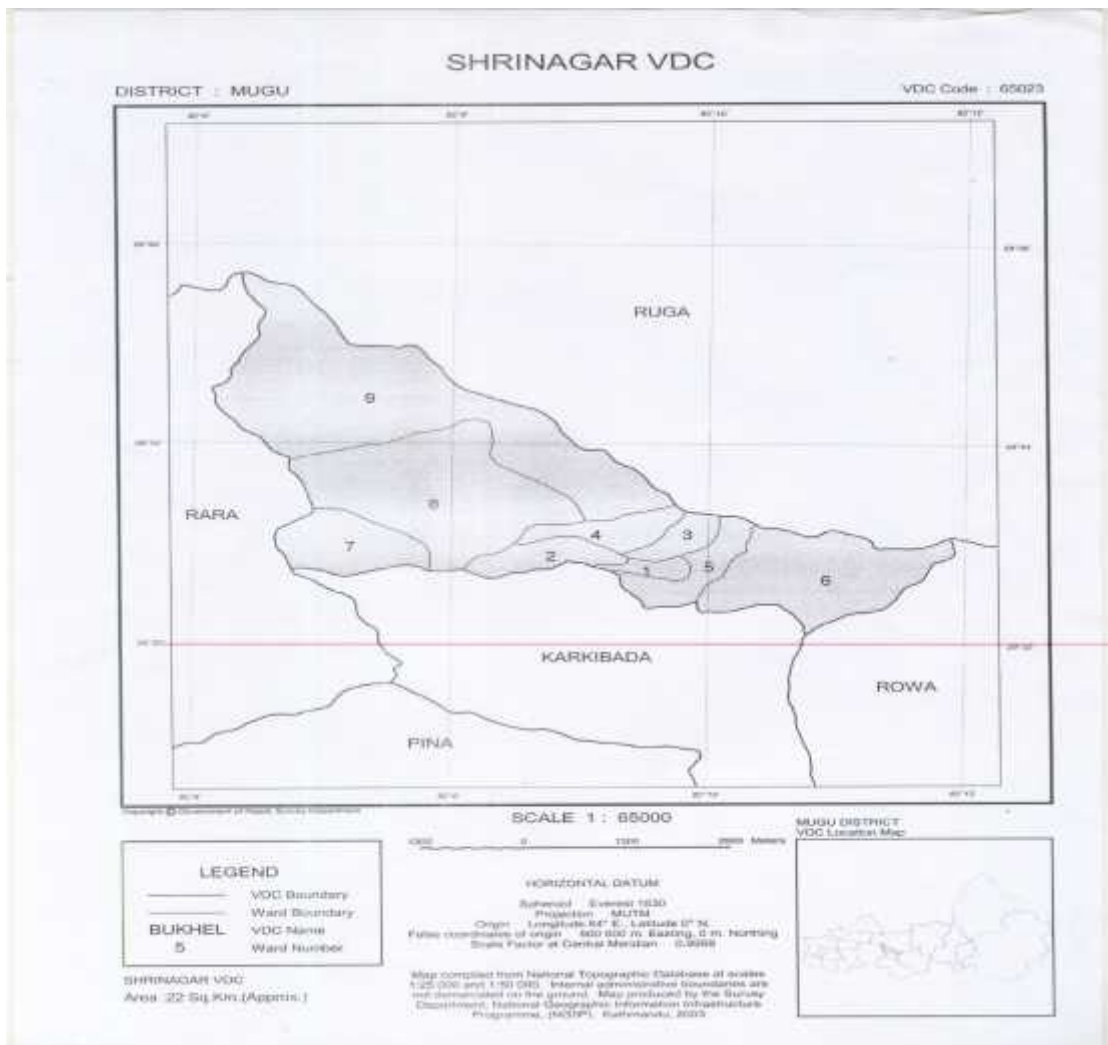
Table 4.15 Overall Composite Index of Mugu District

Description	Frequency	Description	Frequency
Overall Composite Index	75	Agricultural credit	4.37
Poverty Deprivation Index	75	Farm size	0.84
Socio-economical & Infrastructure Dev-Index	73	Livestock per farm household	11.19
Women's Empowerment Index	75	Percentage of Irrigated Area	3.47
Child Deprivation Index	75	Infrastructural Development Index	48
Child Illiteracy rate	51.75	Road Density	0.00
Child Economic Activity Rate	48.26	Banks Density	0.08
Proportion of child marriage	1.24	Cooperatives Density	0.24
Gender Discrimination Index	74	Health Institutions Density	2.09
Adult Gender Imbalance Ratio in literacy status	0.12	Post office Density	1.99
Adult Gender Imbalance Ratio in non agricultural occupations	0.13	Percentage of Forest user households	62.52
Percentage of Educational Disadvantages population	77.84	Per capita regular budget expenditure	NRs. 2990
Percentage of Marginal	31.32	Per capita Development Budget Expenditure	77.84
Per capital food production	1127	Overall literacy rate	28.00
Health Development Index	71	Broad occupational structure	0.11
Contraceptive Prevalence Ratio	10.37	Percentage share of females in literacy	13.83
Percentage of drinking water coverage	55.35	Percentage share of females in non-agricultural occupations	10.52
Percentage of Toilet facilities	14.40	Percentage share of female teachers at primary level	14.41
Primary sector development index	30	Percentage share of girls enrolled at primary level	32.36

Source: Districts of Nepal indicators of Development update, ICIMOD/CBS/SNV, 2003

4.13 General Description of Shreenagar and Rowa VDCs

Fig. 4.3 Map of Shreenagar VDC.



Shreenagar and Rowa VDCs are situated in the central part of Mugu District. According to the District Development Plan, Mugu 2005, total population of the Shreenagar and Rowa are 2972 and 3469 respectively. These two VDCs are highly populated among the other VDCs of Mugu District. Gamgadi, the Headquarter of Mugu lies in Shreenagar VDC. Thus almost all government offices including, biggest school, district hospital etc. are concentrated in Shreenagar VDC. General descriptions of these two VDC's are given in the table 4.16

