

CHAPTER- ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Situated in the lap of the majestic Himalayas, Nepal is bordering on the two most emerging Asian economies of the world, India in the east, west, and south and China in the north. It has three distinct physico-geographic regions. i.e. Terai (Southern plain), Hill and Mountain. Administratively, the country is divided into five regions, 14 zones and 75 districts. Nepal has around 25 million people comprised of more than 100 caste\ethnic groups.

Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world. It is poor in terms of economic development and human development as well. The per capita income of the country is just US \$383 (CBS 2007/08), lowest in the world. More than half of its population survives on less than one dollar a day. The annual average real income growth rate is 3.5 percent over the last decades, which is lower than that of the average of Asian and South Asian countries. The living standard of people is very low. It is ranked 142th position as measured in terms of Human Development Index (UNDP, 2007). 31 percent of the total population in the country lies below poverty line (NPC, 2003/04). Despite the various planning efforts in the past, 77 percent of the people are still living in rural areas. Economic growth of the country has not been able to keep up with the population growth of 2.2 percent resulting in high levels of unemployment and poverty. It shows they are entrapped in “vicious circle of poverty.”

Agriculture is the main stay of the economy constituting 80 percent of employment and 33 percent of the GDP. As a result of economic

liberalization policies, the economy was about to take-off in the nineties (4.5% growth of GDP). However, due to low growth in the agriculture sector coupled with a seizure of growth in the non-agriculture sector due to armed conflict, the pace of growth slowed down to just 2.5 percent during the Tenth Five Yearly Plan period (2002-07) (CECI, 2008). As a result, still 31 percent of people are living in poverty among them proportion of women is higher, where nearly more than half of the total population is shared by women (NPC, 2002/04).

Among the total property ownership as house, land and livestock only 0.8 percent of households reported all these are legally owned by women. (Acharya M. 2003). Poverty reduction is the major objective of the government as accordingly the tenth five year and three year interim plan's were designed and have been implementing.

Women comprising half of the total population have lower status than men, by tradition they are largely restricted in mobility and access to information and education. The status of Nepalese women has been deeply affected by the various religious practices have seriously affected the role and status of women. The United Nation has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources and political power and their personal autonomy in the process of decision making. When status of Nepalese women's is analyzed in this light it is generally found bleak (Acharya 1995). In this regard various attempt have been made to introduce micro-credit schemes to raise women's status in global perspective.

The concept of "Women in Development (WID)", started by various governments to mainstreaming women in development. It rather displaced women from their traditional avenue of employment and resources ownership. Neither has it helped women in getting access to

position of power. The failure of 'WID' approach replaced by "Women and Development (WAD)" concept. It also failed and new approaches developed "Women Empowerment and Gender and Development (GAD)." The concept of GAD is different from WAD and WID in the fact it recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of women's subordination and their empowerment as remedy.

Health, education and employment are major components of women's empowerment and micro-credit scheme help to empower either through home based employment or self employment or small scale income generating activities (ICPD, 1994).

Addressing the inaccessibility of finance to the rural poor to promote their access in income generating activities government has started various micro-finance programs in Nepal. The purpose of such scheme was to emphasize poor and landless women to the small-scale credit to promote their livelihood conducting various small scale earning activities by providing them access to credit without collateral. Broadly speaking, objectives of these programs are to raise income and involve women in community development process.

Though the history of micro-credit started since 1950s (UN,2000), its importance has increased when Regional Rural Development Banks (RRDB) were established in 1992 by Government of Nepal and Nepal Rastra Bank as replication of Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, focusing on extremely poor women. The main objective of RRDB is to empower rural women economically by providing them economic opportunities which in turn empowers them socially, economically, politically and psychologically. The income and saving of women play a vital role in their decision making, promoting health and healthy behavior (Upreti, 2003).

In the way, such micro-credit programs have made it possible for rural women to have access and control over income. This has played a very positive role as income, health, nutrition, decision making and food security, thus, micro-credit programs need wider coverage to promote women's status. But sustainable source of funding micro-credit operation has become a problem. Recovery of loan is equally challenging. Recent internal insecurity is creating problem for the expansion of micro-credit. Social mobilization is also difficult when people are in conflict nevertheless there are ample chances of micro-credit expansion in the country where informal financing is dominant.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world as well as in South Asian region. Nepalese economy is distinctly different in its character from the regional economies, poverty, less developed geographical situation, technological backwardness, landlocked, dominated by two large economies, low per capita income, high population growth rate; concentrated urban growth and low level of educations are main features of the Nepalese economy.

Although women who comprise half of the population of the country; have always been involved in national development, they are still marginalized from the opportunities such economic resources as property, income and employment as well as other resources due to illiteracy, ill-health, poverty and conservative social taboos. In a country like Nepal, poor women face double disadvantages; less access to resources and information/skill. Owing to the above facts Nepal has lower index of Gender Related Development Index (GDI) equal to 0.452 (HDR, 2004), which shows the wide disparity between men and women

regarding the achievement in life expectancy, educational attainment and income.

In Nepal different types of programs have been launched such as Priority Sector Credit Program (PSCP), Small Farmer Development Program (SFDP), Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW), Participatory District Development Program (PDDP), which infact are intended to uplift the rural poor, especially women. The government has also conducted Micro Credit Project for Women (MCPW) in twelve districts and five urban areas since 1994.

The women of Dudhraksha VDC of Rupandehi District like those living elsewhere in the rural areas of Nepal are involved in agriculture and manual labors. Women have grater household responsibilities than men. The ownership right over the family properties rest with the males and not the females. In a community with a low income, low saving and low capital formation, there is always a vicious circle of poverty, therefore no single action would be sufficient to change women's status and achieve overall poverty reduction. In this case when women's income and role in decision making increases, a little bit a above problem will be solved, it not completely there may be many problems which hinder the socio-economic upliftment of women.

It is believed that rural women become empowered when organized in groups, an approach that not only brings about economics of scale, more efficient delivery of services and higher productivity, but also builds up women's confidence and strengths their ability to participate and influence the process of development. But the problem with our society/country is that women are not organized in groups.

Various studies have shown that the empowerment of women has also a positive impact on children's welfare, health, education, and

upliftment of family as a whole, especially girl child get the access to education and health services. But our problem is women are not empowered in the sense that they have little access to productive resource, less educated, low health condition, low voice in the society etc.

In front of this dismal picture, implementation of saving-credit scheme can be a panacea for solving the problem. Group members take the loan from themselves at a moderate interest rate for productive purposes.

1.3 Objectives of the study

Micro-finance is emerging concept of Nepal. The value of micro-finance in Nepal is raised day to day. Now through micro-financing activities; Nepal succeeded to reduce poverty of country. So, three year interim plan take objective only one the poverty alleviation form 31 percent to 24 percent. That is not joke for government but microfinance help to fulfill it. This research paper also surrounds it. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- I. To identify the socio-economic status of women at the study area.
- II. To examine livelihood security as well as empowerment of women in the selected VDC through the micro-credit program.

1.4 Importance of the Study:

Past development efforts in most of the developing countries were focused more in technology generation and dissemination without parallel emphasis on social mobilization and social support service, which are equally important variable affecting development. In this regard MCPW seems to be acting in an integrated manner.

The socio-economic situation of the population in general and women in particular is quite grim. The plans, programs and projects made

in Kathmandu with the help of donors, usually flow like ripples the surface and leave these hard-core poor, who lie like bed rocks at the bottom completely untouched. There are good reasons to target women. Gender equality turns out to be good for everybody. The World Bank reports that societies that discriminate on the basis of gender have greater poverty, slower economic growth, weaker governance, and a lower standard of living. Women are poorer and more disadvantaged than men.

Hence, one approach is to provide micro-credit to the poor women to enable to undertake their enterprises under their interest. The stagnant agriculture sector could achieve a boost in production if women are engaged in income generation. Their engagement will enhance their status. They will also be able to participate as economically active in the main stream development of the country.

Hence, women who not only are better off economically as a result of access to financial services, but they are empowered as well. Simply getting cash into the hands of women (by way of working capital) can lead to increased self-esteem, control and empowerment by helping them achieve greater economic independence and security, which in turn gives them the chance to contribute financially to their households and communities.

The study is important in Nepal because the government has initiated micro-credit programs through the government agencies organized groups of women but also like them are provided commercial credit. Micro-finance is now a proven strategy for reaching up to poor women.

Thus through this study, the impact of the programs could be assessed and attempts could be made to rectify possible defects and

strengthen these programs. The findings may also reveal target group members perceptions, desires and problems, the knowledge of which could enable officials concerned to modify the programs activities accordingly.

1.5 Limitation of the study:

Following are some limitations of the study:

- a) The study is conducted in a selected VDC i.e. Dudhrakshaya VDC of Rupandehi district. Thus, the study does not measure the whole country's micro-credit impact to the targeted group.
- b) The impact of micro-credit program of selected VDC of women may varies form other women with in the country or outside.
- c) The conclusion and findings of this study can not be generalized for the whole country's context.
- d) It is an academic research designed as partial fulfillment of requirements of M.A. in economic studies. So, the result of this study would not be enough to meet the professional need.
 - e) The study is conducted within the given time period and financial constraints.

1.6 Organization of the study

The whole study is divided in to seven chapters. Chapter one is introduction part, second is Review of Literature and chapter third is concerns with Research Methodology. Chapter four deals with Micro-Credit in Nepal, Chapter five is the Profile of Study Area and its Respondents. Chapter six is the Impact Analysis of Micro-Credit and finally Chapter seven is Major Findings, Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation.

