

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN**  
**A CASE STUDY OF SEUCHATAR VDC, KATHMANDU**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Central Department of Economics,  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal,  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

**MASTERS OF ARTS**

In

**ECONOMICS**

**By:**

**Kalpana Parajuli**

Roll No. 01/063

Central Department of Economics,  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur,  
Kathmandu, Nepal

June 2010

## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

The thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Status of Women a Case Study of Seuchatar VDC, Kathmandu** has been prepared by Mrs. Kalpana Parajuli under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS.

.....  
Associate Prof. Dr. Pushpa Sherstha (Malla)  
Central Department of Economics,  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: June 2010

**APPROVAL SHEET**

This thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Status of Women a Case Study of Seuchatar VDC, Kathmandu** submitted by Mrs. Kalpana Parajuli to the Central Department of Economics, University Campus, Kirtipur, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Trivubhan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of said degree.

**Thesis Committee**

.....

Prof. Dr. Rudhra Prasad Upadhyaya  
Head of Department

.....

Prof. Dr. Bijaya Shrestha  
External Examiner

.....

Associate Prof. Dr. Pushpa Sherstha (Malla)  
Supervisor

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This work is the outcome of the long and troublesome months of struggle for the relevant materials. But, I tried my best to complete the job and this moment came in my life. While preparing this study I am heavily indebted to my teacher and supervisor Associate Prof. Dr. Pushpa Sherstha (Malla), Central Department of Economics, Trihuban University, for her invaluable suggestions guidance and motivation. Without her immense support this piece of work may not come out in this form. Moreover, I think rare people can have such chance to have dynamic, energetic and caring supervisor like her. My gratitude also goes to Prof. Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhaya (Head of Department, CDECON), and all teachers and administrative support staff of CDECON.

I have been greatly benefitted by the guidance and help from all friends and colleagues to bring this thesis into the present form. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the help from the women of Seuchatar VDC, Family of Sub- Health Post, VDC Office Seuchatar, Central Bureau of Statistics and Central Library, T U, Kirtipur.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all friends for their co-operation and I would like to dedicate this piece of work especially to my Father, Mother, Brother and Husband; my source of inspiration. Without them I would not be able to exist in the earth.

Date: June 2010

Kalpana Parajuli

## ACRONYMS

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDECON	:	Central Department of Economics
FY	:	Fiscal Year
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
NG	:	Nepal Government
IMF	:	International Monetary Fund
LDCS	:	Least Developed Countries
MOF	:	Ministry of Finance
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
NRB	:	Nepal Rastra Bank
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
TED	:	Total External Debt
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UK	:	United Kingdom
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WB	:	World Bank
WDR	:	World Development Report
WHO	:	World Health Organization

## Table of Contents

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	i
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	iii
ACRONYMS	iv
LIST OF TABLE	viii
CHAPTER ONE	
1. INTRODUCTION	
1. 1 Background	1
1.1.1 Nepalese Women	4
1.1.2 Working Pattern	7
1.2 Statement of the Problem	8
1.3 Objective of the Study	11
1.4 Significance of the Study	11
1.5 Limitation of the Study	12
1.6 Organization of the Study	12
CHAPTER TWO	
2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	13
2.1 Status of Women	14
2.2 Review of International Literature	19
2.3 Review of National Literature	24
2.4 Concluding Remarks	33
CHAPTER THREE	
3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	35
3.1 Research Design	35
3.2 Universe of Sampling and Sample Selection Method	35
3.3 Selection of the Study Area	35
3.4 Selection of the Respondents	36
3.5 Pilot Survey and Pre-testing of Questionnaire	37
3.6 Nature of the Data	37
3.7 Data Processing and Analysis	37

3.8 Techniques of Data Collection	37
3.8.1 Primary Data	38
3.8.2 Secondary Data	38
3.9 Statistical Tools	38
CHAPTER FOUR	
4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD	39
4.1 Introduction to the Study Area	39
4.2 Land Ownership	41
4.3 Family Income Source	41
4.4 Monthly Income of family	43
4.5 Livestock Pattern	43
4.6 Cultural Characteristics	44
4.7 Residential System	44
4.8 Family Structure	45
4.9 Concluding Remarks	45
CHAPTER FIVE	
5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RESPONDENT WOMEN	46
5.1 Social Aspect	46
5.1.1 Caste/Ethnicity	46
5.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondent	47
5.1.3. Marital Status	48
5.1.4 Education	49
5.2 Economic Aspect	50
5.2.1 Occupation	50
5.2.2 Monthly Income of the Respondents	52
5.2.3 Pattern of Land Ownership	52
5.3 Religious Aspect	53
5.4 Health Status	54
5.4.1 Distribution of the Respondents by Children Size	55
5.4.2 Behavior towards the Use of Contraceptive	56
5.4.3 Medical Treatment Choice of the Respondents	57

5.5 Decision Making Process	57
5.6 Magnitude of Freedom	60
5.7 Participation in Social Organization	61
5.8 Participation in Politics	62
5.9 Views and Attitudes towards Different Familial Issues	63
5.9.1 Idea about Son	63
5.9.2 Views on Widow Marriage	64
5.9.3 Views on the Education to the Daughter	64
5.9.4 Views on Woman's Equal Right on Parental Property	64
5.9.5 Views on Appropriate Age of Marriage for Girls	65
5.10 Concluding Remarks	65
CHAPTER-SIX	
6. SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMEDATION	67
6.1 Summary	67
6.2 Major Findings	69
6.3 Conclusion	70
6.4 Recommendations	73
ANNEXES	75
REFERENCES	81



## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table No.</b>	<b>Table Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
3.1	Ward Wise Distributions of Total Household, Sample Household And Respondent Women	36
4.1	Total Population and Household of the VDC	40
4.2	Percentage Distribution of Land Ownership of Sampled Household	41
4.3	Percentage Distribution of Family Income Source of Sampled Household	42
4.4	Percentage Distribution of Monthly Family Income of Sampled Household	43
4.5	Percentage Distribution of Livestock Pattern of Sampled Household	44
4.6	Percentage Distribution of Family Structure of Sampled Household	45
5.1	Percentage Distribution of Respondent Women by Caste/Ethnicity	47
5.2	Percentage Distribution of the Respondents According to Age	48
5.3	Percentage Distribution of Marital Status of Respondents	49
5.4	Percentage Distribution of Education of Respondents	50
5.5	Percentage Distribution of Occupation of Respondents	51
5.6	Percentage Distribution of the Monthly Income of the Respondents	52
5.7	Percentage Distribution of Land Ownership of Respondents	53
5.8	Percentage Distribution of Religion of the Respondents	53
5.9	Percentage Distribution of Respondents as Regards to Health Facility	54
5.10	Percentage Distribution of Respondent in Terms of Medical Check Up	55
5.11	Percentage Distribution of the Respondent by Children Size	55
5.12	Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Use of Contraceptive	56
5.13	Percentage Distribution of Respondent in Terms of Contraceptive User	56
5.14	Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Medical Treatment	57
5.15	Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Final Decision Making	59
5.16	Composition of Freedom According to Degree of Freedom	61
5.17	Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Involvement in Social Organization	62
5.18	Percentage Distribution of Political Status of Respondents	63

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

Nepal is one of the developing countries in the world. More than 78 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture. So, the economy of Nepal is also known as agro-based economy. More than 31 percent population still is below the absolute poverty line (NPC-), 56 percent of populations are literate, per capita income is \$ 390 and the GDP growth rate is 3.9 percent (MOF, Budget Speech 2009).

Nepal is facing low level of economic development although this country is rich in natural resources and human resources. But the appropriate management of these resources has not been ensured or the government of Nepal has been failure to manage it.

If we summarize the world scenario we can see with our naked eye that, participation of male and female in equal proportion is somewhere lacking. And this lackness could not ensure the equal access of male and female to the outside world and access to the assets might bring a kind of conflict in between male and female. Hence it is said that equal access and opportunity is most essential for a peaceful and fully developed dream world, which is also applicable to Nepal.

Several talks on women rights, their empowerment and their economic independence have continued for decades but Nepalese women's plight has hardly addressed than what they were traditionally facing, in reality.

Nepalese women's problems vary according to their geographic settlement and socio-economic condition. Their problems differ and complicate in terms of the regions and areas where they live, thus, the nature of the problem of Terai woman may be much different than a woman from the hill. Similarly, the problem of a woman from Himalayan region remains just different nature from the mid hill region. The complications arising from the terrain affect their lifestyle. Economic burdens too, accordingly become heavier (Uprety, 1999).

One other aspect of Nepalese woman's economic contribution, which is often ignored, is the amount of labor both the girl children and the female members of the family put in running the wheel of household. Unless, the girl child's contribution, who is forced to quit her school to fetch fodder and firewood, is taken into account; unless the

women's looking after and managing household chores and considered not as economic activity, talks on their empowerment and economic roles cease to have any significance in Nepalese context.

The literature on women and their socio-economic status has grown with the increasing awareness that women development of society. The literature, however, appears to have covered rather narrower spectrum in dealing with specific aspects, such as ways and means of women's advancements. The principle of integrating women into all stages of development process both as participants and as beneficiaries has now become widely accepted by the governments throughout the world. And in recent years, government and non-government organizations, in most of the countries, have become increasingly interested in roles of women play in rural development. They have introduced policies towards stabilizing institutions that would facilitate and encourage their economic contribution.

The importance of women's contribution in achieving the national, economic and social objectives was first articulated at the United Nations' International Women Year Conference in Mexico City in 1975. Since then, there has been a considerable increase of interests on women issues round the world, as they began to enjoy greater freedom defying all kinds of prejudices and discrimination. Women's roles have been stressed repeatedly in national and international conferences throughout the United Nations' decade for women from 1975 to 1985. The Nairobi Conference 1985, emphasized once again that the neglecting of women in development planning have had many deleterious effects, such as declines in food productions and their forced concentration in low income occupation. As a consequence, both as well as urban households had to face difficulties.

Likewise, the Beijing conference in 1995, dealt with some existing limitations for women potential and many emerging issues for the well-being of women as a whole, and to ensure their participation in both the decision making and their say in society. The conference concluded by focusing on the advancement of women, by releasing them from household confinement and allowing them the right of franchise.

Development follows the social upgradation where the effective utilization of country's human resources requires that share of all social groups are equal in the development efforts and in the distribution of benefits. The gender biasness and their

exclusion from equal participation, especially the gender group that represents the half population, forces to bear a drastic loss of human potential. Many governments as well as fully in the development process is not just a question of equity, but one of the necessities for national and international progress.

Women have been significantly contributing to the cultural and social development of the mankind throughout the history, despite their roles often been seen as secondary to those of men. Women played important roles in the advancement of civilization since the pre-historic period by their unique character in accepting the co-existence of all living beings, which perhaps led to the domestication of animals and the system of agricultural cultivation in the family or community unit. Since time immemorial, female contributions whether from household viewpoint or in the out sphere have remained significant. Even in this post-modern era, the contribution of women whether in economic or in social and political arena, have remained vital however they are systematically excluded from the National Accounting Estimation.

Women have now more influenced than ever before in the world, but for all their gains, they are still struggling for parity with men. From New York to Tokyo, women still bear most of the burden of household work and child care, though; some studies show that men also are beginning to lend a helping hand. The participation of women in economically gainful activities has increased considerably but they continue to lag behind men in wages that they earn just one-half to three quarter of man's wages (New Week May, 1988). Women are making roads, involved in politics but they still do not have an equal influence on politics. Men continue to hold the majority of parliamentary seats and key government position.

In the participation of household work, women constitute fairly high percentage that of men both in developed and developing countries. However, considerable changes have certainly acquired. Women in the third world still bear the backbreaking work burden, shoulder low or non-paying responsibilities, perform subordinate roles and are accorded lower status than man, in their family and community. They work very hard and strong for their family, community and their country. The women of third world produce half of the third world's food (an even higher proportion in Africa); hold a low paid

monotonous factory jobs or works as a richer family's domestic servant. In the countryside they may spend two to three hours a day in fetching water and firewood.

In developed countries, the women status is regarded more respectable and so the occupational emancipation. They are more engrossed in economic activity accounts in the national schedule though there also exist pervasive difference in the women's salaries however the work burden is same. Women's salary is still low however the work burden is same. Women's share of total hours spent per week at housework exceeds that of men in great extent.

In the third world, women's contribution to the household economy, from fire wood gathering, water fetching to child rearing and also income generating activities such as food processing, agricultural products, trading and handicraft production is quite large, but their work is not viewed from an economic perspective (Karki, 2008).

Male and female are two wheels of a same chariot, if a wheel cannot work well, only other cannot work properly, at least cannot move chariot towards pre determined destination. Hence it is an essential part of development to coordinate and make equal participation in the every sphere.

In such situation this study tries to identify the socio-economic status of women in the Seuchatar VDC, lies nearby the capital of our country, Kathmandu.

### **1.1.1 Nepalese Women**

Despite ever pronouncing vocabulary on 'Women Employment Issue', Nepalese women are still far from benefiting as they suppose to be. Various studies shows the pathetic condition of women in our society even at the very eve of twenty first century, and the situation is even worse incase of some communities. They have to work more hours than that of men and hence, they are providing a significant economic support in their household management, involving in various income earning activities, such as vegetable farming and selling, weaving, milk selling, street vending etc. along with all their household responsibilities. In this respect, Nepalese women have double responsibilities. Child care, kitchen works, managing fodder for livestock etc. are supposed to be their regular duties and on the other hand they are providing a notable financial assistance to their family, participating in various alternative income earning sources.

Nepalese women constitute slightly more than half percent, i.e. 50.13 percent of total population. The national census 1991 has estimated 1,84,91,097 population where 9,27,01,213 are women. Likewise, economically active population is estimated 73,39,586 and out of this number 29,64,003 are women at the age of 10 and over (CBS, 1991). This reveals the women's economic activity limited to 40.38 percent however the rest of all have more or less equal work burden in respect to their total energy loss to conventional economic or household works.

Nepalese economy is predominantly agrarian. Throughout the country, the family farm is the most significant source of subsistence and income. It produces almost 8 percent of average annual household income where men and women spend approximately 6 hours to 10 hours per day respectively. The average work duration of women fairly exceeds than those of men. Estimate say, almost 96 percent of economically active women is engaged in agriculture (Acharya and Bennett 1981).

Women in Nepal work for longer hours than men, have fewer opportunities for gainful employment, and possess limited property rights. As in most of the world, women in Nepal precariously juggle with the three principal work regimes of reproduction, house-holding, and income generation. Women's life expectancy improved from 53.5 in 1991 to 61.5 in 2001, finally surpassing the life expectancy of 60.5 for men. However, more recent statistics show that this has dropped slightly below the men again. In particular, the life expectancy for both men and women in the mid- and far-west mountain regions is at least 10 years less than those living in urban areas, reflecting the hard lives they lead (<http://www.3sistersadventure.com>).

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

allocation of household income. Women's role in Nepalese society appears to be changing in the cities but it is only a surface change. There are a lot of facilities available to expand people's minds and involve women in different areas they previously did not have access to. Women are receiving more education and are therefore able to find employment. The respect they receive in this employment is still in question. The attitude of male domination is the underlying foundation of Nepalese society.

