

CHAPTER – ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal is one of the least developed countries with low level of human development. Most of people are living in rural area and their main occupation is agriculture. Land distribution is highly unequal. Agriculture plays an important role in the economy, contributing about 30 percent of GDP and is a major supplier of raw materials to local industries. It is generally accepted that the key to economic development is agricultural prosperity.

Being small and land-locked country and with agro-based on economy, Nepal is one of the poorest counties in the world. It has been facing various political, economic and social problems in the recent decades. To improve the socio-economic status of the people, Nepal has implemented periodic development plan since 1956. It is implementing it is three years interim development plan (2007/08-2009/10). The overall economic growth rate under the ‘Tenth Plan’ (2002/03-2006-07) was targeted at 6.2 percent with 4 percent in agriculture sector and 7.3 percent in non-agriculture sector (NPC, 2002). But the average annual growth rate during the plan was just 3 percent. The overall economic growth rate under the Interim plan period is targeted at 5.5 percent with 3.6 percent in agriculture sector and 6.5 percent in non-agriculture sector (NPC, 2007)

State and society has created different forms of discrimination between male and female on the basis of their sexes and social norms. In the past, women were treated as second grade citizens in most countries. This is still valid in many developing countries like Nepal. Women’s work is invisible in the society. But women work longer than men. There is a saying that “men’s work ends at setting sun, yet women’s work in never done “. No matter, whether women works 11 hours of 24 hours per day their work is not considered as economic work. The position, occupied by a woman in social structures of her society that includes power, prestige, right and duty is called women status (Acharya, 1979).

Women play a significant role in the development of a nation. In the past women were considered as second grade citizens in most of the countries including Nepal. Nepali women are daughter, wives and mother but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. The more difference in physical structure does not make it necessary for one sex to lose comply human identify and live in surrender to the other sex. Harmonious coexistence should be the guiding principle in the relationship between man and women and not as if one were a slave and other were master. Men must readjust their opinion of women. A man is often impressed and admired by and intelligent, dynamic woman as long as she is not his own wife.

In Nepalese context women are generally associated with poor health, illiteracy, unemployment and overloaded. The birth of a son brings prestige, identity, entity and dignity to a mother in the Nepalese society. There is saying that “Let it be a later, but let it be a son. The position of women has been different in ideology and in practice. In Hindu scripture women has been given very high position and they are thought to be the foundation of happiness. The religious text has also mentioned the name of many goddess in the form of shakti. They are worshipped in the temples. But in practice women are not honored in accordance with the teaching of religious books, rather there evolved a practice of exploiting women on the basis of such religious tradition.

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 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 kind 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 decline in food productions and their forced concentration in low income occupation. As a consequence, both as well as urban household had to face difficulties.

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 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 agriculture 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.

The socio-economic status of females vs. males is disheartening. In the Nepalese society where more than 80 percent population practices Hindu religious values, sons occupy relatively greater social - importance than daughter. The social status of Nepalese women still make them play traditional roles such as tending of children and aged parents in the family apart from the responsibilities in kitchen (Chalise and Adhikari, 1995)

1.2 Status of women in Nepal

Despite ever pronouncing vocabulary on 'Women Employment Issue', Nepalese women are still far from benefiting as they suppose to be. Various studies show the pathetic condition of women in our society even at the very eve of twenty first century, and the situation is even worse in case 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.

Acharya and Bennett (1981) in the aggregate analysis and summary of village studies gave a wider overview of women's status in terms of their decision making power within the households. Their first hypothesis related Acharya and Bennett (1983). Version is that women in communities with economic participation in the wider spheres of society will have a higher status vis-a-vis men than women in groups where their input is continued to non market production within the households unit. But here, they added a second hypothesis to analysis whether women from communities with high level of cultural and ideological concern will have less input into the most important area as of house hold decision making.

In Nepal, even through women have constituted more than half (50.04%) of the total population, they are dominated by males (49.96%) (CBS,2003). Their socio- economic status is low and they are considered to be born to serve their husband without any comment instead of enjoying subordinate position of man. Where as man has always been regarded as decision maker and all in all activities. But the role of women is ignored by our society. In developing countries like Nepal, due to poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, conservative tradition, superstition, less of exposure, inferiority complex and so on made women has less powered and privileged than their males. It is also considered that they are basically inferior and their labors as well as efforts are less valuable than man. Apart from this, there are many social, cultural and religious restrictions to women.

Without women's participation, goal of development activities cannot be fully attained. So, we can say men and women are the two pillars of development. Women's inside activities are generally connected with men's outside sphere. It is seen that if women do not manage the household sphere properly men shall not be able to work outside enthusiastically. The

role of man and women are interdependent. But women's overall burden is higher than that of men.

1.3. Status of Vegetable Farming in Nepal

In Nepalese agricultural system, vegetable farming is considered as a major component and is integral part of dietary system. Vegetable is produced in small and large scales. Small-scale vegetable production by households is done from kitchen gardening which helps to supply the nutritional requirement for an individual family, and if surplus, s/he sells in local market or freely distribute to the neighbors. Kitchen gardening and storage practices are mostly done by women. Some farm families practice commercial vegetable production. A boost in vegetable production has been witnessed due to increasing use off-season vegetable production. Production pockets are concentrated along with the highways and near town areas.

The land for vegetable growing as well as production has been increasing year by year but the progress cannot be said satisfactory. The production of vegetable crops is estimated to increase by 6.69 percent from 2.19 million mt. in 2005/06 to 2.329 million mt. in 2006/07. The cultivated area covered by vegetable crops is expected to stand at 198 thousand hector. The unabated increase in both the area covered under vegetable crops and the production is attributed to the increased interest of farmers towards vegetable farming a means of principal cash crops in lieu of other crops (MOF2007)

1.3.1 Expenditure on Vegetable Farming

Totals farm input in Nepal is estimated at 9 billion rupees. This total does not include the cost on temporarily hired labours and the cost of land rented (around 1.4 billion rupees). The largest share of farm input is on organic fertilizer which was about 2.3 billion rupees, 26 percent of the total farm input followed by purchase/production of seeds/seedlings (22 percent) and land preparation (16 percent). The highest share of the current expenditure (farm input) was contributed by cauliflower at 1.6 billion rupees (18Percnt). Tomato stood

second with Rs 1.3 billion (14 percent) and the third one is cabbage with Rs. 0.8 billion (8 percent). The lowest contributors are other vegetable, other tuber vegetable, turnip, knolkhol, buck wheat leaf and ash gourd all of their contributions being less than 0.1 percent. CBS (2010)

1.3.2 Access to Agricultural Services

Nearly, 5 percent of the holders reported to have received loan for vegetable farming and among them, 26 percent have taken loan from relatives or friends and 24 percent from Agriculture Development Bank, 15 percent from cooperatives, etc. Fifty eight percent of the farmers reported that seeds were easily available, Ninety-Two percent of the farmers used chemical insecticides.

Sixty percent of holders sold their produce in the local market, 15 percent to wholesalers, 11 percent to local collection centre and 15 percent sold at farm or home it self. 43 percent took their produce to the market on foot. Among the persons involved in selling the produce, 37 percent were females. On the whole, 12 percent of the households reported that income from vegetable farming was enough to maintain their livelihood for 12 months: 37 percent maintained for 4 to 6 months and 37 percent for less than 3 months. (CBS 2010)

1.4. Statement of the Problem

Subsistence type of agriculture is the base of the Nepalese economy. Women contribute more than men both in terms of household income and labour input. In rural areas, women's activity pattern is increasing in the conventional economy and domestic activities. Women's work burden is higher than men's but their labour often goes unreported. According to CBS (2001) report, economically active population 10 years above male is 67.6 percent and female is 48.9 percent. It shows that economically active women are fewer than men. Women have less access to property. CBS (2001) reports women's ownership over house and land is 5.5 percent and 10.8 percent respectively. Nepal is a patriarchal society. About 85 percent of households are headed by male. According to the Nepal Human Development Report (NHDR) 2004 women in professional job is 18.7 percent and administrative job is

12.7 percent. Share of male in wage employment in non-agriculture sector is 83.5 percent and that of female is 17.5 percent.

Nepal has diverse agro-climatic zones, therefore, different vegetable crops and varieties can successfully be grown throughout the country. Women's labour in the vegetables farming is an important factor of vegetable production. Unless the women farmers are empowered, they can't have decision making power on the activities of vegetable production and their social and economic status may not improve.

The women farmers have been playing vital role to improve the living condition of the families. In Nepal women farmers are not considered as "farmer" yet. The majority of agricultural input and agriculture skill development training and extension activities are being provided to the male members ignoring female as agricultural producers. Therefore, an analytical micro level study of socio-economic status of women vegetable farmers in the different vegetable production activities may help in the process of empowering women. Increasing the role of women in decision making can improve the living standard of their family members, especially children and their social and economic status.

The main problem of vegetable production is that farmers have been carrying out production in traditional way. Most of the farmers use improper doses of seeds. They do not know the importance of adopting new technologies in vegetable production process. Another problem of vegetable production is lack of training facilities about vegetable production to farmers. There is also the problem of market to sell the produced output.

Therefore the present study focuses taking into an account the diversity of Nepalese population in terms of caste, ethnicity, age, locality to study the role of women of Kirtipur municipality ward No.12,14,15 in their household socio-Economic Status of Women Engaged in Vegetable farming.