CHAPTER -TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Micro-finance refers to small-scale financial services, primarily credit and savings provided to people who farm or fish or herb, who operate small enterprises or micro enterprises where goods are produced, recycled, repaired, or sold. Who provide services, who work for wages or commissions, who gain income from renting out small amount of land, vehicles, draft animals, and groups at the local levels of developing countries, both rural and urban. Many such households have multiple sources of income.

The myth that the rural poor are not credit worthy has been firmly dispelled by several innovative experiments during the last two decades. Women's ability to save manage and return loans with in the background of their fragile livelihood systems have been firmly established by credit experiments in various micro-credit projects like Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Production-Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) in Nepal and Bank Rakyat Indonesia.

Micro-finance has been successfully used as developmental tool to reduce poverty in many countries. At present, micro-finance is being increasingly used in the form of development strategy for achieving the developmental goals. However, the strategy would prove successful only if it is able to strike balance between development and finance. Clients of micro-finance institutions are usually poor and low income people, often living in awful overcrowded setting or living in remote areas with less access to basic amenities and education, water, electricity, banking services, health services, market facilities, etc. Many of them are women, playing a double bottom line role of provider and caretaker at household

level. The poor people do not have enough land for farming. Opportunities of off-farm employment are few and needs to be generated. Additionally, they lack access to convenient, affordable and appropriate financial services.

Stock (1995), in his book explained that it is necessary to prove impact on the intended beneficiaries. This is not easy an immediate question on what impact may be measured on income, wealth, food security, child nutrition or gender relation argues that the tools of impact assessment have so far neglected an assessment of effects which go beyond users or the institutions which serve them to the nature and functioning of financial markets. This may be because micro- credit programs are currently promoted as a strategy for both poverty alleviation and women's empowerment.

Khandker (1998), in his article said that lack of saving and capital make it difficult for many poor people to become self employed and to undertake productive-employment generating activities. Providing credit seems to be a way to generate self-employment opportunities for the poor. But because of lack of physical collateral, they have almost no access to institutional credit. In formal lenders can be a source of credit, but poor households do not gain from investing in productive income-increasing activities because of high interest rates. And these sources are not reliable to poor and they can not save enough through such informal sector. Micro-credit programs which are able to provide credit to the poor at affordable cost and can help them become productive self-employed. Micro-credit program have thus emerged as an antipoverty instrument in many low income countries. They target the poor especially women, with financial services to help them become self employed in rural non-farm activities of their choice.

The small loan has demonstrated that it has big role in helping poor rural women and their households to add family income through various income generating activities. This has helped members add household assets in addition to the reinvestment made for the expansion of their micro- enterprises.

Regular two-weekly center meetings, exposure visits and pre-group training have helped the members to raise their awareness and build up their confidence to a greater extent. Members have now been able to express their ideas more openly and discuss their common issues more clearly and confidently than even before. Women, otherwise socially and economically weak, have now found to be stronger to air their voice against their social and economic backwardness. Women have been found in better position to fight for social emancipation.

The participation of women in the micro-finance activities have high in rural backward areas as the system benefit rural women in greater scale by uplifting them from unexposed society to more open society. The system based on transparency and accountability has encouraged women to get out of the traditional concepts roles and to be equally active development partners as their male counterparts.

Program has contributed target families especially the women to get empowered by themselves through various financial and non-financial initiatives. The participation of women in the group discussion on their common issues and implementation of various development activities have significantly raised their self-confidence as well as have respect from the communities and households as well. The roles of women in their respective household have been found more decisive in influencing male counterparts.

Hashemi (2000), has figured out some issues in micro-credit from the experience of micro-credit program of Bangladesh implemented

through the Grameen Bank. In Bangladesh a little less than a quarter of the rural-population still seems to be within the ranks of the hardcore poor. For the most part of these people are so destitute that they consider themselves not credit worthy. They do not feel they have enough resources to generate income to pay back loans. They therefore self-select themselves out of credit programs membership. So reaching the poorest is one of the major issues in micro-credit. Successful micro-credit operations are dependent on strict screening to ensure that money that is borrowed can be repaid. In this regards destitute household are taken as potential risk as it is felt that they would either consume all income form funded enterprises and thereby be unable to make repayments or would be too poor to sustain even minor losses. Another issue/problem is demand constraints. Generally there is a limit at the local level to how many of micro-enterprise products can be sold. The other issue is micro enterprise expansion problem. Most micro-credit funded activities are profitable only because of the exploitation of family labour. The returns to these activities generally do not cover costs of labor, if it were to be valued at the market rate. Expansion of such activities through bringing in hired labor therefore is not economically feasible since the cost of hired labor would exceed the added value due to such labor inputs. Technological scaling up in most cases is also not feasible.

Micro-finance is termed as the financial services rendered to the deprived groups of the people and small entrepreneurs in savings, credit, remittance, rural insurance, etc. to help them in developing self-employment.

Although many programs have been implemented for poverty alleviation in Nepal, on micro-finance programs are seen as pro-poor and rural based. In Nepal, agriculture based cooperatives were initiated in the 1950s as a first step in micro-finance. The SFDP was transformed in

SFCLs (Small Farmers Cooperative Limited), which have been managed by the farmers themselves. Other micro-finance development programs, including priority and deprived sector credit programs and donor supported various micro-credit programs were launched during the period.

Micro-finance has been particularly recognized as an effective development intervention for basic two reasons:

-) The services provided through micro-finance can be targeted specifically at the poor and poorest of the poor.
-) These services can make a significant contribution to the socio-economic status of the targeted community.

Robinson (2001), in his research work found that saving services allow savers to store excess liquidity for future use and to obtain returns to on their investments credit services enable the use of anticipated income for current investment or consumption. Overall micro-finance services can help low-income people reduce risk, improve management, raise productivity, obtain higher returns on investment, increase their incomes, and improve the quality of their lives and those of their dependents.

Savers and borrowers in micro-finance program form different countries give their views on the financial services they use and on the roles these services have played in their economic and households activities. To assess the impact of MFI's in general questions are asked. Such as, poor people understand micro-finance help the economically active poor expand and diversify their enterprises and increase their incomes? Can access to financial services enhance the quality of life of the clients of micro-finance institutions? Can access to micro-finance help economically active poor in times of severe household's difficulty? And can successful micro-finance institutions promote the self-

confidence of their clients? The choices of the clients heard in this chapter provide strong indication that the answers to all these questions are yes. But these clients are among the small minority of the economically active poor who have access to micro-finance institutions.

2.2 National Context

Acharya (1994), in her thesis stated that women in Nepal are the poorest and disadvantaged group due to social, legal and intra-household discrimination. As a result of which education, health and nutrition status of women including girl child are much lower than that for men particularly in rural areas. They work harder and longer than men. Women's work at home and outside is 11 hours as against 8 hours per day of men. Even, then, women rarely own land because land is inherited patriarchal. This hinders the women from obtaining credit. Lack of credit limits access to improved technology, agricultural input and information. Therefore, there is a need of such programs for women which can make equal access to the economic activities and resources and other social programs to activate them to meet contemporary rural development program.

Fighting poverty with micro-finance (2000), conducted a study about Economic Development of the poor is the most difficult tasks as they have certain unique deficiencies, they are;

- i. Illiteracy, lack of access to knowledge and information;
- ii. Landlessness or small farms;
- iii. Lack of access to credit and modern inputs;
- iv. Lack of skill and
- v. Lack of marketing support

For economic development of the poor, as an individual or as a group, the most crucial input is credit. Many studies have pointed out that

for all kinds of income generation activities based on land, water, skill, industry, trade, service etc, credit is one of the basic inputs and access to it by the poor is the most difficult due to the following reasons:

1. Below creditworthiness.
2. Because of the multiple credit needs the credit obtained for productive purpose is diverted to non-productive purpose such as consumption and social ceremonies.
3. Through the poor have multiple credit needs the size of credit for each item is small which are difficult to be obtained from the banking institutions.

The poor needs credit very frequently for shorter duration but it is difficult to get small loans frequently from the financial institutions.

CSD (2000), in its annual report wrote the realization of the fact that the lack of capital has prevented majority of rural people from utilizing their skills for productive purposes, CSD has initiated Self-help Banking Program (SBP), an micro-finance program based on Grameen Banking system of Bangladesh in September 1993 with the broad objective of advancing micro-credit without collateral security to the poor and disadvantaged rural women. Presently SBP has been implemented in the selected VDCs and municipalities of Siraha, Saptari, Udayapur, Dhanusa, Mahottari and Dang District through 2 project offices and 23 branch offices. Supported by different international agencies and loan fund has been received from Grameen Trust, Bangladesh, rural self-Reliance Fund and different commercial banks of the country. Its main objectives are:

To provide services to poor marginal people having less than 10 kattha (0.3 ha.) of land in Terai and 10 ropanis (0.5 ha.) of land in hill areas or annual per capita income below Rs. 2500.

-) To provide credit and banking service to poor women on priority basis.
-) To organize the members into groups and provide credit to women on priority basis.

Form groups comprising of five women and center comprising 2 to 8 groups

Major components of service delivery of CSD are:

- ❖ Awareness raising and institution building.
- ❖ Saving and credit.
- ❖ Natural resource management.
- ❖ Public auditing for program's transparency.

