

**HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING STAUTS OF  
MARRIED WOMEN  
(A Case Study of Kirtipur Municipality)**

**BY  
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**A Dissertation Submitted to Central Department of Popualtion Studies  
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**RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study is carried out for the analysis of “Household Decision Making Status of Married Women” of Kirtipur Municipality ward no. 1, 2 & 3. The main objective of this study is to examine the household decision-making power of married women of age group 15-49 years socio-economic status of women in study area. To analyze the married women of the study area in household decision making on purchases of daily household needs. To examine women participate in family major decision making power of freedom of movement, their education, migration status, caste ethnicity and regions.

This study is based on primary information of 80 married women among 152 females in the selected area, taken purposively as sample. The information has been collected by direct interview with the help of both structured and non-structured questionnaires. The processing of the collected data has been done using Ms Excel.

It has found that women are lagging behind in terms of land ownership and income generating activities, they have satisfactory access in terms of using the modern household energy resources, household income, possession and family planning measures. Their participation in social activities is in the bottom wise, women with under SLC level of education; migration wise, migrated women and caste/ethnicity wise, Rai women are found in a better self decision making position.

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## ACRONYMS

**BBC** : Beyond Beijing Committee

**CBS** : Central Bureau of Statistics

**CDPS** : Central Department of Population Studies

**CEDA** : Center for Economic Development and Administration

**CREHPA** : Centre for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities

**FP** : Family Planning

**FWLD** : Forum for Women, Law and Development

**GDI** : Gender Related Development Index

**HDI** : Human Development Index

**HMG** : His Majesty's Government

**ICIMOD** : International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

**IFAD** : International Fund for Agricultural Development

**MOF** : Ministry of Finance

**NDHS** : Nepal Demographic and Health Survey

**NFHS** : Nepal Family Health Survey

**NGO** : Non-Government Organization

**NHDR** : Nepal Human Development Report

**SLC** : School Leaving Certificate

**TU** : Tribhuvan University

**UN** : United Nations

**UNDP** : United Nations Development Program

**UNFPA** : United Nations Population Fund

**UNICEF** : United Nations Children Fund

## CHAPTER - ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General Background

In the development of the nation women play vital roles. However, in the male dominated country like Nepal, women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision-making power. Women have to perform three responsibilities as reproduction, household work and productive economic activities. Besides this, they do not have control over decision making on their reproduction and economic activities. There exists a lopsided relationship between the women performing the roles of protectors, nurturer, healer and guide. Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers but are less recognized by their own identity. Many societies have placed women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their family responsibilities (Subedi, 1997: 1-3).

Women's equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential as well as speed up the development process. Women participate half of the population in the world. The problem among the third world countries is not to recognize women as productive potential. Our country is male dominated. Females are considered of low standard and of less value. But in present years state has started realizing the importance of women participation in the economic as well as social development. Women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision-making power. They have to perform three responsibilities as reproductive household work, productive economic activities and community management. They don't control over decision making on their reproduction and economic activities. Many societies have placed women to lowest rank and a submissive role confined to the home, farm and their family responsibilities. Men and women have started participating on equal footing in development activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger" (Acharya, 1987).

The adult female literary rate is 34.9 % as against 62.7% of their male counterparts. During 2001 census the overall female literary rate was 42.5% as against 65.1% of the male literary. The female student enrollment rate in the primary school was found to be

47.4% of the total. In the secondary level it was 45.7%. In higher secondary education it was 43.3% and in higher education. It was 32.7% (CBS, 2007:1)

Women are contributing more than men not only to the agricultural sector also bear most of the responsibilities of households food security, besides their significant contribution to income generation activities, They provide immense services in the house such as preparing food, fetching fire wood and water, cleaning the house washing the clothes, taking care of children, old one and sick etc. Women empowerment must involve women making choice that enhance their individual well being.

Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual political social or economic strength of individual and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities, sociological empowerment often addresses members of groups that social discrimination processes have excluded from decision-making processes through-for example-discrimination based on race ethnicity religion gender.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political social economic and health status is highly important and in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household. In all parts of the world, women are facing threats to their lives, health and well-being as result of being overburdened with work and of their lack of power and influence.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The Nepal census 2001 observed that women's population is more than half of the total (CBS, 2001) but their roles as decision- making is negligible. Women's participation in various levels of decision- making is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of equality, development and peace. The status of women is considered as one of the factors that influence nation's social economic and cultural developments.

Nepal women are highly restricted in independent decision -making lack of decision power has deprived women of the basic element of a decent life such as food and nutrition education skill development health and family planning this has ultimately

undermined and participation in professional jobs. Women play a significant role in all societies, both as economic and social actors; they should therefore be seen as integral partners in all development efforts (Clarke, 2003, 17).

Nepal is a multi ethnic state comprised of a great, social cultural diversity. Along with the diversity, the country is characterized by widespread inequalities and discrimination in terms of ethnicity gender and geography. Gender in equality to empower Nepalese women can be justified in terms of the social and cultural context of the Nepalese society. It is excessive patriarchal based social structure and extended family system which restrict women to make independent decision.

Lack of decision-making power has deprived women of the basic elements of a decent life such as food and nutrition education, skill development, health, and family planning this has ultimately undermined their access to gainful employment opportunities and participation in professional jobs.

Things are changing slowly but steadily. Women in development have been accepted since the sixth plan as a national policy. After the restoration of multi party system in 1990 policy makers are giving due importance to uplift the status of women. A separate ministry, to look after the welfare of the women, has been established Especially, after the World women conference held in Beijing in 1995, the question of women empowerment has been brought into the limelight. Government of Nepal is very much committed to fulfill the commitment made in this conference.

The status of women compared to men is different in geographical regions (rural, urban, hill, mountain, terai) of the country. There are also varying practices among different classes, castes, ethnicity, tribes, dalits etc. Women as a whole are trying to be empowered, wanting to know more, practicing their inborn legal rights, feeling competent with their male counterparts, wanting to occupy positions, trying to make decisions within the family.

The proposed thesis intend to study in Household decision making status of married women a case study of Kirtipur Municipality, Kathmandu, a newly developed residential locality in the capital city constituting of both local and migrated inhabitants.

The Kirtipur Municipality ward no. 1, 2 & 3 are chosen as the field of study because in the present work it is intended to study the status and decision-making power of women in an urban area. Kirtipur is newly developed residential area composed of both local and migrated people. We found similar study conducted in this area. Study of the decision making power of household married women in Kirtipur Municipality allows us to compare the status of women in urban area which collectively can show the real picture of decision-making power of married women.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The general objective of the study is household decision-making status of married women a case study of Kirtipur Municipality urban area of Nepal.

The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine the household decision-making power of married women of age group 15-49 years socio-economic status of women in study area.
2. To analyze the married women of the study area in household decision making on purchases of daily household needs.
3. To examine women participate in family major decision making power of freedom of movement, their education, migration status, caste ethnicity and regions.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Women constitute half of the total population in Nepal. They are the back bone of the nation. They play a significant role in the societies both as economic and social actors; they should therefore be seen as integral partners in all development efforts. In patriarchal society women are discarded from participation in social, political and economical area. States must seek to include gender perspectives should implement various programmes to improve women's self confidence and decision making power. The significance of this study are as follows:

1. This study is important to explain socio-economic status and household decision-making power of women.

2. It describes the household decision-making status of women in urban area of Nepal.
3. It will be helpful to those organizations, which are working in this field to identify the situation of women in household decision-making and implement same welfare program to improve their status.
4. It will be helpful to develop awareness towards household decision-making situation.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

Because of the limited time, source and cost, this study has its own limitations. The issue of women's participation in decision-making process is very vague, which cannot be studied at once. This study is limited in the following area.

1. This study focuses in a very small area of ward no. 1, 2 & 3 in Kirtipur Municipality.
2. This study covers only married women of 15-49 ages.
3. This study covers the sample of 80 respondents.
4. This study will be concentrated to analyze the situation of women in household decision-making.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

Chapter One deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study, Chapter Two deals with the Literature review from the various books, journals, publications etc. and it also consists of conceptual framework. Chapter Three deals with the description of this study and it gives explanation of the research design and procedure, the data generated and the statistical tools, used during the process, Chapter Four deals with demographic, social economic and participatory characteristics of the sample population and respondents, Chapter Five deals with the analysis of collected data regarding the household decision-making process. Chapter Six provides summary, final interpretation and conclusion of the whole study. It also includes recommendations on the basis of the findings.



## **CHAPTER - TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Review of literatures is an important element of research design. It is the description about the related topics, which is published by scholars, researcher's academics and professional, this part of research is very important because it provide knowledge about the related topic, which increases ability of researcher to perform research. This section of literature review is discussion in four parts theoretical review empirical review conceptual framework and formulation of hypothesis.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Literature**

Pradhan and Shrestha (1990) found the decision-making role within household system as an indicator of the status of women. The high status of women is expected to reduce fertility rate while opposite for those of lower status women they found that in communities which encourage women to participate in economic gainful employment, women will have a higher status as compared to where those activities are restricted educational, economic, health and political status of women are discussed below.

Tiwary (1995) found that women decision making role is determined by household economic status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebrations greater freedom of choice at marriage economic support in the absence of sons in the family self employment of women working in the house hold productive sectors.

In addition, to routine domestic work, women play a significant, if not a predominant role in agricultural production. One participatory research project found that women do more agricultural work than men in high mountain areas, equal to or more than in the Terai (southern plain). Women, both as participants and decision makers, share the responsibility for planting transplanting weeding harvesting carrying grains to the mill for grinding and collecting wood, water and fodder Women's involvement is also significant in the care and management of lives took and poultry and as well as in kitchen gardening. While, women participate in agriculture throughout Nepal, the character of their participation is not uniform. The participation of women is agriculture quite different in the hills and in the Terai. In the complex social system of the hills, women's participation

in agriculture further varies tremendously according to social group. Despite women's important role in agriculture traditional social norms and customary laws. Which are often gender biased, are a barrier to women's equitable access to productive resources (BBC, 2004).

Acharya (2004:12) observed that women play important social role in the families of Janajati community. There is high social mobility in Dalits women due to compulsion to earn for family livelihood. In Khas society male head of the house has an absolute authority woman as they grow older gain power but are still considered and act as dependent to male figure (husband or sons or brother) and restricted social mobility due to the fact that dignity is attached to women's sexuality.

In spite of the reality of the significantly patriarchal structural of Nepalese society, which by design has relegated women to a subordinate position, there were meaningful variations between communities in the context of women's participation in the wider market economy and the over all house hold decision making process. These variations fall into a consistent pattern, suggesting that women's household decision- making input in a given community is directly related to the strength of inside/outside dichotomy. To varying degrees the 'insides' private domestic sphere is characterized as the proper domain of women and the 'outsides' here of candidacy water/irrigation system construction budget allocation village development programs, selection of extension workers are mostly ascribed to men. Women in dichotomous village communities (based of cultural and economic criteria) including the Maithali and Parbatia, have considerably less control in terms of decision-making than those in non-dichotomous communities including the laboring Rai, Baragaonle and Khas Magar. The Newar, Tamang and Tharu fall between these two groups (Striishakti, 1995).