1.5 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyses the socio-economic status of women in Kirtipur Municipality. The specific objectives of this study are as follows

1. To assess socio-economic status of women engaged in vegetable farming.
2. To find out role of women engaged in vegetable farming in house hold decision making process.
3. To identify problems faced by working women of vegetable farming.

1.6 Limitation of the study

This study is a case study of women farmer of different vegetable farming has been focused in very small range of geographical area of Kirtipur municipality ward No. 12, 14, 15, only. The overall data analysis is based on micro level of household survey but not at the macro level of the society and nation.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study has been divided into five chapters as follows. The first chapter provides introduction or status of women in various sector status of vegetable production in Nepal statement of the problems objectives and rationale of the study. The second chapter deals with the literature review from the previous studies publication books, articles and research reports on the concept regarding status and role of women farmer in decision making. The third chapter comprises of research methodology used during field study for data generation. This chapter covers the rationale of selection of the study site, explanation of the research design, nature and sources of data, universe of the study, sampling procedure and samples size, techniques of data collection, reliability and validity, data processing and analysis and the limitation of study. The fourth chapter includes data presentation and analysis, which includes short overview of Kirtipur municipality, socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, problems faced by the vegetable growing women in vegetable farming in Kirtipur municipality etc. finally, the fifth chapter comprises of summary, findings, conclusion and recommendation based on findings.

CHAPTER – TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with literature regarding status of women and agriculture from different perspectives as follows.

- a. General Review
- b. Women status
- c. Role of women in agriculture
- d. Role of women in vegetable farming

2.1. General Review

Gender, including women's right is very significant issue because women comprises a little over half of the total population of Nepal. All Nepalese women suffer from domination, exploitation, suppression, oppression, subordination and discrimination by their male counterparts. (Bhattachan, 2001)

The decades of 70s 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 causes 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)

The role of women has great importance in terms of socio-economic development. The status of women is an important factor, which affects the socio-economic development of a country. The status of women in Nepal is in miserable condition. Most of the research works

show that living standard of women is poor. Though the levels of living standards of women have improved overtime, the situation is not satisfactory (Thapa, 2003).

Acharya, (1997) Realizing the condition of women, the government has felt necessary to empower rural exploited and extremely poor women through skill development program and enhance their economic opportunity. The main thrust of development programs for women in rural society is to enhance their participation in various development programs. In Nepal, women's programs were launched only from the decades of 70s. However, despite of the efforts of three decades, 75 percentages of the women's are still illiterate. Only 4 percent of them have representation of parliament and only 2 percent are first class officers in civil service. In this situation empowerment efforts for women seem to be challenging.

Ghimire (1997) has emphasized on the important of female education – a boy is to educate an individual but to educate a girl is to educate the whole family and society. Education is therefore essential for women and girls to become self-dependent, more productive skilful, creative and to recognize their right place in the society and to enter the mainstream of the development of the nation.

The health status of Nepalese people is very low despite of huge allocation of budget. Female are more seriously suffering from communicable diseases and unable to fight with infections high fertility nutritional deficiency and different work burden are major factors for such a condition. The item of food changes but do not change the habit of traditional food habit of Nepalese people. The low level of calorie intake enable of fight against the communicable disease.

2.2. Status of Women in Nepal

Traditionally women's responsibilities have been restricted to the home, cooking, cleaning, child-rearing and looking after the house. Women are considered to be weak, vulnerable and dependent on men.

Sapkota, in his M.A thesis, entitled socio-economic status of women: a case study of Babiyachaur village Development committee of Surkhet District has been analyzed the socio-economic problem being faced by women and also identify the role of women in economic as well as non-economic activities in the study area. He used the primary and secondary data. To collect the primary data through field survey and secondary data to collect through published & unpublished materials such as Books, research articles, Journals and so on. He used on questionnaire interview and field observation. He has stated that mass poverty illiteracy and low participation of women the social activities are some of the specific characteristics of Babiyachaur VDC. Most of the women poor health particularly poor women are found to be out of the reach, the some recommendations for their solutions, which might be helpful to uplift their status are give here. The widespread constraint on the improvement of women's socio-economic status, poverty is seen mostly in Dalit community, leaving some families from other castes behind programmers to minimize the existing level of poverty should be launched and effectively implemented. Trainings for income generation to large scale will be helpful. Loans should be provided to the poor families without charging any interest on them. Sapakota, (2006)

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.

The findings of this study were, although few of the respondents 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. 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.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “Educate men and you will have a person educated but educate a women and you will have a whole family educated”. Mahabharat eulogizes a wife in the following words: The wife is half of the man, his priceless friend of pleasures, virtue, Wealth, his constant source, a help and stay along his constant source a help and stay along his earthly course through life unchanging. Year beyond its end, when racked by pain, by sickness worn, by outrage study, by anguish torn, disturbed, perplexed oppressed, men find their spouse’s love and still the surest care for every ill. 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 were 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 seem to possess better status than the women from Hindu cast group. The dominant Hindu culture and the

patriarchal value system of the county has been influenced the status of women as their subordinate.

Shrestha M in her book entitled *Women and Development in Nepal*, she has analyzed gender issues are an important area in each and every development process. The integration of gender balanced development requires a process orientation and emphasis on both men and women's role in development. However a major and often over looked feature of developing countries like Nepal is the crucial role played by women in development. This book on "Women and Development" tries to bridge the gap on women contribution to development in Nepal and also highlights the role of women in various aspects of development.

Women play an important role in agriculture, formal employment and household activities and management of natural resources various paper on women's pioneering roles has been presented in this book. The first paper deals with the role of women in economic development second paper is on status of women employment in organized sectors, third paper deals with gender issues in education and employment, fourth paper is on women's role in community forestry, fifth paper is on agriculture in Nepal and women's role sixth paper deals with need of gender approach in energy and development, seventh paper highlights the role of women in implementing biogas plants and final paper describes women's role in sustainable development of Nepal. Shrestha,(2008)

According to the present constitution, mother or motherland can't obtain citizenship of their off springs unless they have Nepalese father or they are fatherless. Besides this it is discriminatory in providing residency right to foreign spouses. When a Nepalese woman marries a foreigner, he loses her residence right in her own country. Just as house upon marriage whether or not she gives up her husband officially socially women who sought to make a distinguished career outside their household were not favorable judged because it undermined the idea to the role of a women primarily as housewives Bennet, (1979).

Madhavi Singh Shah in her published article "Women and Economic Development in Nepal" She has focused the vital role of women economic development of Nepal. To encourage and enlarge women's participation in economic development, certain agenda for action can be forwarded. Women's potential in all sectors need to be recognized and should

be encouraged to come forward to join national stream. Gender equality need to be maintained in all levels. Equal opportunity for schooling, job and other revenues need to be facilitated for both male and female. Trade and polytechnic schools should be encouraged to broaden women's participation. Attitudinal changes towards women's work outside the home and same wage and fringe benefits for same work and deliverance are also urgently needed.

In some of the new industries where women are shying away from the job due to their unfamiliarity with new electrical and mechanical devices, some special package programs need to be floated to enhance and encourage their participation in those development sector (Shah,2000).

Report of UNICEF (1987) depicted that women's contribution to economic and social progress are still constrained by the limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male requirement may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government services only 7 percent of graduated officers and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decision making concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 percent of decision are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female which shows very low percentage o decision making power on the part of women.

In 1979 Convent on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDA) put forward condemn discrimination against women in all it forms agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination mainly social-economic and cultural free to ensure full development and advancement of women. It stresses to eliminate the discrimination in sector, political power, education, employment,

marriage and maternity field, which ensure the development of women empowerment (INSEC, 2002)

Age is the important factor determining the working load of women. Aged women have to more work than young girls. Among men and women of the same age group, women have to work much more than men do. Acharya has written about working age “In sirsia male children between 5 and 9 years of age spend an hours working each day, while girls in the same age group spend 2.02 hours working each day. Thus the total work burden is not uniformly higher for females then for males. Adult men spent 92.2 percent of their work time in productive work, while women spent only 38.8 percent of their daily work time in this type of work. But again given that women work more hours than men do, women put in as much as 60.4 percent of the total male time spend on productive work. Men have about 7 hours of free time while boys of 10 to 14 age group put in about 5 hours of work per day, girls of the same age group have almost full work a day, i.e. they work for an average of 7.6 hours a day (Acharya, 1981).

Shrestha, P in her published article “Feminist Vision in Development” She has concluded unless male partners do not share household work, females cannot get exposure to outside world inter alias to work at non-farm activities for income generation. This kind of structure is prevailed in all most all the segments of the society irrespective of castes, ethnic groups, Dalits and janajaties, poor and marginalized communities. In this regard, the curriculum should be made gender friendly from nursery up to tenth grad. Let the students realize that work is worship. There is no work that is inferior and vice versa. Work is gender neutral. Males can wash dishes and clothes and cook for the family and clean the house. There are examples that females are participating the national building tasks and driving the country successfully. On the top of that gender friendly working hours at offices, trained house-made provision, provision of childcare centers, electric city charged awards or free for lowers consumption make land transfer registration fee if land is retired with females’ ownership. Which is done in Nepal which has positive result? Meaning I that 35.0 percent of land is in females name in fiscal Year 2063/064, which is more than greater ten population census of Nepal 2001. It was less than 05.00 percent.