Fighting poverty with micro-finance (2000), conducted a study about Economic Development of the poor is the most difficult tasks as they have certain unique deficiencies, most important being.

- I. Illiteracy and/or lack of access to knowledge and information;
- II. Landlessness or small farms;
- III. Lack of access to credit and modern inputs;
- IV. Lack of skill and
- V. Lack of marketing support.

For economic development of the poor, as an individual or as a group, the most crucial input is credit. Many studies have pointed out that for all kinds of income generation activities based on land, water, skill, industry, trade, service etc, credit is one of the basic inputs and access to it by the poor is the most difficult due to the following reasons:

-) Low creditworthiness.

-) Because of the multiple credit needs the credit obtained for productive purpose is diverted to non-productive purpose such as consumption and social ceremonies.
-) Through the poor have multiple credit needs the size of credit for each item is small which are difficult to be obtained from the banking institutions.
-) The poor needs credit very frequently for shorter duration but it is difficult to get small loans frequently from the financial institutions.

NRB (2007), in his research work outlined that the institutions that deliver these services can develop within few years, into sustainable organizations with steady growing outreach. Economic transformation of the poor and deprived rural population lies on the shift in rural economic activities from subsistence to commercial. The savings and investment of the rural population are low due to low earnings. To mitigate the saving investment gap in the rural economy, universal access to rural finance would be desirable. Despite the various endeavors, the outreach of financial institutions has covered only 30 to 35 percent of the population. It means that there are still 65 to 70 percent people relying on merchants, money lenders, traditional cooperatives, etc. for financing on socio-economic activities with high interest rates. In the absence of access to formal sources of credit, the poor of the rural areas continue to be subjected to exploitative terms (high interest, gift, premiums, free labor, bonded labor, etc.) feeding the perpetual cycle of indebtedness and poverty.

Micro-finance is coined as the financial service rendered to the deprived group of the people and small entrepreneurs to help them in developing self-employment opportunities and various income generation activities. Usually, micro-finance is a program that serves a large number of clients with reference to women/deprived people and works at a

grassroots level with financial sustainability. The main objective of a micro-finance program is to provide quality service to the largest number of the deprived population.

Nepal has three decades of experience in micro-finance. Although many programs have been implemented for poverty alleviation in Nepal, only micro-finance programs are seen as pro-poor and rural based. The micro-finance revolution has changed attitudes towards the poor in many countries and in some has provided substantial flows of credit, often to very low-income groups or household, who would normally be excluded by conventional financial institution. Bangladesh is the starkest example of a very poor country where currently roughly one quarter of rural households are direct beneficiaries of these programs.

Mathema (2008), in his research paper analyzed that micro-finance practitioners around the world have found very effective tool for bringing up their economic and social status thereby assisting in poverty reduction. It is because micro-credit to the poor creates small business opportunities that help to improve the socio-economic condition of deprived communities especially in rural areas. In the Nepalese context too, micro-finance has been used and more importantly could be a powerful too for gradual reduction of poverty. It enables poor and destitute to take advantages of existing opportunities, builds up their assets, generates self-employment avenues, develops micro enterprise, and raises income level. Build-up self-confidence, empowers women and provides opportunities to escape from object poverty and inequality.

Nepal News Daily (2008) explained that Nepal is one of the poorest country in the world and the poorest in the south Asia region. Its poverty reduction rate is low. The main reasons for this low poverty reduction rate are:

1. Low per capital income,

2. Concentrated urban growth, and
3. High population growth rate.

Out of a population of 25 million, 31 percent are in below the poverty line. Most of the poor people live in rural areas and have little opportunity. Micro-finance could help poor people who have no collateral, but a willingness to work and a desire to do some business activities from which he/she will acquire employment as well as income.

Although many programs have been implemented for poverty alleviation in Nepal, only micro-finance programs are seen as a poor targeted and rural based.

In the past decade, micro-finance has been recognized as a particularly effective development intervention for three basic reasons:

1. The services provided can be targeted specifically at the poor and poorest of the poor.
2. These services can make a significant contribution to the socio-economic status of the targeted community.
3. The institutions that deliver these services can develop, within a few years, into sustainable organizations with steadily growing outreach.

A country with 25 millions populations around 31 percent of them is living below poverty line. Nepal is grappling with a number of problems whose roots lie on extreme poverty and inequality subsisting across backward communities across the country. At a time when 80 percent of the rural population have no access to formal credit institutions, there is no alternative to micro-credit to serve them. Micro-credit normally means credit of less than Rs. 30,000 (around US\$ 430) and given without collateral and less paperwork. A country like Nepal needs micro-credit a lot not only for the purpose of poverty reduction but also to deepen the social empowerment of women and backward people. (www.nepalnews.com.np/8/22/2008).

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study is mainly focused on micro-credit program. As per the nature of the study it has been illustrated with the case study, so the present research design of the study is descriptive research. It is applied to analyze and interpret the qualitative and quantitative data collected from the concerned field. The purpose of this case study is to describe the impact of micro-credit on women socio-economic status and their empowerment.

3.2 Nature of Data

This study is based on the primary as well as secondary data, but the focus is given to the primary data, which is collected from field survey using structured questionnaire, observation and interaction with different respondent. The secondary data for research is collected from the published, unpublished documents, articles, dissertation, journals, books, economic survey etc.

3.3 Site Selection

The study is conducted at Dudhrakshaya VDC of Rupandehi district. The Rational of choosing this VDC is, as the micro-credit programme has been launching since 10 years by the 'Janasewa Swabalamban Multipurpose Co-operative'. And it would be better for comparative study between the loan lee of micro-credit and their counter parts that are non-loan lee of micro credit programme.

3.4 Population and Sampling

There are 120 households in Ward No.7. Among them 38 households are selected by simple random sampling. Thus the study only focuses on those active borrowers. All the respondents are women as the purpose of the study is to analyze the socio-economic status and empowerment of women due to micro-credit programme. The sample is 40 percent of total universe.

3.5 Sample Technique

Sampling method has been used to fill up the questionnaires and observation and interaction is made for cross-checking. From the list of sample, 38 members are drawn by applying simple random sampling without replacement.

3.6 Data Collection Techniques

For the case study approach primary data or information is collected from various procedures. First of all the researcher visited the 'Janasewa Swabalamban Multipurpose Co-operatives' and after taking the information about the programme, the field survey is made.

I. Questionnaire

To get the primary data, the structured questionnaire is developed, and the questionnaire is filled up by the researcher himself visiting all selected women.

II. Interview

A checklist is developed for the interview of the household head, the purpose of interviewing household is to cross-check the information obtained from filled up questionnaires.

III. Observation:

The researcher visited the study area and observed the women's situation with the help of some well-reputed, active and literate women of same VDC.

3.7 Data Presentation and Analysis

To make the study more reliable qualitative study is also made. The collected data are first processed through validation, editing and coding. Secondly the processed data are presented in tabular form.

Simple statistical tool like percentage, has been used to present data.

CHAPTER- FOUR

MICRO - CREDIT IN NEPAL

4.1 Micro-credit in Nepal

In this topic, we deal with the development of micro-credit in Nepal concerns, policies specially derived by past experiences based on the secondary information. As the study focuses on the role of micro-credit in socio-economic upliftment of women in Nepal, obviously it gives a glance at the status of Nepalese women. The following table gives the bird eye view of the status of women in Nepal.

Status of Women

Table No. 1

S. N	Description	Male	Female
1.	Population (in Percent)	49.96	50.04
2.	Average Age (in year)	61.8	62.2
3.	Literacy Rate (above 15 years in percent)	62.2	34.6
4.	Participation in Council of Ministers (in percent)	94.45	5.55
5.	Member of House of Representative (in percent)	86.67	13.33
6.	Participation in Civil Service (in percent)	91.45	8.55
7.	Judges (in percent)	97.96	2.04
8.	Teacher (in percent)	74	26
9.	Participation of foreign employment (in percent)	89.15	10.85
10.	Participation in Communication Sectors (in percent)	88	12
11.	Land Ownership (in percent)	89.16	10.83
12.	House Ownership	94.49	5.51

Sources: National Population Census Report, 2001, CBS.

The above figure highlights the current position and situation of women in present context. Though, the world is heading towards twenty first century, the women of Nepal are still fighting for their fundamental

rights and needs. The population of women consist 50.05 percent of total population and contributing 60.5 percent to agriculture production but they have only 10.83 percent ownership on land and 5.51 percent ownership on houses.

As micro-credit is a scheme that aims to provide small loans and saving facilities to those who are excluded from commercial bank's services. This has been promoted as an essential strategy for reducing poverty in all of its forms. Access to these facilities is seen as a way of providing the poor with opportunities for self-reliance through entrepreneurship, cushioning the poor against economic shocks and providing a program of social empowerment for poor women and in their communities.

A micro-credit program is targeted to reduce poverty prevailing among rural population in Nepal. It recognizes the need for capital where the rate of household saving is very low. Credit is believed to remove financial constraint of the poor and engage them in productive work. Not only for increased level of household consumption but also for generating saving and future investment by their income.