Unfortunately, the majority of women are living in the rural areas of Nepal and do not have access to any of these facilities. 93% of Nepal is rural, and here change is coming at a painfully slow pace. It is hard for us to think of what a difficult life the uneducated, under privileged women has. Daughters are treated as a burden to their family, despite the fact that they run the household and work in the fields. Sons, having received an education, will be the ones to leave the village to find work; often leaving wives to raise the family. The rural women have little or no self-confidence and do not consider themselves on par with men. The village women's life is nothing more than that of a servant or a possession of the family. They do not appear to know the value of their individual lives.

By offering education and skilled training, the women who are far from the access to the different variables, the women have to be encouraged for the development of self-supportive, independent, and decision-making. Perhaps with knowledge, skills and confidence in them, these women will be able to bring about real change in the way women are viewed and treated in this society. Women are directly discriminated against in the job market. The majority of women are confined to the informal sector where wages are low, working hours are long, conditions poor and wage compensation is non-existent. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education. Below are some statistics (2001) on literacy showing the huge disparity between urban and mountain areas. The literacy rates in particular for the mid- and far-west regions emphasize the lack of education for women, showing just how important our work in the west is.

The literacy rate of female in urban region is 55.8 percent where as 80 percent are literate in the same region. The literacy rate of female in rural region is 31.2 percent and male 59.4 percent male are literate. Similarly, in mountain region, 20.9 percent of female

are literate and 51.90 percent of male are literate. The literacy rate in Mid-western Mountain of female is 7.9 percent and 41.2 percent of male are literate in the same region. In Far-western Mountain, 12.00 percent of female are literate and 55.3 percent of male are literate. It shows that comparatively the condition of female to male in terms of literacy rate is very poor. The urban females have better opportunity of education than other region female. The literacy rate of female of Mid-western Mountain is only 7.9 percent which is very poor (Population Census, 2001).

Hence there is the educational discrimination between the male and female. Male have better opportunity to education where as women are still very far behind than men regarding education. Similarly, women are still very far behind to the opportunities which can help to uplift their socio-economic status in the society.

### **1.1.2 Working Pattern**

Women participation in the economy varies among each caste and communities. The hills and mountain women are involved in outer economy (market economy) more than those of Terai women, yet the women's workload remains as it is in terms of working hours regardless to the household or outer economic sphere. The 1981 population census reported that 46 percent women over the age of 10 were economically active while the corresponding figure for men was 54 percent. But in 1991 census, the percentage of economically active women declined to 40.38 percent and for men is 59.62 percent.

The de-recognition of many house based works as economic activity remains one of the main defects in the national economic system. The census definition of economic activity includes wage labor in cash or kind as well as unpaid family labor. It does not, however encompasses activities such as water and fuel collection, kitchen gardening and food processing and childcare which are primarily the responsibilities of women. These activities which fall outside the formal economy, but are essential for household survival, which absorb most labor time of these women are reported as "Economically Inactive" and classified as "house maker" and dependents. In reality, little time is left for them, for the activities with potentially higher economic returns or to contribute to economic and social development of the country.



In addition to their contribution to the family farm and household maintenance, women engage in a range of activities to gain cash and supplement other household income such as marketing house produced goods, brewing beer for sale, wool carding, basket or pottery making etc. They may also undertake wage labor as porters or agricultural workers, although wages are poor. And it is, perhaps, due to the dearth of cash earning opportunities and the convenience of house based work that leads women to accept poor remuneration for time-consuming labor-intensive works.

The majority of Nepali women, however remains employed in households and subsistence farm, various initiatives have recently been taken to increase their access to cash and productive resources through income generation projects. Still the economic impacts of such programs have been limited in terms of achievements through the mobilization of rural women into support group for social development community based activities.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Nepalese women are underprivileged and disadvantaged in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. However, the “Universal Declaration of Human Right” has crossed a half long century along with the global call for “Gender Equity”. Nepalese women, who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their houses. For instance, Women's life expectancy improved from 53.5 in 1991 to 61.5 in 2001, finally surpassing the life expectancy of 60.5 for men. (CBS, 2001) since the universal figure shows the longer life expectancy of women than of man.

Much more studies addressing women's status, their participation in development endeavors, and income generation activities have increasingly been conducted by various research however, the cell confined household burden and the women involvement in this arena are not, sufficiently reported so far. They perform nearly 25 percent more hours than those of men but their consistent workload is never accounted in the National Account Estimation. The reason is they are seen as household works and lay outside the economic activity frame (boundary) which remains a key factor women under-valuation. A need arises to calculate to their social, domestic and national contributions to get a complete picture of women's economic contribution.

A civilized sense ever advocates tracing out all existing deprivation of women in the society. There is the need of equal chance in decision making authority within or outside home affairs to the women. Unfortunately, Nepalese women remain far behind from enjoying this civic situation. The core objectives of this study mainly underlines to engross women's back breaking household work burden into national valuation, recognizing this as a economic work. Improving the situation of such a deprived group, who forms the major part of the country's population, should clearly be a prime concern.

The need to uplift the women in Nepal was realized lately, and the steps to meet this need were taken only recently. Various incentive programs has been launched along with the call for greater awareness to overcome prevailing stigma-attached social plight of women. New schemes introduced to a new situation. Some of the major activities are surveying of households, formation of groups, preparing village profiles and involving women in educational, health and income generating activities both at the district and field levels. Efforts are made to develop women's social prestige, self-confidence and feelings of equality by educating them, and aiming to set their commanding status over the society as well as their family. Of course, we have come a long way but still many things remain to be done. This is however, a good initiation, though the situation is far from satisfying.

The government of Nepal has been giving a due regard to women development issue after the mid-seventies. But, we are in no position to heave a sigh of relief. Unfortunately, the condition of Nepalese women has not improved despite nearly three decades of efforts with various social and economic reform processes. This under-valued section, in fact, constitutes the over-whelming contribution to the total economic activity even if they are in weak and unhealthy physical condition. This researcher personally has seen a significant earning of women from the small and part-time working along with their day to day duties.

Most of the women in the study area have been bearing double responsibility. Household work like child care, food processing, fetching water, fuel collection and house maintenance are supposed to be their born duties and are done tacitly by them. On the other hand, their involvement in market economy make them a prime contributor of the family but the tragedy is that they have little or no say in decision making process

both in intra household or out-side affairs. Despite their greater participation both in economic or social arena, they remain de-recognized and their labor considered as non-economic activity.

With the effect of modernization and urbanization, joint family system is rapidly growing into nuclear family system. The lineage, family and ancestral identification of a person is being replaced by the profession they are involved in. the life is becoming more complex and only men's income cannot fulfill their all requirements. In this respect, women's participation in the economic activities has become inevitable. Their greater socialization, in fact is the demand of age, and the absence of such integral part will ultimately impair the whole nation building process. The more they take part in economic as well as social sectors, the more we accelerate on development strive, and thereby, the general living standard of the people as a whole.

More and more interests are being diverted towards women to identify their involvement in national building endeavor, considering them as a very integral part of development of the country. But he expected outcomes regarding the women as a beneficiaries has yet to be realized. In this regard, the women of Seuchatar VDC have rather fallen behind in benefiting the existing incentives and women related programs that the country have been lunching for nearly about three long decades. The researcher personally feels an urgent and pressing need to initiate certain programs regarding women's withdrawal form their intra household confinement. And these are seemed the major reason why the researcher wants to identify the existing problems and reasonable suggesting measures for women in the study area. In other words, this study perhaps is a product to value the women's un-reported household contribution as well as their less reported economic activity which they undertake in small business or wage labor that women are engaged in.

For this purpose, the study has made an attempt to identify the following research questions:

- ) What is the socio-economic condition of women in Nepal?
- ) What is the role of women in household decision making?

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

The general objective of this study is to analyze the socio-economic condition of Nepalese women but specifically following are the specific objectives of this study

- ) To examine the socio-economic status of Nepalese women.
- ) To analyze the role of women in household decision making process.

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

Development is the most common discussion in the national and international arena. Mostly in underdeveloped countries, recognition of women as an urgent pillar for the total progress of the nation has been strongly realized. However these all things have remained mere bystanders in our country. But for this situation, Nepal has been launching a number of programs in order to uplift the women's participation in such a development endeavors but the expected result is yet to be realized. Or in other words, the gained from our past attempts are not seemed exciting.

Women are remaining a disadvantaged group in our society. If we took a look at the daily activities of our lives, we would be away struck by the stark reality of the two pillars in development, men and women, the latter is rated weak, which, therefore, speaks of our highly unbalanced superstructure. In this regard assessing the importance of women's socio-economic characteristics is felt necessary. Studying the possible prospects and problems related to women, is another task of the days. And this study is the product of this intention. Keeping all these facts in view, this present study will help to identify the real problems and provide appropriate solution they're of the researcher feels.

Similarly, this present study is hoped to be a milestone for all those national and foreign economist and sociologist wishing to conduct the similar study about women. Besides, it will equally help governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies to have a simple knowledge about the socio-economic condition of the Nepalese Women.

So in this study, researcher has focused on the existing scenario of socio-economic condition of women, suggestion to uplift socio-economic condition of women. So, this study will be beneficial for the readers like students, researchers and policy makers.

### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

- ) This study is mainly concerned to women living in Seuchatar VDC.
- ) The study has taken only the economically active population of age between 15 to 59 years.
- ) This study only reflects the socio-economic condition of Seuchatar VDC and it may not necessary to be representative for nation.
- ) This study only concern domestic household decision making, occupational status, educational status, health status, involvement in farm, and involvement in social and political activities only.

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

The thesis had been organized into five major chapters and each chapter contains some sections which are organized as below.

The first chapter presents the general background of the study, Nepalese women, working pattern, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance, limitations and general organization of the study.

The second chapter entitled “Literature Review” provides some theoretical and empirical reflection relating to the topic and also discusses some relevant literatures written on socio-economic status of women.

Research Methodology has been presented in the third chapter. This chapter gives information about the research design, sample size and tools and techniques of data collection, presentation and analysis which are used in this study.

Chapter four and five deals with the analysis of respective data collected through questionnaire. Specifically, Chapter Four deals with the different scenarios representing the overall socio-economic status of the sampled area. Likewise, the fifth chapter includes the description of social, economic and health status of the respondent women. Decision making role is also included in this chapter.

In chapter six, summary, conclusion, findings and recommendation has been provided.

And finally Bibliography and Annexes are set into the study compile.

## **CHPATER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The concern on women's right, empowerment through income generation skills, their participation in development endeavors, political roles, notwithstanding, hardly any efforts are made to assess their economic contribution in terms of the total household management. High profile seminars and workshops flooded with working papers nearly always stressed on bringing them out from their household confinement and set their pace along with males.

The decades of seventies expressed concerns towards women and became articulate than ever before on women's contribution in achieving national economic and social goals was initially stressed at the United Nations International Women's Year conference in Mexico City in 1975. The considerable interest in women thereafter and the drive for women's cause in recent years, has given rise to the multitude of well intentioned, women specific projects and the welfare programs, both on governmental and non-governmental or at local and national levels (UN, 1987).

In other words, the women, since mid seventies, have been better privileged with special package of development unveiled for them to cover multi-dimensional aspects of their life. Consequently, the participation of women in economic as well as social and political activities has increased considerably.

Several research works and literatures addressing women's participation in enhanced development, their socio-economic status in society as well as in their families' have been produced by various social elite, however, sufficient studies, focusing particularly on the women's economic contribution towards their families, have remained yet to be done, so far. Very few books or research papers are published on the issue despite the consistent concerns expressed over more than three decades about the economic involvement.

In this chapter, efforts have been made to present a brief review on some existing literatures and relevant studies concerning the issue. There have been some studies and feature articles as well as training paper concerning the women's program, both at national as well as international level.

## **2.1 Status of women**

Human right is the right by birth being a human. Thus there should not be any biasness in ethnicity, sex, language, religion, politics, socio-economic and cultural aspects regarding human rights. So to honor one's respect and development, UNO on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948 announced worldwide layout about human rights.

Age is the important factor determining the working load of women. Aged women have to work more than young girls. Among men and women of same age group, women have to work much more than men. Marital status makes a woman totally dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family property is only through husband. About the women's right upon family property, Bennett wrote that "men are endowed with the right to property by virtue of the biological fact of birth. Women's right to property depend almost entirely upon the social fact of marriage (i.e. on their role as wife." Therefore women's economic security is entirely dependent on their adherence to strict social norms of proper marital behavior (Bennett, 1980, p.89).

Education is the most important factor for the development of human personality as well as for the development of a nation. As women make more than half of countries population, education of women is very important and it should receive top priority in the context of development of modern Nepal. Mahatma Gandhi said, "Educate a man and you will have a person educated but educate a woman and you will have a whole family educated".

The study undertaken by Acharya and Bennett reflects that in Nepal people express less desire to educate girls than boys. This is manifested in two ways (i) fewer people are willing to send girls to school and (ii) even among those who do send girls to school there are very few who want as much education for the girls as for boys (Acharya, 1982).

To avoid any social, economical and cultural discrimination to the women, UNO in 18 December, 1979 prepared convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women known as CEDAW. Nepal also signed this treaty in April 22, 1991.

Women's health is a societal issue. Improving women's health and well being improves not only their own life but also those of their children and contributes to improve households and community welfare.

Luitel (1992) states that the Nepalese women's health is in miserable condition in the sense that they are quite neglected from their very childhood stage. The cultural norms, economic conditions and preferential attitude of parents towards the boys are in the centre of the ill/poor health of women (Luitel, S: 1992).

Commenting upon the difference between pre and post 1990 years, almost all the women respondents stated that in the post-1990 days, "women have the opportunity to speak and exchange view with their husband, to participate in public forums, institutions and political parties and also get elected in different tiers of local government bodies, particularly the VDC, but they also pointed out that women still are not often encouraged to participate in socio-cultural and political activities, and when they do, their 'character' is questioned and, worse, the male members of their families criticize them" (Human Rights Situation From the Local Perspectives, Dahal et al.:1992:71).

The movement for women's status all over world has emphasizes the role of education. It is believed that education will bring about the education in the inequalities between sexes and uplift women's subjugated position of the society. In general, educated women have a higher status in the society and the family size become smaller as the education level of the mother rises. In fact, women's education is low in Nepal, and the lowest in SAARC countries that is adult female illiteracy is 88 percent for Nepal compared to India 71 percent, Pakistan 81 percent, and Bangladesh 78 percent (World Bank, 1995).

"The constitution guarantees all citizens the equality before law and equal protection of law. No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of sex. Despite these constitutional and legal provisions, Nepalese women are suffering from social, economical and political discrimination. Major areas of discrimination include citizenship rights, property, employment, reproductive health rights, marriage, family relations and punishment and legal proceedings. Deep-rooted cultural norms and patriarchal values are themselves unfavorable to women. As a result, social preference for sons in schooling, neglect of women's health needs, child marriage and unmatched marriage



bigamy/polygamy are still part of the reality. And dowry and domestic violence are still other problems” (CEDAW, 1995:44-49).