Fig. 4.4 Map of Rowa VDC

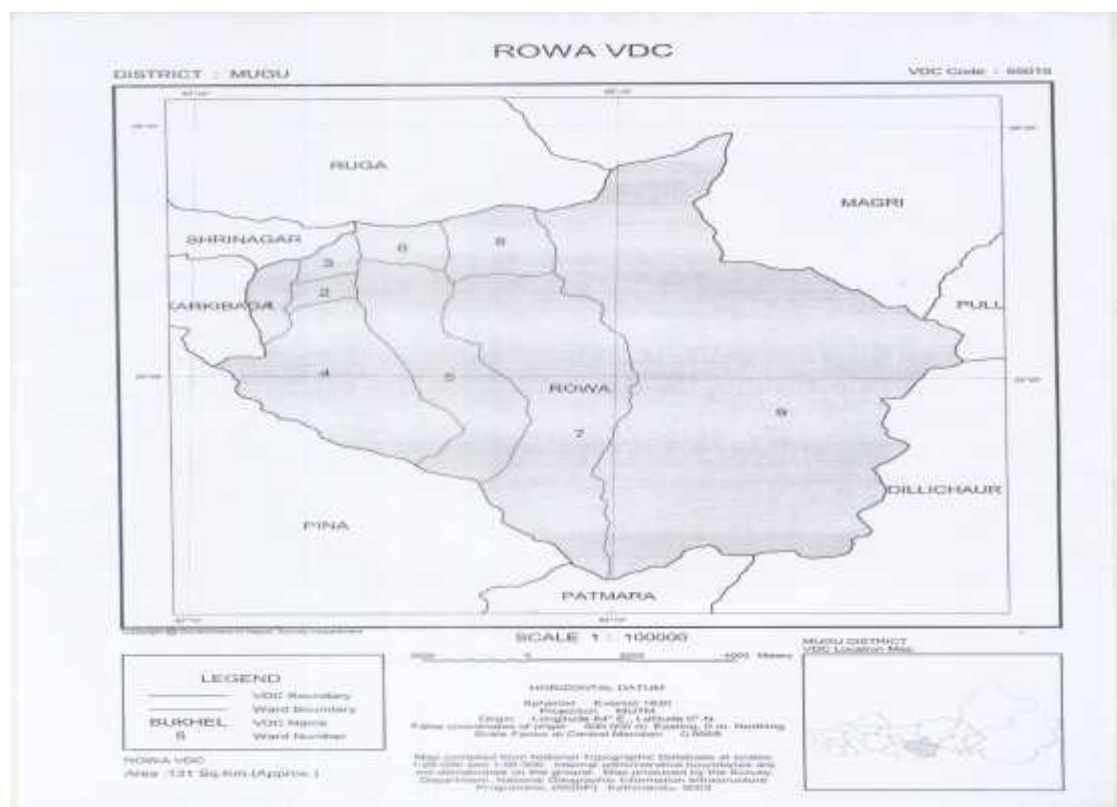


Table 4.16 General Description of Shreenagar and Rowa VDCs

VDCs	Shreenagar	Rowa
Total Households	689	623
Population	Male – 1513	Male – 1789
	Female – 1459	Female - 1680
	Total – 2972	Total – 3469
Only agricultural land owners	66 HHs	58 HHs
Agriculture and Livestock	159 HHs	281 HHs
Agriculture and Poultry	7 HHs	7 HHs
Landless	303 HHs	20 HHs
Non Agricultural Activities	105 HHs	62 HHs
Literacy rate above 6 years	Male – 75%	Male – 50%
	Female – 28%	Female – 17%
Population of children under 16 years	1295	1629

Source: Oxfam and NLA, 2003.

CHAPTER V

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter mainly deals with respondents' socio-economic and demographic characteristics, decision making process, agricultural, social and community activities, major problems etc. This chapter is the main findings of the survey.

5.1 Caste/Ethnic Composition

Nepal is a multiethnic and multi-lingual country. As a whole it can be cited as an example of 'unity in diversity', in a similar way Mugu can be seen as one of the instance of diverse culture, caste and creed, prevalent in Nepal. People belonging to different religion and ethnicity are residing in the area.

Caste and ethnicity also influence the gender roles and status of men and women. So people of different castes/ethnicity were incorporated as sample respondent. The distribution of respondent according to their caste is given in table 5.1

Table 5.1 Caste/Ethnic Composition of the respondents

Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Thakuri	12	22
Chhettri	20	37
Brahmin	4	7
Dalit	16	30
Janajati	2	4
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2009.

Caste/Ethnic Composition analysis revealed that Chhettri are in majority with 37% in the sample respondents followed by Dalit 30% and Thakuri 22% respectively. It is also noticed that the number of Brahmins 7% and Janajati 4% are significantly less.

5.2 Age Composition

Age is an important demographic factor which makes difference in burden of work, ability to work and involvement in economic activity. It has been assumed that with the age women's responsibilities in household increases. Aged women have to work more than young girls. Among men and women of the same age group, women have to work much more than men do. The respondent's ages have been found between 15 to 65 years. So the class size is obtained as:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Class size} &= \text{Range}/1+3.322\log n \\ &= \text{max-min}/1+3.322\log n \\ &= 65-15/1+3.322\log 36 \\ &= 50/1+3.322*1.556 \\ &= 50/6.17 \\ &= 8.103\end{aligned}$$

Therefore class size is around 10.

Table 5.2 Age distribution of the respondents

Class Size	Frequency	Percentage
15-25	8	14.8
25-35	9	16.6
35-45	16	29.6
45-55	14	25.9
55-65	7	12.9
Total	54	

Source: Field Survey 2009

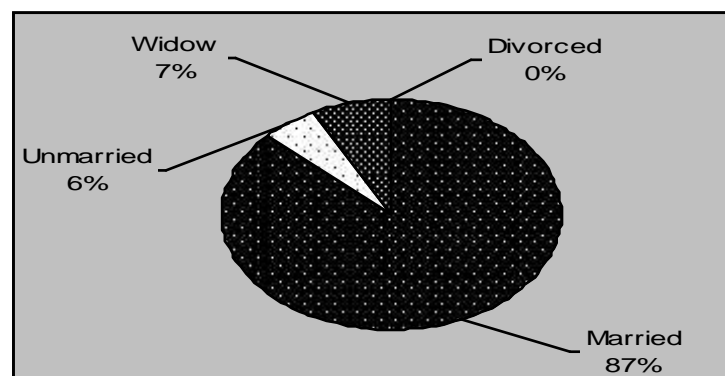
The table 5.2 depicts that the maximum number of the respondents i.e. 29.6% are of the age group 35-45 followed by 25.9% are the age group of 45-55.

5.3 Marital Status

Marriage has an overwhelming importance in a woman's life. The event of marriage determines almost all her life options and subsequent livelihood. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is essential for all, whether man or woman. While a man's life is not considered complete without a wife, a woman has no option but to marry. In the Indo-Aryan culture, in particular, girls are encouraged to marry in their early teens or even earlier by their parents. Early marriages are rooted in both the concept of purity of the female body and the need for helping hands in farm households in general. Through the marriage women's status change from daughter to that of daughter in law and responsibilities increased. Marital status makes women totally dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family property is only through her husband.

Since the study is about the gender, status, and household responsibilities of the women. So that marital status is important factor to understand the major responsibilities of married and unmarried women in the study area. Fig 5.1 shows the marital status of the women.