The practitioners of feminist development economics look at the process of economic development through a 'gender lens', making visible what is typically obscured by conventional economic analysis. People do this in the belief that this will contribute towards a more human and egalitarian development process. The United Nations Conference 2009, which is just concluded at Cairo, the Capital city of Egypt, participants, women activists raised the voice that Washington stationed financial institutions has done repeatedly mistake. The World Bank and International Monetary fund have thought it as world economic crisis dealing as general business transaction pay." They are of the opinion it as world economic crisis dealing as general business transaction pay. "They are of the opinion that to address the economic crises of this world is not influenced by big business houses. Or it is not affected by capitalists only. It needs to address the cause / causes of the fifty percent of the population of the world. It needs to address the cause/causes of the fifty percent of the population of the world. It is the prime duty of the state towards their citizens. They advocate incorporating females' as the citizens of the country. They are exploited from the state. National responsibility is not limited to the work place where citizens spend ten hours in a day. Remaining fourteen hours works cannot be marginalized.

2.3. Role of women in agriculture

Shrestha M in her book entitled *Women and Development in Nepal*, has briefed that Nepal is an agricultural country and women are largely concentrated in household enterprises, they play an important role in the agricultural production process. Recent studied highlight that women in Nepal are major producers of food in terms of value, volume, and number of hours worked of the total economically active female population about 91 percent were engaged in agricultural tasks, while the active male population engaged in agriculture is only 75 percent (CBS 1992/93). Women contribute between 50 percent and 80 percent of the total agricultural labour depending on both different geographical and socio-economic variations (Bajaracharya,1994), Women constitute a large engaged in all types of farming activities. Women constitute a large proportion of agricultural labour. They are active producers in agriculture throughout the country, especially in rural parts of Nepal, but the

labour-force statistics and development programs often ignore their key roles. As a result, development plans, population plans, rural development, and agricultural output suffer, and the status of women remains unacceptably low. Women are often lower paid or non-paid labour and their input is often regarded as community work (Women Farmer Development Division, 1993)

Payakurayal (1998), stated that women farmers are playing an important role in subsistence agriculture even though they are socially disadvantaged. Their role in the agriculture sector is crucial not only because of their active participation in performing various agricultural operations. In addition to their regular household activities, such as collection of firewood, fetching water, childcare they are engaged in care for sick people. They participate in producing grains, vegetables, fruits and raising cattle. Especially livestock production feeding care and management are mostly done by women. The main activities like carrying of leaf, fodder from jungle, litter material collection and clearing of shed, milking and making various dairy produce like cud , ghee kurmi' are also performed women.

Gurung (1995) in his article entitled 'Agricultural Technologies for Farm Women' in the hills of Nepal, studied that women play key role in the farming systems of the hills and mountains of the Hindu-Kush Himalayan despite their activities in crop-production, animal husbandry, forestry, water management and post-harvest food production. Women have been overlooked by those responsible for the formulation and dissemination of technologies services and policies. Consequently, the development of technologies specifically tailored to women specific tasks and the involvement of rural women in the development and transfer of such technologies has received inadequate attention from research, training and extension departments of governments. Women as caretakers of livestock crops and forest, lands are in a key position to contribute to the building and maintenances of the sustainability of these lands and farm resources. Continual neglect of their important role in the mountain agro-eco system is to miss a great source of underutilized potential in the struggle to rehabilitate and enhance the environmental condition of rural village.

Acharya & Bennett (1981), conducted a study on women and subsistence sector economic participation and household decision making in Nepal. She states that several other factors affect the extent of women involvement in agricultural activities. There are only a few studies in Nepal on the factors affecting the participation of women in agriculture in addition to agro-ecological zone ethnic group and community, etc. The other factors are economic status, number of children in family, value of livestock, season, age of the farmer, family type, crop-type and cropping intensity or level of technology.

Women constitute the majority of the agricultural labor force. Their participation in other sectors is also increasing but a relatively greater portion of female labor force is concentrated in agriculture as compared to male labor force. To given the declining trend of agriculture productivity, lower proportion of women in modern agriculture and increasing population pressure on land. This relative concentration of women in agriculture indicates relatively worse income, earning opportunities for women.

Besides this heavy load of household works women are equally participating in agricultural activities. This work load reach peak during planting and the post harvest period. About the over burden of household chores, Pande (2041-042), advocates, “The share of the labor force in Nepal is half of the total labor force of thee kingdom. These women performed unpaid household chores for 15 to 16 hours a day. (Acharya, 2000)

According to the report on “SAARC Women in Nepal”- by Deepak Aryal (1996), women are discouraged in respective fields. Moreover, their role in agriculture though very great, they are not evaluated property and they are underestimated in their work. In India, a study on unmarried working women’s marriage and career was carried out in the college and university teachers of Vanarsi and the information was published in 1990. The main objective of the study was to analyze the orientation of unmarried working women towards marriage and career. Although, the study was limited to small number, but it was significant because the group of women under study was contributing in the emergence of a non-traditional role system and a non confirmit life style among a section of educated women in India. It was conducted in three universities and seven degree college of Vanarsi city where only 126 unmarried teachers were involved.

2.4 Role of Women in vegetable farming

Vegetables are one of the important cash crops grown in the hill region. The most important vegetables grown in Nepal are potatoes, cauliflower, radishes, brinjal, carrots, turnips, garlic, mushroom, onions, cucumber, peas, bitter guard, beans, pumpkin leafy vegetables, in addition to saplings. Women play a vital role in vegetable production. The majority of female farmers work in vegetable farming, since demand is increasing day by day both inside Nepal.

Basneyat, in her study Vegetable farming in Siddhiganesh, Sanothimi Panchayt, Bhaktapur District Nepal, found that women regularly participate in producing food grains, vegetables, fruit, raising cattle and poultry. This information shows that women contribute specially in vegetable cultivation. Their activities are performed in most of the Jyapu (a farming community) families in Thimi (Kathmandu Valley). Vegetable growing is primarily development on women farmers. From harvesting to disposal activities like harvesting vegetables and potatoes, their cleaning, grading, Packing for sale are done mostly by women Marketing is done usually by both women and men.

In a study on Women Farmers in Nepalese Agriculture: A case study of selected districts and crops, by HMG, MOA 1993, reported that specially in crops like potato and vegetables, Operational decisions are taken by women with regard to decision making authority, in 26 percent of the cases policy level household decisions were taken by women of such decision making women, 69 percent were fairly well educated 27 percent were just literate. These decision making women were mostly wives (54%), when their statutory position in the family were compared to the oldest men in the respective family of the total decision making women 69 Percent were getting second hand information about farming technologies, (Basneyat1979)

Vegetable production is expected to rise by 9.0 percent reaching 3,000,0000 Mt from the previous fiscal year's 2,754,000 MT. Area under vegetable cultivation is estimated to be 2,320,000 ha. Vegetable farming is widely accepted by farmers as major cash crop as well

as the growing trend of farming off season vegetables, there by resulting in the constant rise in are coverage and production for the past few years. (Economic Survey 09/010)

Sharma K, in her M.A. Thesis her titled “An Economics Analysis of Vegetable Production at Kumpur VDC of Dhading District”, her objective to analyses the problems of vegetable framing in the study area and suggest measure to overcome the problem, she used the primary data and secondary data. She adopted methodology based on questionnaire interview and field observation. She concluded that in the production function analysis of the previous chapter made for Vegetable shows that land in the most significant variable explaining the major change in output. This implies that most of the farms in the study area can supply this input for vegetable production relative to other input. The analysis also shows that labor and farmyard manure play significant role in production function. The negative coefficient of chemical fertilizer shows that there has been more chemical fertilizer uses in the production process. The positive elasticity of inputs show that the output of the production can be raised by increasing the required level of inputs. Bases on the above results we can see that land in found to be the most significant variable which influences highly the production of vegetable. Labor, chemical fertilizer and farmyard manure are also significant but over doges of chemical fertilizer has been used in production process. The values of R^2 are high in all the cases. Also the value of F-statistic is highest in model fourth i.e. 227.482 which shows there is significant relationship between output and input of vegetable. She has recommended that it has been from the field visit that there has not been used modern farm technology in the production process. It would be better to use modern technology such as tractor, new seeds etc. to raises the level of output. Also human labor should be trained for various farm operations in modern way. In order to encourage farmers to produce more vegetables government should help by providing credit facility, technicians, marketing, training etc. On the basis of the interview made to the individuals based on the structured questionnaire in the study area, we can see that there are many problems like irrigation, lack of market, not getting proper price of goods etc. So facilities must be given to farmers to get higher income from vegetable farming.

2.5 Conclusion 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, health status, occupation, involvement in politics and social organization are the major indicators. In this study, efforts have been made to identify the socio-economic status of women engage in vegetable farming in Kirtipur municipality. In the production of vegetable farming Nepalese women are enlightened some are fairly educated and some are just literate. This decision making women are mostly female than male. They are getting second hand information by farming technology.

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the most important part of research work. Reliable and relevant study can be made possible only by applying scientific method. Hence, the main purpose of this chapter is to present the framework for the research design. Different procedures used to this study are as follows.