In the Nepalese society, the status and position of women depend on their economic condition. Women play significant role in the development of the nation. In the past, women are considered a second grade citizen in most of the countries including Nepal. The status of Nepalese women is very poor. They have very less access to health, security and other basic needs of life.

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resource and political power and their personal autonomy in the process of decision-making. Women from different cast/ethnic groups have different social status in their respective communities and women from the ethnic groups seem to process better status than the women from Hindu cast group. The dominant Hindu culture and the patriarchal value system of the country have influenced the status of women as their subordinate.

Although there is imbalance in status between men and women as in the most of the developing countries, women in Nepal are also engaged in domestic chore along with the social and economic activities required for survival. Despite their important roles undertaken for social and economic life capacity and potential, women have more disadvantage than male partners’ due to an inadequate access to exposure, technology, credit and environment.

Women have low degree of opportunities for their education and have hardly any access to employment. There is lack of women participation in decision making from house to the executive levels. There is no positive attitude towards women’s health and they do not get appropriate nutrition even in the period of pregnancy (UNICEF, 1996). Women get married early and are considered as child bearing machines (Sherpa and Rai, 1996).

Human rights are women’s rights too which they should exercise. Constitution of Nepal 2047 describes all are equal and are to be treated equally.

The role of women in various farming activities is crucial not only because of the number engaged but also because of the variety of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables,

fruits and live stock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of the nation, but all these workers by women are considered voluntary (Gautam, 1998).

Gender inequality still permeates Nepalese life whereby women lag far behind than men in economic, social and political positions. Women's traditionally disadvantaged status in the areas of education, health and economic participation has restricted their mobility and deprived them the basic needs/tools necessary for political participation, (Upadhyaya, 1999).

When daughter grow up, they will become wives. In other words, a laborer for another family sooner or later, more over, if girls is not good at household and farm work owing to exposure to education, she might be looked down upon in her husband's family when she gets married. So, investment in a girl's education is discouraged. Generally, there has been more girls' dropout than boys at the primary level. (Gurung, 1999).

"In determining the status of women, a number of factors, in fact, are at work and these are taken into consideration. Some factors such as their educational status, their participation in social, political and economic activities and their position in the various professions as well as the legal provisions play important role in ensuring women's decision making power over the family. The more they practice and participate in these sectors, the more they have their share in formal working sphere and hence their reasonable command over society. Unfortunately, Nepalese women have fallen far behind to such opportunities and they are supposed to remain a vulnerable section of total population. They have little or no role in any decision making or consulting process whether in household or outside as their consultancy is either neglected or supposed to be an unnecessary venture ("Pothi Baseko" typical in Nepali)" (Uprety, 1999).

Economically, women have no rights to parental property as well as in the husband's home. They bear 70 percent of the household work burden and yet have no access to economic resources. Even doing the same work, they get lower wages than male as most of the women work as unskilled labor in carpet and garment factories and get low paid due to illiteracy (Luitel, 2000).

According to the preliminary report of population census 2001, in Nepal, women constitute more than 50 percent of the total population in the country (CBS, 2001).

“Discrimination between males and females starts in the family. Females are not included in the decision making process and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women’s participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husbands/fathers/parents/male relatives” (Human Rights in Nepal, 2003:70).

“Nepalese societies being patriarchal, people still don’t see women politicians as their leaders, no matter how capable they are. They tend to see them through the prism of social roles as sister, wife and daughter-in-law etc” (Roshan Karki, RPP Member, quoted in the Kathmandu Sunday Post, January 5, 2003:1).

Though there are some work practices within the country to empower the women, they are less appreciable. Increasing literacy, low birth rate, age at marriage are the milestones of women’s empowerment and progress. Women’s participation in restriction to drug and alcohol right to parental property and society of women in favor of changes plays vital role in the outstanding progress and development of women.

“It is contended that currently there are more than 100 legal provisions in 54 different laws, including the constitution, that discriminate against women” (Human Rights in Nepal, A Status Report, 2003:76).

Although women who comprise half of the population of the country and have always have been involved in national development, they are still marginalized from the opportunities such as economic resources, e.g. property, income, employment as well as other resources. Illiteracy, unhealthiness, poverty and conservative social taboos have been the fate of Nepalese women in general.

Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision-making (UNDP, 2007).

Girl’s trafficking for prostitution is tremendous in our society due to illiteracy and poverty. It makes them victims of sexually transmitted disease and in the long run causes psychological depression. Until and unless women are made equal partners in the

development process of the nation, no improvement can ever be made in the socio-economic situation of the country. In order to fulfill the commitment made by HMG to resolutions passed by the world women's conference held in Beijing in 1995 and to ensure women's equal involvement in the development process in parallel with their male counterparts, the women's empowerment aspect has been emphasized in the Ninth Plan (NPC, 2007).

## **2.2 Review of International Literature**

On the emerging subject of women concerning literature, a well documented unique publication "Women role in Economic Development"(1970: 5) by Ester Boserup is able to be placed as a remarkable asset for every researcher and the interested individuals wishing to conduct similar study about the women's role in the economic development process.

Stressing on the women contribution, this book has shown the role played by women in the economics of nearly all underdeveloped and developing countries. She articulates the serious problems that millions of the poorest women silently face in their day to day life. It clearly indicated that women almost everywhere have been the victim rather than beneficiaries of development programs. The author points out the need for additional research that aims to improve the working condition of third world's women including domestic work and to provide them with better access to the labor market.

In all parts of the world, women are handling a significant economic support over their family. In south east Africa, women take a large share of the agricultural work, and in addition, they handle rural trade and foodstuffs and work in home industries and service. And the women in this region are extremely active in the towns also. They have to support their husband not only in household activities but also in major alternative economic activities like employment, trade and crafts. The West African women contribute 44 percent of the gross income of the family. Most of the self-employed women have to provide at least, part of the food for the family as well as clothing and cash out of their own earnings. They performed domestic duties for the husband and half of them also helped him on his farm.

In the course of modernization and development, a neglected sex (the women) of productive work must emerge for better or worse. "The obvious danger is, however, that

in the course in this transition, women will be deprived of their productive function and the whole process of the growth will thereby, be retarded' (Boserup;1970:.5).

It is interesting to note that because of heavy work burden to women in Ivory Coast, an opinion study indicates that 85 percent of the women preferred to live in polygamous rather than monogamous marriage. And most of them mentioned domestic and economic reasons for their choice. By contrast, in the Hindu Communities the work burden is less and therefore the women are less active. The book explains.

The book recommends policy measures for developing the enhanced women participation in economic as well as industrial sector by taking a proper attention on the female emancipation and their reasonable command over household with equity gender conception. Women are suffering from deeper sense of insecurity and feeling of inferiority. "since women have access, at best, only to unskilled and low paid industrial jobs, industrial employment has no prestige value for women who aspire for a career, and the earning capacity of women workers is not high enough to compensate fro the social stigma attached to women's industrial work" (Boserup; 1970: 212). Therefore, a change of policy aiming at better economic activities for women need to be combined with reasonably designed targets to empower the whole women in the developing countries.

Economically the women are supposed to be weak and subjected to low paying unskilled job in many developing countries. In fact, women work two thirds of the total work hours but the tragedy is that all their back breaking toil is not recognized as work. They are taken for granted as women's born duty and natural responsibility, perhaps destined to them by their fate, it is really alarming (Bowerup, 1970).

Stressing on the status of women UN decade for women writes; "Women perform two thirds of all working hours, receive one tenth of the worlds income and own less than one percent of the world property" (3 UN Decade for women, 1980).

There is one most useful study "Assessing Women's Economic Contribution to Development 1988" which is presented by ILO and prepared by Ruth Dixon Muller and Richard Anker. This study covers several pragmatic approaches which are made to the issues of women, particularly in respect to their economic contributions.

The book, in particular ha cited the importance and usefulness, by incorporating an analysis, of women's economic roles and of prevailing constraints on their economic

productivity. It also portrays the picture of females' overwhelming contribution to their total family incomes, that is to say, slightly more than 50 percent of household incomes. The study reveals that daily work burden is more on women than in men. The study also indicates that the female working duration exceeds that of men by 2 to 3 hours per day. The average work day for Nepalese adult women is about 12-13 hours and for adult men about 10 hours (Dixon, P.45, 1988).

The tendency of women to be concentrated in particular occupation and in particular sector of the economy is almost universal but the working pattern of women may differ in latitudes, from place to place, societies, ethnicities and countries. South East and East Asian women are estimated to have become more active over time but South Asian women have become less active. It is also interesting to know that the economic performance of a given household in the lowest income brackets is directly related to economic activities of women in these households. The importance of women's productive role increases with the poverty but the extent of their reproductive function doesn't diminish, resulting in a dual burden for the poor women. Therefore, the importance of female labor force participation for understanding women's economic contribution can not be denied.

"In general, women are more likely to be unpaid family worker than men and less likely to be employees or own account workers." (Ibid, p.21).this indicates a fundamental social discrimination against women and their being ostracized from the identification as a labor force account. Evidences from national surveys revealed pervasive wage difference between male and female workers in every country.

In some country, unpaid family workers, especially females in agriculture, are systematically discounted as the economically active population which means agricultural workers, who are women, are underestimated and undervalued. Ambiguities are also found in artificial distinction between "economic" and "non-economic" activities of the adults. Women's involvement in household chores and agricultural production is often traditionally rated as non-economic activity, however the reality is that the extent of their economic gains from their domestic involvement, whether that be of children or women, has continued to make a paramount support to their families. A notable economic contribution from this "non-economic" groups remains outside the National

Income Account and the story becomes even pathetic when more than fifty percent of women's back breaking work secures have no place in such economic activity account. This gives rise to the problem of ranking the non-economic activity account. This gives rise to the problem of ranking the non-economic activities, which becomes more difficult to define.

In nutshell, the paper has incorporated the assessment of women's economic support in the subsistence sector referring a high degree of contribution made by the economic life even though; they are undervalued when estimated in the national economic scale. Despite the overwhelming productive work burden, the half population is ostracized from the mainstream of the development, the training paper concludes.

Acharya Meena and Bennet Lanne have published a remarkable research book about the women's economic contribution and their command over decision making process under the title "Women and the Subsistence Sector: Economic Participation and the Household Decision Making in Nepal, 1993". They have listed some important findings which contain the women's participation in economic activities and their decision making power over their family.

- ) Nepalese women are bearing a overwhelming role in economic as well as domestic sector's work, and hence, their contribution to the family's household income is also significant thought, there is some variation on the intent of their assistance to the family in terms of cast and the communities but not on the work burden. The time allocation studies reveal women's major role in agriculture production, both as laborers and as manager of the production process.
- ) Naturally the rural women's total work burden is extremely high at an average of 10.81 hours per day as compared to 7.50 hours per day for man, although the employment survey has revealed that rural women had worked only 25 percent of the total person days of paid employment.
- ) There is difficult degree of female participation in the market economy in different communities which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the households. In fact the women of Tibeto-Burman community participate more actively in market economy than those of other communities.

- ) The key factor in explaining these differences between the communities is the high value placed in the female entrepreneurship (including craft production and sale, beer brewing and sale, produce marketing and trade etc) among the non-dichotomous communities in contrast to that of dichotomous, where emphasis is placed on female sexual purity and behavioral control by affine.
- ) Men are able to spend considerably more time in the market economy not only because of their socialization but also the greater mobility and the greater access to education and capital. Female labor and efforts are likely to confine within the family, mobilizing themselves only in subsistence base.
- ) The more participation of women in market economy and employment, the more will be the decision making power within the household and vice versa.
- ) The decision making command increases gradually along with the women's age increases but their overwhelming domestic and subsistence input has no effect on the resource allocation decision.
- ) Despite women's uniformly high involvement with the "inside", there are significant inter-communities variations in the degree to which women participate in the "outside" or market sphere of the economy.
- ) The analysis shows that bringing women into the market economy both an effective step towards a more efficient use of local resources and the means of improving women status and economic security.
- ) It can be expected that involving women in the development process and in the 'outside' economy will have contained to have important long range effects in terms of reduced fertility rates and changed social attitudes towards society.



### **2.3 Review of National Literature**

Women's relative status varied from one ethnic group to another. The status of women on Tebeto-Nepalese communities generally was relatively better than that of Pahari and Newari women. Women from low cast groups also enjoyed relatively more autonomy and freedom than Pahari and Newari women. The senior female member played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources, making crucial planning and harvesting decisions and determining the expenses and budget allocations. Yet women's life remained centered on their traditional roles; taking care of most household chores, fetching water and animal fodder, and doing farm work. Their standing in society are mostly contingent on their husband's and parent's social and economical position. They had limited access to market, productive services, and education, health care and local government. Malnutrition and poverty hits women hardest. Female children were usually given less good than male children, especially when family experiences food shortages, women usually worked harder and longer than men. By contrast, women from high-class families had maids to take care of most household chores and other menial work and thus worked far less than men or women in lower socio-economic groups. The economic contribution of women was substantial but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed, their wages were normally 25 percent less than those paid to men. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding and harvesting. In urban areas, they were employed in domestic and traditional jobs as well as in the government sector, mostly in low level position (<http://womenshistory.about.com>).

One tangible measure of women's status is their education attainment. Although the constitution offers women equal educational opportunities, many social, economic and cultural factors contributed to their enrollment and higher dropout rate for girls. Illiteracy imposed the greatest hindrance to enhancing equal opportunity and status for women. They were caught in a vicious circle imposed by the patriarchal society. Their lower status hindered their education and the lack of education, in turn, constricted their status and position. Although the female literacy rate has improved noticeably over the years, the level in early 1990s fell far short of the male level. The level of educational attainment among female children of wealthy and educated family was much higher than

that among female children of poor family. This class disparity in educational attainment also true for boys. In Nepal, as in many societies, education is heavily class biased (<http://womenshistory.about.com>).

In early 1990s, the direct correlation existed between the level of education and status. Educated women had access to relatively high status position in the government and private service sectors as they had a much higher status than uneducated women. This general rule was more applicable at the societal level than at the household level. Within the family, an educated women did not necessarily hold a higher status than her uneducated counterpart. Also within the family, a women's status, especially a daughter-in-law status, is more closely tied to her husband's authority and to her parental family's wealth and than anything else (<http://womenshistory.about.com>).

There is a publication "The Statistical Profile on Nepalese Women" by Acharya Meena, which describes the statistical research and analysis about the Nepalese women and their condition in the context of existing policies. According to this research paper, the work burden of various economic strata seems to be equal however; the women in middle income strata have longer working hours because the poor women lack opportunities for employment due to the limited size of family farm and seasonal character of the demand for agricultural labor. Likewise women in higher economic strata may hire from outside. The work load of women is seemed to be increased in every passing course of time. Nepalese women are devoting more time to conventional economic activities in 1993 than 1978, but the contribution to household decision making process has declined from 60.8 percent in 1978 to 48.6 percent in 1992. The book describes that the Nepalese women ever remains outside from the National Labor Estimation. In 1991 census, only 48.1 percent of rural women are reported economically active but the tragedy is that a large number of women labor seeking out a living for their family still goes unreported. The female labor especially in industrial sector, are employed as an unskilled and as always temporary workers and thus, they are deprived from regular salary and other related benefits.