Normally, husbands were the major decision maker as to whether to terminate a pregnancy. It was found that if the husband decided to keep the unintended pregnancy to term, his wife would have few of no options to alter the decision. It was not possible in this study to assess whether women with without informing their husbands. Never the less the finding indicates discordance in responses final outcomes. For example, of 12 husbands two of these wives (of matched couples) responses did not match with their

husbands responses similarly among those seven husbands who reported abortion failures, these responses matched only with four wives (CREHPA, 2007).

## **2.2. Empirical Literature**

Women's share of seats in parliament and in the local government bodies remains insignificant. Moreover, a decline has taken in the number of women in senior administrative and professional positions from 15 percent (1998) to 12.7 percent (2003). However, greater number of women has been contesting for local elections over the years (UNDP, 2006, 115).

Women's role in Nepalese society appears to be changing in the cities but it is only a surface change. Unfortunately the majority of women are living in the rural areas. Almost 93 percent of Nepal is rural and here change is coming at a painfully slow pace. The rural women have little or no self-confidence and do not consider themselves on par with men. The village women's life is nothing more than that of a servant or possession of the family. They do not appear to know the value of their individual lives.

Decisions made within the rural households are divided in five categories: farm management, domestic expenditure, education, gifts, religious and social travel, and disposal of household products and capital transaction. In all of the women's contribution to rural household's decision-making process seems to have declined in the last decade. The strishakti report does not explain why this is happening. One cause could be the increasing commercialization of agriculture which is changing the pattern of household expenditure and investment. Women know less about new technology and commercial agriculture than the men and are, therefore, getting marginalized from farm management. Changing pattern of household expenditure in favour of market goods and investment beyond small household industries could also reduce women's input into decision-making process. But all these are only conjectures and can only be explained by in-depth research of these processes (Acharya, 1997, 19).

Religion determines women's position in the family and in society. Though existing religions differ in their approach to god and salvation, one common feature they share is the allocation of inferior status of women. Besides religious tenets, taboos also play a role in establishing women's lower position in the society. Nepal has two major religions.

Hinduism and Buddhism among them 86.51 percent are Hindus and 7.78 percent are Buddhist. Broadly speaking Buddhist women do enjoy better position compared to Hindu women, but within their own community their status is lower in compare to men the nations of purify and in purity, which are dominant caste system are even more stringent in relation to women. Menstruation and childbirth are considered impure and there accords women lower status than men. Even women from high caste are considered lower in the status than men from lower caste. Furthermore women are so influenced by the religions scriptures that they consider themselves subordinate to their male counterparts, as especially Hindu women consider. It their duty to take orders from their husbands their whole life revolves around their husbands and children and only few have individual identities (FWLP, 2003.3).

Women slave in their households and fields day after day, carrying crippling loads, and holding the burdens of society silently on their backs. They do their work thanklessly and without pay. Although the law states that Nepali men and women receive equal rights in practice this is not the case.

The future for the rural woman of Nepal is far from bright and promising. The majority of these overworked women are uneducated and under privileged. They sorely lack self-confidence and due to the attitude of the prevailing cultural society do not consider themselves on par with men. They carry the weight of the caste system, the pressure of the dowry system, and the guilt of being a burden to their family.

In too many cases these women may be victims of both physical and mental abuse. Many women are bound to lives that are detrimental to their well being and that of their children, perpetuating a cycle of ignorance and dependence. Deprived of an education and discriminated against in the job market, the rural woman has little choice but to work in the fields. Her future options are bleak.

We wish to provide an alternative for women who yearn to break out of the role that society dictates. Uneducated women with the hunger to learn, under privileged women with the desire to better their lives, and all women who strive for independence find refuge here. These are strong women, who given the chance and a little support, will change the world.

Women in Nepal work for longer hours than men, have fewer opportunities for gainful employment, and possess limited property rights. As in most of the world, women in Nepal precariously juggle with the three principal work regimes of reproduction, householding, and income generation. Women's life expectancy improved from 53.5 in 1991 to 61.5 in 2001, finally surpassing the life expectancy of 60.5 for men. However, more recent statistics show that this has dropped slightly below the men again. In particular, the life expectancy for both men and women in the mid- and far-west mountain regions is at least 10 years less than those living in urban areas, reflecting the hard lives they lead.

Over 70% of women workers are confined to self-employed, unpaid and low-wage informal sector work with few formal job opportunities. The problems faced by women in the job market stem from a number of factors including stereotypical roles confining women to the household, limited access to education and skill/vocational training, exploitive and unsafe working conditions, discriminatory wage rates, sexual harassment at work and discrimination in employment opportunities. The fact that women are working principally in the informal sector means that few have benefited from any wage reforms to date.

Low income earning opportunities together with absence of right to property have limited the role of women in the decision-making about the allocation of household income (NHDR, 2004).

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

Women's participation in the decision making process is an important indicator of their empowerment. In order to assess women's decision making autonomy the 2006 NDHS sought information on women's participation in four types of household decision her own

health care, making large household purchases making household purchases for daily needs, and visits to family or relatives. Table 1.1 shows the percent distribution of currently married women according to the person in the household who usually makes decision concerning these matters. Women's are considered to participate in decision making. If they make decisions alone or jointly with their husband or someone else.

**Table: 1.1**

**Participation in decision making women percent distribution of currently married women by person who usually makes decision about four specific issues, Nepal 2001**

Decision	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	Someone else	Other	Total	Number of women
Own health care	20.3	26.8	33.6	19.2	0.1	100.0	8,257
Major household purchases	15.4	37.3	20.2	27.0	0.0	100.0	8,257
Purchases of daily household needs	36.3	21.3	15.7	26.7	0.0	100.0	8,257
Visits to her family or relatives	21.1	35.4	18.7	24.6	0.1	100.0	8,257

Source: NDHS, 2006.

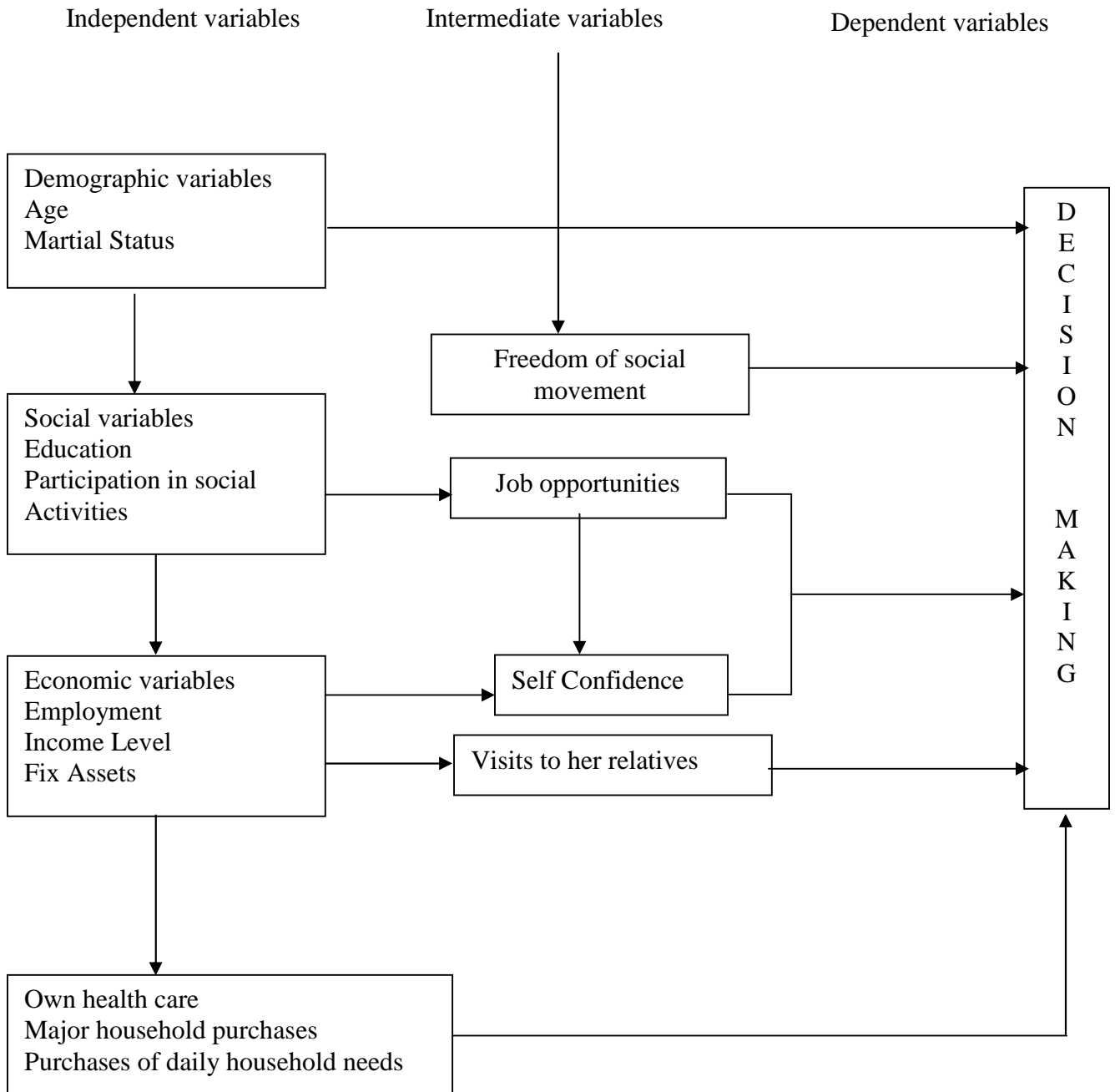
The strength of women's role in decision making varies with the type of decision. Thirty-six percent of currently married women reported that they alone made the final decision about daily household purchases. Although 20 percent of women make sole decisions on their own health care, one-third say that their husband makes such decisions mainly by himself. Decisions on large household purchases are most likely to be made jointly by the respondent and husband (37 percent). More than one-third of women say that decisions to visit family or relatives are made jointly with their husband.

In the Nepalese context the status of women is very low due to the lack of decision making power. So the decision-making power of women should be increased most of Nepalese women don't have power of decision due the culture. To empower women social injustice and gender disparity in socio-economical as well as decision making process should be addressed and they by raising the status of female in the society.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework for the Study

This concept assumes that various indicators affect in women decision-making power decision making is the dependent variable where as independent variables are categorized into three subtopics namely demographic, social and economic variables.

**Figure - 1 Conceptual framework**



The 2001 census in Nepal had observed women constituted more than fifty percent of the total population. Hence, their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but essential as well as to speed up the development process. The socio-economic standard of greatly enhance the progressive development of the nation on the contrary, the situation is different the 2001. Census report reveals women to be far behind the male in terms of education employment in decision making position in land-ownerships, business etc. women still have less control over economic and physical resources and lagging behind in terms of political power. The outlook of society towards women has not been changed to the desired extent. They are still suffering from economic crisis.