In Nepal, the beginning of institutional credit goes back to 1956 when rural credit co-operative was established for the first time in Rapati valley of Chitwan to extend credit to resettle. Co-operative societies having single (credit) and multi purpose function provided credit to members for undertaking income generating activities basically in agriculture sectors. The Co-operative Banks and later the Agriculture Development Bank are established for providing credit to co-operatives and farmers including small entrepreneurs. In 1974, Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the central bank of Nepal, directed commercial banks to disburse at least 5 percent of their deposit in credit to small sectors. Latter, the percentage was raised to 12 percent in the view of the increasing demand

for credit by this sector. This sector included agriculture, cottage industries etc, which employed majority of the population and contributed significantly to the national economy. The government implemented production credit for rural women and micro-credit project for women which identify and organize women and link with then the credit disbursed by commercial and development banks. These two programs are exclusively for the women who live below the officially defined poverty level. Similarly, Agriculture Development Bank Nepal (ADB/N) started a targeted credit program entitled "Small Farmers Development Program (SFDP)" as early as in 1975/76. SFDP has targeted its credit to both the poor men and women population. However, within SFDP, the women are exclusively targeted under a separate women development program where the groups of women are organized and women staff of SFDP links them to access SFDP credit without collateral. The programs also arranges for providing inputs and services for community development integrating it with credit disbursed on a group guarantee basis.

Simultaneously, considering very limited share, less than 1 percent in total credit disbursed of commercial banks on agriculture credit, central bank directed commercial banks in 1974 to invest at least 5 percent of total deposits in "Small Sector" to increase flow of bank credit towards developing small farmers, industries and other small sectors. This scheme was known as "Small Sector Supervised Credit" which was renamed as "Priority Sector Credit" in 1976 and further renamed as "Intensive Banking Programs (IBP)" in 1981 with the increasing need of the institutional financing mechanism for rural women, a program to ensure women was started in 1981/82 with the introduction of Women Development Program (WDP) within the operational framework of SFDP. Soon after, in 1982, the Women Development Division (WDD) of

the Ministry of Local Development (MLD) introduced in Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) project with two public commercial banks NBL, RBB and UNICEF as their partners and the program was specially targeted to women.

The micro-credit sectors gained momentum after 1990 with the restoration of democracy and surges in involvement of government, semi-government sectors. As of today, Government of Nepal has introduced Gramin Banking concept in to the country opening five Regional Grameen Bikas Banks. In addition, currently many NGOs have been providing micro-credit services either using Grameen Model or grass-root level institution building model. A few of these are Development Projects Service Center (DEPROSC-Nepal), Social Welfare Council, CEPRED-Nepal or saving and Credit Group models. There is also huge Asian Development Bank funded Micro Credit Project for Women (MCPW) which aims at development mechanism to use NGOs as credit agents to connect clients to commercial banks and the implementation of the project started in 1994. WDD of MLD and ADB are administering MCPW program.

Thus, under Nepalese circumstances, the micro-credit sectors are complex phenomenon comprising SFDP, PCRW, IBP, MCPW, Grameen Bank, NGOs and multilateral and bilateral institution initiated program and Saving and Credit Co-operatives. Currently there are more than 70 institutions (national regional and district level) and 750 saving and Credit Co-operatives are operating in micro-credit services in rural areas of Nepal.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world and is one of the least poor in the South Asian Region. Its poverty reduction rate is the lowest in the South Asian Region. Main reasons of this low poverty

reduction are; low per capital income, urban concentrated growth, high population growth rate etc.

Thirty-one percent population lies below poverty line and most of the poor live in rural areas having no opportunities. Micro-credit delivery mechanisms could help these poor people who have no collateral assistance. They, who have willingness to work and want to start their own business will get employment and eventually earn income from the same.

Being the poorest country in the world, major objectives of most of the plans and programs of Nepal are poverty alleviation. Many programs are seen as a poor-targeted rural based programs as well as micro-credit have proved to be one of the most significant contributors to poverty alleviation and women empowerment. It is an important means of breaking the various circles of poverty and uplifts the economic status of the poor. Nepal initiated rural micro-finance since 1970 through the establishment of credit co-operatives, implementation of Priority Sector Credit Program and Small Farmers Development Program (SFDP).

The goal of micro- credit services is to create income and employment opportunities for the rural poor people providing micro credit and mobilizing savings. The Ninth Plan of the country has considered rural credit to be the key part of poverty reduction. The Tenth Plan also has emphasized it for poverty reduction in the targeted areas. This micro-credit has expected to contribute to accelerate the participatory approach to development becomes increasingly accepted, the status of women has improved partly.

Micro-credit programs in Nepal have different modalities. Some are community based such as Saving and Credit Co-operatives, some are sectors based such as Priority Sectors Program that includes agriculture, cottage and small industries and services are implemented though the

commercial banks. Intensive Banking Programs introduced by NRB focuses on a particular area for its upliftment. The Deprived Sectors Landing Program focuses on poor people. The Production Credit for Rural Women and Rural Development Banks are gender based program has made it possible for rural women to have access and control over income. It has played a very positive role in women development.

4.2 Promotional Role of the Government and Central Bank

The first promotion step taken by government (Ministry of Local Development) and NRB was the collaborative program, Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW). Government and NRB have their share participation in Grameen Bikas Banks.

Policy taken by the central bank to grant limited banking license to NGOs and SCCs is also a new approach to promote micro-finance institutions. It has helped to promote the financial intermediaries in the financial system. The government has established the Rural Self Reliance Fund (RSRF) in 1990 with the objective of providing wholesale loan to SCCs and NGOs. This fund is administered by NRB.

With the help of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Government and NRB Rural Micro-Finance Development Center (RMDC) were formed in 1997. RMDC was register on October 30, 1998 with a mandate to operate as a development bank. This institution has been working as a wholesale credit supplier to financial intermediaries working micro-credit. As the central bank is gradually phasing out priority Sector Credit Program, the role of RMDC in micro-credit is gaining grand success day by day.

With the financial sector reform strategy, the government and Central Bank are withdrawing from the equity participation in the

financial institutions. Therefore, the role in future would be that of a facilitator only.

4.3 Various Micro-credit Programs and Institutions in Nepal

4.3.1 Small Sectors Credit Program

The Small Sectors Credit Program (SSCP) was introduced in April, 1974 A.D. which was, first directed credit program. It was implemented through commercial banks and at least 5 percent of the total deposit of the banks must be provided in small sectors.

4.3.2 Small Farmer Co-operatives Ltd.

In 1975, ADB/N started to form joint liability groups of small farmers through its sub project offices. The high overheads and low collection rates of the sub project offices however led experts to question the sustainability of this approach. In 1987, the ADB/N introduced an action research institutional development program with the support of GTZ. In 1993, as the result of the Institutional Development Program, the first four sub project offices were transformed into Small Farmer Co-operatives. Since then, 143 Small Farmers Co-operative have been established in 36 districts of the country. Currently Small Farmers Co-operative Ltd. in Nepal covers nearly 80,000 rural households. The Small Farmer Co-operatives are multi service co-operatives designed to deliver primarily financial services, but also non-financial services to its members in rural areas.

4.3.3 Priority Sector Credit Program

In July 1976, definition for priority Sectors Credit Program (PSCP) was made credit to the agriculture, cottage industry and service sectors come into account in priority sector. This was the first participation of the

commercial bank in the area of micro-credit. The commercial banks were required to lend at least 7 percent of their total deposit to such areas specified as the priority sector. This program has phased out from 2007.

4.3.4 Intensive Banking Program

Nepal Rastra Bank initiated the Intensive Banking Program (IBP) in 1982 with many efforts to accelerate the priority sector lending program. It is the developed version of Small Sector Credit Program. This is a well coordinated program that emphasizes project viability instead of collateral, thereby allowing the underprivileged section of the society to take advantage of credit opportunities. The NRB rose minimum lending of 7 percent of total lending up to 12 percent in this sector.

4.3.5 Production Credit for Rural Women

The production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) was initiated in 1982. PCRW is joint effort of Government office, Women Development Office and Commercial Banks. This is basically gender-based program. PCRW is running under the financial assistance of International Fund for Agriculture Development of NRB, Government and Commercial Banks.

4.3.6 Financial Intermediary Non-government Organization

In the 1990s, NRB began providing limited banking licenses to NGOs, active in the micro-credit area. It allowed NGOs to borrow funds from local and foreign institutions to on-lend to credit groups. The Act was revised in August 2002 to allow FINGOs to mobilized member's saving.

4.3.7 Rural Development Banks

The Rural Development Banks (The Grameen Model) are also micro-credit institution focused on women i.e. the Grameen Model targets rural women from households with less than 0.6 hectare in Terai or 0.5 hectare in hills of land. Following the successful implementation of Grameen Banking in Bangladesh, Nepal started Grameen Bank Replication Program in 1993 with an objective of poverty reduction by providing access of credit to the rural poor. The basic objectives of these banks are to provide easy access to credit to the deprived section of the society, especially the women from rural poor households. For undertaking income generating activities and help reduces the level of poverty among the rural poor households.

The government has established five Grameen Banks in each development region of the country. The Nepal Rastra Bank and commercial banks paid the initial capital of the bank. In 2049/50 B.S. a bank in Biratnagar for Eastern Development Region and another in Dhangadi for Far Western Development Region was established. In 2051/50 B.S. another Grameen Bank in Butawal for the Western Development Region were established. Similarly, Grameen Bank for the Mid-Region was established Janakpur during 2053/54 B.S.

In ten years, these five Grameen Banks in five development region of the country have been able to form more than 34,000 groups comprising 170,000 member groups. The maximum amount of loan is Rs 30,000 per borrower. The total loan disbursed these banks so far is Rs. 8.9 billion of which Rs. 7.6 billion is repaid and Rs. 1.3 billion outstanding. This program covers 43 districts of the country and 966 Village Development Committee (about one four of total VDCs) with the loan operation, 153 thousand women have taken loan form the micro-credit program. This program is successful in terms of access of women

of formal credit although the coverage is very low (less than 3 percent of women have such access). But these programs have been successful in mobilizing women for their empowerment and upliftment.