Different credit programs for women lunched by the government such as, Small Families Women Development Program and PCRW Program have created a positive effect among the women entrepreneurship, however, such credit program have reached to

only a small portion of rural women. Likewise, there seems a commensurate increase in the female education level during the last 20 long years. Thus the female literacy has increased some six more folds in this period and also socially, the status of Nepalese women have been improving gradually than twenty years back, except their legal status. In the legal sector Nepalese women are still far behind from their male counterparts.

Exclusion of women performance from the economic activity frame is the main problem in estimating their contribution in the statistical profile. “Domestic work is rarely included in the earning activity, that is to say, economic activity. Domestic work is nowhere defined hence, people who are receiving the same income outside the domestic activity had high chance of being automatically included in the economically active labor force, while those working without direct payment had always a chance of being excluded. Women are more likely to be excluded from the active labor force because if they are working within the household economy, they do not consider themselves to be receiving any income. This is confirmed by the fact that only 7.16 percent of active female population declare themselves as helpers in family enterprises. This is also confirmed by the fact that 57 percent of women declared themselves inactive because they were housewives. Activities such as post harvesting operations which are performed in the field in the courtyard are usually included in agriculture work. The rest of the work involving food processing from cleaning the grain to cooking is included in the category of the domestic work. This is not justified because there is no reason to consider the preparation of rice pudding as an economic activity when performed for others, and similar activity when done within the household should fall in the category of domestic activity (Acharaya, 1982).

Along with the worldwide women concerning wave of the decade seventies, the Nepalese authority too, showed interest on the issue of women upliftment by introducing “policy of women’s participation in development program” in the national planning schedule. Many other studies have also been accomplished to identify women’s problem and their social status in the national level. Considering women as an inevitable part of the development process, the sixth and the seventh plan had set the goals of educational and employment opportunities for women and their further involvement in the national development endeavors. The eight plan, that stressed on women’s

participation in the mainstream of the development, set additional objectives to improve women's status in every aspect of life i.e. economic, political educational and legal. Likewise, the ninth plan had two-prong strategy; poverty alleviation and human resource development. Considering the need of enhanced participation of women in national development stream, the ninth plan has a policy to empower and to extend the institutional structure for the women development with effective co-ordination to related sectors.

Development follows social upgrading where the status of women needs to be equally regarded. Since the women are such integral part of the society, their social status is directly related to the existing social norms, values and their liberty and equity command over the community, which reflect the level of civilization of any society. Many studies, in practice, show the pathetic status of women in Nepalese society whether it be in the educational or the economic fronts or the decision making in their own family. The situation is still vulnerable in the case of their legal status, especially those who once are convicted in illegal offenses. According to Dahal Prakash, "The young mothers who are convicted of abortion or infanticide or domestic crimes have, indeed long life to go, but they can hardly see a ray of hope for a dignified life even after they are freed and the young women unlike man, are considered black sheep in their family, are ostracized by their community after they are jail-released. No penal code in any country can convict an individual twice for a single crime. They already serve jail sentence for their crimes and once they are released, they fall victim to social hatred and rejection. Who should be held accountable for the hatred and social obstacle they receive after jail-release. The women who lead a dignified life fell victim to circumstances mostly by intrigue, insist or rape, are landed in the prison and the life become unbearably tortuous after they are released as they are socially discarded by the family" (Dahal, 1998).

Similarly another article published in *The Rising Nepal*, discuss the social status of women, "Despite their overwhelming contribution, Nepalese women have remained relatively disadvantaged gender in our society. In fact the participation of women in the development activities needn't to be marginalized from the mainstream of the development, and indeed, more than half population cannot be remained untouched to add up the bricks in this process. Our male dominated society is still hesitating to provide

the equal right to women and it perhaps, is also because of the male dominating conceptual ambiguities of our society. Whether past or present, they are always remaining a subject of victim in our social line and there is every possibility for them to be tortured by their male partner even over a very small mistake while their men-folk feel free to do anything they like. Ironically, Nepalese women have no security under the same law that every one else is enjoying now! (Uprety, *The Rising Nepal*, 28 Dec, 1998).

On these women empowerment and status concerning questions Annan, Secretary General of the United Nation, writes as: “Of course, we have come a long way but still much things are remained to be done. “We can look with some pride at the remarkable achievement made so far. We entered a century where women had the right to vote in a mere handful of the countries: we live in one where the vast majority of the countries have universal suffrage. We entered a century where women were practically excluded from decision making :we live in one where the participation of one women at senior levels of leadership, national and international is no longer question, in many countries, provision of guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination on the basis of sex have been included in constitutions or integrated into legislative reforms. Discriminatory legal provisions have been replaced and legal literacy and other measures introduced to alert women to their rights and ensure their access to those rights. The world community has identified violence its various forms perpetrated against women such as; a clear violation of women rights. Strong action has put in place, at the international, regional and national levels, to comfort what should always have been considered unconscionable (Annan-*The Rising Nepal*, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1999).

Koirala has submitted a thesis “An Overview of Socio-Economic status of women involved in Income Generation Program: A Case of Waling Municipality, Syangaja District, Nepal”. The main objective of this study was to study the socio-economic status of women in Walling Municipality involved in income generation program of WDD. She has stated in this thesis that efforts have been made by national government and non-government sectors towards the socio-economic status of Nepalese women. Empowering women has become a global issue. If women become economically active and financially independent, their social status also changes automatically.

She further stated that change in attitude of the people is as important as the material achievement through community during the initial stages of development. The identification encouragement and training of local leadership should be a basic objective in any program. Therefore, greater reliance on the participation of women and youth in community projects invigorate development programs; establish them on a wide basis. People get involved in program planning and its execution then are organized into farmer's organization youth club or women association (Koirala, 2001).

Women in Nepal constitute half of the country's population but the condition of the majority of them is not satisfactory. Despite equal rights and opportunities guaranteed by the constitution, women, in real life, have not been able to enjoy the same. The condition in rural areas is even worse. Women are discriminated against and are far behind in many areas, barring a few exceptions, mainly because of our long-held social and cultural structure and attitude. The status of women in Nepal must be enhanced. However, there have been changes in the attitude of the society regarding women in recent times. It has been realized that without development of women, the long term and sustainable development of the country is not possible (Singh, 2002).

K.C. has submitted a thesis "Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Case Study in Chapali Bhairav VDC, Kathmandu". The objectives of this study were to find out the socio-economic and demographic status of women, to analyze the decision making right or women, to explore the role of women in the field of agriculture, education and household economy.

He has stated in this thesis that women play a significant role in the development of nation. Their involvement is vital at the household, society and at the national level also. Women's activities are spread over various sectors of society, productive as well as reproductive. Women decision making power is associated with the quantum of dowry they bring at the time of marriage. This may be because the women from high class family bring a lot of dowry whereas women from low economic strata cannot. Hence, their power of decision making is automatically less in their household. He has found that fewer women are literates; they are neglected in every field. It is considered useless to give education because women must bear other responsibilities such as looking after their siblings, assist their mother in household chores, looking after livestock and agriculture.

The work load of women was found to be comparatively higher than their male counterparts (K.C., 2003).

Amatya (2003) has submitted a thesis “Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Case Study of Ekhachhen Locality of Ward No. 22, Lalitpur”. The objective of this thesis was to study the socio-economic profile of the respondents and to analyze the societal participation of the respondents (participation in household level, community level and in politics”).)

The findings of this study were

- ) Although few of the respondent were highly educated and working in the prestigious organization, the majority of the women were found to be having inadequate education and did not have access to top level job.
- ) Although most of the respondents visit the hospitals for the medical treatment, some of them were still found to be visiting to Dhamis and Jhankris for their treatment which shows there is the existence of belief in spiritual power.
- ) The work load of women was found to be comparatively higher than their male counterpart.

Bhusal has submitted a thesis “Role of Women in Household Decision Making; A Case Study of Argha VDC, Arghakhanchi District”. The main objective of this study is to analyze the role o women in household decision making on farm management, labor utilization, educational aspects and family planning measures and to examine the economic status of women. The study is descriptive in nature.

He states in this thesis that equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands, conflicts or through wishes and blessings along. Experience has also shown that laws and regulations are not adequate, what is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all. Women are bounded by socio-cultural norms. Even parents discriminate against the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awareness and education. So, if the nation wants to gain something from women. Their first duty should be given equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc and control of family by the use of family planning measures and drastic change will come in that nation automatically in every field like economic

development, status of women, women's decision making power etc. He further said that household decision making is envisaged to be a strong indicator of the different powers and positions held by the different members within the household. So the equally opportunity should be given male as well as female in family.

He has found that women has highest contribution in decision making regarding fuel/energy use, cropping pattern, clothing, medical treatment, social/religious ceremonies and gifts/loans to friends. But in terms of investment and expenditure, men are the final decision maker. In any type of decision making, men are the final decision maker which clearly indicates that female members are though incapable of making any effective decision. Similarly, wives have a greater contribution regarding the decision in sending the children to school which shows their greater concern for the children's education. Regarding the women participation in adult literacy classes and in community activities, men have control over it.

He has recommended that employment opportunity should be made available for the educated girls and women, which would encourage their economic participation and hence evaluate her status within the household (Bhusal, 2004).

Another thesis "Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Case Study of Babiyachaur VDC of Surkeht District" has submitted by Sapkota Krishan Prasad. The objective of this study was to identify the role of women in economic as well as non economic activities and to identify and analyze the socio-economic problems facing by women (Sapkota, 2006).

The major findings of this study were

- ) More than half women are illiterate.
- ) Medical check-up practice is occasional.
- ) 90 percent of women have power of decision making only on the matter of household.
- ) Dropout rate of girls' at school is relatively high.
- ) Very low women are politically aware.



Pandehas submitted a thesis ‘Socio-economic Status of Women Engaged in Vegetable Production in Nepal; a case study of Kumpur VDC of Dhading District’. The objective of this study was to assess the socio economic status of women engaged in vegetable production as well as to find out the role of women in household decision making pattern. The study is descriptive as well as exploratory in nature.

In this study, the researcher has stated that as women constitute more than 50 percent of total population of the country, their development contributes to the overall development of Nepal. But women are still forced to live insecure life because of poverty, illiteracy and gender discriminations. Their lives are dominated by immediate survival issues and heavy domestic work loads. In Nepal, women bear triple work responsibilities in their houses such as: reproduction, household works and outside work or employment. In developed or developing countries, reproduction is not regarded as work and household work is not considered as productive work. In Nepal, the work burden of women is high in global scenario. Thus, the socio-economic status of women in Nepal is not satisfactory. She further says that the status of women in their family is improving in comparison to past now days. The participation of women in decision making practice is also found positive.

She has concluded that socio economic status of women farmer on vegetables production at Kumpur VDC of Dhadaing is getting better, women are able to contribute for the betterment of their family both socially or economically women have multi-dimensional roles and responsibilities in their family. Their work burden is higher but most of their time is spent in their household activities, which is not counted as income generating works. They work only for the purpose of family use. Most of the women have to depend upon their family in socio-economic sector. Only few women are involved in community decision. A number of women farmer are unaware of the new technology generated and using traditional technology which is reflected by low productivity and lower living standard of majority of women farmers.

She has recommended that economic status is yet low. In order to develop their economic status, government and other organizations should conduct skill development programs which build up the confidence in the women. There should be equal property right of men and women in paternal property. It should also be brought into practice.

Women should be encouraged to work outside by their family members. Women spend more time in domestic works which is not counted as economic activity. So they seem dependent on their family. Therefore domestic or households contribution should be valued as economic activities. Various programs have been run by NGOs, INGOs, and human right organizations to uplift the social status of women in national level. But these programs are only confined within cities and headquarters. They should be practiced at the grass root level. Then only the aim to improve the status of women and to bring equality among male and female can be achieved. As women's decision making power is low, for promotion of this, women's participation in decision making power, government and other organizations should provide awareness programs for women to highlight the importance of education, economical and social participation for women, so that there can be gender equity for the overall socio-economic development. Similarly, to promote women's mobility level, their family counterpart should be conscious about women right for freely going and coming outside the home where they need. She further recommends that as heavy domestic workload of women reduces their available time for more productive activities, the family members including their male counterparts should support domestic works of women. As women face the problems of knowledge and skills, they should be given the technical, operational and management training for vegetable production (Pande, 2009).

## **2.4 Concluding Remarks**

Conclusively, socio-economic status of women is taken as the most important indicator for the overall development of nation. To determine the socio-economic status, different writers, scholars and the concerned stakeholders towards the subject matter use different variables. Among them, education, employment status, health status, occupation, involvement in politics and social organizations are the major indicators which reflect the status of women in the society. Reviewing all concerned literature, it was found that more better the indication of above variables the more improved the status of women. In this study, efforts have been made to identify the socio-economic status of women in Seucahtar VDC using the determinant variables as used by former writer, researchers and scholars. It can be very fruitful to those interested persons, parties,

scholars, professors, students, businessman and government for academic as well as policy perspective. Hope this study will help to others in future in the related field.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study tries to throw light on the ‘Socio-Economic Status of Women’ of economically active women, aged between 15-59 years, in terms of their household decision making, employment status, educational status, involvement in farm and involvement in social activities, aiming to obtain some remarkable finding related to their social life.

The present study has been conducted mainly on descriptive research methodology which can be supposed the basis of this study. Some statistical tools and its interpretation have also been used in this thesis to make the research more empirical. In other words, information and data have been collected and analyzed using descriptive method with tabulated data. In addition to this special attention had given in collecting in-depth data and emphasis has been also given to the cultural and religious variables.

#### **3.2 Universe of Sampling and Sample Selection Method**

The present study includes only the economically active women between the age 15 to 59 years, living in Seuchatar VDC. Although the National Population Census has included the population 10 years and above into economically active frame, only the years of 15 to 59 women were undertaken in this study since the labor of under 14 years children is considered illegal. Likewise the person of above 60 years is supposed to be less active. The research has taken this as a limitation of the study.

There are altogether 4811 women in this village according to the Sub Health Post, Seuchatar VDC (2065/4/15). In this study, 10 percent of household in each ward are selected on the basis of random sampling and one woman from each household are taken as respondent.

#### **3.3 Selection of the Study Area**

Located very near by Kathmandu metropolitan City, Seuchatar VDC is one of the VDCs of Kathmandu district. Despite some urban influences, the village is saturated with some rural characteristics. It has its own peculiar costumes and tradition. As the researcher was touched to observe the existing condition of women, during the short

visit. It has been endeavored to conduct a study on those women living in this VDC focusing on their economic and social aspects.

### **3.4 Selection of the Respondents**

The respondents for this study have been selected through random sampling method taking 10 percent of household in each ward and one woman from each household of aged 15-59 of the sampled household were interviewed. Table no. 3.1 indicates the ward wise distribution of total household, sample household and the respondent. Table No. 3.1 clears the ward wise distribution of total household, sample household and respondent women.