Fig 5.1 Distribution of the respondents by marital status



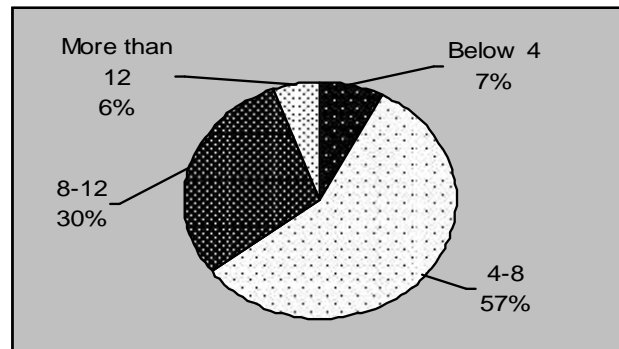
From fig 5.1 it is clear that maximum respondents are married followed by widowed and unmarried 87%, 7% and 6% and no divorcees were found in the study area.

5.4 Family Size

Family size also plays a vital role in livelihood pattern. It is also important factor for measuring the household responsibility of women because larger the

family size requires more resources which generally produces greater responsibilities. So information regarding the family size of the respondent was also obtained which are shown in the fig 5.2

Fig 5.2 Distribution of the respondents by their family size



Family size analysis revealed that most of the family (57%) have 4 to 8 members and about 30% family have 8 to 12 member i.e. large family that is because of lack of awareness regarding family planning.

5.5 Educational Status

Literacy is one of the major indicators of socio-economic development of people. It is the main pre-requisite for development and civilization which enables a person to keep pace with the rapidly changing world and to be developed with the developing world. A high percent of literate people in an area indicate that the community is progressing and the quality of life of people is improving.

Literacy is, beyond doubt, primary index of educational development. The census has defined literacy as an ability to read and write in any language with understanding and to do simple arithmetic calculations. Literacy is thus understood as the acquisition of reading, writing and simple numeric skills. Fig 5.3 indicates the educational pattern of the respondents.

Fig 5.3 Educational status of the respondents

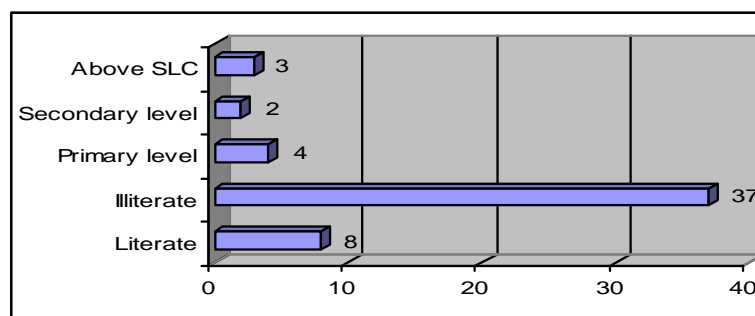


Fig 5.3 illustrates that about 68.51% respondents are completely illiterate, 14.81% respondents can read and write only and 5.55% respondents are above SLC.

Adult literacy program is also conducted in the study area. Sixteen respondents are talking adult literacy class conducted by different organizations.

Box 1: Schooling of children

The percentage of school going children in the lower class is higher because of **Special Program -"Mugu ko ichha, Chori lai sikchha"** and Government policy. Government is providing allowance of Rs.100 per student per month for primary level and Rs.150 per student per month for secondary level for entire Karnali Zone. So to get this allowance most of the parents admit their children in schools but the drop out rate is also significantly high.



Although, Mugu District have lunch the program named "Mugu ko ichha, chori lai sikchha" to uplift the enrollment of female students in the school, the number of female students are not satisfactory in total. In the lower class the ratio of boys and girls seems nearly equal but when the class increases number of girls decrease and the ratio of boys and girls enrollment also increases. Furthermore, the numbers of female children are extra-ordinarily less in the secondary classes e.g. in Prabhat secondary school there is only one girl in class ten (See Annex).

5.6 Occupational Status

Occupation is not only the source of the income of the people but also the key factor that determines the livelihood pattern and the social status of the people. Women of Mugu District have adopted various kinds of occupations in order to meet their livelihood aims. Table 5.3 illustrates the information regarding the livelihood pattern of the respondent. By the study of the major occupation, the responsibilities of the male and female members of the family can be easily understood.

Table 5.3 Distribution of the respondents by occupational status

Major Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	15	27
Waged Labor	1	2
Agriculture and Animal husbandry	19	34
Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Service	9	17
Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Business	2	4
Animal husbandry and Business	1	2
Agriculture and Service	2	4
Agriculture and Business	1	2
Agriculture and Waged labor	3	6
Others	1	2
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2009.

Table 5.3 illustrates that respondents are engaged in more than one occupation in same time because of insufficiency from one occupation. Highest numbers of population 34% are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry in the same time and followed by agriculture only 27% and agriculture, animal husbandry and service 17% respectively. It is clear that agriculture and animal husbandry are the major occupation for the livelihood of the respondents in the study area.

5.7 Other Income Generative Activities

Beside the above mentioned occupation 59% of the respondents of the study area also practiced some other income generating activities for their livelihood. In order to collect the information about extra income generating activities an open end question was administered to the respondents. Some of the major responses about extra income generating activities were listed below.

- Selling milk
- Astrologist
- Poultry farm
- Singing in the festivals
- Priest
- Selling vegetables/fruits
- Selling firewood
- Porter
- Weaving baskets/Radipakhi
- Collecting Yarshagumba, mushrooms and other herbs
- Building house(mason)
- Tea shop
- Sewing clothes
- Carpenter

In above responses maximum number of respondents said that weaving baskets and radi pakhi, collecting Yarshagumba, Mushrooms and other herbs, selling fruits, vegetables are the more common.

Box 2: Income generating activities and livelihood



Kanchhi Bishwakarma (23) lives in Dalitwada village of Rowa VDC with her husband (28) and 3 children (one newly born son). They have no land and animals. They live in a small hut. They are surviving by weaving baskets, labour

work, selling firewood in Gamgadhi bazaar, which they collect from forest etc. But their earning is not sufficient for them and they are always surviving in hunger.

5.8 Ownership of Livestock

Livestock is an integral part of farming in Nepal. Even the landless farmers raise some animals for income generative and other purpose i.e. making dung cakes for cooking foods etc. Number of livestock in each family reveals the economics condition of that family. Also more number of livestock makes the women of that family busier. So the information regarding livestock is also collected and shown in fig 5.4

Fig 5.4 Respondents holding livestock

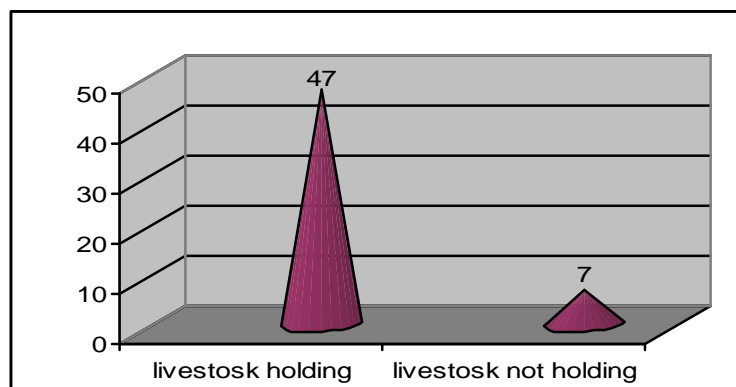


Fig 5.4 reveals that 47 households which are about 87% have some kind of livestock while only 7 household which are about 13% have not.