The operations modalities of Grameen Bank is first to identify the villages and poor which motivate and organize the women in groups of five women each and give compulsory training to the group member at least seven days to provide information to banks to lending procedures and make women aware of the rules and regulations of credits. The training also aims to make women able to read and write their own name. The Grameen Bank provides and collects loans at the villages. Loans are extended to individual group members after the groups guarantee it. Group members act as guarantee to each other's loans. No physical collateral is required. Any rural women from house with less than 0.6 hectare of land in the Terai or 0.5 hectare in Hills are eligible to join the groups and after having passed the group recognition test, the group member becomes eligible for the loan. The bank goes to the borrower themselves during the group meeting at the villages. The purpose of loan is to provide an opportunity to the rural poor women to engage into entrepreneurial activities. The bank provides loan/credit up to Rs 5,000 per borrower in the first phase and this amount gradually increases up to Rs. 25,000 in the successive period. Saving in groups is compulsory and each week member saves some amount of money in addition to their contribution of 5 percent of loan amount deposited while receiving credit

4.3.8 Micro-Credit for Poor Women

The Micro-credit for Poor Women (MCPW) was commenced in 1994 with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank in association with Nepal Bank Ltd. and Rastriya Banijya Bank. The main objectives of this project are to provide an access to credit to the women in both the rural and urban areas. The MCPW involves banks, NGOs and

Financial Intermediaries to increase the chance of the project becoming viable.

4.3.9 Rural Micro-finance Development Center

Rural Micro-finance Development Center Ltd (RMDC) is and apex micro-finance institutions (MIFSs), such as micro-finance development banks, saving and credit co-operatives and financial intermediary NGOs which are providing micro-finance services to the poor, the marginalized and the deprived groups of people. RMDC also provides supports to MFIs for their institutional and organizational capacity building and skill upgrade of their clients. RMDC was registered on October 30, 1998 as a public limited company under the companies Act, 1996 with a mandate to operate as a development bank within the framework of the Development Bank Act 1995. Currently, it is operating under the Umbrella Act, Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and the Companies Act, 2006. It stated its functions in January 2000. The primary objectives of RMDC is to provide micro-finance facilities through the implementing agencies to the rural poor households mainly the women to undertake viable farm and off farm economic activities and thereby help to improve their quality of life.

4.3.10 Village Banking Model

Village Banking Model (VBM) is initiated in Nepal in 1991 as a micro-credit component of the Women's Empowerment Program of USAID implemented through PACT. Nepal in partnership with local NGOs Saving and Credit Co-operatives, Micro-credit Development Banks, Village Banks are community managed Credit and Savings associations established to provide access to financial services in rural areas, build a community self-help group members accumulate saving.

4.3.11 Nepal Federation of Saving and Credit Union

Nepal Federation of Saving and Credit Union is the federation of 414 saving and Credit Co-operatives and was registered in the year 1993. The organization is yet to cover all the saving and Credit Co-operatives into its umbrella.

4.3.12 Rural Self-reliance Fund

The Rural Self-reliance Fund (RSRF) initiated by the government in 1991 and it is now executed by NRB to provide funds to assist NGOs, which in turn on lend to clients. Under this program, NGOs play the role of financial intermediaries.

The objective of the fund is to provide financial assistance to the deprived sector (rural poor who own up to 0.6 hectares of land) for carrying out income generating activities using their won labor, skill and other local resources. Funds for the RSRF are provided through the budgetary allocation of Government. In fiscal year 1991/92 Government provided 10 million and another 10 million in the following fiscal year.

NGOs are responsible for identifying the geographical working areas and target clients, organizing the clients into groups and motivating them to save on regular basis. Once the groups have been successfully formed and have saved regularly for minimum period of six month, the NGOs approach RSRF with an investment plan and program for additional financial resources, not to exceeds 15 times the total saving generated by the group (up to maximum amount of Rs 50,000), no collateral is required. Funds are lent to the NGOs for a period of 3 years at an interest rate of 8 percent per year including six months grace period. If the NGOs repay the loan to RSRF on time, 75 percent interest grant is providing to cover administrative cost.

4.3.13 NGO/ Micro Finance Development Bank

NGOs were established in different periods which later developed into Microfinance Development Banks. Nirdhan (NGO) to Nirdhan Utthan Bank, Development Project Service Center, Nepal (NGO) into Depose Development Bank, Neighborhood Society Service Center, (NGO) into Chhimek Development Bank and Center for self-Help Development (NGO) into Shawalamban Development Bank. Some NGOs continued their previous activities and some shared the activities with the new established Development Bank.

The organizational development of Agriculture Development Bank to support the small farmers has led to the establishment of Small Farmers Co-operatives Limited (SFCL). With the passage of time the SFCLs also felt the need of support for its development and to build capacity to extend its activities in a better way. The Sana Kisan Bikas Bank (SKBB) was established in July 2001 to fulfill the need of an institution to provide wholesale credit to the SFCLs.

4.3.14 Women and Co-operative Societies

Women in Nepal are still unable to make decisions, even in their own personal business, due to the lack of information and support. To tackle this problem, a group of women assembled to create a women co-operative society limited with the objective to form a special financial institution that would provide easy credit access to women in and around Kathmandu valley. Women co-operative Society is the first women-only banking and credit organization established in March 12, 1995.

It aims to uplift the socio-economic condition of urban and rural women through financial services by mobilizing internal and external saving. This organization mobilizes urban and rural saving and provides credit to women by allowing a lower interest rate compared to men. WCS is involved in providing services in two major activities, banking

services from Kathmandu office and providing credit to rural poor women under its rural micro-credit program. WCS provides micro-credit for women in rural area where women form groups and hold the group as collateral for the loan in the micro-credit program.

Micro-credit program is operated through financial assistance from Grameen Trust, Bangladesh and some commercial banks of Nepal. WCS started micro-credit program under the Grameen Banking Model in 1998. It operates its micro-credit program in those areas where traditional banking facilities are not easily available and women are most deprived from the credit system. Up to December 31, 2004, investment amount of WCS is Rs. 125,483,000, repayment amount is Rs. 92,389,000. And outstanding amount is Rs. 3309400. Group saving balance is Rs. 13,064,000 and repayment rate is 99 percent. WCS has covered 60 VDCs consisting 272 centers. It has 7229 members and 4628 active borrowers. It has already provided scholarship to 139 students.

4.3.15 Nirdhan Utthan Bank

Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. is the product of the initiative of Nirdhan a NGO. NUBL registered as a company in November 1998 and in April 1999. NRB granted license to undertake banking activities under the development bank Act 1996. But the development bank Act 1996 has been redeemed with the commence of Banks and Financial Ordinance 2005 (BAFIA). NUBL started its operations from July 1999 after Nirdhan handed overall its micro- credit operations. Its vision is to be a bank with social conscience that enables poor to contribute equally to a prosperous, self reliant rural society through self employment and social awareness and also help to reduce poverty in Nepal. The vision and mission of NURB has the primary goals to reach to a maximum number of poor households with potential and financial viability by adopting proven

delivery mechanism, develop a well managed institution with high staff morality and enhance women's self-respect through social awareness, proper use and timely repayments of loan. Regular saving and provision of micro credit services. NUBL has also chosen to types of model as a landing methodology. One is individual lending based on group solidarity and without collateral based on village banking model.

As of July 2006, the authorized capital of NUBL is Rs. 50 million, issued capital is Rs. 25 million and paid up capital is Rs. 27.44 million. Out of the total paid up capital, the promoters own 79.5 percent and general public own 20.5 percent share.

4.3.16 The Center For Microfinance

The Center for Microfinance is a non government organization of microfinance sector. It is an autonomous organization established in July 2000 as a non profit organization. It is an outcome in response to growing demand for a national focal point for the microfinance sector. This organization was previously a project implemented by Canadian Centre for International Studies (CECI), a leading INGO engaged in microfinance in Nepal. With a vision of sustainable access to microfinance services for the poor, CMF mission is to promote and strengthen microfinance services through capacity building, training, knowledge management, research, policy lobbying, consultancy and net working with mutual trust and co-operation among service recipients practitioners and stake holders. The Center has program management partnership with 80 MFIs in 39 districts in Nepal. With the twin goal as such strengthen micro-credit institutions that serve the poor, particularly and excluded groups and enhance service delivery capacity of development partners that promote the micro-credit sector.

4.3.17. Chhimek Bikash Bank Ltd.

Neighborhood Society service center (NSSC) supported in the establishment of Chhimek Bikas Bank (CBB). CBB was registered under company register office in 2001, under Company Act 1997 and received license from NRB January 2002 as per development Act 1996.

The vision of CBB is to enable the poor to contribute equally to a prosperous, self reliant rural society through self employment, social awareness and reduction of poverty. With this vision, the objective of the CBB is set to improve the socio economic condition of the poor, the landless, assets less and deprived rural women through micro finance services.

The authorized capital of CBB is Rs. 60 million, issued capital Rs. 30 million and paid up capital Rs. 10 million. Out of the paid up capital 36 percent is owned by class A, CBs, 12 percent by Neighborhood Society Service Center, 30 percent by public share holders and 22 percent by others.