According to 2001 census, 13 percent of females were literate and in the same time. The male literary rate was 65.5 percent. Due to widened gap (21.5 percentage point) in literacy between women and men, there is less access of women in decision making (CBS 2003, 239).



## **CHAPTER - THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problems. This chapter deals with the methods employed while constructing the research study in order to achieve the research objectives.

#### **3.1 Introduction to the Study Area**

Kirtipur is a one of the historical place situated in the Kathmandu valley. It lies at about 7 kilometers south-west from the main city of Kathmandu and is situated at about 5,000 feet above the sea level.

Kirtipur Municipality is boarded with Kathmandu Metropolitan City in the north, Chalnakhel VDC in the south, Naikap and Tinthana VDCs in the west and Bagmati River in the east. It consists of 19 wards covering the total area: of 14,000 hectares. Kritipur, Panga, Bhagangal, Taudaha, Tanglaphant, Champadevi, Nagaun, Salyanthan, Naya Bazar and Chovhar are the main localities in Kirtipur Municipality. Its total population is 41,572 among whom 22,729 are females and 18,843 are males.

People of different caste/ethnicity live in Kirtipur Municipality. Although agriculture is the main occupation for the most households, majority of people are found to be engaged in daily wage based labor. The educational status in the rural areas of Kirtipur Municipality is at the bottom line with the average literacy 70 % (Kirtipur Municipality, 2007).

#### **3.2 Sample Design**

This study has selected of Kirtipur Municipality of Kathmandu district for the study area. Kirtipur comprises parts of ward no. 1, 2 and 3 of Kirtipur Municipality. But this study was performed only on the parts of the Kirtipur Municipality. Total population of study area is 9309, among which, 4052 are females (Census, 2001). But according to the information provided by the Kirtipur Municipality, undated in the years 2006-2007, the total population of the above mentioned three ward numbers is 9499, among which 4720 are females. In this study, 80 females are taken as sample, purposively. This study has covered married women of age group 15 to 49 representing different status which

includes the local women, migrated women, non-migrants covering students and low & high paid working women, and housewives. This sample has revealed the socio-economic status and situation of married women in household decision-making of the overall population (both permanent and temporary residents) in Tanglaphant of Kirtipur Municipality.

### **3.3 Questionnaire Design**

Questionnaire is designed in such a way that it provides all required data needed to fulfill the objectives of the study. Questionnaire is mainly divided into ten schedules as personal information, family information, house-land information, household decision-making information, use of family planning/health information, children schooling information, information related to economic condition, information related to participation in social activities, information related to knowledge on the legal aspects of women right and miscellaneous information. All these schedules provided the information about socio-economic condition of women and their situation in household decision-making.

### **3.4 Data Collection and Processing**

During the research study, the data was collected with the help of both structured and non-structured questionnaires. The questionnaire included all the questions, which are needed to collect the information related to household and socio-economic activities. Since the study area is an urban residential area, many people are living in rent. So in order to include married women of different socio-economic status and different level of education, data was collected even from the women of different family living in the same house. After the collection of data, processing of the collected data was done for drawing out meaningful results. Data processing has been done using software package SPSS and excel.

### **3.5 Data Processing and Analysis**

Data has been collected from the field. So it needs to be analyzed to get fruitful results. The collected data has been analyzed by using simple statistical tools and techniques. This has been done in a descriptive way. Simple statistical tools like average, percentages and differences have been used. Data analysis has been done by analyzing the

respondents from different aspects. That is, same respondents have been grouped into different categories according to their age, education, migration status and caste/ethnicity. Education wise, respondents who cannot read and write at all are categorized as "Illiterate", respondents who have some school level education but have not passed SLC are categorized as "Under SLC" and respondents having education level SLC and above are categorized as "Educated". Likewise, regarding the migration status, native respondents and the respondents having their own house in the study area are categorized as "non-migrated" and the respondents who are living temporarily in the study area in rent are categorized as "migrated".

## CHAPTER - FOUR

### INTROUDCTION TO THE STUDY POPULATION

This chapter deals with the demographic, social, economic, educational and participatory characteristics of households and respondents. Out of total 2443 households in the study area (CBS, 2001), 80 households have been taken as sample.

#### 4.1 Characteristics of Household Population

##### 4.1.1 Age Sex Composition

Information on age and sex of each household member has been obtained from the married women of age group 15-49 years. In 80 sampled households, the total population is-320. Among total population 168 are males and 152 are females. Table 4.1 shows the age composition of the sample household population by sex. The highest proportion of the population has been found in age group 25-29 years (13.1 %) whereas the lowest proportion of the population is in the age group 55-59 years (1.3 %). The proportion of female population is highest in age group 20-24 years (15.8 %) while the highest proportion of male population is in age group 25-29 years (12.5 %).

**Table: 4.1 Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex**

Age group	Sex				N	Total %
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%		
0-4	15	8.9	12	7.9	27	8.4
5-9	14	8.3	19	12.5	33	10.3
10-14	15	8.9	15	9.9	30	9.4
15-19	15	8.9	12	7.9	27	8.4
20-24	17	10.1	24	15.8	41	12.8
25-29	21	12.5	21	13.8	42	13.1
30-34	20	11.9	11	7.2	31	9.7
35-39	12	7.1	16	10.5	28	8.8
40-44	12	7.1	3	2.0	15	4.7
45-49	7	4.2	5	3.3	12	3.8
50-54	9	5.4	8	5.3	17	5.3
55-59	4	2.4	0	0.0	4	1.3
60	7	4.2	6	3.9	13	4.1
Total	168	100.0	152	100.0	320	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### 4.1.2 Educational Composition by Sex

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human beings to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision-making process in the society. In most of the cases it can be seen that higher educational status plays dominant role in decision-field (Singh, 2004). Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher educational background. Table 4.2 shows the educational status of the household population by sex.

It is found that highest proportion of the population (49.8 %) has attended the school education but has not passed School Leaving Certificate (SLC examination) and is kept under the category "under SLC". The lowest proportion of the population (11.3 %) has attended the education of Master level or above. Proportion of illiterate population is next to it with 11.6 %. Greater proportion of female (16.4 %) is illiterate than male (7.2 %). So is in the case of under SLC with females 54.3 % and males 45.8%. On the other hand, the proportion of males attending higher education which includes intermediate, bachelor and master or above is greater (cumulatively 47 %) than that of women which is cumulatively 29.3 %. In this table the infant population (of age group 0-4 years) has been excluded.

**Table: 4.2 Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Education**

Education	Sex				N	Total %
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%		
Illiterate	11	7.2	23	16.4	34	11.6
Under SLC	70	45.8	76	54.3	146	49.8
Intermediate	20	13.1	16	11.4	36	12.3
Bachelor	25	16.3	19	13.6	44	15.0
Master & above	27	17.6	6	4.3	33	11.3
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 4.1.3 Marital Status

Excluding the infant population (age group 0-4 years), 63.1 % of the population is married and 36.9 % is unmarried. In the study area proportion of married male (64.4 %) is greater than that of female (61.4 %) (Table 4.3).

**Table: 4.3 Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Marital Status**

Marital Status	Sex				N	Total %
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%		
Married	99	64.7	86	61.4	185	63.1
Unmarried	54	35.3	54	38.6	108	36.9
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 4.1.4 Occupational Characteristics

The study area has been found inhomogeneous with respect to the occupational status of the population. Excluding the infant population (age group 0-4 years), 5.8 % of the rest population is found unemployed. Unemployment is found more in females (7.1 %) than in males (4.6 %). The highest proportion of the population (38.9 %) is student, females (44.3 %) leading the males (34.0 %) (Table 4.4).

**Table: 4.4 Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Occupation**

Age group	Sex				N	Total %
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%		
Service	22	14.4	8	5.7	30	10.2
Teaching	15	9.8	5	3.6	20	6.8
Housework	1	0.7	35	25.0	36	12.3
Students	52	34.0	62	44.3	114	38.9
Daily Wages	19	12.4	6	4.3	25	8.5
Hotel & Business	19	12.4	13	9.3	32	10.9
Driving	8	5.2	0	0.0	8	2.7
Foreign Employment	4	2.6	0	0.0	4	1.4
Journalists	3	2.0	0	0.0	3	1.0
Engineer	3	2.0	0	0.0	3	1.0
Unemployed	7	4.6	10	7.1	17	5.8
Low and High Age	0	0.0	1	0.7	1	0.3
Total	153	100.0	140	100	293	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## 4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

### 4.2.1 Age Composition

Age is an important factor in demography and it makes difference in decision-making roles, social relation and responsibilities.

The highest population is found in the age group 25-29 years (26.3 %) and the population is lowest in the age group 15-19 years (1.3 %). Population in the age groups 20-24 and 35-39 appear significant relative to that of the highest population age group. Population in 20-24 age groups is 25.0 % and that in the age group 35-39 is 22.5 % of the total respondent population respectively (Table 4.5).

**Table: 4.5 Distributions of Respondents by Age Group**

Age group	N	Percent
15-19	1	1.3
20-24	20	25.0
25-29	21	26.3
30-34	9	11.3
35-39	18	22.5
40-44	4	5.0
45-49	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 4.2.2 Age at Marriage

The age at marriage in this study is categorized into four groups: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24 and 25 and above years. It is observed that most of the women were married between ages 15-19 years, their percentage being 42.5 among the total respondents. Marriage age between 20-24 years is also found to be significant with 33.8 % of the total respondent population and it is least (8.8 %) in the age group above 25 years (Table 4.6). Our result has been found to be consistent with a similar previous work conducted in Vyas Municipality of Tanahun district, a suburban area (Gurung, 2007).

**Table: 4.6 Distributions of Respondents by Age at Marriage**

<b>Age at Marriage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10-14	12	15.0
15-19	34	42.5
20-24	27	33.8
24+	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### **4.3 Social Characteristics of Respondents**

#### **4.3.1 Family Structure**

Family is a basic unit of the society and is an institution which plays important role in building society. Family structure has dominant role in decision-making process. There are two categories of family structure - nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consists of husband, wife and unmarried children while joint. family consists of husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof.

Among the sampled households 83.8 % have nuclear family and 16. 2% have joint family (Table 4.7).

**Table: 4.7 Distributions of Respondents by the Type of Family**

<b>Type of Family</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nuclear	67	83.8
Joint	13	16.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.3.2 Religious Composition**

Nepal was a Hindu nation until 2005 when, after the major political change in the country, the interim parliament declared it as a religion neutral nation. Irrespective of this, Nepal has always been a place with religious harmony. Hindu and Buddhist are the major religious group in the nation. This fact has been seen in the present study. Of the total respondents, 86.3 % are Hindu and 13.7 % are Buddhist (Table 4.8).