5.9 Livestock Population

Table 5.4 illustrates the livestock population, average number of livestock per household, number of livestock holding household and percentage of livestock holding households in the study area

Table 5.4 Livestock population and status of respondents by livestock holding per household

Animals	Population of livestock	Average no. of livestock/HH	No. of livestock holding HHs	Percentage of livestock holding HHs
Buffalo	38	0.7	23	42.5
Cow	80	1.48	27	50
Ox	53	0.98	20	37.03
Goat	317	5.87	22	40.74
Sheep	62	1.14	5	9.25
Chauri/Jopha	6	0.11	2	3.7
Hens/Ducks	231	4.27	29	53.7
Horse	13	0.24	6	11.11

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.4 revealed that goat is most popular livestock followed by hens and ducks. In an average each HHs has 5.87 goats and 4.27 hens /ducks. Livestock like buffalo, cow, sheep, are not very common in the study area. Even ox is not

so common. Each HHs has 0.98 oxen in an average and only 37% respondents have ox which reflects the poverty of the study area.

5.10 Land Ownership

In Nepal, land ownership is one of the major indicators of assessing poverty/prosperity of the family. It is also the indicator of the status of women. Fig 5.5 deals with land ownership of the surveyed households which help to find out the condition of the women of the Mugu District.

Fig 5.5 Distribution of the respondents by land ownership status

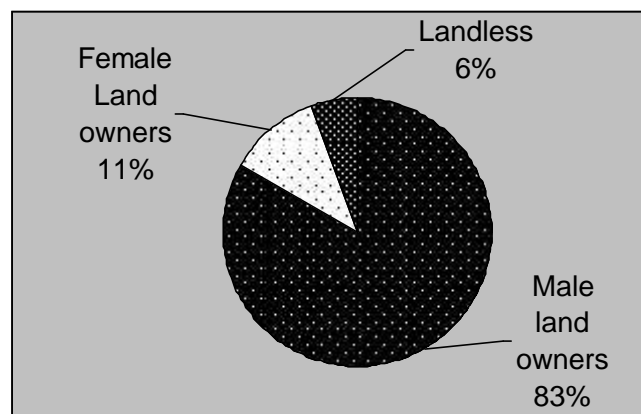


Fig 5.5 revealed that 83% of the respondents do not have any land in their name. That means the lands which they have are in the name of male members of their family. Only 11% respondents have some land in their name and almost all of the female land owners are widows.

5.11 Main Agricultural Products

Main crops produced in the study area are barley, buckwheat, wheat, paddy, Jau, Uwa, and chino (millet) with large production of potato. Respondents have also mentioned that they are lacking irrigation facility due to large proportion of upland slopes and agricultural productivity of their farmland is also very low. The crop like paddy can not be cultivated in study area because of the lack of proper irrigation.

5.12 Food Sufficiency

Like others 80% rural communities of Nepal, the main occupation of the people of Mugu is agriculture. Problems of the status of women of Mugu are accentuated by the fact that Mugu is one of the least-developed district of Nepal in which the majority of the population has to survive by low productivity of agricultural products. This requires the poor men, women, and children to work long hours for meeting their family needs.

According to the respondents, agricultural products that they have produced are not sufficient for them. Table 5.5 shows the duration of food sufficiency of the respondents.

Table 5.5 Distribution of respondents by duration of food sufficiency

Food sufficiency	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 3 months	15	27.77
3 to 6 months	5	9.25
6 to 9 months	16	29.62
Above 9 months	18	33.33
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.5 revealed that only 33.33% respondents have food sufficiency for above 9 months. In other words 66.67% of households of the study area have the chronic shortage of food throughout the year. This problem is due to the very low productivity of the land, lack of irrigation facility and traditional practice of agriculture production. For sustaining food people have practiced some other activities e.g. Livestock, labour works, small business, collecting and selling valuable NTFPs etc. This is already discussed in details in other income generative activities section in 5.7 above.

Box 3: 'Food' important than education

Saraswati Biswakarma is now 11 years old. She is living with her father, mother, three younger sisters and a younger brother in Dalitwada (Ramchekoti village) of Rowa VDC. Her family does not have sufficient land. Her father works in others land and do labour works but the income is much more insufficient for the family. So she works as a porter and sometimes does some labour work with her mother to earn some money for buying food. She knew about school and



admitted also not to get education but to get the allowance of monthly Rs. 100 provided by the government.

5.13 Household Activities

Women's role in most societies fills into three categories: **productive** relating to productions of goods for occupation or income through work in or outside the home, **reproductive** relating to domestic or households tasks associated with creating and sustaining children and family and **community management** relating to tasks and responsibilities carried out for the benefit of the community .So the households activities of the women of the study area were also be interrogated in the field survey which is given in table 5.6

Table 5.6 Distribution of the respondents by different roles in household activities

S.N	Activities	Major role						Total	
		Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	No.	%
1	Preparing food	0	0	54	100	0	0	54	100
2	Fuel wood collection and management	7	12.96	40	74.07	7	12.96	54	100
3	Water collection	0	0	52	96.29	2	3.70	54	100
4	Take care of children and elder people	2	3.70	48	88.88	4	7.40	54	100
5	Cutting and carrying grass for livestock	5	9.25	46	85.18	3	5.55	54	100
6	Grinding food grains, pounding grains	4	7.40	41	75.92	9	16.66	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.6 depicts that preparing food is totally female's responsibility. All 100% respondents agree that female member of the family has sole responsibility of preparing food for family. Likewise female have major responsibilities in fuel wood collection and management (74.07%), water collection (96.29%), take care of children and elder people (88.88%), cutting and carrying grass for livestock (85.18%) and grinding food grains, pounding grains etc. (75.92%).

In conclusion females have major responsibility in almost all household activities and male members have very nominal roles and responsibility in these issues.

According to the respondents, besides the above mentions activities other activities which women have to perform are:

-) Washing clothes of the whole family
-) Cleaning house
-) Carrying fertilizer etc.
-) plastering walls of house with clay and dung

Whereas the household duties of male members in the study area are:

-) Ploughing field
-) Skillful act like building house, carpentry etc.