**Table No. 3.1**  
**Ward Wise Distribution of Total Household, Sample Household and Respondent Women**

Ward No.	Total Household	Sample Households	Responded Women of age 15-59
1	505	50	50
2	225	23	23
3	96	10	10
4	365	36	36
5	96	10	10
6	137	13	13
7	95	9	9
8	217	22	22
9	127	13	13
Total	1863	186	186

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The Table No. 3.1 shows that the total number of households seems 1863 in this VDC and out of them, 186 households were taken as sample household comprising on and average of 10 percent of household in each ward. One women from each household were taken to fulfill the purpose of study, the total number of respondent women is 186, including both marital pattern i.e. married/unmarried and widow/separated.

### **3.5 Pilot Survey and Pre-testing of Questionnaire**

The impetus to this study is mainly the impressing received by the verity observed in their economic and social conditions during the pilot survey. A pre-test of questionnaire has been conducted after the pilot survey.

### **3.6 Nature of the Data**

Data collection is an important part of any research work. Until and unless the data are properly collected, any study cannot be completed satisfactory. For this study also, data have been collected through various techniques. The data, which are used in this study, are of two types, primary and secondary. Primary data have been collected by the researcher personally conducting the field survey through the help of a well structured pre-tested questionnaire and also a checklist to obtain information from the people besides the actual responding whereas the secondary data have been taken from various published and unpublished books, VDC records, articles and writings of the other people.

### **3.7 Data Processing and Analysis**

The collected data and information have been processed manually in master table and tabulated form by the researcher. The data were analyzed by both in quantitative and qualitative ways. Descriptive as well as statistical method such as tabulation method is also used wherever is felt necessary.

### **3.8 Techniques of Data Collection**

In this study, the first attempt was made to understand the socio-economic condition of the respondent's family. And subsequently, economically active women of aged 15 to 59 years of the sampled household were personally, separately visited while collecting the data. Initially, perhaps, due to the fear and hesitation, they found quite reluctant to answer the question. Only after repeated efforts to mix up with them and participate, they became quite open to the researcher and responded. Thus in this study, all the techniques mentioned above have been applied to get as much information as possible which are discussed below. The following techniques have been employed to collect the data in this study.

### 3.8.1 Primary Data

Under this the following techniques have been applied.

- ) **Interview Schedule:** A questionnaire was prepared which helps to obtain information about economic and social aspects and condition of these women. After a consistent endeavor; the researcher successful performed the task of obtaining answers from the respondent women because of which as much information has been gathered regarding above mentioned aspect of these women.
- ) **Participant Observation:** In this study, the researcher personally visited the study area and observed their daily way of life, residence, food habit and mannerism, their inter-personal relationship and the relationship between their family. After a close study of their total economic and social conditions, information was recorded in a diary.
- ) **Checklist Interview:** Under this technique, the researcher, prepared questionnaire, collected information personally meeting and conversation with the respondents. While collecting information among with their answers, attention was also paid to the translinguistic features like the expression and gestures of the respondents as well as paying special attention to their behavioral expressions.

### 3.8.2 Secondary Data

Data have also been collected for this study from the secondary sources especially from the published as well as unpublished books, articles and writings. Mostly, information has been derived from the different write ups about the women economic contribution in Nepal as well as the other countries.

### 3.9 Statistical tools

After collecting the data, it has been further analyzed with the help of statistical tool viz. percentage.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD OF THE STUDY AREA**

Conserving from both the statistical facts and the personal observation, attempts about the 'women's condition' in the area where this study was undertaken, shows a number of interesting as well as pragmatic findings, from which, it is expected to depict the actual picture of rural women in Nepal. The women's input in the household chores and subsistence sector, are almost uniformly important, that is the pre-dominant of their involvement in such household sphere, despite some cultural variation exist. There are however a number of factors acting at the household and individual levels such as the economic status of the family, the individual women's age, the availability of family members to help with child care etc. which also effects the structure of female economic participation and decision making in the household.

#### **4.1 Introduction to the study area**

Seuchatar VDC lies in the close proximity of the Kathmandu city; however the VDC has been fallen behind in economic opportunities. There are altogether 1863 households in this VDC. The total population of this VDC is 9080 in which 53 percent of the population is constituted of women.

The boundaries of the VDC ends east to the Kathmandu Metropolitan city, west and south in Purano Naikap VDC and north in Ramkot VDC. The inhabitants of the VDC are constituted of different ethnic groups, Brahmin, Chettri, Rai, Tamang, Newar and some migrated as well as occupational groups. Mostly there is the majority of Brahmin and Chettri Though many people are engaged in different kinds of employment activities; the population mostly depends on subsistence agriculture but due to ownership of duel and small marginal land, which is mostly un-irrigated, the majority of them are not able to produce enough to meet their annual requirement of food. The deficit of food stuff are purchased from the market which is paid from the cash earn by selling limited quantity of agriculture as well as non agriculture products produced at their small firms. As many people are engaged in service, business and other income generating activities, the requirement of many things are fulfilled from the income earned from those related sector.



The condition of women is not so good as they are illiterate and overburdened with less productive responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning, looking after children and taking care of household chores.

This VDC is comprised by nine wards. There are altogether three schools, one primary, one lower secondary and one secondary. There has remained one sub-health post which is providing the available health service to the people.

There is not the facility of drinking water in this VDC. People are suffered in terms of drinking water. The main source of water is the Manamati Khola, well and natural fountain in this VDC. Because of the lack of water, there is the problem in irrigation as people are facing many troubles in agricultural activities.

As most population consists of Hindu, there are many temples in this VDC. Though there are some social organizations, these organizations are not sufficiently active. To catch the milestone for social transformation, these social organizations must be reactivated.

The population of this VDC, total household and the male, female population are given in the table below:

**Table No. 4.1**  
**Total Population and Household of the VDC**

Ward No.	Total H.H.	Male	Female	Total
1	505	956	1238	2194
2	225	742	941	1683
3	96	235	335	570
4	365	859	735	1594
5	96	228	281	509
6	137	247	253	500
7	95	282	299	581
8	217	429	488	917
9	127	299	241	540
Total	1863	4277	4811	9080

Source: Sub Health Post, 2066

In the Table No. 4.1, we have given the ward no., total household, and number of male and female and total population of the study area. From this table it is clear that the VDC comprise of 9 wards and the total population of this VDC is 9080. Among them, the total number of male is 4277 and the total number of women is 4811. These data show that the number of female is slightly more than male.

#### **4.2 Land Ownership**

As agriculture is the main occupation of Nepalese, this study conducted in Seuchatar VDC also depicts the same result. But the cultivation pattern a little bit different as found in nation wide cultivation pattern, that is, several studies have shown that farmers do not get their own land for cultivation rather landlords occupies most of the land and farmers get land in rent. But in this VDC, cultivation pattern in land is done by own landowner.

**Table No. 4.2**

#### **Percentage Distribution of Land Ownership of Sampled Household**

Ownership	Number of Household	Percentage
Cultivated by Own	144	77.42
Rented	10	5.38
As a Tenant	32	17.20
Total	186	100

Source: field Survey, 2067

According to the Table No.4.2, among the sampled households, 77.42 percent of household cultivate their own land, 5.38 percent of sampled household cultivate land taking in rent. Similarly, 17.20 percent of sampled household cultivate land but as a tenant.

#### **4.3 Family Income Source**

There are different sources of income to survive for human beings. Some chooses agriculture some chooses service, some live their life with business some with others. Any way for the betterment of the life everybody have to choose a professional occupation which creates some sort of income.

The technology of agriculture is primitive and the agriculture is of subsistence type. The other sources are also not found reliable. Only a handful people are engaged in

business. Service holders are also limited. For all these reasons, income level of this VDC is not so good. On the other hand, income distribution gap is also wide. The level of income varies from one population group to another. Particularly Dalit people hardly earn income for their survival. Income level in Dalit community is found to be lower than others.

**Table No.4.3**

**Percentage Distribution of Family Income Source of Sampled Household**

Income Source	Number of Household	Percentage
Agriculture	29	15.59
Service	50	26.88
Business	22	11.83
Others	3	1.61
Agriculture + Business	17	9.14
Agriculture + Service	50	26.88
Agriculture + Cottage	3	1.62
Service + Business	8	4.30
Agriculture + Others	4	2.15
Total	186	100

Source: field Survey, 2067

Table No. 4.3 Shows the main sources of income of the sampled Households in the study area. The main income source of the studied area is dominated by service sector with 26.88 percent followed by mixed sector that is agriculture and service sector of same percent.

Even though the study area is nearby capital of Nepal, Kathmandu, in this area there are 15.59 percent of household who are fully dependent upon the agriculture sector for their hand to mouth. In the same area, there are 11.83 percent of households who are operating their own business for their income. Similarly, agriculture and business, agriculture and cottage, service and business, agriculture and others cover 9.14, 1.62, 4.30, and 2.15 percent of sampled household respectively.

As Nepal is an agricultural country, the above data also shows that the main income source of Seuchatar VDC is also agriculture.

#### 4.4 Monthly Income of family

Income is a variable which shows the status of an individual as well as family in society. It determines the economic status of everyone. Therefore an attempt has been made to find the monthly income of the sampled households.

**Table No.4.4**

**Percentage Distribution of Monthly Family Income of Sampled Household**

Income (in NRS)	Number of Household	Percentage
Up to 5000	29	15.59
5001-10000	25	13.45
10001-15000	41	22.04
15001-20000	41	22.04
Above 20000	50	26.88
Total	186	100.00

Source: field Survey, 2066

From the different sources of income sampled population make certain income in monthly basis which can be discussed as in the table 186 sampled household 15.59 percent of respondent earn up to 5000/- NRS per month, 13.45 percent of the total respondents earns between 5001 to 10000 NRS Per Month for their survival, 22.04 percent of the participants of the survey replied of earning monthly between 10001 to 15000. Similarly 22.04 percent and 26.88 percent of the total surveyed population replied as earning 15001 to 20000 and above 20000 respectively. The household income level of the study area, in general, is quite good. Thus, economic condition is seemed to be quite satisfactory in Nepalese context.

#### 4.5 Livestock Pattern

Livestock are the most important and integral part of Nepalese economy. Farming and livestock raising are interdependent in the agriculture system of Nepal. Majority of households keep livestock for different purposes such as earning income, providing food and manure etc.

Cattle are the common livestock of Seuchatar VDC. People have kept livestock for the same above-mentioned purposes. For many families, they have become main

source of income. Especially the people of Seuchatar earn income by selling the milk of cow. The Table No. 6 shows the livestock raising status of Seuchatar VDC.

**Table No. 4.5**

**Percentage Distribution of Livestock Pattern of Sampled Household**

Cattles	Number of Household	Percentage
Yes	101	54.30
No	75	45.7
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

Table No. 4.5 shows that in the sampled area 54.30 percent of the population hold cattle and 45.70 do not. This shows that more than half percent of the respondent are earning income through their livestock.

**4.6 Cultural Characteristics**

As our country is a multi-cultural country, and on amalgam of different caste and ethnicity, this village is not out of this identity. Various cultural value and social ceremonies as traditionally practiced are still regulating their lives. It is interesting to note that the expenditure in such cultural and social activities absorbed a most notable fraction of income of the household, especially in the Newar community. Other communities also spend a notable portion of income in such social activities in maintaining their social prestige.

**4.7 Residential System**

Traditional structure of house and compound have representing their years long identity, however some new styles of residential system is rapidly taking place. In traditional households, they have water seal and cemented type of toilet which is outside the home and in new style of households, toilet is inside the home and toilet and bathroom are attached to room. There does not exist the sufficiency of drinking water supply though there seems a potential, if fairly mobilize the existing internal sources to the existing population.

#### 4.8 Family Structure

Family is a social institution and the most important primary group of the society as well. It is the first and the most important intermediate social environment to which a child is exposed and where a child develops its basic attitudes. Along with the wave of modernization and urbanization, the traditional family system has been changing its shape. Traditional joint family system is gradually fading away replacing by the nuclear family system. Less of the household is found living jointly.

**Table No. 4.6**  
**Percentage Distribution of Structure of Sampled Household**

Family Structure	Number of Household	Percentage
Nuclear	160	86.02
Joint	26	13.98
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

Table No. 4.8 indicates that the existence of Nuclear family constitutes fairly high percentage that is 86.02 percent than that of joint family 13.98 percent. As the structure of Nuclear family is increasing everywhere, this study also shows the increasing trend of Nuclear family in Seuchatar VDC too.

#### 4.9 Concluding Remarks

The study is based on the collected data from the selected area, Seuchatar VDC. The study area, being near to urban settlement does not show the typical rural characteristics of village. Most probably, because of near to Kathmandu City and due to the effect of modernization, the data compiled from this village shows semi urban characteristics.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RESPONDENT WOMEN**

#### **5.1 Social Aspect**

While studying the social aspect of the society, a number of factors should be taken into consideration in order to understand their socio-economic condition as well as their relative status. Cultural factor, for instance, highly influences the lifestyle, economic mobility, the individual status etc. which identifies the level of their recognition over the family and the society. The researcher, in this study tries to incorporate all these social aspects and variables to make the study more complete.

Women in fact, showed a greater input into the domestic and subsistence sector. A notable fraction of the household income is observed to be derived from the women's additional efforts other than bearing the univocal concept total domestic and subsistence responsibilities, which are supported to be their born duties. In this regard, women's share on day to day life in terms of working duration is universally high, however, the nature and the degree of their economic contribution base on gender differs significantly from one community to the next according to economic social and demographic circumstances and to the cultural sex stereotype of particular occupation among other factors.

To explain socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area where different variables have been used and they are described as follow,.

According to the recorded data of sub health post 2066 B.S., the total female population of this VDC is 4811 slightly more than the male number of 4277 out of the total population 9080. For this study, only the women of age between 15 to 59 years were undertaken. And the person under the year of fourteen are considered child and their subsequent works are rated within the child labor. The women of aged 60 years and above one supposed economically less active, however there certainly is no reason to deny their economic as well as social contribution while handling the family. The researcher has taken this as the limitation of this study.

### 5.1.1 Caste/Ethnicity

Caste is one of the main factors that influence the social life of an individual. To a great extent, the status of women is determined by the caste. Feasts and festivals, norms and values of the society, magnitude of freedom, decision making powers etc. are some of the elements that are affected by the caste and ethnicity. This study has attempted to find out the ethnic composition of the respondents which can be shown in the table ....

The area in which this study was undertaken reveals a marked diversity in the caste and ethnicity composition among its population. During the time of field survey only women between the age of 15 to 59 year were interviewed ignoring their marital pattern i.e. both married/unmarried and widow/separated are taken account. Table No....shows the caste/ethnicity characteristics of the sample respondent women of the study area.

**Table No. 5.1**

#### **Percentage Distribution of Respondent Women by Caste/Ethnicity**

Caste/Ethnicity	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Brahmin	94	50.54
Chhetri	43	23.11
Newar	20	10.75
Rai	6	3.23
Tamang	13	6.99
Occupational	10	5.38
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The Table No. 5.1 shows that the number of Brahmin i.e. 50.54 percent is the largest in distribution as this is the largest settlement in this area. Then comes the number of Chhetri which constitute 23.11 percent out of the total population followed by Newar which figured about 10.75 percent. Similarly Tamang, Rai and occupational caste constitute 6.99, 3.23 and 5.38 respectively out of the sampled population.