**Table: 4.8 Distributions of Respondents by Religion**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hindu	69	86.3
Buddhist	11	13.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### **4.3.3 Caste/Ethnic Composition**

Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where there are different cast/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has its own language, culture and tradition. Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in the society and it plays important role in social activities. The following table reveals the ethnic composition of the responds in the study area.

Table 4.9 shows that Brahmin and Chhetri cover 44 % of the total respondents. Next to them are Newars with 16 % who are the natives of the Kirtipur. Then come other Janajatis viz. Tamang and Rai with 11.3% and 6.3% respectively. This shows the cultural diversity of the Nepalese society and also the migration trend. All except Newars are the migrants, some permanent and some temporary, from different parts of the country.

**Table: 4.9 Distributions of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity**

<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Brahmin & Chhetri	44	55.0
Newar	16	20.0
Tamang	9	11.3
Rai	6	7.5
Others	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## **4.4 Economic Characteristics of Respondents**

### **4.4.1 Land Holdings**

Nepal is an agricultural country where more than 80 percent people -depend upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures

the economic status of people. As shown in table 4.10, out of the total 80 household 70 of them (87.5 %) have their own land and the rest 10 households (12.5 %) do not have their own land.

**Table: 4.10 Distributions of Respondents by Land Holding**

<b>Land holding</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	70	87.5
No	10	12.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Table 4.11 shows the size of land owned by the respondents or their family. It is seen that most of the households (47.1 %) have land between 1-5 ropani. 20.0 % of households have more than 10 ropani, 18.6 % households have less than 1 ropani and 14.3 % have between 5-10 ropani of land.

**Table: 4.11 Distribution of Respondents by Size of their Land**

<b>Size of Land in Ropani</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 1	13	18.6
1-5	33	47.1
5-10	10	14.3
10+	14	20.0
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The study shows that only 8.6 % of the respondents whose family has its own land are the legal owner of the land. In 22.9 % cases husbands are the legal owner whereas, in 3.8 % cases both respondents and their husbands are the legal owner of the land in their family. In most of the cases 64.3 %, other members in the family are the legal owner. The other members in all the cases are either father-in-law or mother-in-law of the respondents (Table 4.12).

**Table: 4.12 Distributions of Respondents by Land Ownership**

<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Self	6	8.6
Husband	16	22.9
Both	3	4.3
Others	45	64.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.4.2 Legal ownership of House**

Basically there are three basic needs of human being which are food, cloth and house, though now-a-days education, health and human right are also considered as basic needs. Housing has great contribution in maintaining the quality of life of people -'It emphasizes the standard of living. In this study, it has been observed if the respondents have their own house or are living in a rented one.

It is found that 41.3 % of the respondents have their own house in the study area and 58.3 % of them live in rented ones (Table 4.13).

**Table: 4.13 Distributions of Respondents by the Nature of House they Live in**

<b>Nature of House</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Own	33	41.3
Rented	47	58.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The study has shown that among the respondents who have their own house in the study area 42.4 % are the legal owner of the house. In 33.3 % cases husbands are the legal owner and in 24.2 % cases the house is in the name of some other member of the family (father-in-law and mother-in-law in most of the cases) (Table 4.14).

**Table: 4.14 Distributions of Respondents by Legal Ownership of House**

<b>Land owner of House</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Self	14	42.4
Husband	11	33.3
Others	8	24.2
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.4.3 Household Energy Consumption**

Now-a-days energy consumption is considered as an indicator of development. The developmental status is measured in per capita energy consumption. Developed countries have higher energy consumption than developing countries. Nepal has very low per capita energy consumption (Singh, 2004).

In the study area all types of source of energy consumption (from traditional source of fire wood to the modern source of liquid petroleum gas) have been found. Only 6.3 % of the respondents use the traditional source of fire wood while most of the responds 81.3 % use the modern source of liquid petroleum gas. 12 % of the respondents use kerosene as the source of energy consumption (Table 4.15).

**Table: 4.15 Distributions of Respondents by the Type of Fuel for Cooking**

<b>Types of Fuel for Cooking</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fire wood	5	6.3
Kerosene	10	12.5
Gas	65	81.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.4.4 Engagement in Income Generating Activities**

Engagement in the income generating activities has strong relationship with the household decision-making process. In the study area it has been found that majority of the respondents (61.2 %) are not involved at any time in income generating activities and only 38.8 % of them work themselves to generate income (Table 4.16).

**Table: 4.16 Distributions of Respondents by Their Engagement in Income Generating Activities**

<b>Engagement in Income generating Activities</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	31	38.8
No	49	61.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2010

Most of the respondents (38.7 %) among those who are engaged in income generating activities are involved in small business like hotel and shop keeping. 35.2 % work as labors and least of them (25.8 %) are in government or private services (Table 4.17).

**Table: 4.17 Distributions of Respondents by the Type of Income Generating Activities**

<b>Type of Income Generating Activities</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Business	12	38.7
Labors	11	35.5
Job/service	8	25.8
Total	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Position at work is the indicator of the status of each worker in the society. Among the respondents those who work for income generation 67.7 % do not have a well defined position at work and are kept under the category "Others". They have either their own business or are labor employees. 6.5 % work in the position of peon. Some more (12.9 %) are assistant officers and 9.7 % hold the position of officer or higher rank. The least (3.2 %) are involved in teaching profession. (Table 4.18).

**Table: 4.18 Distributions of Respondents by the Position at Job**

<b>Position</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Officer & above	3	9.7
Lecturer	1	3.2
Asst. Officer	4	12.9
Peon	2	6.5
Others	21	67.7
Total	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Income represents the economic status of people. In this study income level is classified into 1000-5000, 5000-10000 and 10000 plus in rupees. It is observed that among those who are involved in income generating activities 58.1% have monthly income in the range of rupees 1000-5000. 29.0% have monthly income in the range of rupees 5000-10000 and 12.9% have more than rupees 10000 as their monthly income (Table 4.19).

**Table: 4.19 Distributions of Respondents by Monthly Income**

<b>Monthly Income in Rupees</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1000-5000	18	58.1
5000-10000	9	29.0
10000+	4	12.9
Total	31	100.0

Source; Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.4.5 Source of Family Income**

Out of 80 households, job/service has occupied the first position with 50.0% as the source of family income. 28.8% households depend upon labor employment for their income. It is followed by business (16.3%). Similarly, 2.5% of the households have agriculture as the main source of income (Table 4.20). Although Nepal is an agricultural country the reason behind the least number of households having agriculture as the main source of income generation is that the study area is an urban site developing into a residential area.

**Table: 4.20 Distributions of Respondents by Source of Family Income**

<b>Source of Family Income</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Agriculture	2	2.5
Business	13	16.3
Labors Employment	23	28.8
Job/service	40	50.0
Others	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.4.6 Possession/Keeping of Household Income**

Both males and females need to have equal responsibility for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in the family. In principle, both should have equal rights and duties. But in our society, males have dominant roles. Female have only supporting roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision-making. But in our study area we have found an interesting result that is in contrary to the general trend in the nation. Table 4.21 shows the control of women in keeping the household income.

Out of 80 households, respondents, who are females, keep the household income in 34 households (42.5 %) compared to 24 households (30.0 %) by their husbands or males. In 20 households (25.0 %) both males and females keep jointly. Like wise, in very few cases (2 households or 2.5 %) the income is kept by other members of the family viz, father-in-law and mother-in-law of the respondents. This shows that female members have the control over the possession of the family income irrespective of who is responsible for the income generation. This result is consistent with a similar research conducted in a sub-urban area of Vyas Municipality in Tanahai district (Gurung, 2007) but it contradicts with another similar research conducted in a rural area of Luyata VDC in Bajhang district (Singh, 2004). This shows that women in the sub-urban and urban areas are in better decision-making position than the women in rural areas.

**Table: 4.21 Distributions of Respondents by Keeping of Household Income**

<b>Keeping of Household Income</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Self	34	42.5
Husband	24	30.0
Both	20	25.0
Others	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.5 Educational Status of Respondents**

In the present study the educational status of the respondents is divided into three categories which are illiterate, under SLC and above SLC. Those who cannot even read and write are kept under the category "illiterate". Those who have joined school but not passed SLC examination are kept under the category "under SLC" and those who have passed SLC or have attended higher education are kept under the category "educated". It is found that majority of the respondents are literate with 36.3 % in each category of "Above SLC" and "under SLC". 27.5 % are found to be illiterate (Table 4.22).

**Table: 4.22 Distributions of Respondents by Education**

<b>Education</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Illiterate	22	27.5
Under SLC	29	36.3
Above SLC	29	36.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **4.6 Family Planning Status of Respondents**

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in most of the developing countries. Rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of the life as well as environment. In developing countries, the food production is low and there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is



essential to balance and manage population and environment properly. Family planning continues to be a priority highlighted in the tenth development (2002-2007) (NDHS, 2006).

#### **4.6.1 Knowledge about Family Planning**

The question had asked to the respondents regarding the knowledge about the Family Planning. Of the total 80 respondents, 93.8% has given the positive answer and 6.2% have given the negative answer (Table 4.23).

**Table: 4.23 Distributions of Respondents by the Knowledge about Family Planning**

<b>Heard about Family Planning</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	75	93.8
No	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Among those who have knowledge about family planning, most of the respondents (50.7 %) learned about it through the media. 29.3 % got knowledge about Family Planning from their friends and neighbors, 1.3 % from their husbands and 18.7 % from other sources like school education, self study etc (Table 4.24). In the majority cases, other source of information includes the self study by the respondents.

**Table: 4.24 Distributions of Respondents by Source of Information They Received About Family Planning**

<b>Nature of House</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Media	38	50.7
Friends	22	29.3
Husband	1	1.3
Others	14	18.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### 4.6.2 Use of Family Planning Method

Though people have knowledge about family planning, they may not use family planning methods properly. Among the 80 respondents, 93.8 percent have knowledge about family planning (Table 4.23), but only 67.5 % have ever used or are using contraceptives while 32.5 % have never used any method of family planning (Table 4.25).

**Table: 4.25 Distributions of Respondents by the Use of Family Planning Methods**

<b>Ever use of Family Planning</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	54	67.5
No	26	32.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### 4.6.3 Methods of Family Planning

There are mainly two types of Family Planning methods: temporary and permanent.

The temporary method consists of different devices of contraception. Among them few are 3-month injections, Condom, Pills and Norplant. 75.9% of the respondents adopting the means of Family Planning are enjoying one or the other temporary method and 24.1% have adopted the permanent method. Among the different temporary methods 3-month injections are found to be the most popular ones being used by 68.3% of the temporary method users (Table 4.26).

**Table: 4.26 Distributions of Respondents by the Method of Family Planning They Use**

<b>Methods Used</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
3 month injection	28	51.9
Condom	4	7.4
Tablets	6	11.1
Norplant	3	5.6
Permanent	13	24.1
Total	54	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### 4.7 Participatory Characteristics of Respondents

In this segment, participation of respondents in different community level committees such as Local Mother's Committee, School Management Committee, Drinking Water Committee, Political Parties and Religious Institutions have been analyzed. Participation in these different social activities can be indicator of the status of women in the society and their decision-making power.