5.14 Agricultural Activities

In agriculture, women play major roles as they actively participate in the various productive agricultural activities such as maintaining small holder agriculture plots in farming system, plantation, harvesting, irrigation, seedling etc. These activities are often not considered work and are often unpaid. Hence the information about agricultural activities of women were also be collected which is shown in table 5.7

Table 5.7 Distribution of the respondents by different roles in agricultural activities

S.N	Activities	Major role						Total	
		Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	No.	%
1	Seedling	6	11.76	43	84.31	2	3.92	51	100
2	Land preparation	45	88.23	3	5.88	3	5.88	51	100
3	Plantation	10	19.60	37	72.54	4	7.84	51	100
4	Harvesting	4	7.84	40	78.43	7	13.72	51	100
5	Irrigation	12	23.52	35	68.62	4	7.84	51	100
6	Caring livestock	12	23.52	27	50.00	15	27.77	54	100
7	NTFPs and herbs collection	6	11.76	0	0	48	88.88	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2009

Note: Out of 54 respondents, 3 respondents are landless

Table 5.7 revealed that the female member of the family has major role in seedling (84.31%); plantation (72.54%), harvesting (78.43%), irrigation (68.62%), and caring livestock (50%). Only in the case of land preparation (88.23%) of the respondents thought that male have major responsibility. Similarly in the case of herbs collection 88.88% respondent's believes that both male and female members have equal responsibility.

Box 4: Livestock rearing

Dhanasara Budha (55) of Rowa VDC, Mugu is living with daughter in law and grand children. Actually she has three sons, but all of them left Mugu in search of better life. So now a day she is struggling for survival



with the help of these cattle. She and her daughter in law have all the responsibility to take of more than three dozens livestock.

5.15 Involvement of Women in Community Based Organization

The question was asked for this section aimed to find out the level of participation of men and women in community based organization and their involvement in the decision. However the information gathered for this purpose showed the reality that some respondents knew about CBO's etc and its activities and participating in it. Table 5.8 depicts the women's participation in different CBO's.

Table 5.8 Participation of respondents in different CBO's

Organization	No. of Members	Percentage
Aama Samuha	6	11.11
Community Forestry	9	16.66
Small Farmer Development	2	3.70
Co-operative	2	3.70
User's Saving Group	5	9.25
Nari Utthan Tatha Sachetana Kendra	8	14.81
Ram Mahila Samuha	1	1.85

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.8 shows that the participation of females of the study area in different social activities through social organization is not very satisfactory. From data it can be seen that some women are involved in NGOs, CBOs, and some social organization but this figure is only because some women are involved in more than one organization otherwise the percentage will be pretty low.

5.16 Participation in Traditional & Social Entertaining Program

This question was administered to find out women's involvement outside the house in their traditional, cultural and social gathering. The results were given in fig 5.6

Fig 5.6 Respondents participation in entertaining program

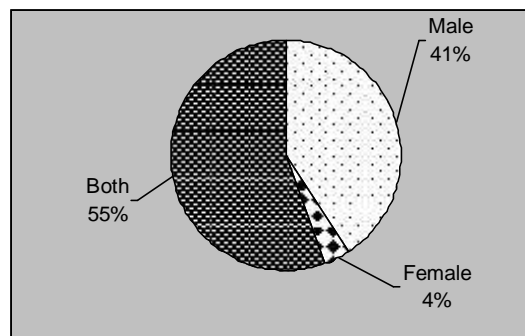


Fig 5.6 revealed that both male and female have almost equal (55.55%) participation in different traditional, cultural and social (Mela partha) gathering.

5.17 Decision Making Process

Decision making process is one of the key factors to know the status of women in the family. So, different question were administered to the respondents regarding the role of women in decision making at household level in different household activities. The results were given in table 5.9(a)

Table 5.9 (a) Decision making process in household at macro level

S.N	Activities	Major role						Total	
		Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	No.	%
1	Decision of household activities	23	42.59	21	38.88	10	18.51	54	100
2	Economic decisions	32	59.25	9	16.66	13	24.07	54	100
3	Decision about children education	26	48.14	19	35.18	9	16.66	54	100
4	Decision about family planning	36	66.66	8	14.81	10	18.51	54	100
5	Decision about getting health services	35	64.81	12	22.22	7	12.96	54	100
6	Decision about marketing	27	50.00	17	31.48	10	18.51	54	100
7	Decision about agriculture production	14	25.92	25	46.29	15	27.77	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.9(a) revealed that, the role of male and female members seems nearly equal (i.e.42.59 % male and 38.88 % female) in the decision of day to day household activities.

Likewise 59.25% male members and only 16.66% female have the role in economic decisions.

Similarly, 48.14 % male member decides about children's education, while this figure is only 35.18 % for female members.

Although family planning services are available in this area through GOs, NGOs, and INGOs the level of awareness about family planning is very low. People also found hesitate to use the service because of several misconceptions such as "the body gets weak while using contraception". Son preference was another reason found to be the leading cause for not using the service because the couples with daughters only wanted to try giving birth to at least one son.

When the question asked to the respondents about the decision about family planning, they said that males have significant role in the decision. According to the respondents 66.66% males and only 14.81% females decide about family planning.

For decision about getting health service 64.81% respondents said that male member of the family decide while only 22.22% respondents said that female members decide in this issue.

For decision about marketing 50% respondents said that male member decide while this figure is only 31.48% for female members.

Majority of the respondents (46.29%) said that female have the major role in the decision of agricultural production. Data reveals that 25.92% males and 27.77% jointly male and female decides in this issue.

Further study was conducted to analysis the decision making process in micro level at household level as shown in table 5.9(b)

Table 5.9(b) Decision making process in household at Micro level

Activities	H	%	W	%	B	%	M	%	F	%	Total	
											No.	%
1	3	18.75	11	68.75	0	0	2	12.5	0	0	16	100
2	4	25	6	37.5	4	25	0	0	2	12.5	16	100
3	1	6.25	9	56.25	4	25	2	12.5	0	0	16	100
4	4	25	5	31.25	5	31.25	1	6.25	1	6.25	16	100
5	8	50	4	25	2	12.5	0	0	2	12.5	16	100
6	8	50	1	6.25	5	31.25	1	6.25	1	6.25	16	100
7	8	50	2	12.5	4	25	1	6.25	1	6.25	16	100
8	8	50	3	18.75	3	18.75	0	0	2	12.5	16	100
9	9	56.25	3	18.75	1	6.25	0	0	2	12.5	16	100
10	6	37.5	3	18.75	7	43.75	0	0	0	0	16	100
11	7	43.75	2	12.5	7	43.75	0	0	0	0	16	100

Source: Field Survey 2009

Note: H=Husband, W=Wife, B=Both (Husband and Wife), M=Mother in law, F=Father in law

1=Daily necessary food preparation, 2=Collection of fire wood, 3=Crushing, grinding food grains 4=Agriculture, harvesting, 5=Selling agricultural

products, 6=Children's education, 7=Health services 8=General marketing of daily foodstuffs, 9=Marketing of expensive things, 10=Decision about no. of children, 11=Family planning

Table 5.9(b) revealed that the female member of the family has major role in the decision of daily necessary food preparation (wife 68.75% and mother in law 12.5%) and crushing, grinding food grains (wife 56.25% and mothering law 12.5%). Likewise, male members decides in selling agricultural products (husband 50% and father in law 12.5%), children's education (husband 50% and father in law 6.25%), getting health services (husband 50% and father in law 6.25%), general marketing of daily foodstuffs (husband 50% and father in law 12.5%), and marketing of expensive things (husband 56.25% and father in law 12.5%). Only 18.75% female decides about number of children and 12.5% decides about family planning.