3.1 Research Design

This study is based on descriptive as well as analytical technique in order to generate the required information and to analyze its findings various tools and technique have been adopted such as research design, tools and process of data collection sampling procedure and sample size and data processing and analysis technique in detail.

3.2 Introduction of the study area

This study has been conducted in kirtipur municipality ward no 12, 14 and 15 of Kathmandu district to highlight women's status in the society. Kirtipur which is situated in the southern part of Kathmandu valley bordered with capital city of Nepal is based mainly on agrarian economy. Kirtipur is densely populated with people from diverse ethnic communities. The Brahmin, Chettri, Newar dominate that area.

Although people engaged in various kinds of wage labor and community activities as their alternative source of income, agriculture is the major occupation of the most of households. However, entrepreneurial activities such as small business and industry could not be detected among them.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data Collection

In this study, quantitative data have been collected by using primary and secondary sources. The primary data are collected with the help of questionnaire by using both structured and non structured questionnaire. Some additional information is collected with the help of observation, discussion, interview, and so on. Important and relevant materials are consulted from secondary data such as from books, journals published or unpublished researches, articles and Kirtipur Municipality records.

3.4 Primary data

To generate primary data field survey was carried out in the study area. Primary data was collected by using structural questionnaires, Key Informants, and interviews. Those interviews and survey were conducted within the household women of kirtipur municipality ward no 12, 14 and 15.

3.5 Structured Questionnaire

The structured questionnaire consists of various components such as farm management, household management, educational, health aspect and so on. The first section dealt with the purpose of getting information about socio-economic status of the households and the second section dealt with the purpose of getting information about vegetable farming. The questionnaire which has been taken for study is listed in Annex.

3.6 Interview with Key informants

The present study was also conducted by discussing with the local teacher, ward representatives and the community leaders to gather information that are related to the economic status of women involving in vegetable farming.

3.7 Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected from various publications, such as journals published by government of Nepal; Kirtipur municipality; Central Bureau of Statistics; articles; thesis works which are already done; websites; news journals; and etc.

3.8 Sample Size

Out of the 1488 households of kirtipur municipality ward No. 12, 14 and 15, 100 household were picked up as a sample size. From each household, age-group 15 to 59 are selected as respondents for the study. Here, the women below the age of 14 and above 60s were not included in this study.

3.9 Sampling Procedure

100 households sampled from the total households of 1488 have surveyed. The selection was done by systematic sampling method.

3.10 Data Processing and Analysis

The collected data has been processed and analyzed in a descriptive and explanatory way to fulfill the study objectives. The data has been analyzed in both ways i.e. qualitatively and quantitatively. The quantitative data have been tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools such as percentage.

CHAPTER- FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter has analyzed the data collected from the primary sources. More specially, this chapter presents the socio-economic characteristic and household decision making pattern of working women of vegetables production at Kirtipur Municipality in Kathmandu.

4.1.1 Introduction to the Kirtipur Municipality

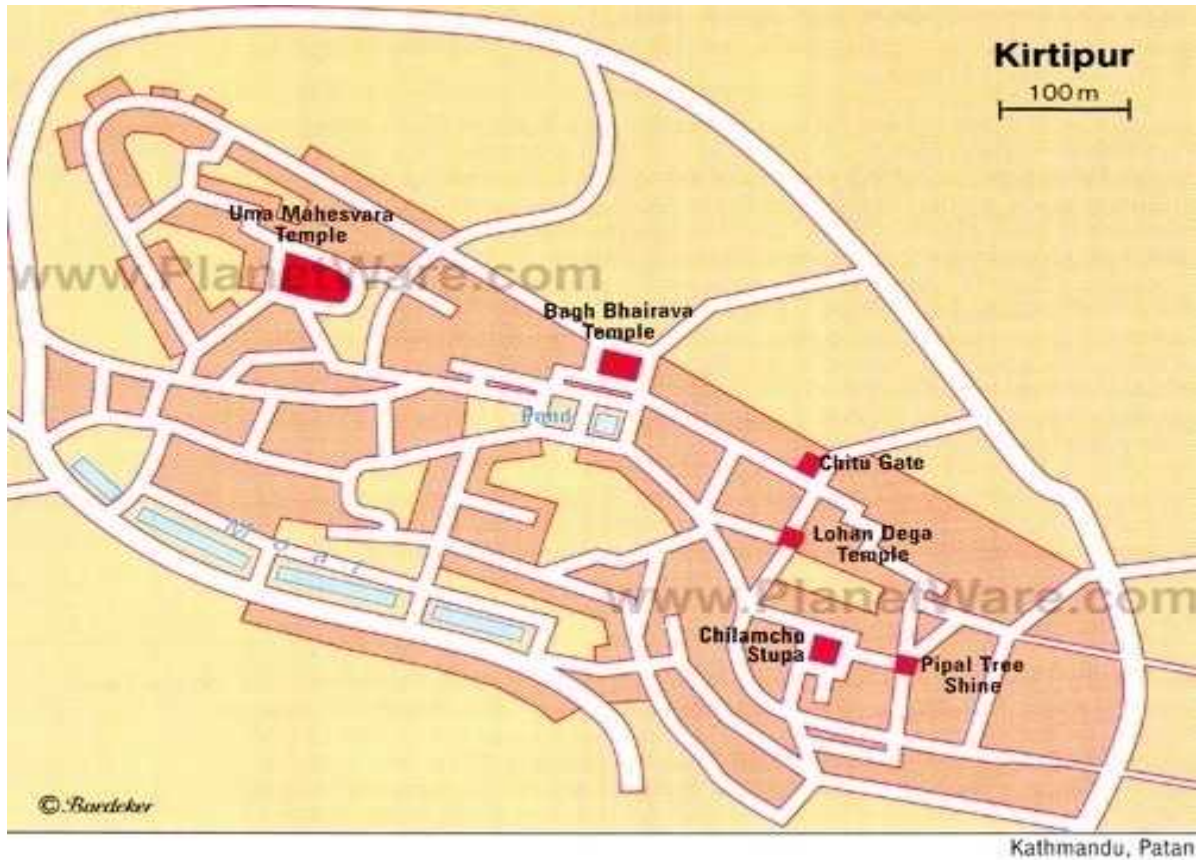
Kirtipur is situated in southern part of Kathmandu valley and just 7 kilometers away from capital city Kathmandu. Although it was declared as city according to the population census 2009/2011 BS, it was excluded from city list in 2028 BS but again in 27th March 1997, nine adjoining village development committees were included to Kirtipur city and re-declared it as Kirtipur Municipality. The altitude of Kirtipur Municipality varies from 1325 meters to 1375 meters from the sea level. Lalitpur sub-metropolitan city lies in the east and Machhenarayn, Naikap and Tinthana VDCs are located in the west. In the north, Balkhu and kalanki of Kathmandu metropolitan city separates Kirtipur Municipality and Chalnakhel VDC lies in the southern part of the total area 14.74 sq. Km, 3262 sq. m is covered by forest and only 7377sq. m area is suitable for agriculture. In ancient period the city was known as padmakastha and now it is well-known as a political and education city.

Kirtipur, meaning the city of glory, is one of the sub-metropolitan cities of Kathmandu district. It is about five kilometers south-east of the Capital, Kathmandu. Kirtipur, also known as Kipu and Kyapu, is one of the oldest settlements in Kathmandu Valley, and is recorded as an ancient capital of Nepal. The town, inhabited largely by Newars, the earliest population group of the valley, occupies the top of a steep rocky hill, a location very different from the other main towns of the valley as Kathmandu and Patan. In ancient times, Kirtipur was a stronghold, probably fortified, and the historical records show that up to the 18th century the control of Kirtipur was a key to maintaining power in the valley.



Photo 1: Kirtipur Nayabazar

During 1960, establishment of Tribhuvan University brought a great change in the infrastructure of Kirtipur. New houses were built at the foot of the south-east of Kirtipur, called Naya Bajar directly linked to the down town. It is also recognized by its historical and cultural importance of the temples particularly the 16th century Bhagh Bhairav, and main Buddhist Stupa.



Map 1: Kirtipur Municipality

4.1.2 Socio-Economic Status

According to the National Population Census 2001, the total Population of Kirtipur Municipality is 40835 which is just 0.18% of total population of the Nation. Among them male and female have 21686 (53.11%) and 19149 (46.89%) population respectively. Total number of households is 9487 and the average household size is 4.3. The population density is 2766.60/sq. Km. in Kirtipur Municipality. It has 19 wards and ward number 3 has the highest number of population (4149) with 1278 households where male and female population is 2513 and 1636 respectively. Similarly, ward no. 19 has the lowest population and household with 780 and 147 respectively. In this ward male population is 391 and female population 389.