**Table: 4.27 Distributions of Respondents by Participation in Various Committees**

Particular	Regular		Sometimes		Never		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Local Mother's Committee	5	6.3	3	3.8	72	90.0	80	100
School Management Committee	3	3.8	1	1.3	76	95.5	80	100
Drinking water committee	2	2.5	5	6.3	73	91.3	80	100
Political parties	3	3.8	2	2.5	75	93.8	80	100
Religious	3	3.8	4	5.0	73	91.3	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

##### 4.7.1 Local Mother's Committee

It is found that only 10.0 % of the total respondents are involved in Local Mother's Committee and 90.0 % never participated in it. 6.3 % are the regular members and 3.8 % are occasional members (Table 4.27).

##### 4.7.2 School Management Committee

The study has shown that most of the respondents (95.0 %) have never been a member of the School Management Committee. 3.8 % are regular and 1.3 % are the occasional participants of the committee.

##### 4.7.3 Drinking Water Committee

In the study area 91.3 % of the respondents have never participated in the drinking water committee. 2.5 % are regular and 6.3 % are occasional members.

#### **4.7.4 Political Parties**

It is found that most of the respondents (93.8 %) have never been a member of any political parties whereas 3.8 % are regular and 2.5 % are the occasional members of one or the other political party.

#### **4.7.5 Religious Institutions**

Involvement of women in religious institutions is found to be no different than that in any other social activities. Most of the respondents (91.3 %) have never been a member of any religious institutions. 3.8 % are regular and 5.0 % are occasional members in one or the other religious institution.

## **CHAPTER - FIVE**

### **WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

This chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision-making in different aspects of household as well as other activities. Decisions regarding buying food products, buying clothes, using type of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, use of family planning methods, consultation with health workers during pregnancy, schooling of children, polling and participation in social and developmental activities are taken into account.

#### **5.1 Decision-Making on Household Purchases**

It is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal role and responsibilities. But most women are engaged in household chores. In this section we have analyzed the decision-making status of women in the household purchases.

##### **5.1.1 Decision on Buying Food Products**

Table 5.1 shows the situation of women in decision-making process regarding the household purchase of food products.

It is seen that majority of elder women with age greater than or equal to 30 years (50.0%) are in a position to make their own decision on buying food products than the women of younger age group (45.2%).

Analyzing education wise; the women having school level education only are in a better position to make their decision themselves than the illiterate and educated women. In 59.1% cases of illiterate respondents, the decision on buying food is taken by their husbands. On the contrary, educated respondents have better decision-making power than their husbands or other family members.

Migrated women have greater decision-making capacity in buying food products (51.1%) than the non-migrated women (42.4%). In both the cases it is seen that more respondents are involved in decision-making than their husbands and other family members.

In terms of caste/ethnicity, Brahman & Chhetri and Rai women are found to have stronger deciding capacity (50.0% in each case) than the women of other cast/ethnicity. On the other hand, in every cast/ethnicity, except Tamang, women are in better deciding position than their husbands or other family members. In case of Tamang, 55.0% of the husbands take decision in buying the food products.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Buying Food Products**

Variables	Decision on Purchasing of food Products									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	19	45.2	7	16.7	12	28.6	4	9.5	42	100.0
> 30 years	19	50.0	5	13.2	13	34.2	1	2.6	38	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	8	36.4	1	4.5	13	59.1	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	16	55.2	2	6.9	9	31.0	2	6.9	29	100.0
Above SLC	14	48.3	9	31.0	3	10.3	3	10.3	29	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	14	42.4	6	18.2	9	27.3	4	12.1	33	100.0
Migrated	24	51.1	6	12.8	16	34.0	1	2.1	47	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	22	50.0	9	20.5	11	25.0	2	4.5	44	100.0
Newar	7	43.8	1	6.3	5	31.3	3	18.8	16	100.0
Tamang	4	44.4	-	-	5	55.6	-	-	9	100.0
Rai	3	50.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	-	-	3	60.0	-	-	5	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 5.1.2 Decision on Buying Clothes

Clothing is one of the important basic needs of human beings. Every household buys clothes. Table 5.2 shows the situation of women in decision-making regarding the purchase of clothes.

The study shows that 57.1% of women less than 30 years of age decide on buying clothes while only 39.5% of women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide on it. 62.1% of women with educational status "under SLC" decide on buying clothes themselves for their family. This is greater than the percentage of self deciding illiterate women (40.9%) and above SLC women (41.4%) on the purchase of clothes.

Percentage of self deciding migrated women (51.1 %) is greater than that of non-migrated women (41.4%) in this case.

Caste/ethnicity wise, Rai women are found in a better self deciding position (66.7 %) than the others. Tamang women are in the inferior position. Only 33.3 % of Tamang women decide themselves on buying clothes while in majority of their cases (55.6 %) husbands have the sole decision.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Purchase of Clothes for Family**

Variables	Decision on Purchasing Clothes									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	24	57.1	9	21.4	9	21.4	-	-	42	100.0
> 30 years	15	39.5	14	36.8	8	21.1	1	2.6	38	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	9	40.9	2	9.1	11	50.0	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	18	62.1	5	17.2	6	20.7	-	-	29	100.0
Above SLC	12	41.4	16	55.2	-	-	1	3.4	29	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	15	45.5	13	39.4	4	12.1	1	3.0	33	100.0
Migrated	24	51.1	10	21.3	13	27.7	-	-	47	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	21	47.7	18	40.9	5	11.4	-	-	44	100.0
Newar	9	56.3	2	12.5	5	31.3	-	-	16	100.0
Tamang	3	33.3	1	11.1	5	55.6	-	-	9	100.0
Rai	4	66.7	2	33.3	-	-	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	-	-	2	40.0	1	20.0	5	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### **5.1.3 Decision on Using Type of Fuel for Cooking**

In Nepalese society, cooking is mostly related with women. In this study, we want to see if women have freedom to decide on the choice of the type of fuel used for cooking. Table 5.3 shows the situation of women in decision-making process regarding the type of fuel used for cooking 63.2% of women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide themselves on using the type of fuel for cooking. On the contrary, only 28.6 % of women less than 30 years of age decide themselves solely. About 35.7% of younger respondent repeated that they decide together with their husband income using fuel for cooking.

Analyzing education wise, women in each sub-category of illiterate, under SLC and educated are found with better self deciding power than other members of the family, above SLC women having the greatest freedom (48.28%). Husbands of illiterate -women also have strong influence on deciding in this case (31.82%) in comparison to self decision-making power of their wives (40.9%).

Non-migrated women have been found to be in better self decision-making position (54.5%) than the migrated women (38. 3%) in choosing the type of fuel for cooking.

Brahman & Chhetri women are found to be in better self deciding condition (56.8%) than the women of other caste/ethnic groups. Tamang women are in the inferior position. In 77.8% cases, husbands of Tamang women decide on the type of fuel for cooking. In rest of the sub-categories, percentage of women in self deciding position is greater than their husbands and other family members.



**Table 5.3: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Using Type of Fuel for Cooking**

Variables	Decision on Using Fuel for Cooking									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	12	28.6	15	35.7	11	26.2	4	9.5	42	100.0
> 30 years	24	63.2	9	23.7	5	13.2	-	-	38	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4.0	5.0	80	100.00
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	9	40.9	6	27.3	7	31.8	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	13	44.8	8	27.6	6	20.7	2	6.9	29	100.0
Above SLC	14	48.3	10	34.5	3	10.3	2	6.9	29	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	18	54.5	8	24.2	3	9.1	4	12.1	33	100.0
Migrated	18	38.3	16	34.0	13	27.7	-	-	47	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	25	56.8	13	29.5	4	9.1	2	4.5	44	100.0
Newar	6	37.5	5	31.3	3	18.8	2	12.5	16	100.0
Tamang	1	11.1	1	11.1	7	77.8	-	-	9	100.0
Rai	2	33.3	3	50.0	1	16.7	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	-	-	5	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## 5.2 Decision-Making on Economic Activities

### 5.2.1 Decision on Involvement in Income Generating Activities

Out of 80 respondents only 31 are found to be involved in income generating activities. Among them, 83.3 % of women more than or equal to 30 years of age and 69.2 % women of age less than 30 years decided themselves about their involvement in income generating activities.

Education wise, women having only school education are found to be in better self decision-making position. 88.9% of under SLC women, 75.0% of above SLC women and 70.0% of illiterate women decided themselves. In 20.0% of illiterate women cases, husbands decided for them, while husbands alone had no role in decision-making among educated and under SLC women regarding the involvement in the income generating activities.

Among migrated and non-migrated women, the latter are in better self decision-making position. 80.0% of non-migrated respondents and 76.2% of migrated respondents decided themselves about their involvement in the income generating activities.

Among different caste/ethnic groups, Tamang are found to be in better self decision-making position. 100% of Tamang women involved in income generating activities decided themselves about their involvement. Likewise, 87.5% of Brahman & Chhetri, 57.1% of Newar and 66.7% of Rai took their own decision.

From this study, it is found that irrespective of age group, educational and migration status and caste/ethnic group, majority of those women who are involved in income generating activities decided themselves regarding their involvement in their jobs.

**Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Involvement in Income Generating Activities**

Variables	Decision on Involvement of Income Generating Activities									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	9	69.2	4	30.8	-	-	-	-	13	100.0
> 30 years	15	83.3	-	-	2	11.1	1	5.6	18	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	7	70.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	-	-	10	100.0
Under SLC	8	88.9	1	11.1	-	-	-	-	9	100.0
Above SLC	9	75.0	2	16.7	-	-	1	8.3	12	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	8	80.0	1	10.0	-	-	1	10.0	10	100.0
Migrated	16	76.2	3	14.3	2	9.5	-	-	21	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	14	87.5	2	12.5	-	-	-	-	16	100.0
Newar	4	57.1	1	14.3	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	100.0
Tamang	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Rai	2	66.7	-	-	1	33.3	-	-	3	100.0
Others	2	66.7	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	3	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 5.2.2 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most women are engaged in household chores and spend more time for these activities. In the present study we want to see the status of women in the decision-making process regarding household expenditure. Table 5.5 shows the situation of respondents according to the decision they make in household expenditure.

Women of age less than 30 years are in better self deciding position than the women of age greater than or equal to 30 years. 45.2% of younger age group women take self decision and 14.3% of them consult with their husbands. In case of elder age group

women 39.5% make the self decision and 36.8% consult with their husbands before making decision regarding household expenditure. In both sub-groups, husbands have significant decision-making position. In 35.7% cases of younger age group women and 23.7% cases of elder age group women, husbands take the sole decision in the household expenditure.

Migrated women are in better deciding position than non-migrated women. 48.9% of migrated women and 33.3% of non-migrated women make their own decision. Majority of non-migrated women (39.4%) make decision along with their husbands. It is 14.9 % in the case of migrated women.