In conclusion, male have the major role in many of life's most basic decisions within households i.e. decisions about having and raising children, about what to produce and consume, about marketing, about getting health facilities and family planning, about the allocation of the time and other productive resources including investments in the children.

5.18 Health Situation

Female health situation of the district is terrible. Young married women often can not seek health care without the permission of their husbands or other family members, generally can't pay for health care independently and may experience periods of depression. About 39% of the respondents reported that they are suffering from some kind of disease. The condition of health post is embarrassing. On the inspection of the health post it was found that there is not a single dose of medicine like 'paracetamol'. Females rarely visit the health post. Most of the delivery cases are carried out in homes (Even if the government is providing Rs.1500 per birth if they give birth in hospital). If any female give birth of a baby in hospital, her husband gets Rs.1500 which he can spent anywhere (rarely spent to the mother). In Rowa VDC there are toilets in some houses (due to the efforts of different GO's and NGO's), but almost all

people do not use it. The following information (These information are from key informant interview at district hospital) reflexes further health situation of the district.

Gynecology and Obstetric Situation

Deliveries conducted by health workers

Total delivery by health workers in 2061/62 - 68

Total delivery in district hospital in 2061/62 -22

Total delivery in district hospital in 2062/63 - 47(0.67) till falgun

PNC (Postnatal care)-125

ANC (Antenatal care)-859

ANC (Antenatal care) forth visit-117

New acceptors pills-190, depo-215, minilap current user-4

Suffering from anaemia-551

T.T in pregnant women (first visit)-561, second visit-277

Postnatal mothers (treated with vitamin A)-161

Iron tablets for pregnant women-918

Less than 20 years pregnant women (first visit)-208

More than 20 years pregnant women (first visit)-450

No. of obstetric complication

2059/60	2060/61	2061/62
---------	---------	---------

67	203	224
----	-----	-----

Respiratory Disease

ARI (Acute respiratory tract infection) new cases

Total-1754(male-639, female-1115)

Top Ten Diseases of Mugu District

1. Skin disease
2. Diarrhoeal disease
3. ARI
4. Worm infestation
5. Chronic bronchitis
6. Avitaminoses and others nutritional deficiency
7. Gastritis
8. Eye complain
9. Others
10. Ear complain

Source: Mugu monthly monitoring and Annual performance review worksheet 2062/063-till falgun

Box 5: Ridiculous Superstition

According to a ladies teacher of Pravat Secondary School, Mugu the females of Mugu suffers with the ridiculous superstitions. Some examples are given below.

Females are kept outside the house generally in "goth" in her menstruation period and delivery time also in such period generally they are not fed well due to different superstitions. So, maximum number of mother and newly born child are suffering with malnutrition.

In a time of delivery, mother can not have nutritive foods like milk, meat, vegetables etc. instead she should take salt water (*nune pani*) and chilly (khursani) otherwise, they believes that both the mother and newly born baby will die.

Father in law and daughter in law both can not use the same toilet because it s very shameful. So, people are not using toilet which are made by different NGOs.

Box 6: Women's health situation

Alcohol and tobacco are two major factors of all the health related problems in Mugu District. According to the respondents and the teachers of Mahakali Higher Secondary School More than 60% males are alcoholic and



smokers. Likewise 60% of females of age more than 20 are smokers.



Another major health problem of females of this area is gynecological ailments including uterus prolapse. It is also observed that many children of this area suffer with malnutrition.

Women in photograph is suffering with uterus prolapse and her youngest child is suffering with malnutrition

5.19 Major Problems

In order to find out the most common problems of rural women of study area an open end question was administered to the respondents and the responses are listed as below.

-) Poverty
-) Food deficiency
-) Lack of land to produce and less productive land
-) Landslide
-) Husband do not cooperate
-) Alcoholic husband
-) Health related problem e.g. gastric, asthma, malnutrition, anemia, gynecological ailments (uterus prolepses, vaginal discharge/burning) etc.
-) Lack of education, awareness
-) Unemployment

-) Migration of educated people to Gamgadhi, Jumla, Nepalganj, Kathmandu, etc.
-) Lack of infrastructure

From the above data it is seen that the major problems of rural women of the study area is the hunger and health problem. About 67% respondents said that they do not have sufficient food. About 39% respondents said that they are suffering from some diseases. Most common diseases found were gastric, Asthma and gynecological ailments. Another major problem of the rural women of the study area is alcoholic husband. About 38% respondents said that they are suffering from alcoholic husband.

Box 7: Tough lifestyle

Rajkala (19) of Shreenagar VDC, Mugu has 5 daughters. Her husband is alcoholic and works in a school as a peon. Production from their farmland is insufficient for them. She has more responsibility of all five kids. She is illiterate and do not have any technical skill. So she is doing labour work, assisting



Bistas(Thakuri) in their agricultural activities, collecting firewood from forest and sell in Gamgadhi bazaar. In all these activities her 13 months daughter is also with her because there is no one to look after the baby in her absence.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter comprises the summary, conclusion and recommendations. The first two sections highlight the overall status of rural women of Rowa and Shreenagar VDCs of Mugu District. The recommendation section provides some tips to uplift women's condition of Mugu District.

6.1 Summary

The major objective of the present study was to analyze the status of rural women of Mugu District. This study also aimed to analyze the situation of rural women in decision making and explore involvement of women in income generating and community works. The study area included the two VDCs (Shreenagar and Rowa) of Mugu District. The main aspects studied are social and economic status including decision making process, agricultural, social and community activities and major problems of the respondents. Primary data from Shreenagar and Rowa of Mugu District have been used in this research. Many secondary sources have also been used to support and strengthen the findings of this research. Altogether 54 respondents were sampled from different caste and ethnicity. Simple Statistical methods have applied for data analysis. The data and information have been analyzed descriptively.

The major findings of the study are summarized as follows:

- J Out of 54 respondents, majority (37%) of the respondents are Chhetri followed by Dalit 30% and Thakuri 22% respectively. It is also noticed that the number of Brahmins 7% and Janajati 4% are significantly less.
- J The respondent's ages have been found between 15 to 65 years. Maximum numbers of the respondents i.e. 29.6% are of the age group 35-45 and minimum 12.9% are of the age group of 55-65.
- J Majority (87%) of the respondents were married.