Table: 4.1 Ward Wise Population Distribution in Kirtipur

Ward No.	Area/ha	Total Household	Total Population	Percent	Male	Male Percent	Female	Female Percent
1	43.11	655	2824	6.9	1528	7.0	1296	6.8
2	71.89	510	2328	5.7	1208	5.6	1120	5.8
3	170.75	1278	4149	10.2	2513	11.6	1636	8.5
4	5.93	388	1828	4.5	928	4.3	900	4.7
5	25.08	363	1992	4.9	993	4.6	999	5.2
6	25.19	271	1348	3.3	660	3.0	688	3.6
7	229.28	418	2051	5.0	1037	4.8	1014	5.3
8	313.4	393	2024	5.0	1007	4.6	1017	5.3
9	8.84	474	2019	4.9	1105	5.1	914	4.8
10	8.35	229	1091	2.7	565	2.6	526	2.7
11	85.82	489	2172	5.3	1077	5.0	1095	5.7
12	72.82	409	1895	4.6	945	4.4	950	5.0
13	126.94	321	1454	3.6	726	3.3	728	3.8
14	102.8	447	2136	5.2	1072	4.9	1064	5.6
15	235.11	632	3062	7.5	1558	7.2	1504	7.9
16	87.66	349	1540	3.8	788	3.6	752	3.9
17	56.12	1097	3743	9.2	2262	10.4	1481	7.7
18	34.52	617	2399	5.9	1323	6.1	1076	5.6
19	97.74	147	780	1.9	391	1.8	389	2.0
Total	1801.35	9487	40835	100.0	21686	100.0	19149	100.0

Source: National Population Census 2001

4.1.3 Population Composition by Age and Sex

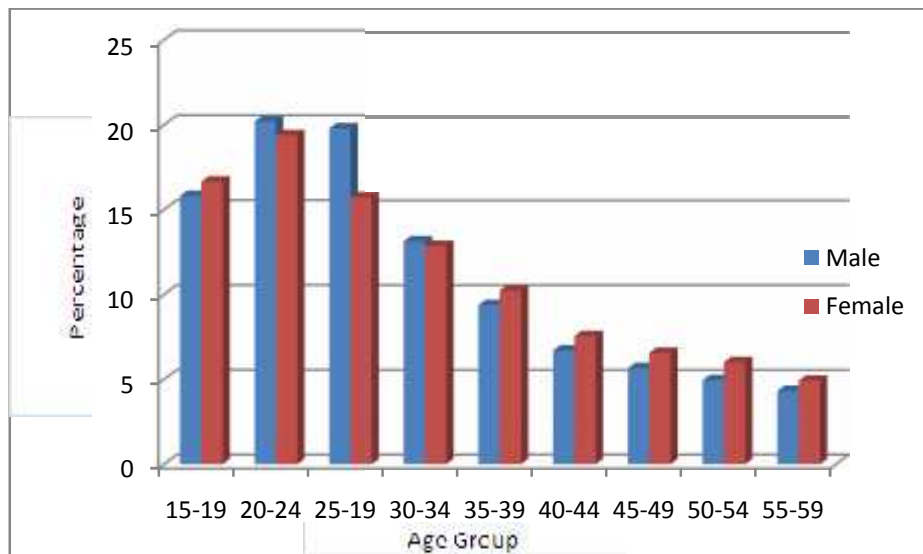
According to the following table, two age group i.e. (15-19) and (20-24) have the highest proportion in both sexes. In the age group (15-19) male has nearly 16 percent and female has about 17 percentage population. Similarly another age group (20-24), male has nearly 20 percent and female has just less than 19 percent population respectively.

Table 4.2: Population Composition by age and Sex (Between age group 15 to 59)

Age Group	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
15-19	2373	15.81	2110	16.67	4483	16.2
20-24	3027	20.17	2455	19.39	5482	19.81
25-29	2970	19.79	1991	15.73	4961	17.93
30-34	1973	13.15	1631	12.88	3604	13.03
35-39	1409	9.39	1299	10.26	2708	9.788
40-44	1008	6.717	957	7.559	1965	7.102
45-49	852	5.678	832	6.571	1684	6.087
50-54	745	4.965	762	6.018	1507	5.447
55-59	649	4.325	624	4.929	1273	4.601
Total	15006	100	12661	100	27667	100

Source: Population Census, 2001

Figure 4.1: Population Composition by age and Sex



4.1.4 Caste/Ethnicity Composition of Sampled Households

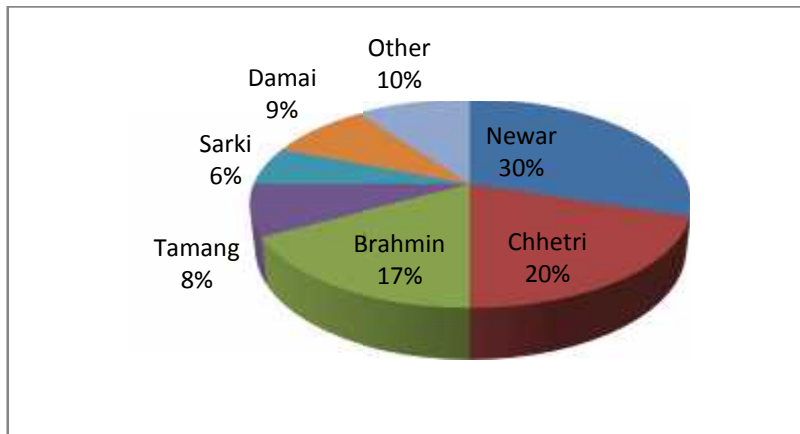
National Population census 2001 has identified 45 caste/ethnic groups in Kirtipur Municipality. Newar has the overwhelming majority in the municipality. Other dominant groups are Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Magar, Sarki and Damai according to their population respectively. Among the sampled households, Newar has the highest proportion by 30 percent. Chhetri, Brahmin and Tamang rank in the second, third and fourth position by 20 percent, 17 percent and 8 percent respectively. Damai and Sarki have nominal proportion.

Table: 4.3 Caste Composition of the respondents

S. No.	Caste/Ethnic Group	No of Households	Percentage
1	Newar	30	30
2	Chhetri	20	20
3	Brahmin	17	17
4	Tamang	8	8
5	Sarki	6	6
6	Damai	9	9
7	Other	10	10
	Total	100	100

Field survey, 2011

Figure: 4.2 Caste/Ethnic Compositions of Sampled Households



Other castes comprise Rai, Limbu and Gurung. According to the local people, these groups are migrated from other district of Nepal to Kirtipur in recent years.

4.1.5 Occupation and Economic Characteristics

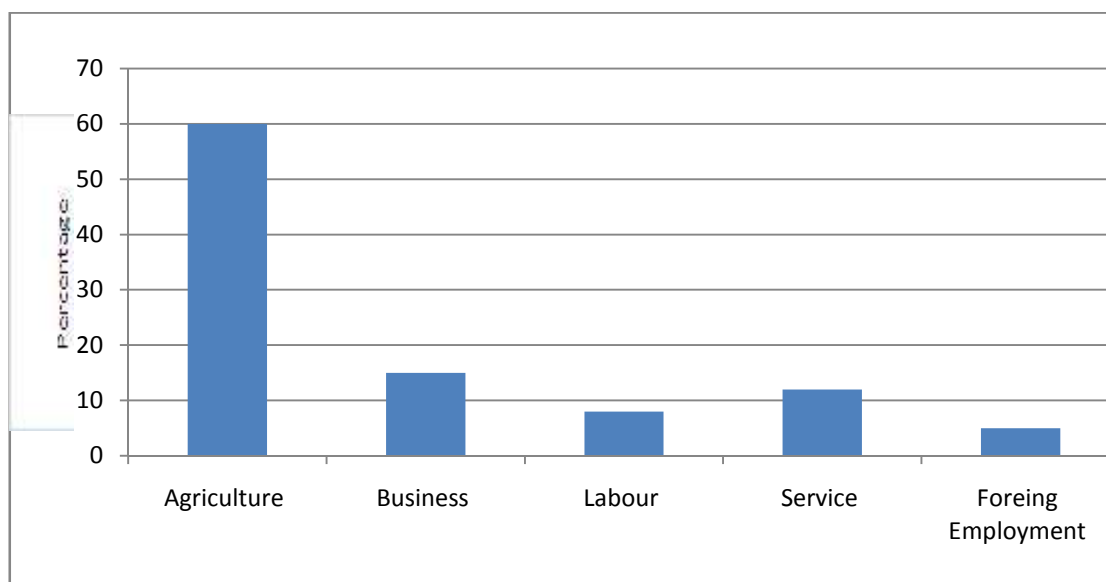
Although Kirtipur is a capital adjoining municipality, agriculture is the main occupation and of the total households of municipality, 9487 households have income only from agricultural activities.

Table 4.4 shows that 60 percent population has still declared agriculture as their main occupation. People living in the periphery of Kirtipur Municipality has still rural characteristics. It shows that highest numbers of sampled population percentages are engaged in agriculture. Business is the second highest occupation percentage of the total sample. Service is the third highest occupation of the total sampled population and so on.