4.3.18. Swabalamban Bikas Bank Ltd.

Swabalamban Bikas Bank Ltd (SB Bank) was registered under Companies Acts 1997, obtained license form NRB in January 3, 2002 to operate under Development Bank Act 1996 and started its operation on January 14, 2002. SB bank has been promoted by Center for Self help Development (CSD) and the overall assets and liabilities of CDS were taken over by SB Bank on January 14, 2002. The primary objective of SB bank is to provide micro-credit services to the disadvantaged section of the rural women to uplift their socio-economic status and also to make the maximum use of their existing skills and resources. The disadvantaged section of the rural woman includes those families owing not more than one bigha of land or having per capital income not more than Rs. 4400.

The authorized capital of SB Bank is Rs 24 million and issued and paid up capital is Rs. 10 million. Out of the total paid up capital 70 percent is with the institution and individual promoters and rest 30 percent is allocated for the general public.

4.3.19 Others Micro-credit Programs and Institutions

There are many other micro-credit programs and institutions are actively run in Nepal. Some of them are as follows;

1. Development Project Service Center Nepal.
2. Center for Self-half Development
3. Neighborhood Society Service Center
4. Grameen Network Nepal
5. Saving and Credit Co-operative
6. Nirdhan NGOs
7. Small Farmers Co-operative Ltd
8. INGOs and NGOs

Micro credit is financial and social intermediation, micro credit provides financial services like micro credit, micro saving, micro insurance and micro remittance. MF services are attracting rural poor backward women, but due to the many constraints the delivery process of micro finance is not satisfactory. Most of the women get benefit from the service but the improvement on their savings, consumption pattern is very slow this is because of the loan amount that is provided for these women is very small. Despite these hurdle the role of micro-institutions, that for the improvement of living standard, reduction for poverty can't be ignored.

CHAPTER - FIVE

PROFILE OF STUDY AREA AND ITS RESPONDANTS

5.1 Introduction of Rupandehi District

Rupandehi a part of Lumbini zone, is one of the district of Nepal, Bhairahawa is headquarter of Rupandehi and it covers 1,360 km² of total Nepal. It has 69 VDCs and two Municipalities. It has Nawalparasi in the east, Kapilvastu in the west, likewise Palpa in North and Utter Pradesh of India in south.

National population census Report 2001 shows that, the total population of Rupandehi District is 708,419. Out of which 360,773 are male and 347,646 are female. The total number of is 117,856. The major ethnic groups of the district are Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Tharu, Newar, Kami, etc. Main occupation of the people of this area is farming, business, service, production, teaching etc.

The district is backward in economic as well as social sector as the per-capital GDP is \$ 1358 and the human development index is 0.546 (HDI, 2004). Comparatively the female are more backward than male because the female literacy rate is 55.07% where as male literacy rate is 74.28% (HDI, 2004).

To uplift the living standard of those people, various programme thorough different organization is being launched. Among that organization, micro credit is one of the effective programme. Micro-credit programme helps to develop the financial activity in the country. The objective of micro-credit programme is to save and easy access to credit without collateral to poor people of rural area. It helps the deprived sections if the society specially the women from rural poor households. This income generating activities helps to reduce the level of poverty in the rural household areas.

5.2 Introduction of Dudhraksha VDC and Micro-credit Programs

Dudhraksha VDC is situated at 20 km north from the district headquarter Bhairahawa. The VDC covers the 72.39 km² of whole Nepal. It has Parroha VDC in east, Saljhandi in west, Palpa district in north and Gajedi and Suryapura in south.

According to the population census 2001, the total population of VDC is 16,210 out of which, 8228 are female and 7982 are male the population density is 224 km and the population growth rate is 3.95. The main castes of the VDC are Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Tharu, Newar, Kami, etc. Hinduism is the highly accepted religion in this VDC. Agriculture is the main occupation to raise the live stocks. Almost 80 percent of the total household are engaged in there occupation where paddy, wheat, maize, millet are the major crops.

Janasewa Swabalamban Multiple Co-operative is launching micro-credit programme in Dudhraksha VDC under the provision Nepal Rastra Bank. In Dudhraksha VDC there are 120 members active in micro-credit programme. The co-operative has providing its service from B.S. 2053. The rate of interest that the Co-operative provides for the saving is 10 percent and for the purpose of credit is 15 percent. Out of 120 household in ward No. 7, 38 household are selected using simple random sampling without replacement for the purpose of study and all the selected samples are supposed to be active members of Co-operative.

The data are analyzed by using various tools and techniques. Whether the data are in the form of qualitative or quantitative form which starts with the general background of respondent.

5.3 Cast Distribution of Respondents

Table 5.3

Caste distribution of respondents

Caste	Total Member	Percentage
Brahmin	12	31.57
Chhetri	10	26.32
Magar	5	13.16
Tharu	3	7.89
Newar	2	5.27
Kami	2	5.27
Others	4	10.52
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

The above table shows that in the study area majority of members belongs to Brahmin and Chhetri, 31.57 percent of members comes from Brahmin cast and 26.32 from Chhetri caste. Magar, Tharu, Newar, Kami and Others are 13.16, 7.89, 5.27 and 10.52 percent respectively. Thus the VDC is multiethnic world comprising prominently six major ethnic groups.

5.4 Age Group of Respondents

Table 5.4

Age Group of Respondents

Age Group	No. of Respondent	Percentage
20-30	7	18.43
30-40	10	26.32
40-50	12	31.57
50-60	5	13.15
60-70	4	10.53
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Table shows that the, the women of age group between 40-50 have heavy financial load for their survival, as they have the social responsibilities of giving education, marriage of their children etc. The

smallest number of respondent is from age group 60-70. As being old they have less responsibility to their family.

5.5 Educational Status of Respondents

Table 5.5

Educational Status of Respondents

Education level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	14	36.84
Joined Adult literacy class	8	21.05
Primary school	7	18.42
Secondary school	6	15.79
Higher secondary	3	7.90
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

The table 5.5 shows that the education status of women is not good, 36.84 percent of women are found to be illiterate and the only 7.9 percent reached the higher secondary level. It indicates sheer negligence of concerned authority to educate women in Rupandehi.

5.6 Family Size, Family Head of the Respondents

5.6.1 Family size of the Respondent

Table 5.6.1

Family size of the Respondent

No. of Family member	No. of family	percentage
1 – 3	5	13.15
4 – 6	15	39.48
7 – 9	18	47.37
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

The data shows that still the family size of rural people is large as 47.37 percent respondent belongs to large size family. 39.48 percent are from medium size family and only 13.15 percent are from small size.

5.6.2 Family Head of the Respondents

Table 5.6.2

Family Head of the Respondents

Category	No. of family	percentage
Herself	7	18.42
Husband	20	52.63
Others	11	28.95
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

The table shows that the majority of households are mostly male, headed, clearly showing the patriarchic family system, which is often blamed for the lower efficiency of the family as a production unit and the main cause of repression of women within a family. Out of 38 respondents, only 7 women members are head of the family. Lower percentage of female-headed household reflects the dominant portion of male members over female members. It also shows that important decisions in the family are taken by male members no matter how serious they are.

5.7 Land holding size of Respondents

Table No 5.7

Land holding size of Respondents

Size of land	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Land less	5	13.16
0 -5 kattha	5	13.16
5 - 10 kattha	8	21.00
10 - 15 kattha	9	23.70
15 - 20 kattha	6	15.82
above 1 Ropani	5	13.16
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

The table shows that 13.10 percent of women are landless; these landless women fulfill their daily needs by daily wage earning. The total data show that the women have only small size land. About 73 percent

women have less than one Bigha. Only 13.16 percent women have land more than one Bigha. So this figure depicts that the economic status of household as well as women themselves some extent.

5.8 Main Occupational Status of Respondent

Table No. 5.8

Main occupational status of respondent

Occupation	Total	percent
Wage labor	15	39.47
Forming housewife	10	26.33
Small business	7	18.42
Others	6	15.78
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

39.47 percent of the women have their main occupation wage labour, they work in the milk, others form; for their daily wage, similarly 26.33 percent work in their own form and also doing the services of household wife. 18.43 percent are found to have small business of wine selling, weaving machine, selling milk etc. And 15.78 percent are found working on other sectors.

CHAPTER - SIX

IMPACT ANALYSIS OF MICRO CREDIT

6.1 Impact on Poverty Reduction of Women

Micro-credit scheme being one of the major instruments to reduce the poverty in the society the foremost example is Bangladesh Grameen Bank. To uplifting the women economic status it is the fact that this scheme has played an important role to reduce poverty of women which becomes clear after analyzing the data.

Monthly incomes of women, their monthly savings are dealt in this unit to identify the impact of micro-credit reducing the poverty among the women through comparative study.

6.1.1 Difference in Monthly Income Level of Respondent Before and After MCP

Under this heading we have taken both levels of income of respondents before and after involving in the MCP

Table 6.1.1

Income Level of Respondent before and After Joining MCP

Monthly income	Percentage	Percentage
0 - 1000	21.05	10.52
1000 - 2000	15.80	7.90
2000 - 3000	13.15	7.90
3000 - 4000	26.32	26.31
4000 - 5000	10.53	31.57
5000 - 6000	13.15	15.80
Total	100	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Above result shows that after joining the MCP. Their average income increases. Because before joining the programme there were 21.05 respondents who have monthly income less than 1000 but after

programme the number is reduced to 10.52 percent, similarly the monthly income between 1000-2000 also reduce to 7.90 from 15.80 percent and the number of respondents having monthly income more than 3000 increased drastically. This shows the positive impact on economic status of overall poor women.