-) Majority of the respondents (57%) have family size in between 4-8 and about 30% family have 8 to 12 member i.e. large family.
-) Majority (68.51%) of the respondents found illiterate, 14.81% respondents can read and write only and 5.55% respondents are above SLC.
-) Majority of the respondents were found engaged in more than one occupation in same time because of insufficiency from one occupation. Highest numbers of population 34% were found engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry followed by agriculture only 27% and agriculture, animal husbandry and service 17% respectively. It is clear that agriculture and animal husbandry are the major occupation for the livelihood of the respondents in the study area.
-) Fifty nine percent of the respondents were found doing some other income generating activities. Some of the major extra income generating activities were selling milk, poultry farm, singing in the festivals, selling vegetables/fruits, selling firewood, porter, weaving baskets and radi pakhi, collecting Yarshagumba, mushrooms and other herbs, tea shop and sewing clothes. Maximum numbers of respondents were found weaving baskets and radi pakhi, collecting Yarshagumba, Mushrooms and other herbs and selling fruits, vegetables.
-) Majority (87%) of the households were found having some kind of livestock. Among that goat is most popular livestock followed by hens and ducks. In an average each HHs has 5.87 goats and 4.27 hens /ducks. Livestock like buffalo, ox, cow, sheep, are not very common in the study area.
-) Majority (83%) of the respondents do not have any land and other properties in their name. That means the lands which they have are in the name of male members of their family. Only 11% respondents have some land in their name and almost all of the female land owners are widows.

-) Main agricultural products of the study area are barley, buckwheat, wheat, paddy, Jau, Uwa, and chino (millet) with large production of potato. The crop like paddy can not be cultivated in study area because of the lack of proper irrigation.
-) Majority (66.67%) of HHs of the study area have shortage of food throughout the year. For sustaining food people have practiced some other activities e.g. livestock, labour works, small business, collecting and selling valuable NTFPs etc.
-) In household activities, it is found that preparing food is totally (100%) female's responsibility. Likewise female have major responsibilities in fuel wood collection and management (74.07%), water collection (96.29%), take care of children and elder people (88.88%), cutting and carrying grass for livestock (85.18%) and grinding food grains, pounding grains etc. (75.92%). Females have major responsibility in almost all household activities and male members have very nominal roles and responsibility in these issues.
-) In agricultural activities, it is found that female member of the family has major role in seedling (84.31%); plantation (72.54%), harvesting (78.43%), irrigation (68.62%), and caring livestock (50%). Only in the case of land preparation (88.23%) male have major responsibility. Similarly in the case of herbs collection 88.88% respondents agree that both male and female members have equal responsibility.
-) Participation of females in different social activities through social organization found not very satisfactory. Out of total 54 women, 33(61.08%) were found involved in some social organization but this figure is only because some women are involved in more than one organization otherwise percentage will be pretty low.
-) In different traditional, cultural and social (Mela partha) gathering, participation of both male and female found almost equal (55.55%).

-) In decision making process, female member of the family has major role in daily necessary food preparation (wife 68.75% and mother in law 12.5%) and crushing, grinding food grains (wife 56.25% and mothering law 12.5%). Likewise, male members decides in selling agricultural products (husband 50% and father in law 12.5%), children's education (husband 50% and father in law 6.25%), getting health services (husband 50% and father in law 6.25%), general marketing of daily foodstuffs (husband 50% and father in law 12.5%), and marketing of expensive things (husband 56.25% and father in law 12.5%). Only 18.75% female decides about number of children and 12.5% decides about family planning.
-) About 39% of the respondents reported that they are suffering from some kind of disease e.g. gastric, asthma malnutrition, anemia, gynecological ailments etc.
-) The major problems of the respondents are poverty, food deficiency, lack of land to produce and less productive land, lack of education and infrastructure, unemployment, migration of educated people, alcoholic husband and health related problem.

6.2 Conclusion

On the basis of the above findings, it had been concluded that women have more contribution in household activities in comparison to men. They have great responsibilities in household activities like preparing food, fuel wood collection, water collection, taking care of children and elderly people of family etc. It is seen that only a few numbers of male members help their wives in these activities. Generally in higher caste most of the males are involved in different government service, local NGO's etc. So they never help their wives in the household activities but in lower caste, males somehow help their wives in these activities.

Almost all families of the study area have agriculture and animal husbandry as the major occupation for livelihood. In agricultural activities female member of the family have major role than their male counterpart.

Food sufficiency from agricultural products can not last more than 3 months in most of the families. So they are practicing other income generating activities such as labour work, weaving radi pakhi and baskets, animal husbandry, poultry farm, selling milk, vegetables, fruits, firewood etc, collecting Yarshagumba, mushrooms and other herbs, tea shop and sewing clothes etc. The contributions of both male and female member of a family are seen equal in such income generation activities.

Major problems of women of the study area are hunger and health related problem. Majority of the respondents do not have sufficient food for their livelihood and they have found suffering from some kind of diseases. Most common diseases are gastric, Asthma and gynecological ailments. Females rarely visit the health post. Most of the delivery cases are carried out at home. So, maternal and child mortality rate found pretty high. Alcoholism found another major problem of the males in every caste and ethnicity and lower to upper cast. About 38% respondents said that they are suffering from alcoholic husband. Due to alcoholism most of the males are not so responsible for the family and male members spent a lot of money in it.

Majority (83%) of the female do not have their own land, any bank account or other property. They are economically and socially dependent on fathers and husbands. Only widows over 50 yrs have land in their name.

Major decisions in family like, decision about land selling purchasing agriculture, children's education, getting health services, general marketing of daily foodstuffs, marketing of expensive things family planning and number of children are taken by male members either husband or father in law. Only in the case of daily necessary food preparation and crushing, grinding food grains etc. female members of the family have major role.

Participation of female in different CBOs, GOs, and NGOs is hopeless however some female members can be seen but it is only due to the govt. policy. Beside that women representation in different political parties also can be rarely seen. But in the social entertainment gathering male and female have equal participation.

It is concluded that the responsibility of rural women in different household activities is higher with maximum working load comparatively with her male counterpart. Similarly, women have great contribution in income generating activities. Women are working very hard and more time than man. Even though the status of women is lower than that of male counterpart, thus the status of rural women is lower than the men.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on the conclusions derived from the findings of the study, opinions of respondents and key informants, observation and experienced gained by the researcher following recommendations were made for intra-household responsibilities and status of rural women.

-) Formal and informal education should be provided to women to make them knowledgeable and self dependent.
-) Participation of women in development work together with male member should be encouraged to build self confidence of women in social activities.
-) Different income generating activities for women should be launched through different NGOs, INGOs, CBOs, and GOs to make rural women independent and confident.
-) The women's intra household work load should be reduced by introducing new technologies like biogas, improved stoves, water mills, solar home system etc.
-) Facilitate the social empowerment programs for women such as capacity building.

-) Awareness programmes about gender based discrimination should be introduced through publication and distribution of photograph, posters, pamphlets, training, films etc.
-) Rural women should be encouraged to participate in VDC or ward meeting when different community development projects are discussed, also they should be encouraged for decision making.
-) Awareness should be created about health related problems and family planning through NGO's CBO's, GO's and INGOs
-) Government should provide training related to agriculture and low interest loan to the women.
-) Special emphasis should be given to increase the status of women among the sectors i.e. agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, health and education to provide most scope for generating employment for women.