The study found that the ethnic groups revealed a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However people from different groups were also found to be living together in certain areas of settlement. This concentration of ethnicity in the



certain area is found to help them to follow the age-long traditional cultural practices which still are keeping them as a separate identity. General transaction of economic captivity or other social behavior is seemed to be confined to their own community. But the inter-community assimilation is another positive development.

### 5.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondent

Age is an important demographic characteristic. Roles and responsibilities, ownership of land/property, decision making power of a woman are affected by their age. In this study, the age of the respondents ranged from 15 to 59 years. The description of age group in the sampled households can be shown by the Table No. 5.2.

**Table No. 5.2**

**Distribution of the Respondents according to Age**

Age (group years)	No. of respondents	Percentage
15-29	33	17.74
30-44	111	59.68
45-59	42	22.58
Total	186	100

Source: field Survey, 2067

In this table, the age distribution of the sampled women has been presented under 3 age groups. Highest percentage of respondents was of 30-44 years age group that is 59.68 percent. 22.58 percent of the respondents fall under the age group of 45-59 years and 17.74 percent of the respondents fall under the age group of 15-29 which is lowest percent of the respondents. In above table, we found that the majority of the respondents are of middle age that is 30 years to 44 years old.

### 5.1.3. Marital Status

Nepalese society is still based on the traditional way of living containing the same cultural norms and religious values that or ancestor had followed. Marriage in this society, is supposed to be indispensable social phenomenon and conjugal life is the feature. Marital status affects the status of women, changing their roles and responsibilities. A daughter has to bear more responsibilities and perform more duties as a daughter-in-law after marriage. The study informs the marital status of the respondent women.

**Table No. 5.3**  
**Percentage Distribution of Marital Status of Respondents**

Marital Status	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Unmarried	17	9.14
Married	160	86.02
Widow	9	4.84
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The information on Table No. 5.4 indicates that out of the total sampled female respondents, 160 of them were found to be married, which constitutes the highest 86.02 percentage. 17 women out of total sampled women were found to be unmarried which is figured as second that is 9.14 percent. 4.84 percent women are found widows.

The female work burden whether within the household or outside, is observed to be varied with the individuals marital status among the family member especially, in the joint family. The married women, mostly in the joint family, have to bear greater household work than of unmarried female but the obvious true is that, the greater the number of women in the family less will be the total work burden among themselves.

#### **5.1.4 Education**

Education is one of the major factors to measure the social status of any community. Education is potentially an agent for awareness and change, and therefore it is central to the process of women's empowerment. Education is often seen as a stepping stone for leading a better life. Generally, the level of the education is the indicator of the social status of women. Accesses to job opportunity, economic independency, decision making power etc. of the women are evaluated in terms of education of the women. The education level the respondents of the present study are given in the following table.

**Table No. 5.4**  
**Percentage Distribution of Education of Respondents**

Education Level	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Illiterate	57	30.65
Literate	41	22.04
Primary	20	10.75
Secondary	28	15.05
I.A.	15	8.06
B.A.	14	7.53
Above BA.	11	5.92
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The educational level of the respondents was varying from illiterate to Masters Level. 30.65 percent of the respondents were found illiterate. Regarding the respondents who can only read or write as literate, the literacy rate of the respondents is 22.04 percent. The percentage of women with the education under S.L.C. was 25.80 where as 8.06 percent were I.A. passed, 7.53 percent were B.A. passed and only 5.92 percent of respondents hold Master's degree. The education level of the respondents in general is quite good, thus educational condition seemed to be quite satisfactory in Nepalese context.

## **5.2 Economic Aspect**

One of the most determining aspects in order to overcome the deep rooted impediments and internalized obstacles in empowering women is realized 'the economic aspects'. Various studies shows the women's status positively co-related with the level of their economic independence. In this chapter different variables have been analyzed in assessing the economic aspect of the women.

### **5.2.1 Occupation**

Most of the women in our country are confined to domestic household chores so call 'Housewife'. The concept of 'Housewife' connotes a woman whose activities are limited to household and domestic chores, which are categorized as 'Reproductive' and 'Productive' work. However due to modernization some of the women are engaged in

home-based income generating activities while others are engaged in outside employment. As occupation acts as variable in determining economic status, therefore it is necessary to study the occupation of the respondents which is shown in the Table No.5.5.

**Table No. 5.5**  
**Percentage Distribution of Occupation of Respondents**

Occupation	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Agriculture	69	37.00
Service	36	19.34
Business	27	14.52
Housewife	27	14.52
Student	10	5.38
Agriculture + Cottage	5	2.68
Agriculture + Business	10	5.38
Agriculture + Service	2	1.08
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

Above table shows the occupation of the respondents. 1.08 percent of respondents were found engaged both in agriculture and service, 2.68 percent of the respondents were found engaged both in agriculture and cottage, 5.38 percent of the respondents were found involved both in agriculture and business and the percent of respondent who are student is also same. 14.5 percent of respondents were found in business. Similarly 14.52 percent of respondents were found housewives. 19.34 percent of respondents were found engaged in service sector, and the highest percent of the respondents that is 37 percent of respondents were found engaged only in agriculture. Each woman who is engaged in different occupation has to do household works. Thus the work burden to the women is very high then men. It is found that most of the women normally work 18 hours per day. As women have to perform in the household as well as outside the household work, the work burden to them is increasing day by day.

### 5.2.2 Monthly Income of the Respondents

Income is variable which determines the economic status of the individual. Therefore attempt has been made here to find the monthly income of the respondent.

**Table No.5.6**

#### **Percentage Distribution of the Monthly Income of the Respondents**

Monthly Income	Number of Respondents	Percentage
No Income	53	28.49
Up to 5000	84	45.16
5001-10000	31	16.67
10001-15000	13	6.99
15001-20000	3	1.61
Above 20000	2	1.08
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

As above table reveals 28.49 percent of the respondents do not have any income. 45.16 percent of the respondent has income level below Rs. 5000. This was the income level of those women who earn the money who are engaged in agriculture. 16.17 percent of the respondents income level was between Rs. 5001 to 10000 and 6.99 percent of the respondents earn between Rs. 10001 to 15000. Similarly, 1.61 percent of the respondents earn between Rs. 15001 to 20000. Lastly, 1.61 percent of the respondent earns the highest amount in a month that is above 20000 rupees in a month. The respondents of this group were found to be engaged in service sector, like NGO, INGO, teaching, public service.

The respondents who earn some income, usually expenses their money mostly for household purposes. They spend this income in buying food items for family, for the children education and other activities in the family. Most respondents decide own self to spend that income and most of them saved little part their income too.

### 5.2.3 Pattern of Land holding

Generally Land is transmitted from older to younger generation through the male line. Sons are regarded as legal heirs and inherit their parental property. Daughters do not inherit property unless she remains unmarried in her whole life. So, the inheritance and

land holding system in Seuchatar is not different from that of Nepal in general. The practice to register land in the name of women is very rare.

**Table No. 5.7**

**Percentage Distribution of Land Ownership of Respondents**

Property ownership	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	30	16.13
No	156	83.87
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The above table reveals that out of 186 respondents only 16.13 percent have land in their own name. 83.87 percent of the respondents don't have land in their own name. From this we can say that the access to the land holding of women in Seuchatar VDC is very low.

**5.3 Religious Aspect**

Religion has a great impact of life. And Hindu religion has profound influence in our society. Hindu myth states that the creation of women resulted from the left organ of the creator Brahma. The social and religious tradition has greatly influenced the life of women basically Hindu and Buddhism are the main religions of the study area. Mostly Brahmins/Chettri, most of the Newars and lower caste untouchables follow Hinduism whereas Lama and Rai believes in Buddhism. Beside these religion, follower of other religion that is Christian are very small in numbers. Most of the people believe in Hindu religion. The following is the religion wise distribution of the respondent women of this area.

**Table No. 5.8**

**Percentage Distribution of Religion of the Respondents**

Religion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Hindu	158	84.95
Buddhist	25	13.44
Christian	3	1.61
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

According to the data shown in Table No. 5.9, Hindus constitute most of the sampled respondents. The followers of Hindu religion are figured as 84.95 percent out of the total number. Buddhism is able to place a second position composing 13.44 percent out of the total respondent women. Similarly, Christian religion shows only a 1.61 percent of followers which is the smallest percent among the currently practiced religion.

The religions character is seemed related to the daily activities of women. Most of the Hindu is found to devote their certain time to visit and worship to holly God and Goddess. They equally attains in religious ceremonies of which they reveals, to be rendered mental relief. In addition to that, this religious activity provides them incentives to be greater social assimilation. Likewise a well integration of other religions among the people is another positive co-existence of a society having different faiths.

#### **5.4 Health Status**

Particularly in most of the rural areas of Nepal, women possess poor health. Social and cultural values prevailing there are the most affecting factors. The socio-economic status of women depends on health too. Maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate are relatively high in Nepal. Their access to health facility is low. Hence, with the objective to gather information about the health condition of women of he study area, an attempt has been made to identify the access of women to some health facilities such as place of delivery, antenatal and postnatal care, practice of medical check etc. The Table No.5.9shows the real status of the health of the respondents.

**Table No. 5.9**

#### **Percentage Distribution of Respondents as Regards to Health Facility**

Type of Facility	Antenatal care (in percentage)	Postnatal Care (in percentage)	Delivery at Home (in percentage)	Delivery at Hospital (in percentage)
Yes	61.30	20.43	44.97	55.03
No	38.70	79.57	55.03	44.97
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

Above table shows that out of total respondents 61.30 percent respondents received antenatal care and 20.43 percent respondents received postnatal care. Similarly 44.97 percent deliveries took place at home and 55.03 percent of them took place in

hospital. As 61.30 percent of respondent had get the facility of antenatal care, it reveals that there is the awareness of maternal care in the period of pregnancy.

**Table No. 5.10**

**Percentage Distribution of Respondent in terms of Medical Check up**

Medical check up	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Once in a month	-	-
Once in a year	-	-
Only in the period of sickness	186	100
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey,2067

According to the Table No. 5.10,all respondent have practice to check up health only in the period of sickness. None got their health checked once in a month as well as in a year.

**5.4.1 Distribution of the respondents by children size**

The health status of the women is also affected by the number of children she had reproduced. Hence, this study tries to find out the children size of the sampled women.Table No. 5.12 highlights about it.

**Table No. 5.11**

**Percentage Distribution of the Respondent by Children Size**

No. of Children	No. of Respondents	Percentage
One child	45	26.63
Two child	76	44.97
Three children	33	19.53
More than three children	14	8.28
No child	1	0.59
Total	169	100

Source: Field survey, 2067

As the above reveals, the percentages of the women possessing only one child were 26.63 percent. In the same way, 44.97 percent of the respondents bear two children; 19.53 percent with three children; 8.28 percent with more than three children and 0.59 percent with no children.



This shows that besides some percentage of respondents bearing more than two children, quite a significant number of respondents bear one to two children which indicates that they were well aware about the pros and cons of bearing large number of children.

#### **5.4.2 Behavior towards the Use of Contraceptive**

The table given below shows the behavior of women towards the use of contraceptives for controlling frequent pregnancies and unwanted child birth.

**Table No. 5.12**

#### **Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of Use of Contraceptive**

Use of contraceptive	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	77	41.4
No	92	58.6
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

Table No. 5.12 shows that among the total married respondents, 41.1 percent respondents have use contraceptive, and 58.60 percent of respondent did not have use the contraceptive. The above table reveals the low level of awareness in case of family planning. But in case of Nepal, it is no so dissatisfactory.

**Table NO. 5.13**

#### **Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of Contraceptive User**

Contraceptive user	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Wife	76	98.7
Husband	1	1.3
Total	77	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The Table No. 5.13 shows that among the respondents 98.7 percent who were using the contraceptives are female and 1.3 percent who were using contraceptive are male. This can be analyzed as the male supremacy in the study area.

### 5.4.3 Medical Treatment Choice of the Respondents

As the study area is located in the urban part, there are many alternatives health care available. When the respondents fall sick, usually they apply some sort of healing measure. Some go to visit a doctor for medication and some for local healers like dhami, jhankri. Study made, in order to get information as to ‘what they do, and where they go, and whom they believe most, when they fall sick?’ produce mix responses.

**Table No. 5.14**

#### **Percentage Distribution of Respondent in terms of Choice of Medical Treatment**

Treatment	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Doctor	30	16.13
Dhami	0	0
Doctor + Dhami	156	83.87
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The above table indicates that the large proportion of the women 83.87 percent, are found to believe in both doctor and Dhami for treatment. On the other hand, the number of women who believed only in doctor amounted 16.13 percent. Finally, nobody believed only in Dhami for treatment in the period of sickness.

Even at the very threshold to stepping into the third millennium, a notable fraction of women still believe on Dhamis. This shows that there is quite an undeniable existence of Dhamis in the society.

It can be concluded from the above analysis that even in this modern era, quite a large number of people in this village believe in superstitious practice like Dhamis. They tend to prefer local healers for their sickness more than modern medication. But all the related data to health status of the respondent, overall health status of the respondent is satisfactory.

### 5.5 Decision Making Process

Decision making power of Nepalese women is very low. Because most women being illiterate, their male counterparts do not believe in their capacity of decision making and hence women’s participation in decision making remains low. The degree of decision making of rural women is much lower than that of urban women.

A woman who is considered as a housewife has to perform almost all domestic works. In Seuchatar, a clear division of works between male and female can be seen. Decisions for domestic matters such as what food to cook, when to cook, how to care children, how to look after livestock, which breed of livestock to select, how many livestock to keep and how to celebrate festivals etc. are generally made by women. Women are confined to a limited circle of domestic sphere inside the home. It is because their exposure to the outer spaces is considered to malpractice according to the social beliefs. On the other hand, on the matters those are regarded as serious and complicated decisions are made often by males. The matters like arranging marriages, taking and giving loans, buying and selling property, choosing jobs, managing education for children etc. lie in the sphere of male.

In the category of domestic expenditure decision, women are seemed to lead men which, perhaps, because of their high input on subsistence and domestic sector. But by contrary, in deciding about the disposal of household production and major capital transaction, man hold a leading role. Men dominance in decision making process is observed symmetrically high in each community but the difference is found in terms of extent; women are involved in such activity. In addition to this, some social as well as demographic factors such as literary status of female, age, employment, economic exchange at marriage, educational achievement, gender stereotype and women's political and social conscious heavily affects the decision making command over the family. From the observation, cash earning women have indeed a greater say in household decision but still they are not sufficiently consulted while allocating the capital resources. The Table No. 5.15 shows multiple responses of the respondents in terms of household decision making participation.

