### SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

(A Case Study of Bhanu VDC, Tanahun District)

#### **A Thesis**

Submitted to the Central Department of Economics,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Katmandu, Nepal,
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF ARTS
in
ECONOMICS

Submitted by
Ms. Sushila Malla
Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

thesis entitled "SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF This

WOMEN: A Case Study of Bhanu VDC, Tanahun District" has been

prepared by Ms. Sushila Malla under my supervision. I hereby

recommend this thesis for examination by the thesis committee as a

partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Arts in

Economics.

Prof. Dr. Bijaya Shrestha

Central Department of Economics

T. U, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Date: April 3, 2008** 

Date: 2064/12/24

APPROVAL LETTER

The dissertation entitled "Socio-economic Status of Women: A Case Study

of Bhanu VDC, Tanahun District" has been approved as the partial

fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree of Arts in Economics.

**Thesis Committee** 

.....

Prof. Dr. Kanhaiya Ram Bhakta Mathema

Act. Head

Chairman

.....

Prof. Dr. Kanhaiya Ram Bhakta Mathema

**External Examiner** 

.....

Prof. Dr. Bijaya Shrestha

Research Supervisor

**Date: April 6, 2008** 

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First of all, I would like to express my hearty gratitude to my respected supervisor Prof. Dr. Bijaya Shrestha, Professor of Central Department of Economics, TU, Kirtipur, Nepal for her scholarly and constructive guidance, inspiration, support, suggestions and valuable time to bring out this dissertation. I would like to express sincere gratitude to all professors, staff and friends of CEDECON, TU, who have helped directly and indirectly in preparing my dissertation.

I am especially grateful to Bhanu VDC, Tanahun for providing various documents and information for this study. I am also thankful to the women of the study area for providing me real information, valuable time and their warm co-operation during the study period.

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to my husband Mr. Ramkaji Shrestha, sister Sharmila Malla and daughters Riya and Jasmin and all the family members who inspired me to complete this dissertation.

Sushila Malla
Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Letter of Recommendation	
Approval Letter	
Acknowledgements	
Table of Contents	
List of Table	
Abbreviation	
CHAPTER-ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Significance of the Study	5
1.4 Study Area	6
1.5 Objectives of the Study	7
CHAPTER-II	8
LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2.1 Status of Women in Nepal	8
2.2 Women and Education	11
2.3 Women and Health	12
2.4 Women and Economy	13
2.5 Women and Decision	14
2.6 Women and Property Rights	15
CHAPTER-THREE	16
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	17
3.1 Research Design	17
3.2 Nature and Sources of Data	17
3.3 Methods of Data Collection	17
3.3.1 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size	17

3.3.2 Primary Data Collection	18
3.3.2.1 Questionnaire	18
3.3.2.2 Interview	18
3.3.2.3 Observation	18
3.3.3 Secondary Data collection	18
3.4 Method of Data Analysis	19
3.5 Limitation of the Study	19
CHAPTER-FOUR	20
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	20
4.1 Socio-Economic Status of Women	20
4.1.1 Caste	20
4.1.2 Religion	21
4.1.3 Major Occupation	23
4.1.4 Land Ownership	24
4.1.5 Family Structure	25
4.1.6 Position	27
4.1.7 Education	28
4.1.8 Marital Status	29
4.1.9 Women's Participation	30
4.1.10 Women's Access	31
4.1.11 Employment	32
4.1.12 Occupation	33
4.2 Women in Decision Making	34
4.2.1 Household Activities	35
4.2.2 Children's Education	35
4.2.3 Household Management	36
4.2.4 Loan and Saving	37
4.2.5 Family Planning	38
4.3 Influential Factors on Decision Making	39
4.3.1 Income/Employment	40
4.3.2 Education	40
4.3.3 Age	40
4.3.4 Family Structure	41

4.3.5 Marital Status	42
CHAPTER-FIVE	44
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	44
5.1 Summary	44
5.2 Conclusion	46
5.3 Recommendations	47
REFERENCES	49
APPENDICES	

# LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
Table 1: Distribution of households by caste in the study area	21
Table 2: Distribution of household religion by caste/ethnicity	22
Table 3: Major occupations of sample households	23
Table 4: Patten of landownership in sample households by	
cast	24
Table 5 I: Respondents classified according to family structure	25
Table 5 II: Respondents' family structure by caste	26
Table 6: Women's position in family	27
Table 7: Educational status of women	28
Table 8: Marital status of respondents by caste	29
Table 9: Women's participation in the community	31
Table 10: Women's access to economic resources	32
Table 11: Women's employment	33
Table 12: Occupation of women	34
Table 13: Women's decision on household activities	35
Table 14: Women's decision on children's education	36
Table 15: Women's decision on household management	36
Table 16: Women's decision on loan and saving	37
Table 17: Women's decision on family planning	38

### **ABBREVIATION**

ADB Asian Development Bank/ Nepal

CBS Central Bureau of Statistics

CEDA Center for Education and Development Administration

CEDAW Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women

CEDECON Central Department of Economics

DDC District Development Committee

FPM Family Planning Method

FPAN Family Planning Association of Nepal

Govt. Government

ICIMOD International Center for Integrated Mountain Development

IIDS Institute of Integrated Development and Studies

INGOs International Non-Governmental Organizations

MOPE Ministry of Population and Environment

MWSCSW Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

NEFAS Nepal Foundation for Advanced Studies

NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

NLSS Nepal Living Standards Survey

NPC National Planning Commission

SLC School Leaving Certificate

TU Tribhuvan University

UNFPA United National Population Fund

UNICEF United Nation Children's Fund

VDC Village Development Committee

WHO World Health Organization