REFERENCES

- Acharya, M (1981). The Maithili Women of Sirsia. In *The Status of Women in Nepal* (Vol. II, Part 1). Kathmandu: CEDA.
- Acharya, M (1993). The Household economy and women's work in Nepal. In Raju & Bagchi (eds), *Women and Work in South Asia: The region pattern and perspective*. London: Routledge.
- Acharya, M. & Acharya, P. (1997). *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women: A Status Report*. Kathmandu: UNFPA.
- Acharya, M. & Bennet, L. (1981). *The Rural Women of Nepal: An Aggregate Analysis and Summary of Eight Village Studies* (Vol. II, part 9). Kathmandu: CEDA.
- Acharya, M. & Bennet, L. (1983). *Women and the subsistence sector: Economic Participation and Household Decision Making in Nepal*. World Bank Working Paper No. 256.
- Acharya, M. & Bennett, L. (1981). An Aggregate Analysis and Summary of 8 Village Studies. In *The Status of Women in Nepal* (Vol. II, Part 9). Kathmandu: CEDA.
- Alam J.M.A. & Sayed, S.K.R. (2003). A Study of Contribution of Women in Raising Livestock in Some Selected Areas of Bangladesh. *SAARC In Agriculture*, 1, 1-13.
- Asian Development Bank (2000). *Asian Development Outlook 2000: Special chapter as the century turns the social challenge in Asia*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Bajracharya, B. (1994). *Gender Issue in Nepali Agriculture: A review*. Winrock research report series No. 5 HMG/Ministry of agriculture & Winrock International, Kathmandu.
- Baskota, S. (2004). *Research Methodology*. Kirtipur, Kathmandu: New Hira Books Enterprises.
- Baskota, S. (2006). *Statistical Methods for Rural Development*. Kirtipur, Kathmandu: New Hira Books Enterprises.
- Basnet, P. (1992). Status of Women Workers in Some Industries. Paper presented at Tripartite National Workshop on the Role of Labor

- Administration in Promotion of Employment and Welfare of Women Workers in Nepal (January 1992), Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, WDD and ILO, Kathmandu.
- Bennett, L. (1979). Tradition and Change in the Legal Status of Nepalese Women. In *Status of Women in Nepal* (Vol. 1, Part 2). Kathmandu: CEDA.
- Bista, A. (1994). Gender Difference in Livestock Production Management in Chitwan District of Nepal. *Journal for Farming System Research Extension*, 4, (3), 121-135.
- Bista, D.B. (1980). *Peoples of Nepal* (4th Ed). Kathmandu, Nepal: Ratna Pustak Bhandar.
- Boserup, E. (1970). *Women's Role in Economic Development*. London: George Allen and Unwin.
- Capati P.A. & Ranabhat, B. *Extension, Income Generation and Micro-Credit Programmes for Women and Other Vulnerable Groups in Nepal*. Employment Promotion and Training Project, ADB TA No. 2513-NEP.
- Central Bureau of Statistics (1995). *Population Monograph of Nepal*. Kathmandu: CBS.
- _____ (2004). *District Development Profile of Nepal*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission Secretariat.
- _____ (2004). *Statistical Pocket Book*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission Secretariat.
- _____ (1996). *Nepal Living Standards Survey 95/96: Main Findings* (Vol. I. & II). Kathmandu: CBS.
- Centre for Women and Development (1989). *Production Credit for Rural Women: An Impact Evaluation Study*. Kathmandu: CWD.
- Deuba, Arzoo, (2004): Gender Differences, Unpublished Report, Human Development Conference, Pokhara.
- Devkota, D. (1999). *Household Decision Making in Nepal: A study of effect of gender role and ethnicity*. Unpublished master's thesis, Massey University, New Zealand.
- Giri, B. (2003). *Literacy Education and women's empowerment: Sustainability the Lasting Fuel*. Kathmandu: FSD.

- ICIMOD, CBS/HMGN & SNV Nepal (2003). *District of Nepal: Indicators of Development*. Kathmandu, Nepal: CBS.
- IEDI/REAP (2004). *A Study on Socio Economic Situation and Program Location of Mugu District*. Nepal: IEDI/REAP.
- IIDS (1994). *The Statistical Profile of Nepalese Women: An Update in the Policy Context*. Kathmandu: IIDS.
- Jha, U. & Ghimire, D.P. (1989-1990). Women and Their Role in Household and Farm Activity in Darai Community of Mangalpur Village, Chitwan, Nepal: A Socio-cultural Analysis. In Neupane, F.P. (ed), *IAAS Research Report (1985-1991)*. Rampur, Chitwan: Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science.
- Martha, L. (2001). *Women, Gender and Work: what is equality & how do we get there?*. Geneva: ILO.
- Ministry for Local Development/HMGN (1996). *Women Development Program: Progress Report 1995/96*. Kathmandu: MoLD.
- National Planning Commission/HMGN (1981). *Sixth Five-Year Plan*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- _____ (1985). *Seventh Five-Year Plan*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- _____ (1992). *Eighth Five-Year Plan*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- _____ (1998). *Ninth Five-Year Plan*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- _____ (2002). *Tenth Five-Year Plan*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- New ERA (1997). *A Situation Analysis of Sex Work and Trafficking in Nepal with Reference to Children*. A Report submitted to UNICEF, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal.
- NGO Federation of Nepal (Jan, 2002). *Searching for Poor People's Voice on Poverty in Nepal*. Nepal: Shree Haratima Press.
- Pradhan, B. (1995). *Assessment of PCRW: Towards Future Strategies*. A draft prepared for UNICEF, Kathmandu.
- Shree Shakti (1995). *Women Development Democracy: A study of social economic changes in the status of women in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Shree Shakti Samuha.
- Sharma, S. (1996). *Female-Headed Households and Poverty in Nepal*. Kathmandu: MIMAP Project/APROSC/IDRC.

- Shrestha, M. M. & Shrestha, S. (1991). Women role in Nepal in General and Population control in particular – An assessment. *Tribhuvan University Journal*, 14, 27-40.
- UNDP (1996). *Human Development Report*. New York: UN.
- UNDP (2001). *Nepal Human Development Report 2001: Poverty Reduction and Governance*. Kathmandu: UNDP.
- UNDP (2004). *Nepal human development report 2004: Empowerment and Poverty Reduction*. Kathmandu: UNDP.
- UNDP (2006). *Nepal: Readings in Human Development*. Pande, S.R.; Tropp, S.; Khatiwada, Y.R. & Sharma, B. (Eds.), Kathmandu: UNDP.
- World Bank (1997). *The South Asia Regional Gender Action Plan*. Washington, D.C: World Bank.
- [www. genderwatchers. org](http://www.genderwatchers.org)
- [www. greatwomen. org](http://www.greatwomen.org)
- [www. un.org/womenwatch/daw/Beijing/platform/media.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Beijing/platform/media.htm)
- [www. un.org/womenwatch/daw/index.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/index.htm)
- [www.britinnica.com/ org](http://www.britinnica.com/)
- www.info.icrwindia.org
- www.umn.org.np