Table 4.4 Major Occupation of Respondent Households

Occupations	Population	Percentage
Agriculture	60	60
Business	15	15
Labour	8	8
Service	12	12
Foreing Employment	5	5
Total	100	100

Figure 4.3: Major Occupation of Respondent Households



4.1.6 Religious and Language Composition

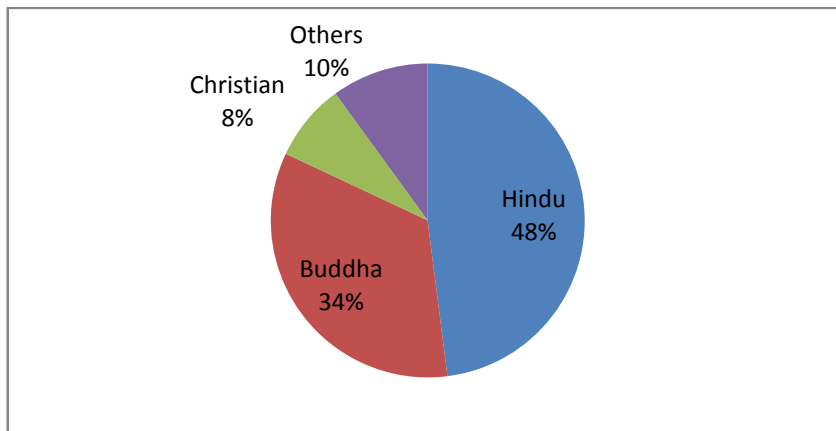
In terms of religion and language, Kirtipur has vast diversity. Hindu and Buddha are the major religions. Christian and some other religions (Parnami, Baishnabhi) are also found in Kirtipur. According to the local elderly people, Parnami and Baisanabhi are also a part of Hindi religion. So, if we included other religions to Hindu then majority of the people follow Hindu religion.

Table: 4.5 Religions Composition of Sampled Households

Religion	Households	Percentage
Hindu	48	48
Buddha	34	34
Christian	8	8
Others	10	10
Total	100	100

Field survey, 2011

Figure4.4: Religious Composition of Sampled Households



Brahmin and Chhetri live in the periphery of the Municipality. There are several Chhetri and Brahmin village in Kirtipur in the vicinity of the Kirtipur Bazar. These People follow Hindum and speak Nepali Language.

4.1.7 Demographic Profile of the Municipality

This section deals with the ward-wise vegetable growing farmers' demographic characteristics. The distribution of households by ward of the municipality is given in table 4.6

Table 4.6: Distribution of Sample Households by three wards of Kirtipur municipality

Sample Ward No.	Total No of HHs	No. of HHs involved in vegetable Farming	No. of Sample households
12	409	100	30
14	447	200	30
15	632	300	40
Total	1488	600	100

Source: Record of Municipality and Field Survey 2011

The 4.6 table shows that Kirtipur municipality has 1488 households, and ward no. 15 has maximum number of household and ward no 12 minimum number of households out of three wards, three wards are samples as given in table 4.6

4.2 Socio- Economic Characteristics of Working Women Respondents

This section deals with socio-economic characteristics of the working women farmer engaged in vegetables farming at Kirtipur municipality of Kathmandu.

4.2.1 Age Structure of the Women Respondents

This section deals with the age structure of the working women in vegetable farming at Kirtipur municipality of Kathmandu. On the basis of data collected in selected Ward of Kirtipur municipality the age group of the respondents has been divided into nine major groups that is the age between 15-19,20-24 25-29,30-34,35-39,40-44,45-49,50-54,55-59 years.

Table 4.7 Age Wise Distribution of Women Respondents

S.N	Age Group	Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	15-19	7	7
2	20-24	11	11
3	25-29	18	18
4	30-34	23	23
5	35-39	13	13
6	40-44	10	10
7	45-49	9	9
8	50-54	6	6
9	55-59	3	3
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The distribution of the respondents by age group shows that 23 percent respondents are from 30-34 years age group, and only 3 percent are from 55-59 years age group.

This data shows that highest proportion of women respondents are in 30-34 years age group. This indicates that the women with middle age range participate more in the outside home activities and play dual role as a house wife and as a women farmer.

4.2.2 Educational Status of the Respondents

The distribution of respondent by educational level is given in table 4.8

Table: 4.8 Educational Wise Distribution of the Respondents

S.N	Educational level	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Illiterate	22	22
2	Literate	46	46
3	Schooling	32	32
A	Primary	14	14
B	Secondary	10	10
C	Above secondary	8	8
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From table 4.8 only 22 percent respondents found Illiterate, and only 8 percent have above secondary level of education. However, as large as 46 percent of women are literate or have some year of formal schooling. This is infect an encouraging educational situation of women in the sample area. The literate of the women is moderately high but only one-fifth of women have 8 secondary or above level of education.

4.2.3 Marital Status of the Respondents

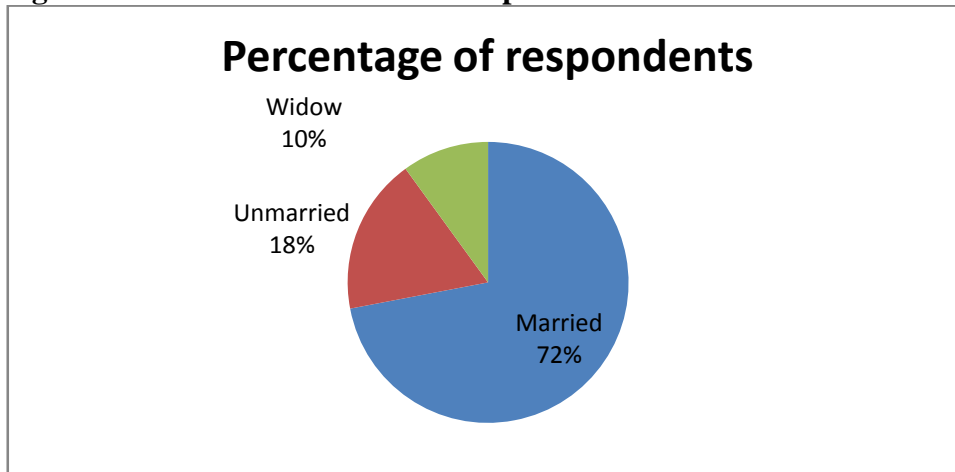
The Distribution of the respondents on the basis of marital status is given in table 4.9

Table: 4.9 Marital Status Wise Distribution of the Respondents

S.N	Marital Status	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Married	72	72
2	Unmarried	18	18
3	Widow	10	10
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure: 4.5 Marital Status of the Respondents



The table 4.9 shows that most of the women engaged in vegetable farming are married. They have to balance life between their housework and farm work. It is quite a different situation yet the women seem to manage it.

4.2.4 Family Structure

The distribution of the respondents according to family type presented in table 4.10

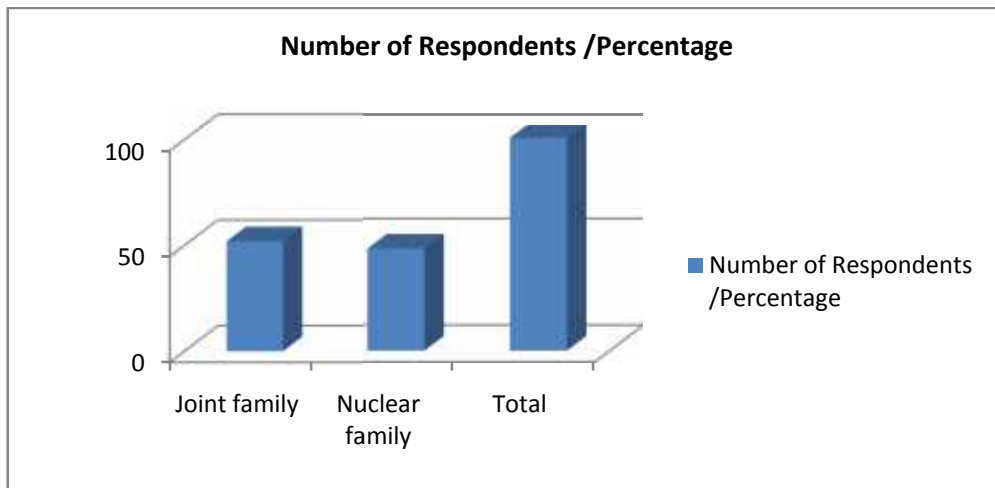
Table: 4.10 Distribution of the Respondents by family Types

Type of family	Number of Respondents /Percentage
Joint family	52
Nuclear family	48
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.10 shows that fifty two percent respondents have joint family and forty eight percent respondents have nuclear family. It can be inferred that more women farmer come from joint family than nuclear family because of women farmer have to look after their family and outside work at the same time, which sometimes can't be possible in case of nuclear family. So living in joint family can be helpful in such situation. But living in nuclear family is increasing now days. It seems in our study forty eight percent respondents living in nuclear family

Figure: 4.6 Distribution of the Respondents by family Types



4.2.5 Nature of Daily Activities and working hours of Women farmers engaged in vegetable farmers.

This section of study deals with the nature of daily activities and working hours of women farmers engaged in vegetable farming. To get acquainted with the daily activity schedule of women vegetable farmers of the sample area farmers were asked different questions regarding different type of work and time. The division of different activities, their nature and time is presented in table 4.11.

Table: 4.11 Nature of Daily Activities and Working Hours of Women Vegetable Farmers

Type of Work	Activities	Hours	Percent
House hold chore	Household : Cleaning, Washing, waste collection, cooking food, cleaning the pots, Personal cleaning and washing , childcare	6	25.0
	Animal care: cleaning shed, feed preparation, fodder collection	5	20.8
Productive work	Farm work: Land preparation weeding and leveling work, mourning, seed selection, seed sowing, transplanting, harvesting, vegetable preparation, carrying to the market place, selling vegetable	7	29.2
Sleep	Sleeping	6	25.0
	Total	24	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.11 shows that out of 24 hours of a day, women work 18 hours. It is found by the study that 45.8 percent of a day time is used by the women farmers in household chore, animal care and personal activities. They spend 29.2 percent of time in productive work like farm work and vegetable selling. They spent 25 percent of time in sleep. Thus only 29.2 percent of time is used in the productive work. This finding suggests that women's work should shift more to the productive work from household chore, in the process of their economic empowerment. A heavy domestic workload of women reduces their time available for mere productive work. Therefore other family members should support domestic work of women.