Among caste/ethnic groups, Rai women are seen in the better position (66.7%) for making the self decision than others. Majority of Newar women (43.8 %) make their own decision. In case of Tamang women, percentage of husbands making decision alone (55.6%) is greater than the percentage of women deciding alone (44.4%). Among Brahman & Chhetri women, 38.6% of women make their own decision and the equal percentage of women decide together with their husbands.

**Table 5.5: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Household Expenditure**

Variables	Decision on Household Expenditure									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	19	45.2	6	14.3	15	35.7	2	4.8	42	100.0
> 30 years	15	39.5	14	36.8	9	23.7	-	-	38	100.0
Total	34	42.5	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	10	45.5	-	-	12	54.5	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	14	48.3	5	17.2	8	27.6	2	6.9	29	100.0
Above SLC	9	31.0	15	51.7	4	13.8	-	-	29	100.0
Total	33	41.3	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	11	33.3	13	39.4	8	24.2	2	6.1	33	100.0
Migrated	23	48.9	7	14.9	16	34.0	-	-	47	100.0
Total	34	42.5	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	17	38.6	17	38.6	10	22.7	-	-	44	100.0
Newar	7	43.8	2	12.5	5	31.3	2	12.5	16	100.0
Tamang	4	44.4	-	-	5	55.6	-	-	9	100.0
Rai	4	66.7	-	-	2	33.3	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	1	20.0	2	10.0	-	-	5	100.0
Total	34	42.5	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 5.3 Decision-Making on the Use of Family Planning Methods

Use of family planning is a burning issue in the present world and it is considered to be the main factor for reducing rapid population growth. Most of the people are worried about large family size, since they want to manage their family with higher living standard. Rapid population growth degrades the quality of life of people and results different kinds of problems such as food deficit, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, health hazards, bad sanitation etc.

At present various types of FP deceives are available for both males and females. In the present study we want to know the condition of women in decision-making process

regarding the use of family planning methods. Table 5.6 shows the situation of women in this respect.

Out of 80 respondents only 54 have ever used one or the other method of family planning. It is found that women of age greater than or equal to 30 years are in better self decision-making position in this case (48.3%) than the women of age less than 30 years (24.0%). But in both sub-categories, women alone are not found to have greater self decision-making capacity and/or ability. 68.0% of younger age group women and 48.3% of elder age group women make decision together with their husbands. In very few cases husbands decide solely.

As in most of the above mentioned cases, women having some school level education are found to be in better self decision-making position (45.5%) in comparison to illiterate women (38.5 %) and above SLC women (26.3%). Here also, percentage of women making decision together with husbands is the highest in each sub-category of 53.7% illiterate literate women, 45.5 % of under SLC women (which is equal to that of 53 self deciding women of the same educational status) and 73.7% of above SLC respondents are found to make decision along with their male counterparts.

Among migrated and non-migrated women, the latter are in better self decision-making position, (41.7%) than the former (33.3%). In this case also maximum percentage of women decides together with their husbands. 54.2% of non-migrated and 60.0% of migrated women make decision in this case along with their husbands.

Among the women of different caste/ethnic group, Newar women are in the leading position. Majority of the Newar women (54.5%) are in a position to make their independent decision in the use of family planning methods. Only 33.3% of Tamang women make their self decision in this respect. In the case of Rai women, 100% of them decide together with their husbands. Except Newars, majority of women from other caste/ethnic group make decision in choosing the method of family planning along with their husbands.

**Table 5.6: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Use of Family Planning Methods**

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>								
≤ 30 years	6	24.0	17	68.0	2	8.0	25	100.0
> 30 years	14	48.3	14	48.3	1	3.4	29	100.0
Total	20	37.0	31	57.4	3	5.6	54	100.0
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	5	38.5	7	53.8	1	7.7	13	100.0
Under SLC	10	45.5	10	45.5	2	9.1	22	100.0
Above SLC	5	26.3	14	73.7	-	-	19	100.0
Total	20	37.0	31	57.4	3	5.6	54	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>								
Non-Migrated	10	41.7	13	54.2	1	4.2	24	100.0
Migrated	10	33.3	18	60.0	2	6.7	30	100.0
Total	20	37.0	31	57.4	3	5.6	54	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>								
Brahman & Chhetri	11	35.5	17	54.8	3	9.7	31	100.0
Newar	6	54.5	5	45.5	-	-	11	100.0
Tamang	2	33.3	4	66.7	-	-	6	100.0
Rai	-	-	4	100.0	-	-	4	100.0
Others	1	50.0	1	50.0	-	-	2	100.0
Total	20	37.0	31	57.4	3	5.6	54	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

#### **5.4 Decision-Making on Consulting with Health Workers during Pregnancy**

Health is very sensitive for human beings and it affects all other activities. Pregnancy is a special period in women's life and needs due care. Awareness of safe delivery has been increasing in the country. People, these days, are more concern about the health of women during pregnancy. Our study has shown that out of 80 respondents 30 have consulted with the health workers during pregnancy. Table 5.7 shows the distribution of respondents in decision-making process on consulting with health workers during pregnancy.

It is found that 25.8 % of women of age greater than or equal to 30 years of age and 20.8% of women below 30 years of age decide themselves on visiting the health workers during pregnancy. The percentage of women deciding together with their husbands is greater in either case. This percentage is 54.2 in younger age group women and 35.5 in the elder age group women. The percentage of husbands of the respondents taking single decision is also significant in this case. It is 16.7% o in the younger age group women and 32.3% in the elder age group women.

Education wise, as expected, educated women are in better position in having their own decision to consult with health workers during pregnancy (34.8%) than illiterate and under SLC women. But majority of the above SLC women (60.9%) and under SLC women (45.0%) decide together with their husbands. The situation is not good in the case of illiterate women. In 58.3% cases of illiterate women, husbands make decision alone in this respect.

24.0% of the non-migrated and 23.3% of the migrated women only have the single deciding power regarding the consultation with the health workers during pregnancy. Here also, majority of women (48.0% non-migrated and 40.0% of migrated) decide together with their husbands. Percentage of husbands deciding alone is also significant compared to the percentage of women deciding alone. It is 24.0% (equal to that of self deciding women) in case of non-migrants and 26.7% (greater than that of self deciding women) in case of migrants.

Caste/ethnicity wise also the situation is same. 66.7 % of women of caste/ethnic group other than Brahman & Chhetri, Newar, Tamang and Rai make self decision in consulting with health workers during pregnancy. But this percentage is low in case of the above mentioned four caste/ethnic groups. Majority of Brahman & Chhetri women (60.0 %) decide together with their husbands. But in majority cases of Newar and Tamang women, decision is made by their husbands. In case of Rai women the percentage of women deciding themselves and deciding together with husbands is same (40.0%). Therefore in this respect, Rai women are found to have better decision-making freedom.



**Table 5.7: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Consulting with Health Workers during Pregnancy**

Variables	Decision on Consulting with Health Workers during Pregnancy									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	5	20.8	13	54.2	4	16.7	2	8.3	24	100.0
> 30 years	8	25.8	11	35.5	10	32.3	2	6.5	31	100.0
Total	13	26.6	24	43.6	14	25.5	4	7.3	55	100.00
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	2	16.7	1	8.3	7	58.3	2	16.7	12	100.0
Under SLC	3	15.0	9	45.0	6	30.0	2	10.0	20	100.0
Above SLC	8	34.8	14	60.9	1	4.3	-	-	23	100.0
Total	13	23.6	24	43.6	14	25.5	4	7.3	55	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	6	24.0	12	48.0	6	24.0	1	4.0	25	100.0
Migrated	7	23.3	12	40.0	8	26.7	3	10.0	30	100.0
Total	13	23.6	24	43.6	14	25.5	4	7.3	55	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	7	23.3	18	60.0	4	13.3	1	3.3	30	100.0
Newar	2	15.4	3	23.1	6	42.2	2	15.4	13	100.0
Tamang	-	-	1	25.0	3	75.0	-	-	4	100.0
Rai	2	40.0	2	40.0	-	-	1	20.0	5	100.0
Others	2	66.7	-	-	1	33.3	-	-	3	100.0
Total	13	23.6	24	43.6	14	25.5	4	7.3	55	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 5.5 Decision-Making on Schooling of Children

Table 5.8 shows the situation of women regarding decision-making on schooling of their children. Among 80 respondents only 62 have children. Among those 62 respondents only 16.0% of women under 30 years of age and 13.5% of women of age greater than or equal to 30 years decide themselves about the schooling of their children. Majority of the women (48.0% in the younger age group and 56.8%) in the elder age group) make decision together with their husbands.

Education wise also percentage of women taking sole decision about the schooling of their children is comparatively low. In 47.4% cases of illiterate women, the decision is made singly by their husbands. But the situation is different in the case of above SLC and semi-educated women. 75.0% of educated and 47.8% of under SLC women make decision about the schooling of their children together with their husbands.

The situation is no more different while analyzing with respect to the migration status. Majority (60.0% of non-migrated and 46.9% of migrated) women make decision along with their husbands together.

Among different caste/ethnic group, majority of Brahman & Chhetri (60.0%) and Rai (75.0%) women decide together with their husbands. In majority cases of Tamang (57.1%) the decision is made solely by the husbands while in the case of Newar, the percentage of women deciding together with their husbands and the percentage of husbands making sole decision is the same (35.7%).

This study shows that the situation of women regarding the self decision-making capacity on the schooling of their children is not good irrespective of their age group, educational and migration status and caste/ethnic group. Majority of women take help of their husbands in making the decision in this respect.

**Table 5.8: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Schooling of Children**

Variables	Decision on Schooling of Children									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>										
≤ 30 years	4	16.0	12	48.0	8	32.0	1	4.0	25	100.0
> 30 years	5	13.5	21	56.8	10	27.0	1	2.5	37	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	2	10.5	7	36.8	9	47.4	1	5.3	19	100.0
Under SLC	3	13.0	11	47.8	8	34.8	1	4.3	23	100.0
Above SLC	4	20.0	15	75.0	1	5.0	-	-	20	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>										
Non-Migrated	4	13.3	18	60.0	7	23.3	1	3.3	30	100.0
Migrated	5	15.6	15	46.9	11	34.4	1	3.1	32	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	4	12.1	20	60.6	9	27.3	-	-	33	100.0
Newar	3	21.4	5	35.7	5	35.7	1	7.1	14	100.0
Tamang	-	-	2	28.6	4	57.1	1	14.3	7	100.0
Rai	1	25.0	3	75.0	-	-	-	-	4	100.0
Others	2	25.0	3	75.0	-	-	-	-	4	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 5.6 Decision-Making on Polling

Constituent of Nepal has given equal right to vote for both men and women of age above 18 years. Table 5.9 shows the decision-making status of women in polling.