**Table No. 5.15****Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Final Decision Making**

Activities	Final Deciding Authority			Total
	Percentage			
	Male	Female	Jointly by all member	
Buying/Selling food	13.44	55.38	31.18	100
Buying/Selling cattle	25.74	47.52	26.74	100
Buying/Selling Land	60.75	5.38	33.87	100
Buying Clothes	9.68	48.92	41.4	100
Celebrating festivals	20.97	16.67	62.37	100
Arranging Marriage	51.08	5.38	43.55	100
Investment Activities	32.8	6.45	60.75	100
Lending/Borrowing Activities	73.26	5.38	21.36	100
Children Education	19.35	14.52	66.13	100
Cropping Pattern	4.05	63.51	32.44	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The Table No. 5.15 clears some fundamental characteristics of decision making practice within the household of the research area. The final decision making share seems greater in women especially in category of household affairs while in the question of resource allocation and in the disposal wealth and capital, men have excessively reserved the ultimate decision right.

In household expenditure, women especially wives are seemed the most consulted and controlled person over husband's income as well as her own than those of other members of the family. Likewise male head are found the most consulted person who eventually made the final decision even in many less important issues. We can say in the few words that women's here greater influence in managing the household affairs. But in taking important and mainly economic concerning activities, by contrast, man has the leading role.

Likewise in social sector, all the decision making process does not seem surprising. The male dominance in deciding the decision is seemed the feature. Table no. 5.15 clears the dominance of men in social decision making process related to the households. In this regard women have been lagged behind to men as resulted by the above mentioned factors. Cultural variables also play an important role in women's decision consulting process. In this regard, Tamang and Rai women are found to be more active in this process than Brahmin/Chettri women. Likewise, the women from lower caste are found greater say in deciding the household affairs.

Decision making command of any individual is directly related to the personal status what play the key role in identifying the importance of a person. Therefore, women's decision making process can not be taken in isolation without studying the women's status over family and hence the society. The girls are taught from their childhood to be a silent agent, obedient and less speaking what made them to lose their confidence and self-esteem and the results is, then discouragement in deciding and lose the strength of expression and opinion formations.

Although we find various uneven factors affecting women's decision making participation in the study area, there also exists some rays of hope for the upbringing of their decision making authority within the family. Greater women mobility and entrepreneurship is in the rise. The condition of women in terms of social status whether in Brahmin/Chettri or other ethnic groups is expected to be rise because of the modernization and urbanization trend. The study shows their greater influence in firm management. The final authority to decide anything is seemed to be reserved to men observed.

### **5.6 Magnitude of Freedom**

It is definitely very difficult job to measure the freedom for a woman, though an effort has been made to measure it by categorizing the freedom of respondents into three parts i.e., complete, partial and not at all.

The socio-economic status of women is also affected by the magnitude of freedom they enjoy at home or in the society. The same social and cultural norms values and beliefs are the major cause of limiting women's freedom. Though Seuchatar VDC is sub urban area, it has strong effects of traditional social norms and values. Majority of

women cannot act freely. They have to take permission from their husbands even to go to their parent's home. The table shows the magnitude of freedom of women at home in the study area.

**Table No. 5.16**

**Composition of Freedom According to Degree of Freedom**

Magnitude of Freedom	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Complete	40	21.51
Partial	130	69.89
Not at all	16	8.6
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The table depicts that 69.89 percent of the respondents had partial freedom, 21.51 percent of them were enjoying complete freedom at home and the rest 8.6 percent of the respondents had no freedom at all.

This shows that women are still unable to get chance of enjoyment of freedom. As Nepal is male dominated society, the situation of women is not so good in terms of freedom.

**5.7 Participation in Social Organization**

Women's public and personal lives are still culturally restricted to the degree that they are governed by the patriarchal superstructure of the social system which confines them to a subordinated position. Religion, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life and also condition their private lives. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that the negligible number of women is involved in professional, management or decision-making position. The involvement of women in social organization as well as social activities is also negligible.

In this study, an attempt has been done to know the social involvement of women in Seuchatar VDC. Through the field survey, it was found that one social group exists in this locality. It was Laxmi Saving and Credit Mahila Samuha. Many women are involved in this organization and are benefited from it. This organization helps them by providing loan in low interest rate when they need larger amount of money. Some unmarried respondents were involved in Red Cross Society by which they have benefited as they got

chance to broaden their knowledge. They are benefited in many ways from this social involvement. Some women are involved in Sub health post of Seuchatatr VDC by which they are getting knowledge about small diseases and the method of caring the patient. Women's participation in different group gives the general idea about their activeness. The percentage of women in this group is shown in below table.

**Table No. 5.17**

**Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of Involvement in Social Organization**

Involvement in Social Organization	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	126	67.74
No	60	32.26
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

The above table reveals that out of 186 respondents 67.74 percent of the population does involved in the different kind of social organizations and 32.26 percent of the population does not. This shows that there is cooperation and coordination among the women of this group.

**5.8 Participation in Politics**

The participation in politics also shows the status of women in society. The level of participation in politics in respect of women in Nepal is low. It is thought that the place of women is at home and not in politics. Politics like other factors is a major factor determining women status. It makes women aware of their rights and helps them to raise voices against all kinds of injustice and violence that they have to face. Only a few women have political know-how and are involved in politics directly or indirectly in rural areas. This study has attempted to assess the political status of the respondents. The table shows the same.

**Table No. 5.18**

**Percentage Distribution of Political Status of Respondents**

Political status	No. of respondents	Percentage
Having interest only	15	8.06
Ever held any post	12	6.45
No interest in Politics	159	85.49
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

According to the table, majority of respondents (85.49 %) had no interest in politics, 6.45 percent of them had ever held posts of any kind, such as ward committee member, member of school management committee, member of political party etc. 8.06 percent of the respondents had only interest in politics but they had never held any posts due to many reasons.

This reveals that in terms of involvement in politics, the women of Seuchatar VDC are still far behind. They don't want to involve in politics as most of them take politics as a dirty game.

**5.9 Views and Attitudes towards Different Familial Issues**

The response of the study area have been presented under is based on the questionnaire which create a qualitative space for the open discussion.

**5.9.1 Idea about Son**

Life in Nepal is based on the patriarchal system and there is strong tendency of preferring sons rather than daughters. Sons are considered as economic insurance against the insecurities of old age. It is believed that sons ritually open the gateway the heaven by performing the death rites for their parents and they carry on the family name and legacy, while daughter are give away in marriage, to care for her husband.

In this study, the researcher has asked to the respondents that what they preferred as their first child, and found answer that most of respondents equally preferred both. The respondents said that son and daughter both were equally important in the family. In this modern world, daughter has also capacity of performing all the work as son does provided if there was no gender discrimination.



### **5.9.2 Views on Widow Marriage**

In society like ours, widow marriage is considered as a sin. There are some defined rules and regulations that should be strictly followed by Widow. But now-a-days due to modernization and empowerment of woman, widows are not compelled to follow those conservative traditions of our society. As the researchers had asked to the respondents 'can widow remarry?'. Most of the respondents replied said widow can remarry. The reasons given by respondents for remarriage were as follow:

- ) If the man can remarry, then why not woman?
- ) Life is too long to live alone hence needs one life partner to survive.
- ) Though widow marriage is not in our tradition, this has to be changed according to time.

### **5.9.3 Views on the Education to the Daughter**

Education is preparation of life itself because it is that element which equips a woman with the tool to solve her problems in life and helps her to live in a better life. The respondent women of the study area were well aware about the importance of education in the life of women.

### **5.9.4 Views on Woman's Equal Right on Parental Property**

Laws of inheritance discriminate against women. A daughter cannot inherit a deceased parent's property, so long as the deceased is survived by a spouse, a son or a son's son. A daughter's turn comes only after the grandson. A daughter gets one share only if she remains unmarried until the age of 35. Even after getting her share of property partitioned, she must return the share she has already received if she gets married. The researcher had asked to the respondents that whether women should have equal right on parental property or not? Some respondents were against of the paternal property and women were favor of the paternal property.

The reasons given by the respondents for not acquiring parental property were given as follows:

- ) Women will get the part of her parental property at the time of marriage in the form of dowry.

- ) By taking the parental property, she will increase the enmity even with brothers as property is the main reason of enmity between the brothers.
- ) Woman will get the share of property of her husband.
- ) Education and self-dependent is more important than the share of the property.

The reasons given by the respondents for acquiring the parental property were given as follows:

- ) There should not be any discrimination between son and daughter on any matter, whether it be education, work or even property right.
- ) Property ownership is also very important factor for women empowerment. If woman had any financial backup, then it could generate courage to do every thing and do not have to depend on her male counterparts for every little things.

### **5.9.5 Views on Appropriate Age of Marriage for Girls**

Marital status makes the difference in woman's status. Marriage change the status of daughter into daughter-in-law; wife; mother etc. marriage also change the role of women and increase their duties and work load. After the marriage, normally there will be less chance of continuing the education as she has to look after her in-laws and babies. So marriage plays the very important role in the life of women.

In the study area, more than 90 percent respondents think girls should get married within age group of 22-25 years because by that time they would get the necessary education, have the maturity to understand the family problem and also the appropriate age for the reproduction. According to them, after the girls crossed 25 years, it is difficult to get good bridegroom for her.

### **5.10 Concluding Remarks**

The gathered data shows the semi urban characteristics of the study area. From the analysis of the socio-economic status of women, especially of Seuchatar, it can be concluded as below:

- ) On an average, 69.35 percent of the women are literate which is near about the literacy rate of modern city that might be possible because of the nearness to the capital city. More encouraging fact is that the percentage of Master Degree

holders is 5.92, which indicates the growing education status and easy access to the education of the respondent.

- ) Most of the women of study area involve in agriculture as their major occupation that is of 37 percent, which indicates the traditional picture of Nepal.
- ) Average monthly income of women in study area is up to 5000 in NRS. The monthly income of the respondent is not so dissatisfactory in Nepalese context.
- ) 40 percent women are authorized as final decision maker in the study area and 30 percent of decision making process is done by both male and female. Thus nearly 70 percent of respondent are involved in the decision making process, which shows the condition of women regarding their participation in decision process is satisfactory.
- ) Involvement of women of study area in social organization is 64.74 percent and involvement in politics is 6.45 percent which shows there is increasing tendency to unite in social organization and vice versa in case of politics. The involvement of respondent in social organization is greater in volume which indicates that there is the social awareness and cooperation among the respondents, but the involvement in politics of the respondents is still very poor.
- ) In spite of several positive indicators showing the gradual increment in socio-economic status of women in the study area, property holding status of women is harassing that is only 16.13 percent of the respondents say that they have single right to property. Thus most of them don't have access to property, which indicates the influence of patriarchal society.

**CHAPTER-SIX**  
**SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDING, CONCLUSION AND**  
**RECOMEDATION**

**6.1 Summary**

More concern on women's right, their empowerment and their economic independence continued to go on along with the onset of the international wave of Women in Development (WID) which took all South Asian countries including Nepal in its fold after the UN declaration of "the decade for women 1975-1985". Women's recognition as an indispensable human resource and an able co-partner for every development efforts, there after have been highlighted globally considering them as an inevitable productive potential. However, Nepalese women's plight has hardly gone a little further than what they were traditionally, in reality. The problem, it seems, while the plight of Nepalese women are indigenous, the angle that are meant to see them, are not.

As Nepalese women constitute more than half percent of total population, they are still far behind from the access of many opportunities which can help them to uplift their overall status. The rural women's contribution to the household economy from firewood gathering, water fetching, child rearing and also income generating activities such as food processing, agricultural products, trading and handicraft production is quite large, but their work is not viewed from an economic perspective.

Despite the unequivocal acceptance in considering the women's higher participation needed for the national development, there found a number of social and cultural variables, which fairly are indigenous, have been remaining the major setbacks impeding the women potential for years. Internalized cultural previsions, gender bias conception, traditional down looking compel them to think themselves as a weak and unfortunate section of the society.

One another aspect of Nepalese women problems and also their economic support over their family varies according to their geography of their settlement. It includes also the cultural variation and its relation to their economic and social life. Their problems also differ and complicate in terms of the religion and areas they live in. when seen

strictly, in economic terms, the nature of the problem of the rural women differs from that of the urban.

But the gradual increase of their awareness and their economic performances, women have now more influence than ever before. From the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> plan to onwards, the woman uplifting programs are on the rise and now various study reveals that the women have greater say in household management both as laborers and as managers.

This present study is based on the descriptive research methodology. It includes only the economically active women of aged between 15 to 59 years as it is basically the study of assessing the women's economic contribution and their socio-economic standing within the household. The respondents for the study have been selected through random sampling compressing about every 10 percent in each ward of the VDC. Study has been conducted through interview, structured questionnaire in order to obtain information about their economic social, religious and health condition. Similarly, information relating tot their habitat, food clothing, manners and ways of life have been studied through observation.

Information, for this study, is from primary and secondary data sources. The primary data are collected by the researcher himself by conducting a field survey whereas secondary data are derived from the published and unpublished reports books, articles, writing and news items.

While studying the social aspect of the women living in Seuchatar VDC, analysis has been conducted on the basis of caste, age, marital status and educational details.

Likewise the economic aspect is analyzed comprising their occupational details, land ownership patterns, their involvement in gainful activities and their working hour. Special consideration is also given to the cultural patterns and the female economic participation. Women's decision making participation is included which help to after the women's status over the family or community. Similarly, one of the variables which measure the status of women, health status, is also included.

While talking on the women's issues whether social or economic, a number of cultural religious factors are at work in determining their social or economic standing which are included in this study.

## **6.2 Major Findings**

Following are the general findings of this study

- ) The area in where this study was undertaken is found composed by many castes and ethnicities, Brahmin, Chettri, Newar, Lama, Rai and other occupational castes.
- ) The population are engaged and depends mainly on the agriculture and subsistence sector,
- ) Rural women are bearing a overwhelming role in economic as well as domestic sector work, and hence their contribution to the family's household income is also significant. Total working hour per day for women is found 15 hour in an average.
- ) Women are found to have concentrated mainly on household and kitchen chores coupled with substance farm management.
- ) Women are found relatively backward both in terms of involving greater returned economic opportunities and social standing category vis-à-vis their male counterparts.
- ) The involvement of women in service and business sector is not satisfactory, but the involvement of women in social organization seems to be satisfactory. This shows there is cooperation among the respondents. The study found that the percentage of involvement of women in politics is very poor.
- ) Women have nominal share in property ownership and its disposal and allocation process which subsequently lesser their say in household and out spheres. The more, the property ownership pattern of woman is found increased as their age increased.
- ) The more participation of women in market economy and employment the more will be the decision making power within the household and vice versa.

- ) The backwardness of educational attainment is found to have a long range affect which have been impeding the women's expected potential to uplift their socio-economic condition.
- ) There seems greater say of women in household and domestic management process and hence they enjoy the greater decision making role but it is found they need final approval of their male head of the household on this process. In this regard, women are seemed the manager rather than the controller over this process.
- ) Decision making role increases as the age of the women increases.
- ) Cultural pattern is remained to be a variable which differs the role of women in economic participation decision making status over the family and society.

### **6.3 Conclusion**

Notwithstanding, efforts made both at national, governmental and non-governmental level, towards enhancing Nepalese women's status, their recognition as inevitable economic contributor, are yet to be realized in Nepalese society at large. The Nepalese women still remain underprivileged, disadvantageous and de-recognized members in compare to their male counterpart. Conventional discrimination against women, traditional down-looking, deprivation of opportunities, perennially considered as weaker sex, and de-recognition of their potentials have forced woken to remain within a narrow socio-economic spectrum.