According to the respondents their average daily routine is presented in chart.

4.2.6.1 Decision making by engaged in vegetable farming

Table 4.12 present that the respondents have also got the decision making position at their home. In order find out how important decisions women take, information has been collected on the position of women. These positions are classified into four groups as follows: high, medium, low and not at all. Here the women with high position in making decision are those who play vital role to make decisions, in financial and other family matters in comparison to their male partners. Likewise the medium positional women are those who are asked to present their view on the financial and other matters. The low positional women are those who are very rarely can present their view on the financial and other family matters. The last category of women are those who have not any role to make decisions on financial and other family matters.

Table: 4.12 Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Decision Making Position

S.N	Position	Number of respondents	Percentage Respondents
1	High	8	8
2	Medium	36	36
3	Low	32	32
4	Not at all	24	24
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.12 shows that 36 percent respondents have medium position, 32 percent respondents have low position, 24 percent respondents have almost insignificant position in decision making engaged in vegetable farming. As only 8 percent respondents have high position in decision making, it implies that the important decisions are still taken by male members.

4.2.6.2 Decision Making on the Vegetables for Farming

The table 4.13 presents that the respondents have also role in decision making on the vegetables for farming. Making decision on the choice of types of vegetables is divided into three groups such as own self, husband, and other.

Table: 4.13 Decision Making Position on the Choice of Vegetables farming.

Decision Maker	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Own self	36	36
Husband	40	40
Other	24	24
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.13 shows that only 36 percent women farmers make their own decision on the choice of vegetables farming. 40 percent respondents follow husband's decision, 24 percent follow other decision in vegetables cultivation. This hints that even the women are directed by their husbands or other family member to run their enterprise such as vegetable farming.

4.2.6.3 Decision making practices on Vegetable Farm Activities

This section deals with decision making on farm practices besides Ploughing seed selection, seed cleaning, mourning, seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, pesticide/ spraying, harvesting and seed storage.

Table 4.14 Distribution of the Women Respondents, their Husbands and others by types of Decision of Vegetable Farm Activities

S.N.	Practices	Own Self	Percent	Husband	Percent	Other	Percent
1	Seed selection	36	36	44	44	20	20
2	Seed cleaning	80	80	8	8	12	12
3	Mannering	84	84	12	12	4	4
4	Seed sowing	40	40	48	48	12	12
5	Transplanting	68	68	24	24	8	8
6	Weeding	76	76	16	16	8	8
7	Pesticide/spraying	28	28	56	56	16	16
8	Harvesting	81	81	7	7	12	12
9	Seed storage	71	71	20	20	9	9
	Average		62.66		26.11		11.22

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.14 shows that the average, sixty two percent of the decision of farm activities besides ploughing is done by women farmer own self, twenty six percent done by their husband and eleven percent are done by their other family members. Among the activities on which women are dominant decision makers are seed cleaning and harvesting where 80 or highest percent of women take decisions. On the other hand, women's involvement in decision making is less in activities like pesticides spray seed selection and seed sowing. However, the finding indicates a growing role of women farmer in decision making.

4.2.7 Respondents and Their Income

Table 4.15 presents the distribution of the respondents on the respondents on the basis of their income. Income has been divided into six main groups.

Table: 4.15 Income Pattern of the Women Vegetable Farmers

S.N	Income (Annually)	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Up to Rs. 10,000	16	16
2	Rs. 10,000 to Rs.20,000	20	24
3	Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000	17	17
4	Rs30,000 to Rs 40,000	24	20
5	Rs 40,000 to Rs. 50,000	12	12
6	Above Rs. 50,000	11	11
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.15 shows that 24 percent respondents earn between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 per year and only 11 percent earn above Rs. 50,000 per year. Excluding the first income group, in other groups, the proportion of respondents goes on decreasing with the increase in income groups. Although farming is the main occupation of majority of the families it alone cannot support their living. Therefore they must look for alternative employment to supplement the family income necessary for their livelihood.

4.2.8 Respondents and their Assets

The living standard of the family and comfort level also depends on the assets of the respondents.

Table: 4.16 Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Assets Owned

S.N	Assets	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Land	100	100
2	Cow	41	41
3	Goat	52	52
4	Hen	55	55
5	Radio	100	100
6	T.V	50	50
7	Mobile	75	75

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.16 shows that all have land and Radio. Whereas are 41 percent respondents have Cow. A larger proportion of women have mobile phone than TV, implying that how women are serious in their production activities and productive use of money.

4.2.9 Control over Income

Income earn by vegetable farming are controlled by various members family. Control over income earned from vegetable production by women farmers is presented the in table 4.17.

Table: 4.17 Possession of Income Earned from Vegetables

S.N	Details	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Own Self	34	34
2	Husband	45	45
3	Other	21	21

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.17 presents that 45 percent of the money earned from vegetable production is kept by their husband, 34 percent is kept by women farmers themselves, 21 percent is kept by other, respectively.

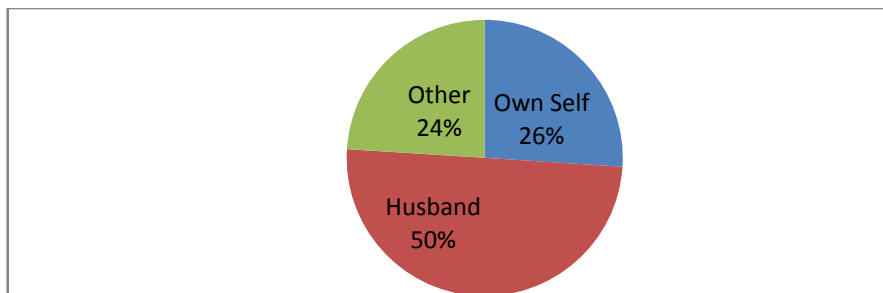
With respect to spending of money for domestic expenditure, only 34 percent women can decide on spending wherever they want. The women farmers have to ask for money from their husband for their needs. But their husband could spend wherever they want. The same situation is repeated where the earning is controlled by their other member

Table: 4.18 Decision Making Practices on Money Expenditure

S.N.	Details	No. of respondents	Percentage Of respondents
1	Own Self	26	26
2	Husband	50	50
3	Other	24	24
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure: 4.7 Decision Making Practices on Money Expenditure



Regarding decision making practices on the use of income from vegetable selling only, 26 percent of the women respondents make decision. Themselves 50 percent have to follow their husband's decision, 24 percent have to follow other.

Thus of the total women respondents half exist that the decision on spending income from vegetable is done by their husbands. This implies that women have to on their husband even on the use of income earned by them.

4.2.10 Mobility Level of Women Farmer

Table 4.18 percents the distribution of respondents on the basis of degree of their mobility. Mobility means women farmer going out of the house for socio-economic activities. The old

concept that women should not go out of the house is changing now. It is very positive change. The mobility level is an indicator of socio-economic status of working women in vegetable farming. Mobility level is divided into three main groups such as high (means totally free to go out of the house at any time women need to go), medium (means moderately free to go out of the house) and low (Means very rarely can go out of the house).

Table: 4.19 Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Mobility Level

S.N	Mobility Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	High	16	16
2	Medium	60	60
3	Low	24	24
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.19 shows that only 16 respondents (16%) have high mobility level, whereas 60 respondents (60%) have only medium mobility level. This finding indicates the old concept that women should not go out of the house is changing gradually, however still majority of women have not full mobility.

4.2.11 Duality in female role as house-wife and outdoor work

Table 4.20 presents the distribution of the women respondents on the basis of their dual role as a house-wife and working women on the farm.

Table: 4.20 Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Dual Role as a House-Wife and Working Women

S.N	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Easily	24	24
2	Hardly	40	40
3	Anyhow	32	32
4	Somehow	4	4
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.20 shows that forty percent respondents hardly manage their dual role and 24 percent respondents easily manage and only 4 percent respondents manage somehow their dual role.

This study finds out that only few women get support from their family member to manage their dual role as housewife and working women at the farm. This indeed is not a good sign for women farmer who work at the farm for vegetable farming.

4.2.12 Wage Discrimination between Male and Female

Table 4.21 presents the distribution of respondents on the basis of response whether there is wage discrimination between male and female with same kinds of work.

Table: 4.21 Responses of Respondents on Wage Discrimination between Male and Female with Same Kinds of Work

S.N	Response	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondent
1	Yes	60	60
2	No	40	40
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.21 shows that 60 percent respondents think that there is discrimination on the wage between male and female. But 40 percent do not believe that there is wage discrimination between male and female with the same kinds of work.

This finding discourage female worker to work at farm because of wage discrimination. So we should totally remove that discrimination if we want to increase the number of female workers of farm to produce the vegetables and to improve their economic status.