6.1.2 Causes of Change in Income of Respondent

Most of the respondent replied that their income level increased after the involvement, some respondent faced loss also but in totality it was found positive.

Table 6.1.2

Causes of Change in Income of Respondents

Reasons	No. of Respondent	Percentage	Remarks
Business expansion	13	34.21	Increased
New Business establish	10	26.32	Increased
Increase in product of Agriculture	12	31.58	Increased
Leaving business ace to loss	2	5.26	Increased
Death of cattle natural hazard	1	2.63	Increased
Total	38	100	Increased

Source: field survey, 2008

Above result shows the positive impact on income. As among 38 respondents 35 are found to be better off whereas only 3 are found to be worse off due to micro-credit programme. It is found that 34.21 percent respondents income has increased due to the expansion of business, 26.32 percent respondents replied that their income level increased due to establishment of new business. Similarly 31.58 percent respondents income has increased due to expenditure made on production of Agricultural goods. In total 92.11 percent respondents are directly positively affected by the micro-credit programme operated by the co-operations.

Out of 38 respondents 3 respondents are negatively affected due to micro-credit programme, but this failure is not the impact of micro-credit

itself, but due to the death of cattle and other natural hazards such as floods, drought etc, and due to loss in the business.

6.1.3 Change in Pattern of saving and Consumption before and After the MCP

Table 6.1.3 (A)

Change in monthly saving due to MCP

Monthly saving	No. of Respondents before MCP	No. of Respondents after MCP
0 – 25	6	3
250 - 500	5	2
500 - 750	10	13
750 - 1000	7	9
1000 - 1250	5	6
1250 - 1500	5	5
Total	38	38

Source: field survey, 2008

Above table shows slight changes in the saving after the implementation of MCP in the surveyed area. Because the no. of respondents who save less than 500 reduced and the numbers of savers more than 500 has been increased. This shows that this saving again contribute generation of more income.

Table 6.1.3 (B)

Change in monthly consumption due to MCP

monthly consumption	No. of Respondent before MCP	No. of Respondent after MCP
less than 2000	5	3
2000 - 2500	7	6
2500 - 3000	10	12
3000 - 3500	9	10
3500 - 4000	7	7
Total	38	38

Source: field survey, 2008

As indicated in above table, the consumption pattern has increased, it means out of their total monthly income greater part is diverted to the consumption and less is diverted to saving.

6.2 Loan Amount and Frequency of Loan Taken

Table 6.2

Loan Amount and Frequency of Loan Taken of Respondents

Loan Amount borrowed in Rs.	No. of Respondents	percent
0 - 5000	6	15.78
5000 - 10000	12	31.57
10000 - 15000	4	10.53
15000 - 20000	7	18.43
20000 - 25000	6	15.79
25000 - 30000	3	7.90
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Above table shows the scenario of loan amount borrowed by the respondents for different purpose. In the research period it is found that borrowers are concerned about the loan amount according to their ability to earnings. 31.57 percent of women have taken the loan amount between 5000-10000 and only 7.90 percent have take loan more than 25000.

6.3 Pattern of Paying Loan

As per the rule of co-operatives respondents should pay their loan at least in 10 installments whatever the loan they get; it is basically implicated for general loan. 50 respondents should pay loan on for nightly or weekly on installment basis.

Table 6.3

Pattern of Paying Loan of Respondents

Types	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Paid fully	12	31.57
Paid partially	26	68.43
No paid yet	-	-
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

In this regard the question whether respondents pay their loan timely or not were asked out of total respondents 12(31.57 percent) replied that they had already paid their loan fully. 26(68.43 percent) respondents paid their loan partially and timely. Finally no respondents replied that they don't paid loan till now.

6.3.1 Sources of paying loan

In order to take regular financial support from co-operative every respondent should pay their loan in time at any cost as per the rules and regulation of the co-operative. Respondents take loan for various purposes, but sources of paying loan might be different.

Table 6.3.1

Sources of Paying Loan of Respondents

Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Income earned from investing loan	20	52.64
Taking loan from other institution	5	13.16
Family income	7	18.42
Doing labor	6	15.78
Total	38	100

Source: field survey, 2008

According to the mostly 20(52.64 percent), respondents replied that they paid loan from the income earned from investing loan. Which is

the good indicator of women productive capacity of earning. 13.10 percent respondent pay back their loan from taking loan from other financial institutions, where as, 18.42 pay bank loan from their family income such as, salary. Out of total, 6(15.78 percent) replied that they pay loan from their wages.

6.4 Empowerment of Women Through MCP

Various changes on women's status and attitude have been observed after their participation in the programmes. The description of empowerment in this case is seen through micro-credit programme contribution to the women's decision making power, economic independence, and increase in mobility, change in social, political and psychological situation which are observed from their position in the household and confidence in community activities. It is done from the observation whether the women could make the household decisions on their own or do so in consultation with their husband.

I. Economic Independence

Women who are involved in micro-credit program regarded their ability to earn and be independent as a source of empowerment compared to non-loanee women. The non-loanee women are not dealing directly with cash and has little decision making power whereas loanee women are highly involved in decision making activities either it is related to cash or other household concerns. The feeling that they own something of their own has given them confidence. Their new income generating activities had made them more confidence and enthusiastic than non-loanee women.

II. Increased in Mobility

One of the indicators to measure the empowerment of women is their increased ability for mobility. Women's confinement to the

household had made them limited in their thinking and had limited their social interactions. As the loan lee women of MFIs came out from the household for group meetings and started new income generating activities, their social contacts had extended, had become more knowledgeable about the external world, were able to speak in public, and also know to deal with different people. But such opportunities are rare among the non-loan lee women. For them daily routine like taking care of children including household chore are major activities and those who worked as wage laborer even their mobility is limited only at the work place. So, most of the loan lee women felt more confident than before. Though, some are not feeling such.

III. Women's Group Work as a Source of Empowerment

One of the indications to measure women's empowerment was their participation in community and group activities. According to the loan lee women, their joint efforts have made them economically strong. Due to their group work, they became able to take loans, do their individual business, and hence generate more income. After being member of MCP, they formed a new community saving group named as 'Tarkari Samuha'. Though, some of the non-loan lee women are also involved in such group in the effort of loan lee women who were more experienced in group mobilization. But most of the non-loan lee women were feared to joint in such group due to rule of weekly saving which is out of access for them. Most of the loan lee women reported, the group work provided them a chance to share their ideas and techniques through group work they got physical and mental support which in return provided them more confidence than before.

IV. Change in Social Situation

In is already reflected economic status has comparatively improved of the loan lee women than non-loan lee. So, it is obvious that on the

basis of economic status, social prestige or respect depend. Most of the loan lee of MCP reported that the micro-credit programme had broadened their external world. Whereas the non-loan lee women are confined within the household activities. The participant of micro-credit programme revealed their social relationships and levels of contact had extended and so they became able to understand the world better, the training, and other activities had made them able to fight against the traditional values. This case had highly impact towards the widows and separated than the currently married women. Besides, when they had their won income, they felt proud, confident and prestigious in the society. During the household observation, almost all of them seem quite open, glad and enthusiastic. They seemed ready to face any kind of challenges that came along in their way. On the other hand, non-loan women never get chance for group meeting and there is no opportunities either to ideas sharing or group discussion between other women. Further, the widow and separated non-loan lee are really poor and they usually want to hide themselves from the accusation of different kinds of social evils instead of fighting all those kinds of traditional norms and value system. Even some try to face all those challenges there were no one to help them like group members of loan lee women.

CHAPTER - SEVEN

SUMMARY, MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Major Findings

Major findings of the study are presented below in point:-

- ∅ MCP of JSMC is poor and target group oriented. MCPs are provided to different castes, which include mostly illiterate and married women.
- ∅ The average age of clients is 45 year. So, it has focused mature and household women of different places of study area.
- ∅ The average income level of women is increased to Rs. 3053 from Rs. 2490 after involving MCP.
- ∅ About 35 percent of women have taken loan for expansion of small business.
- ∅ Being economically self-dependent or getting easily MCSs. Women are slowly changing their traditional occupations. This is positive impact of micro lending of JSMC.
- ∅ Consumption patterns of household are far better then previous. They are improving their consumption level, which is positive impact to improve lifestyle of rural women.
- ∅ JSMC has made provision for compulsory saving, so women are saving even a small of money, and after joining the programme the average saving has been increased to Rs850 from Rs 720.
- ∅ Today women are able to make decision about their spending income, co-operative loan and repayment, selling and buying assets, sending children for school, children's marriage and family planning because of

financial assistance of JSMC. This indicates that MCP has improved the women clients.

- ∅ More than 50 percent respondents have paid loan, income earning from investing loan.
- ∅ Rural women are started to take part on social discussion and participation of women on MCPs has been positively taken by the society. This shows that women are socially uplifted.
- ∅ Women perceive MCSs positively, social reaction is also good. It signifies that MCSs desirable in rural areas of Rupandehi.
- ∅ All the respondents have paid the loan in time ,out of 38, 12 have been paid fully and 26 have been paid partially.
- ∅ Women are becoming self-dependent and there is increase in participation of women on economic and household decision and on social issued as well. Thus, positive effect on socio-economic Upliftment of rural women is seen.