Hence, the study has exclusively focused on their non-recognized economic delivery potentials, their non-recorded economic contribution in form of household chores, and their crucial role in the sustenance of rural economy. More-over, women folks have been deprived of any role in decision making and strategic planning on the implementation stage. Their role is expected only as labor forces that too, non-economical. This study, therefore, portrays more vividly the Nepalese women's economic contribution, both in agro-based economy and in the market oriented economy, and also deals on how they have been marginalized in national economic index.

Empowering women has been global concern and Nepal remains no exception. The ninth plan too, talks loudly about it. Poverty and no access to economic generating activities coupled with illiteracy and unawareness have rendered Nepalese women helpless mass. Empowering women through their economic independence is a positive step, however, the data gathered in course of study shows a gloomy picture. Out of the total women taken to survey, only 16.13 percent of women have property in their own name, hence, women's share in terms of property holding remains of no significance. The observation revealed that the more property they have in possession, the louder their voices are in the family. Another interesting finding is that most of the property owning women is old-aged. In other words, the property owning women are seemed to be determined by their age. The older they are, their possibility of property owning is more.

Though it is often reported that women now have been more privileged than ever before and called to be engrossed in the national development stream with their upgraded level of educational as well as economic performance. The study does not show much improvement towards bringing them into the national progress agenda, in reality. In course of the study, it is found that there is a pressing need of education for the rural women as education alone can lead them to a new era with abundance of opportunities.

Though close to the capital city, hence, easier access to better opportunities, the women of Seuchatar are found to have failed in taking advantage of the situation, and remain fallen behind. Among the total respondents, 30.65 women are still found to be illiterate, 26.80 percent of women are found to be attained up to Secondary level education. 8.06 percent of respondent are found to have Inter level education, 7.52 percent of respondents are found to have Bachelor level education and only 5.92 percent of respondents are found to have the education above Bachelor level. It shows that that the educational status of women of the study is not so satisfactory.

It is evident from the study that women play a major role in agriculture production both as labors and as managers of the production process. The study shows that 37 percent of the total respondents have been engaged in this sector. Women who only perform the household and domestic works are found to have been 14.52 percent.



Considering the volume of women contribution in agriculture, the change in traditional approach to both agricultural process and product is just inevitable.

The gradual increase of their involvement in agricultural process and products, they have begun to exercise more influential role in their families. Women are found to have greater say in household management affairs as the study showed. On an average decision making, it is found that 40 percent of the total decision making issues is influenced by women. Similarly, 44.88 percent of decision making is done by both male and female, which shows that the overall percentage of involvement of women in decision making process is satisfactory. But, the involvement of women in decision making circle somewhere; within the family or domestic decision making process. They are not allowed to decide for the community yet. The study shows that economic and social aspects of decisions are often or generally seem to have control by male. The study shows that the women need an approval of men even in unimportant and less important household or domestic issues. In this regard, women are still seen as one having secondary command over household management despite their high input. They are managers in household affairs but not controller of the management process.

Social status remains a measuring rod through which an individual's standing in society is determined. The study showed that superstitious and irrational approaches towards women have led to several forms of perversions in society. Equally, women have always been considered as inferior sex. The girls are found to have been taught to remain as silent spectator from their childhood. They are expected to be less curious and less-question making. Gender-bias-lesson rings in their ear since their childhood, which lead them to lose their confidence and self esteem and eventually, they are compelled to think themselves as weak and unfortunate section of the society.

Health condition is also another aspect which shows status of women in society. Most of the women are found to have been suffering from gastric problem, severe headache and maternal problems and have faith both in doctor and Dhams for the treatment. The women who have access of antenatal facility is of 61.40 percent of respondent. The women who have delivery at home are found to be 55.03 of the respondents. All the respondent go for medical check up only in the period of sickness.

Thus in regard to the health status of respondent, the study is found satisfactory. In terms of use of contraceptive, 41.4 percent of women are found to be user of it, which shows that there is somewhere lack of awareness of contraceptive.

#### **6.4 Recommendations**

- ) The overall literacy rate should be increased with special emphasis upon promoting higher literacy rate among the women. This could be achieved via adult literacy classes and providing incentives to encourage greater enrollment of girls in schools. This is suggested with the view that educating the women implies empowering them and conferring them a greater status within the households. Their educational status would also earn them the household decision making powers on important issues since they would then be thought capable of making effective by their male counterparts.
- ) Bringing the women into the market economy is another approach to increase their socio-economic condition. There should be encouraged the co-operative forms of social organization such as credit societies marketing co-operatives, and mother's club in order to mobilize women as agent of social economic and political change at the neighborhood community and national level.
- ) Steps should be taken to make men and the rural society itself aware regarding the capability of women as effective decision makers on important issues as well. The mobility and the freedom to partake in income generating and community activities should not be restricted by the male members of the family.
- ) Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women which would encourage their economic participation and hence elevate her status within the household.
- ) Reforms should be made regarding the various women related government policies and programs. Significant steps should be taken to effectively reach their target groups (women) and bestow direct benefit upon them instead of relying upon the "trickle down effect" upon women via their male counterparts, a phenomenon which has been occurring frequently in the past.

- ) Promoting massive national campaigns can also be an effective step to change the traditional attitudes and sex role ideologies that limit women's options in the family the community and society at large government leaders, in particular, have to take an unequivocal stand in favor of abolishing the existing laws, customs, regulation and practices which are discriminatory against women and to established adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women.
- ) For the empowerment and parallel participation in the every sector, one should do own self. So, for the betterment of the woman, women herself have to do the respective task.
- ) In each and every decision making part, there should be representation of woman at least by 30 percent.

## ANNEX- 1

### Percentage of Male and Female Literacy by Region

Region	Female	Male
Urban	55.8%	80.0%
Rural	31.2%	59.4%
Mountain	20.9%	51.9%
Mid-western mountain	7.9%	41.2%
Far-western mountain	12.0%	55.3%

source: Nepal Human Development Report 2004

**ANNEX-2**  
**Questionnaire**  
**Socio-economic Status of Women**  
**A Case Study of Seuchatar VDC**  
**In Kathmandu District, Nepal**

Household No:.....	Date:.....
District: .....	Ward No. ....
VDC:.....	
Name of Respondent:.....	
NO. of Respondent: .....	
Total Family No:..... Male:..... Female:.....	

1.1 What is the structure of your family?

Nuclear  Joint

1.2 Do you have some land in your family?

Yes  No

1.3 If yes, what type of ownership you have?

Cultivated by own  Rented  As a tenant

1.4 What is the main income source of your family?

Agriculture  Cottage  Service

Business  Wage Labor  Other

1.5 What is total monthly income of your family?

Up to 5000  5001 to 10000  10001 to 150000

15001 to 20000  above 20000

1.6 Do you have latrine in your home?

Yes  No

1.7 If yes, what is its type?

Cemented Water Seal  Bathroom

1.8 Do you have drinking water facility?

Yes  No

1.9 If yes, which of the following you have?

Pipe Supply  Tube Well  Well   
Natural Fountain  Other

1.10 Do you have cattle in your family?

Yes  No

### Individual Questionnaire

1.1 Full Name .....

1.2 Age..... caste/ethnicity.....

1.3 Birth of Place.....

1.4 Religion: Hindu  Buddhist  Christian  Others

1.5 Marital Status: Married  Unmarried

Widow  Separated

1.6 Education: Illiterate  Literate  Primary level   
Secondary Level  SLC  IA or equivalent   
BA or equivalent  Above BA

1.7 Occupation: Agriculture  Cottage  Service

Business  Wage Labor  Household work   
Student  Other

2.1 How many hours do you work generally?

Hour/day  Hour/week

2.2 How much do you earn monthly from this work?

Up to 5000  5001 to 10000  10001 to 15000   
15001 to 20001  20001 to 25000

2.3 How do you spend the money you earn?

Give to the family

Buy food items

Save

Spend for the Children Education

Other

2.4 Do you save some money?

Yes  No

3.1 Do your husband or other male counterpart assists you in your work?

Yes  No

3.2 Do you enjoy freedom at home?

Not at all  little freedom  complete freedom

3.3 Who decide in buying or selling food in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly

Father/Mother in-law  Father/Mother  Whole family

3.4 Who decide in buying or selling cattle in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly

Father/Mother in-law  Father/Mother  e family

3.5 Who decide buying/selling land in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly

Father/Mother in-law  Father/Mother  e family

3.6 Who decide in buying clothes in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly

Father/Mother in-law  Father/Mother  Whole family

3.7 Who decide celebrating festivals in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly

Father/Mother in-law  Father/Mother  Whole family

3.8 Who decide arranging marriage in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly

Father/Mother in-law  Father/Mother  Whole family

3.9 Who decide investment activities in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly   
Father/Mother in –law  Father/Mother   
Whole family

3.10 Who decide in lending/borrowing activities in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly   
Father/Mother in –law  Father/Mother   
Whole family

3.11 Who decide in children education in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly   
Father/Mother in –law  Father/Mother   
Whole family

3.12 Who decide the cropping pattern in your family?

Myself  Husband  Jointly   
Father/Mother in –law  Father/Mother   
Whole family

4.1 Have you ever fallen sick?

Yes  No

4.2 Where do you go for treatment, while falling sick?

Doctor  Herbalist  Fortune taller   
Other

4.3 How many times you go fro medical check-up?

Once in a month  once in a year   
Only in the period of sickness  Never

4.4 Do you have access to these health facilities?

Antenatal Care Yes  No   
Postnatal Care Yes  No   
Delivery at home Yes  No   
Delivery at hospital Yes  No



4.5 Have you ever used any contraceptive?

Yes  No

4.6 If yes, who have used this contraceptive?

Husband  Myself

4.7 Who decide to use this contraceptive?

Husband  Me  Jointly

4.8 Have you children?

Yes  No

4.9 If yes, how many children do you have?

One  Two  Three

More than three

4.10 Who decided for the child?

Husband  Me  Jointly

4.11 Who is preferred as your first child in your family?

Son  Daughter  Both

5.1 Do you have involved any social organization?

Yes  No

5.2 If yes, what type of organization?

.....

5.3 Are you benefited from this involvement?

Yes  No

5.4 If yes, in which way you benefited from this involvement?

.....

6.1 Are you interested in politics?

Yes  No

6.2 Are you involved in any political party?

Yes  No

6.3 If yes, what is your designation?

.....

7.1 At last, would you like briefly to tell something you wish to tell?

.....

## REFERENCES

- Acharya, Meena and L. Bennett, (1993), "Women and Subsistence Sector Economic Participation and Household Decision-Making in Nepal", World Bank.
- Acharya, Meena, (1982), "Statistical Profile of Nepalese Women: A Critical Review the Status of Women in Nepal", Vol.1, Part 1, CEDA.
- Acharya, Meena and Bennett, Lynn, (1981), "The Rural Women of Nepal, An Aggregate Analysis and Summery of Eight Village Studies; The Status of Women in Nepal", Vol.2, Part 9, CEDA, T.U. Nepal.
- Amatya, Ranjula, (2003), "Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Case Study of Ekhachhen Locality of Ward No. 22, Lalitpur", An Unpublished thesis submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Anker Richard, Maya Buvinic and Nadia H. Youssef, (1982), "Women's role and Population Trends in the Third World", Croom Helm, London.
- Annan, Kofi, (1999), "Much Things Remain to be Done", The Rising Nepal, March 11, Gorkhapatra Sansthan, Kathmandu.
- Aryal, J.P. and Gautam, A., (2001), "Quantitative Techniques", New Hira Books Enterprises.
- Bhusal, R. P., (2004), "Role of Women in Household Decision Making; A Case Study of Argha VDC, Arghakhanchi District", An Unpublished thesis submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Boserup, Ester, (1970), "Women's Role in Economic Development", ST. Martin's Press, New York.
- CBS, (1991), Population Census, Nepal Government, Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Dahal, Prakash, (1998), "Women Prisoners: Suffering for Ever", The Rising Nepal November 16, Gorkhapatra Sansthan, Kathmandu.
- Family Health Survey, (2065), Seuchatar Sub Health Post Office, Seuchatar, Kathmandu.
- Human Rights in Nepal, (2003), A Study Report, Informal Sector Service, Nepal.

- Kanel, N.R., (2003), "Guidelines to Format Thesis and Dissertation", New Hira Books Enterprises, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Karki, Roshan, (2007), "Women in Politics", Kathmandu Post, August 22, Kantipur Publication, Kathmandu.
- K.C., Brij, (2003), "Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Case Study in Chapali Bhairav VDC, Kathmandu", An Unpublished thesis submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Koirala, A., (2001), "An Overview of Socio-Economic status of women involved in Income Generation Program: A Case of Waling Municipality, Syangaja District, Nepal", An Unpublished thesis submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Lynn, Bennett, (1983), "Dangerous Wives and Sacred Sisters", Columbia University Press, New York.
- Pande, Sita, (2009), "Socio-economic Status of Women Engaged in Vegetable Production in Nepal; a case study of Kumpur VDC of Dhading District", An Unpublished thesis submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Ruth, B. Dixon, (1978), "Rural Women at Work: Strategies for Development in South Asia", Johns Hopkins University Press, London.
- Sapkota, K.P., (2006), "Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Case Study of Babiyachaur VDC of Surkhet District", An Unpublished thesis submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu.
- Schultz T. Paul, (1989), "Women and Development, Objectives, Frameworks, and Policy Interventions, Population and Human Resources Development", The World Bank.
- Schultz T. Paul, (1989), "Women's Changing Participation in the Labor Force, A World Perspective", Population and Human Resources Department, The World Bank.
- Seuchatar Parichaya Pustika, (2057), Seuchatar VDC, Kathmandu.
- Tenth Plan, (1997), Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Nepal.

- Thapa, Ransingh, (2003), "Socio-Economic Status of Women in Kuldevmandu VDC of Bajura District in Ward no. 7 and 8", Unpublished Dissertation of Master's Degree in Sociology, Trichandra Campus, Ghantaghar.
- UNDP, (1989), "Women and Development", UNDP (United Nations Development Program).
- UNESCO, (1982), "Women from Witch-hunt to Politics", UNESCO (United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organization).
- UNICEF, (1987), "UNICEF and Women, The Long Voyage, A Historical Perspective", UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund), History Series Monograph VI.
- United Nations, (1967), "United Nations Assistance for the Advancement of Women", United Nations New York.
- United Nations, (1987), "Achievement of the United Nations Decade for Women in Asia and the Pacific", Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
- United Nations, (1992), "Integration of Women's concerns into Development Planning in Asia and the Pacific", Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNO.
- UNO, (1980), "UN Decade for Women", UNO.
- Uprety, Surendra, (1998), "Still a Long Way to Go", The Rising Nepal, 28 December, Gorkhapatra Sansthan, Kathmandu.
- Ursula, Sharma, (1986), "Women's Work, Class, and the Urban Household", Tavistock Publication, London.
- World Bank, (1995), "World Economic Outlook", Washington D.C., WB.
- [http:// www.womenshistory.about.com](http://www.womenshistory.about.com)
- <http://3sistersadventure.com>