It is seen that out of 80 respondents only 42 participated on polling in the last election. Among them women less than 30 years of age are found in better decision-making position than the women of age 30 or more years. About 91% of younger age group women selected themselves the candidate of their choice.

Education wise, educated women are in the better self deciding position. 81.8 % of above SLC women, 75.0% of illiterate women and 66.7% of under SLC women decided in their own while making the selection of their candidate to vote.

Among migrated and non-migrated women, the former are found to have better decision-making power than the latter. 85.7% of migrated women and 71.4% of non- migrated women selected the candidate on their own decision.

**Table: 5.9: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Polling**

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>								
≤ 30 years	10	90.9	1	9.1	-	-	11	100.0
> 30 years	22	71.0	3	9.7	9	17.4	31	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	6	75.0	-	-	2	25.0	8	100.0
Under SLC	8	66.7	1	8.3	3	25.0	12	100.0
Above SLC	18	81.8	3	13.6	1	4.5	22	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>								
Non-Migrated	20	71.4	3	10.7	5	17.9	28	100.0
Migrated	12	85.7	1	7.1	1	7.1	14	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>								
Brahman & Chhetri	23	79.3	3	10.3	3	10.3	29	100.0
Newar	7	63.6	1	9.1	3	27.3	11	100.0
Tamang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Rai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Others	2	100.0					2	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## **5.7 Decision-Making on Participation in Social and Developmental Activities**

Table 5.10 shows the situation of the respondents on decision-making about the participation in social and developmental activities. It is seen that out of 80 respondents, only 31 have ever participated in the social and developmental activities. Among them respondents of age less than 30 years are found to be in better deciding position (80.0 %) than the women of age more than or equal to 30 years (76.2 %). In both the cases it is found that majority of respondents decide themselves about their participation in the social and developmental activities.

Analyzing education wise, illiterate women are in better position than the women with some school level education and educated women. 80.0 % of illiterate respondents decide themselves about the participation. Next to them are above SLC respondents with 78.9 % and then come under SLC respondents with 71.4 % deciding themselves in this issue. What ever be the educational status, majority of women decide themselves about participating in the social and developmental activities.

Among migrated and non-migrated women, the former are seen in better self deciding position. 90.0 % of migrated respondents decide themselves whereas only 71.4 % of non-migrated women make their own decision in this issue. Here also, majority of women are free to decide about their participation in social and developmental activities.

Caste/ethnicity wise, Rai women are seen to be in better self deciding condition than others. 100% of Rai respondents decided themselves. The percentage of self deciding women in case of Brahman & Chhetri and Newar are respectively 83.3 % and 40.0 %. 20 % of the Newar respondents decide together with their husbands and in 40.0 % cases, their husbands decide about their participation. Newar women, the native inhabitants of Kirtipur, are not seen in good status for making self decision regarding the participation in social and developmental activities compared to others.

**Table: 5.10: Decision on Participating in Social and Developmental Activities**

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age group</b>								
≤ 30 years	8	80.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	10	100.0
> 30 years	16	76.2	2	9.5	3	14.3	21	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	4	80.0	-	-	1	20.0	5	100.0
Under SLC	5	71.4	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	100.0
Above SLC	15	78.9	2	10.5	2	10.5	19	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
<b>Migration Status</b>								
Non-Migrated	15	71.4	3	14.3	3	14.3	21	100.0
Migrated	9	90.0	-	-	1	10.0	10	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>								
Brahman & Chhetri	20	83.3	2	8.3	2	8.3	24	100.0
Newar	2	40.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	5	100.0
Tamang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Rai	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

### 5.8 Cause of Deprivation of Women

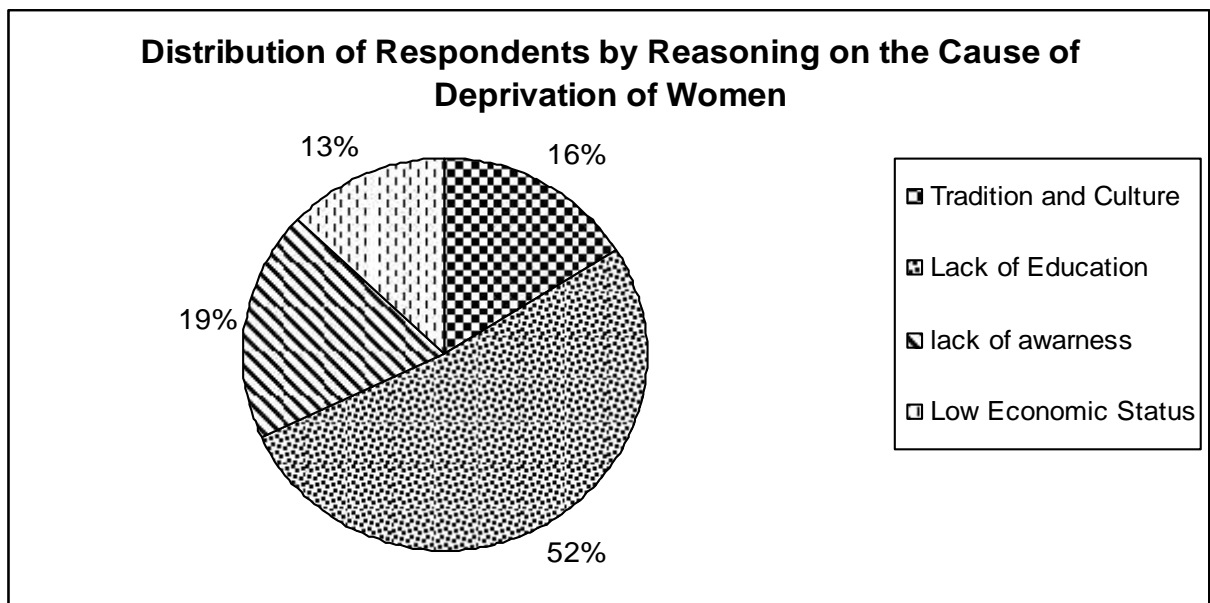
In Nepal females are found deprived from their rights and responsibilities. They have low access to education, employment and decision-making. They are dominated by males in each and every step of life. The respondents were asked what they think to be the main cause for the deprivation of Nepalese women. The main reasons as given by them are presented in Table 5.11.

As reported by the respondents, the main reason of female's backwardness is lack of education (52.5 %) followed by lack of awareness (18.8 %). The stated third reason, which makes female as backward is tradition and culture (16.3 %). Only few respondents (12.5 %) believe low economic status as the reason behind deprivation of women.

**Table: 5.11 Distributions of Respondents by the Reasoning in Cause of Deprivation of Women**

Cause of Deprivation of Women	N	Percent
Lack of education	42	52.5
Lack of awareness	15	18.8
Low economic status	10	12.5
Tradition and culture	13	16.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010



**Figure 5.1 Distributions of Respondents by Reasoning on the Cause of Deprivation of Women**

## CHAPTER - SIX

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this chapter is to summarize the major findings of the study related to household decision-making status of married women a case study of Kirtipur Municipality in ward no. 1, 2 & 3. It also includes conclusion and recommendation of the study.

#### **6.1 Summary of Findings**

This study analyzes the women's participation in household decision-making process in ward no. 1, 2 & 3 Kirtipur, Municipality of Kathmandu district. There are 2443 households in the study area. Among those households 80 have been taken as sample households to collect information. This study is mainly focused on the role of women in household decision-making as well as in other social activities.

The major findings of the study are as follows:

##### **6.1.1 Characteristics of Household Population**

- In 80 sampled households the total population is 320, among which 168 are males and 152 are females.
- Majority of people in the study area are in the age group 25-29 years.
- Excluding the infants of age group 0-4 years, there are more married people than unmarried.
- Highest proportion of the population has attended just the school level education but not passed SLC.
- The study area is inhomogeneous with respect to the occupational status of the population, highest proportion of the population being that of students.

##### **6.1.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

- All the respondents are married women of age from 15-49 years.
- Majority of the respondents (26.3 %) are in the age group 25-29 years.



- Majority of the respondents (42.5%) had married in the age from 15-19 years.

### **6.1.3 Social Characteristics of Respondents**

- About 88 percent of the respondents have nuclear family.
- Majority of the respondents (86.3%) are Hindu.
- Though Kirtipur is the native land of Newars, in the stud- area majority of the respondents are Brahmin and Chhetri. It is because the study area has been developing as a residential area of migrated people from different parts of the country.

### **6.1.4 Economic Characteristics of Respondents**

- Out of 80 sampled households, 70 of them possess their own land, majority of them having 1-5 ropanies.
- In most of the cases (about 64%) elder members of the family (father-in-law or mother-in-law of the respondents) are the legal owner of the land possessed by their family. Only 6.0 % of the respondents themselves are the legal owners.
- Majority of the respondents (58.3%) are living in rented house and only 41.3% of the respondents' family possess their own house.
- As in the case of land, in most of the cases (33.0%) elder members of the family are the legal owner of the house their family possess. Only 14% of the respondents themselves are the legal owners.
- Majority of the respondents (65.0%) are using modern source of energy i.e. liquid petroleum gas for their household energy consumption.
- The study has shown that majority of the respondents (61.3 %) are not involved in any type of income generating activities whereas only 38.8 % are generating income themselves, most of them being involved in their own business.
- About 58 % of the respondents involved in income generating activities earn, on the average, 1000-5000 rupees per month. Only about 4 % of the respondents have their monthly earning more than 10000 rupees.

- The main source of income of about 50 % of the respondents' family is job/service.
- The study has shown that majority of the respondents (42.5 %) keep themselves their household income.

#### **6.1.5 Educational Characteristics of Respondents**

- Majority of the respondents are literate with the percentage of "educated" and "under SLC" each being 36.3 %.

#### **6.1.6 Family Planning Status of Respondents**

- About 94 % of the respondents have the knowledge about family planning.
- Among those who have knowledge about the family planning, majority of them (50.7 %) learned about it through media like radio and television.
- About 67 % of the respondents have ever used or are using one or the other method of family planning.
- 3-month injection has been found to be the most popular method of family planning among the respondents using temporary method in the study area (68.3 % of the temporary method users).

#### **6.1.7 Participatory Characteristics of Respondents**

- It is found that only 6.3 % of the respondents take regular participation in Local Mother's Committee.
- Only 3.8 % of the respondents are involved in School Management Committee regularly.
- In Drinking Water Committee only 2.5 % of the respondents are the regular members.
- Only 3.8 % of the respondents are the regular members of Political Parties.
- The study has shown that again 3.8 % of the respondents are the regular members of Religious Institutions.