7.2 Summary

Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world. Women more than 50 percent of the total population and most proportion of women population is still in traditional trap. Nepalese women are backward in every aspect; they are supposed as liability where their male partners are perceived as 'asset'. So, economic empowerment of women through Micro credit program is taken as effective tool.

Today various programs, policies, NGOs, INGOs, Government organization are working to support rural life. Among a lot of programs, MC is becoming effective program because of its best performance and unique features.

Micro credit is a financial and social intermediation, according to available resources; micro credit provides financial services like micro credit, micro saving, micro insurance and micro remittance. These all organizations, which are facilitating the services rendering process of MF, are known as MFIs. Easley getting services of MF are attracting backward women, which may be caused to push women toward new horizon.

Most of the women beneficiaries of MCPs are relatively poor; women having no income or low income are focused by JSMC. So, it seems to be oriented to poor women. The women beneficiaries from MCP have improved their earning and equally stimulated their standard of living. As becoming them member of JSMC they have become more active mentally and physically they have broadened their thinking about participation, communication, fund management discussion, accountability about their task, social and household sanitation etc. As they have together once in a month to repay and for saving, they have get chance to discuss on their improvement and failure of their own activities, which is a big foundation for empowerment.

Women's greater access to financial resources and services could provide greater decision-making power in terms of money and their households. Where this power lies may have significant implications for families and communities. Mostly women contribute their full financial resources for their families where as men rarely do so. When women are given decision-making power, they generally make decisions that will be optimal for their families. As a result, women will tend to make financial decisions that will promote nutrition, health and literacy within their families, whereas men may allocate some of their resources towards activities that are not helpful to the family.

The main factors determining the level of women's economic and social empowerment in a country are its cultural and legal environment, and national policy on women's rights and poverty alleviation. Initiatives organized by micro-credit institutions for the provision of financial services and for policy and legal reforms are key elements for achieving greater economic and social empowerment.

A large number of poor people throughout the world are engaged in income generating activities in order to make ends meet for themselves and their families. Many others have established micro or small-scale businesses, but most of them operate within the informal economy where they lack any form of social protection, and where their livelihoods- and sometimes even their lives may be at risk. Micro-credit can give tools to manage risk. It is also a valuable resource in enabling people to take their first steps in making items for sale, engaging in trading activities, or providing services within their local communities. However, little has been done to explore the potential synergies between the provision micro-credit and small enterprise (MSE) development.

7.3 Conclusion

This study has raised issue about women empowerment and impact of MCP. To identify the socio-economic impact of MCP, respondent's before and after various conditions are taken from primary sources and tested by using various tools. Eventually we have drawn following conclusions of our study.

Our first objective is to examine the socio-economic impact of MCP on rural women in operational areas of JSMC in Rupandehi. In this concern we have tested various tests, aggregate result of this main heading is positive. So, we can conclude in the point that MCPs are creating positive socio-economic impact on rural women. It means JSMC

is encouraging, focusing and facilitating rural women in the Rupandehi district for socio-economic upliftment.

Our second objective of the study is to analyze the role of MCP empowerment of women through enhancement of decision making power in Rupandehi by JSMC. In aggregate, result of this section area is also positive. So, rural women are becoming empowered through enhancement of decision making power by JSMC operating in Rupandehi, they are taking parts in various social as well family decisional aspects. Thus, there is positive role of MCP on women decision-making.

Now, our all objective is met so, the study is end with the conclusion that the MFP is a desirable and effective tool to uplift socio-economic condition of the women on rural area.

7.4 Recommendation

Micro credit is desirable in our rural areas but the study is not done to know about impacts of it on implemented areas. So it would be better to support, facilitate to researches or academicians by the concern bodies.

There is high demand for loan amount in the rural area; however there is not sufficient supply. Therefore, the co-operative should increase its lending capacity with low interest rate. If co-operative increases its lending capacity and provides loan to more rural poor women, they will be able to be self employed by starting new business and gradually their life standard will be improve.

The rural women have different type of traditional skills in their hands. They have capacity to design and create wonder with traditional tools and absolute methods. These skills should be utilized and

encouraged by providing trainings on these skills with new techniques such that it will help them on income generation activities.

JSMC has failed to address the pressing need of unmarried women. It should seriously think about loan facilities to unmarried women also as they can also play important role before and after their marriage. Unmarried women should be given training and loan on the guarantee of their parents so that parents can carry on the activity and repay back loan, if the daughter gets married.

MCP is seemed to money focusing only; they have not included other aspect of empowerment deeply (as money related programs). So it would be better to include other programs such as education, awareness related etc. So, supporting programs such as trainings, educations, awareness programs etc. must be implemented for the socio-economic upliftment of rural women by the JSMC.

MCSs are helpful to the poor for the enhancement to finance specific private income generating activities. However, it is vital important to insure that the loan facilities provided to the poor or the poor are not utilized for consumption purpose. If the people use their borrowing for consumption purpose, the actions of such borrowers if imitated by other poor people, it could produce a negative impact on future growth of MC. So, respective MC is recommended to adopt proper monitoring evaluation and feedback mechanism.

APPENDIX
Appendix-1
Questionnaire

1. Personnel Information

1.1 a) Name of respond: b) Age: c) Sex: d) Ward No.:

e) Occupation: f) Cast/ethnic group: g) Religion:

h) Language: i) Family type:

1.2 Education: a) Literate: b) Illiterate: c) Completed class:

1.3 Family head: a) Respondent herself: b) Husband/Other:

1.4 Marital status: a) Married b) Unmarried

c) Widow d) Divorced

1.5 Information about household members:

S.N	Name	Relation of Respondent	Sex	Age	Education	Occupation

2. Economic Background:

2.1 How many cultivate land do your family has?

2.2 Do you have land in your own name?

2.3 How much land does your family cultivate?

Account of land	Bigha	Kattha
Own land		
Others Land		
Land given to cultivate to others		

2.5 Do you produce sufficient food your family?

Yes:No:

2.6 a) If yes, is there any surplus? Yes: No:

b) How much is the surplus (in rupees):

c) If no, how much (in rupees):

2.7 What was your main occupation/job before joining the program?

a) Agriculture b) Household activities c) Other jobs, specify:

2.8 Average monthly income before and after joining the programs (in rupees)

a) Before:

b) After:

3. Information about the program:

3.1 Why did you join the program?

a) To earn more income and to improve family condition b) To be self dependent c) Other specify

3.2 For how long you have been involving in this program?

3.3 What type of benefit do you get after joining the program?

a) Economic Benefit:

i) Saving mobilization: ii) Easy to take loan iii) Curtail unproductive expenses iv) To develop saving habit v) Others

b) Non-economic Benefit:

- i) Developed social concept ii) Social awareness iii) Lowered social evils iv) Health and sanitation v) Others

3.4 Have you taken any loan from the program? Yes: No:

3.5 If yes, how many times you have taken the loan?

3.6 What was the amount and purpose of taking the loan?

S.N	Purpose	Amount

3.7 Is the loan fully spent in particular purpose or not?

Spent: Not spent:

3.7 If no, then where have you used it?

- a) I have in cash b) I spent in other household needs c) Others

3.9 Are you benefited from the loan? Yes: No:

3.10 If yes, what is the amount of income generated from the loan?

S.N	Type of program	Total monthly income generated

3.11 Did you pay the loan?

- a) Paid totally b) Paid partially c) Not paid at all

3.12 After paying loan, what is the purpose for which the remaining income is used?

- a) Daily household needs b) Other household expenses
 c) For own use d) Reinvested in previous works
 e) Others

3.13 Do you have any savings or nor? Yes: No:

3.14 If yes, then what is the monthly savings (in rupees)?

3.15 For what purpose the saving is used?

- a) To pay back the loan b) To lend the some on else
- c) Taking idle d) Others

3.16 Do you think your poverty has been reduced by joining the program?

Yes: No:

3.17 What was your consumption pattern? Is it changed after joining the program? Yes: No:

If yes, then please maintain:

Before:

After:

5. Status of living standard:

5.1 Types of Houses:

- a) Made with brick and mud b) Made with brick and tin
- c) Made with cement and brick d) others

5.2 What type of fuel does your family usually use for cooking?

- a) Fire-wood b) Kerosene c) Biogas d) Others

5.3 What type of toilet does your family member use?

- a) Local Toilet b) Flush Toilet c) Not Toilet

5.4 What source of drinking water is being used by your family?

- a) From local tap b) From own tap c) From river
- d) From own well d) From tap made From Govt/NGO

5.5 Items of communication:

Does your family have the following communication media?

- a) Radio b) Television c) Daily news paper d) Others

5.6 Except income generating activities which type of program have you joined under this Program?

a) Community development activities b) Training c) Literacy
Classes d) Environment and appropriate technology e) others,
specify

5.7 How do you spend your income?

a) Independently own self b) Depending on others

5.8 What is your role in various intra-household decisions making process?

Before:

After:

5.9 Do you think after joining the program you can support yourself if left alone? Yes: No:

5.10 Do you think that the thinking of society towards you has changed after joining the program? Yes: No:

5.11 After joining the program, is there any work that you can perform now which you couldn't do earlier?

5.12 Is there any problems you have faced when you are launching varieties of activities under this program? Yes: No:

If yes, what are they?

5.13 Did you get any cooperation to solve that problem fro NGO, Bank, Government etc? Yes: No:

5.14 Any suggestions or comments form your side that can help to make the program more effective:

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