

# **ROLE OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN POVERTY REDUCTION**

**(A Case Study of Champe VDC of Bhojpur District, Nepal)**

## **A Thesis**

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**By**

**Rabin Sapkota**

Symbol No.: 2603

Regd. No.: 6-1-9-802-99

**Central Department of Rural Development**

**University Campus, Kirtipur**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

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## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

The thesis entitled "Role of Women's Empowerment in Poverty Reduction : A Case Study of Champe VDC of Bhojpur, Nepal" has been prepared by Mr. Rabin Sapkota under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for the final approval by the thesis evaluation committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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Thesis Supervisor

Suman Baskota

Lecturer

Central Department of Rural Development

Date: 05 Feb, 2010

## APPROVAL SHEET

We hereby certify that the thesis entitled "Role of Women's Empowerment in Poverty Reduction: A Case Study of Champe VDC of Bhojpur, Nepal" written and submitted by Mr. Rabin Sapkota to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University Campus in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in format, Scope and quality. We, therefore, accept the thesis as a part of the said degree.

### Thesis Committee

---

Chairman  
Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka  
Head of Department

---

External Examiner  
Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha  
Associate Professor  
Central Department of Rural  
Development

---

Thesis Supervisor  
Suman Baskota  
Lecturer  
Central Department of Rural Development

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## ABSTRACT

*The study on the "Role of women's Empowerment in poverty Reduction", a general study about the women's empowerment and its role in poverty reduction, was conducted in Champe VDC of Bhojpur district. It presents the general status of women in the study area.*

*The government and private sectors in Nepal have been engaged in relentless promotion of Nepalese women's empowerment through education, training and various other programs and research since long, but still most of the women's social status seems awfully poor. Their representation in social, economic and political life has been minimal. As a result, they are living in wretched condition. It is national scenario of the country which seems in the study area too. Educational attainment one of the most crucial factors of development, was not found satisfactory in the study area. Among total respondents, only the 25 percent respondents' educational status was found above SLC. Similarly, women's access on health services was also found poor. 64 percent respondents' replied that they have access on Health services.*

*On the other hand, most of the women of the study area were found heavily engaged in agricultural and other household chores mostly of unproductive works. The data reveals that women contribute more than men in household activities but these are not counted in monetary value. Women work 11 hours in an average in day in Nepal and the same scenario seems in the study area. The excessive workload has badly affected their daily life. In fact, It has created various types of obstacles in the empowerment process of women. Women's access and control over resources was also found poor. The data shows that 60.71 percent*

*respondents replied that women have not personal assets such as land, bank balance, and cottage industry.*

*Awareness about women's rights to reproduction was also not found satisfactory in the study area. Among total respondents, still 42.85 percent were found not properly aware about women's right to reproduction which is guaranteed by the interim constitution. On the other hand, one interesting fact was found that 46.42 percent respondents express their view over the provision of women's right in parental property that is doesnot solve the problems faced by women in a sustainable way. The emphasized to provide better education and opportunities rather than parental property. Like wise, most of the people were found positive about the increased involvement of women in politics which is a good sign of increased awareness. But the response about women's role in decision making was found awfully poor because among total respondents 50 percent total decisions were made by male alone while the percent of female in the same work found only 21 percent. It shows a real picture of male dominated society.*

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## **ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

CBS :	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDAW :	Convention on Elimination of all kinds Discriminations against Women
DDC :	District Development Committee
GDI :	Gender Development Index
GoN :	Government of Nepal
HHs :	Households
INGO :	International Non-Government Organization
MoWCSW :	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
NDHS :	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NGO :	Non-Governmental Organization
No. :	Number
NWC :	National Women Commission
PAF:	Poverty Alleviation Fund
Ph.D.:	Doctors of Philosophy
Rs. :	Rupees
SAARC :	South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation
SLC :	School Leaving Certificate
SSNCC :	Social Service National Coordination Council
TU :	Tribhuvan University
UN :	United Nations
UNDP :	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA :	United Nations Population Fund
VDC :	Village Development Committee
WID :	Women in Development
WSCC :	Women Service Coordination Council