## 6.2 Women in Household Decision-making Process

- Regarding the purchase of food products 47.5 % of women make their own decision and 15.0 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (50 %); education wise, under SLC women (55.2 %); migration wise, migrated women (51.1 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Brahman & Chhetri and Rai women (50 % in each case) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- The study has shown that 48.8 % of women make their self decision and 28.8 % make decision together with their husbands while buying clothes for their family. Age wise, younger age group women (57.1 %); education wise, under SLC women (62.1 %); migration wise, migrated women (51.1 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Rai women (66.7 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- While making decision on using the type of fuel for cooking, 45.0 % of women make their self decision and 30.0 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder - age group women (63.2 %); education wise, educated women (48.3 %); migration wise, non-migrated women (54.5 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Brahman & Chhetri women (56.8 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- Regarding the involvement in income generating activities, 77.4 % of women' make their own decision and 12.9 % make decision together with their SLC women (88.9 %); migration wise, non-migrated women (80.0 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Tamang and Brahman & Chhetri (100 % and 87.5 respectively) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- The study has shown that 42.5 % of women make their self decision and 25.0 % make decision together with their husbands in the case of household expenditure. The exception is illiterate women group. In majority cases of illiterate women (54.5 %), husbands make the sole decision. Age wise, younger age group women (48.9 %); education wise, under SLC women (62.1 %); migration wise, migrated women (51.1 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Rai women (66.7 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

- While making decision on the use of family planning methods, 37.0 % of women make their self decision and 57.4 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (14.0 %); education wise, under SLC women (45.5 %); migration wise, non-migrated women (41.7 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Newar women (54.5 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- The study has shown that 23.6 % of women make their self decision and 43.6 % make decision together with their husbands in the case of consultation with the health workers during pregnancy. In 25.5 % cases husbands make their sole decision. Age wise, elder age group women (25.8 %); education wise, educated women (34.8 %); migration wise, non-migrated women (24.0 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Rai women (40.0 %) are seen in better self decision-making position. However, in this case percentage of women making decision jointly with their husbands or the percentage of husbands taking single decision is greater in every sub-category than the percentage of self deciding women.
- In the case of schooling of children, only 14.5 % of women make their own decision. In majority of cases (53.2 %) they jointly make decision with their husbands. 29.0 % of husbands make their single decision. Age wise, younger age group women (16.0 %); education wise, educated women (20.0 %); migration wise, migrated women (15.6 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Rai women (25.0 %) are seen-in better self decision-making position.
- It has been found that majority of the women (76.2 %) made their decision themselves on polling. In 14.3 % cases, husbands decided for them and only in 9.5 % cases women made decision jointly with their husbands. Age wise, younger age group women (90.9 %); education wise, educated women (81.8 %); migration wise, migrated women (85.70 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Brahman & Chhetri women (79.3 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- While making decision on the participation in social and developmental activities, 77.4 % of women make their self decision whereas only 9.7 % make decision together with their husbands. In 12.9 % cases, husbands made the sole decision. Age wise, elder age group women (80.0 %); education wise, illiterate women

(80.0 %), migration wise, migrated women (90.0 %) and cast ethnicity wise, Rai women (100.0 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

- In the view of majority of the respondents (52.5 %), lack of education is the main reason for the backwardness of female.

### **6.3 Final Interpretation**

This study has focused to analyze the socio-economic status, knowledge on family planning, and household decision-making power of married women of the age group 15-49 years.

Economically, respondents are not found in a better situation. Very few of them have the legal ownership of land and less than 40 % of the respondents are engaged in income generating activities. However, the situation is better in case of house ownership. Majority of the respondents living in their own house are the legal owners. More than 80 % of the respondents have access to the modern method of liquid petroleum gas regarding the household energy consumption. Majority of the respondents are also found in better situation in terms of the possession of household income. The 10 % of the respondents are found to have participation in social and developmental activities 94 % of the respondents have knowledge about family planning and nearly 70 % of them are using one or the other method. Media has been found to be the main source of information about the knowledge of family planning. 3-months injection has been found to be the most popular method of temporary family planning among respondents. Majority of the respondents made decision jointly with their husbands in choosing the type of family planning method. Respondents making self decision are also in significant proportion.

Decision-making status of women has been studied under ten different categories.

They are purchasing of food products, purchase of clothes for family, purchase of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, use of family planning methods, and consultation with health workers during pregnancy, schooling of children, polling and participation in social and developmental activities. The study has shown that elder age group women have better self decision-making power

(in 6 cases) than younger age group women (in 4 cases). Likewise, under SLC women are found to be in better decision-making position (in 5 cases) than educated women (in 4 cases) and illiterate women (in 1 case). Migration wise, migrated women have better self decision-making condition (in 6 cases) than non-migrated women (in 4 cases). Caste/ethnicity wise, Rai women are in better decision-making position (in 6 cases). Brahman & Chhetri women come after them (in 4 cases). Newar women take the lowest position (in 1 case only).

#### **6.4 Conclusion**

- Though women are lagging behind in terms of land ownership and income generating activities, they have satisfactory access in terms of using the modern resources and household income possession. Their participation in social activities is in the bottom line.
- Married women of the age group 15-49 years are well informed about family planning and most of them are involved in making decision on choosing the proper method.
- Age wise, women of age grater than or equal to 30 years; education wise, women with under SLC level of education; migration wise, migrated women and caste ethnicity wise, Rai women are found in a better self-decisions making position regarding the household activities.

#### **6.5 Recommendation**

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following recommendations can be suggested to improve the women's status and to increase their participation in decision making process.

##### **6.5.1 Recommendations for Policy Implementation**

- Priority should be given to increase literacy level of females.
- Increase their access over land and property.
- Increase the access of females in income generating activities.
- Increase the access of females to modern health facilities.

- Encourage females to participate in social and developmental activities.

### **6.5.2 Recommendations for Family Members**

- Make females aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- Males have to participate in household chores
- Provide opportunities to females in social and developmental activities.
- Provide them opportunities to decide freely in socio-economic sectors.

### **6.6 Future Research Issues**

This study has acceded an urban area, thus for further research, coming researchers are requested to study the same issues in sub-urban and rural areas so that nation wide status of married women in household decision-making can be obtained. The study has analyzed only the household decision-making process using quantitative tools. In future, research can be conducted using qualitative tools in diet-making issues.

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[http://www.minorityrights.org/partner\\_interventions/2006/indigenous\\_womenlucky.doc](http://www.minorityrights.org/partner_interventions/2006/indigenous_womenlucky.doc)

<http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/nepal/nepaldoc.htm>

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Household-decision Making Status of Married Women

(A Case Study of Kirtipur Municipality)

Survey Questionnaire

Central Department of Population Studies

Tribhuvan University,

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

The information covered in this questionnaire is nearly for academic purpose and will be kept confidential. It will not be used beyond the research purpose. (To be asked to females of reproductive ages, 15-49 years.

Date:

Time of starting interview:

Household number:

#### A. Individual Information

A.1 The name of respondent's

A.2 Age

A.3 Sex

A.4 Age at marriage

A.5 Caste/Ethnicity

A.6 Religion

A.7 Educational Status

A.8 Occupation

A.9 Address: District:

Municipality:

Ward No.:

Tole:

**B. Household Information**

B.1 Type of family                    i) Nuclear                    ii) Joint

B.2

S.N.	The Name of Family Members	Relations with household head	Sex	Age	Education	Martial Status	Occupation
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

**C. House Land Information**

C.1 Do your family have Land? Yes                     No

C.2 How much lands do your family have?

C.3 How much land do you have in your own name? .....Ropani

C.4 Who is land owner? i) Self                    ii) Husband                    iii) Other

C.5 If no, why? .....

C.6 What is the type of your house? i) Own                    ii) Rented                    iii) Others

C.7 Who is the legal owner of their house?

i) Self                    ii) Husband                    iii) Others

**D. Information on Household Decision**

D.1 which type of Fuel do you use for cooking in your family?

- (i) Wood      (ii) Kerosene      (iii) Gas

D.2 who makes decision on using the types of fuel in your family?

- (i) Self      (ii) Husband      (iii) Both

D.3 Do you buy for basic needs for living things in home?

D.4 who decides on buy of thing?

**E. Information Related to family Planning / Health**

E.1 Have you ever heard about family planning method? Yes/ No

E.2 If yes which from which source did you hear?

- (i) Media      (ii) Friends (Neighbors)      (iii) Husband      (iv) other

E.3 Have you ever used family planning methods?

- (i) Yes      ii) No

E.4 If yes, which method do you use?

- (i) Temporary (specify type .....)

- (ii) Permanent

E.5 Who makes decision on using such methods?

- (i) Self      ii) Husband      iii) Both      iv) Others (specify) .....

E.6 Have you ever been pregnant?

E.7 If yes, did you ever consult with health workers or doctors?

- (i) Yes      ii) No

E.7 If yes, who decided to consult with health workers or doctors?

- i) Yes      ii) No

E.8 If yes, who decided to consult with health workers or doctors?

- i) Self      ii) Husband      iii) Both      iv) Others (specify).....

**F. Information Related to Education**

F.1 Are you taking any formal or non formal education?

- i) Yes            ii) No

F.2 If yes, who decided for this education

F.3. Do your children go to school?

- (i) Yes            ii) No

F.4. Who decides your children go to school.

F.5 If yes, how many children go to school, son, and daughter?

F,6 If daughters do not go why ?

F.7 If son do not go why?

F.8. who makes decision about children education

- (i) Husband            ii) Self

**G. Information Related to Economic condition?**

G.1. Are you engaged in income generating activities?

- (i) Yes            ii) No

G 2. If yes, in what kind of Job institution do you engaged?

- i) Official work            ii) Agriculture            iii) Labor  
iv) Business            v) others

G.3. And who decided on involvement in income generating activity?

G.4 what is your position?

G.5. What is your monthly income?

G.6. what is the main source of your family income?

- i) Agriculture            ii) Business            iii) labor / Employment            iv) job

G.8. Who keeps the household income ?

- i) self            ii) Husband            iii) Both            iv) Others (specify)

## **H. Information Related to social Activates**

H.1. How is your participation in the activities of the following social activities?

- i) Community development committee      ii) Drinking water committee
- iii) Local mother committee      iv) school development committee
- v) Political parties      vi) Religious institutions      vii) Others

H.2. Are you a member of any of above mentioned social institutions?

- i) Yes      ii) No

H.3. If yes, which make decision in participation in such social activities?

- i) Self      ii) Others

H.4. Did you participate in the last election?

- i) Yes      ii) No

H.5. If yes who decided to cast vote for which leader of which political party?

- i) Self      ii) Husband      iii) both

## **I. Marital status**

I.1 What was your age at marriage?

I.2. What did you do the time?

I.3. What was your education at that time?

I.4. What kind of marriage did you have?

- i) Love marriage      ii) Arranged marriage

I.5. Who makes decision about marriage?

- i) Parent      ii) Self      iii) Relatives

I.6. Had you performed any dowry related activities during marriage ceremony?

- i) Yes      ii) No

I.7. If yes which types of dowries were used?

- i) Money
- ii) consumable goods jewelry

I.8. Have you faced any problems due to dowry

I.9. Who makes decision about it?

**J. Miscellaneous information**

J.1. what do you think is the cause of women being deprived?

- i) Lack of education
- ii) Lack of awareness
- iii) Low economic status
- iv) Tradition and culture

*Thank You!*