4.2.13 Moral/Physical Exploitation

Table 4.22 presents the distribution of the respondents on the basis of moral/physical exploitation in their work at the farm.

Table: 4.22 Response of Respondents on Moral/Physical Exploitation in Their Work

S.N	Response	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondent
1	Yes	8	8
2	No	92	92
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.22 shows only 8 percent respondents think that there is some moral/Physical exploitation. But most of respondents do not think that there is any moral/Physical exploitation in their work. This indeed is a very good sign for women farmer who work at farm for vegetable farming. This finding suggests that women vegetable farmers have less exploitation.

4.2.14 Problems Faced by the Vegetable Growing Women in Vegetable Farming

This section of the study deals with the problems faced by the women farmers in vegetable production which is shown by table 4.23

Table: 4.23 Problems Faced in Vegetable Farming

S.N.	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	High Price of seeds	60	60
2	Unavailability of credit	90	90
3	Lack of irrigation	25	25
4	Lack of cold store	100	100
5	High cost of production	80	80
6	Low profit	50	50
7	Other	8	8

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Of all the problems, lack of cold storage is the most important problem identified by women. This is followed by lack of irrigation and high cost of production. Therefore, this implies that there is a need for making provision of cold storage and irrigation facility as well as decrease the cost of other inputs in order to encourage vegetable farming.

Provision of cold storage has compelled women farmers to sell their production at as low price some times as most of the productions are perishable on the other hand they have to buy expensive inputs, for the farming. Thus, the farming becomes less lucrative.

4.3 Status of Vegetable Growing Women in Kirtipur Municipality

From the informal talk with the villagers it is found that the villagers are positive about the vegetable cultivation and engagement of women farmers in vegetable farming. Women farmers are becoming stronger in decision making practices in vegetable cultivation. This shows an improvement of socio-economic status of women.

Even after facing many problems the women farmers have satisfaction of their occupation. The vegetable farming supports their household economy, helps to educate their children and they improve the prestige in their house as well as in the society. They are economically stronger than before.

CHAPTER – FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

Women constitute more than 50 percent of total population of the country. So their development contributes to the overall development of Nepal. But women are still forced to live insecure life because of poverty, illiteracy and gender discrimination. 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's 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.

To fulfill the objectives, the present study has observed the socio-economic status of the women at farm, their role in household decision making and problems faced by women of vegetable production at kirtipur municipality of Kathmandu.

The researcher selected Kirtipur municipality. According to District profile report 2009/2010, the total population of Kirtipur municipality is 40,835. Out of them 19149 are female and 21686 are male. The total number of households is 9487. Among 19 wards, three wards (12, 14 and 15) are selected for sample. These wards have 1488 households among them 100 households; are selected and only one vegetable farming women is selected from each sampled households. The information was collected about women and their socio-economic status and other activities related to vegetable farming.

In this study primary data has been collected using structured questionnaire with different women farmers and key information of vegetable farming of Kirtipur municipality. The key information interview with them is used for collecting qualitative information. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were adopted for data analysis. The gathered data and information have been processed and analyzed in the descriptive and exploratory way.

The quantitative data have been tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools such as percentage ratio and presented in tables and chart.

The respondent women farmers (23%) of this municipality belong to the middle age group i.e 30 to 34 years. The highest proportion of respondents was Adhibasi-janajati and the lowest were from other caste like Dalits etc. Majority of the respondents (78%) were literate and only 22 percent respondents were illiterate. Literacy has been defined in this study as those women who can read and write in simple words. There are only few formally educated women in this municipality.

Most of the respondents (72%) were married and only 18 percent were unmarried. 52 percentages of the women respondents live in joint family and 48 percent live in nuclear family.

In case of decision-making, most of women have medium level of decision-making position. Only 36 percent women said that they decide themselves on the type of vegetable to grow. Similar situation was found in the case of seed selection and seed sowing. Most of them decide themselves to practice on seed cleaning, transplanting, weeding and seed storage.

In the context of women's economic status in the family, higher percent of women farmers are dependent on their family members. Majority of the respondents were earning between Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 in per year. All respondents have land for vegetable production. But most of them do not have any property in their ownership.

Women work from early morning to late night in everyday. They are engaged in household works and farm activities for their livelihood. Generally, they do not get cash from their work as most of the times vegetables are sold by husband or other member of family. Thus, most of the women depend on their family for the economic support.

In case of control over income earned from vegetables selling, 34 Percentage respondents keep money by themselves. The study found that a large number of women (45%) follow their husband's decision to spend money earned from vegetable selling in different activities.

Similarly, this study found that 60 Percent of the respondents have medium level of mobility and only 16 percent of the respondents have high level of mobility. Out of 100 respondents, only few women get support from their family members to manage their dual role as housewife and working women at the farm. Majority of the respondents (60%) agree that there is discrimination between male and female on wage scale with same kind of work. Majority of the respondents (92%) do not think that there is any moral /Physical exploitation in their work.

In case of problems related to vegetable farming most of the women said lack of cold store and lack of sufficient irrigation facilities, are the major problems. High price of seed and high cost of production, were also reported as problems by a large number of women.

Thus, Women farmers of this municipality have been contributing in their family by earning some amount of money from vegetable farming. The status of women in their family is improving in comparison to past. The participation of women in decision making practices is also found positive. In this regard, some of women changed themselves as prestigious members in their family. The daily activities schedule of the women farmers show that those women farmers work 16 hours a day in which 8 hours in spent on farm activities.

Despite many problems in vegetable production, women farmer expressed satisfaction and said that vegetable farming supports their household economy which helps to educate their children and get prestige in the society.

5.2 Conclusion

From the analysis of study it can be concluded that the socio-economic status of women farmer on vegetables farming at Kirtipur municipality of Kathmandu District is getting better. Women are able to contribute for the betterment of their family both socially and economically. Women have multidimensional 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.

From the study, it also clear that the working women at farms are generally middle aged. The major ethnic groups of respondents are Adibasi Janjati and most of them are from Hindu religions. The majority of respondents are literate and married. The literacy rate of the women is moderately high but they are not well educated and higher education status of women is very low. It is also clear that most of the respondents live in joint family probably because it is easy to get help from family members.

Their position in decision-making and other activities in their household is became sound i.e. they have medium level of position in decision. They increased income level of their family by hard work is changing the life style and thinking pattern. But they still have to obey their male partner's decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have less chance to decide for it.

It can be concluded that most of the women have to depend upon their family in economic sector. Only few women are involved into social and financial decisions. Few women are involved in community decision. A number of women farmers 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.

Women's property ownership is an important variable to indicate their socio-economic status. In this area, very low working women have property ownership. They use property but have no ownership. Working women have played dual role as a housewife and a working women. They manage their dual role hardly. We must understand that in a patriarchal society, beside farm working women have to handle their household chores and they have also been able to effectively combine their various role as a wife, mother and worker etc. The majority of the respondents do agree that there is discrimination between male and female regarding wage scale with same kinds of work and do not agree that there is moral/physical exploitation in their work. From these socio-economic indicators, the researcher has concluded that the socio-economic status of women in study area is medium or low.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the finding of the present study the following recommendations can be forwarded.

5.3.1 Economic Status of Women

This study indicates that the economic status of women at Kirtipur municipality is medium. In order to develop their economic status, government and organizations should conduct skill development programmes, 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 the practice.

Women farmers should be encouraged to engage for vegetable farming by providing schemes of the agriculture production by the government and other organization. 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 contributions should be valued as economic activities.

5.3.2 Social Status of Women and Decision Making

Various programmes have been run by NGOs, INGOs, human Rights Organizations to uplift the social status of women 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.

Women's decision-making power is medium or low in Kirtipur municipality. To promote their 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.

Women's mobility level is also low. To promote their mobility level their family counterpart should be conscious about women right for freely going and coming outside the home where they need. It has been clearly spelled out in constitution that there will be no discrimination based on gender. It should also be brought in to practice.

5.3.3 Time Management of the Women

A heavy domestic workload Women reduces their available time for more productive activities. Therefore other family members including their male counterparts should support domestic works of women. The working time schedule should be made flexible so that the working women farmer can easily manage their dual role.

5.3.4 Capacity Building of Women and other

As the women face the problems of knowledge, and skills, they should be given the technical, operational and management training for vegetable farming. As demanded by the women respondents, government should provided support for vegetable farming such as fertilizer in time and irrigation facility cold store and market in adequate amount.

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ANNEX-1

QUESTIONNAIRE

Socio-economic Status of Women: A Case Study of Kirtipur Municipality

Dear Respondents,

This Questionnaire is a part of my dissertation for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters of Art of Economics. I assure you that the information provided will be kept confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than this research.

A. IDENTIFICATION of the Household

1. District
2. Ward No.
3. Village/Tole
4. Name of the household head
5. Household head occupation
6. Main source of the income of the family
7. Type of Family : Nuclear () Joint ()

Household Roster

S.N.	Name	Sex	Age	Education (Grade/L/I)	Occupation	Economic condition
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

Grade: 1-14 pass

I: Illiterate

L: Literate

Land Tenure

1. How much land do your household have ?

.....Ropani

2. What type of land do your household have ?

a) Khet () b) Bari () c) Both ()

3. What are the major crops that your household cultivates ?

a)..... b)..... c).....

4. How much land do your household use for vegetable farming ?

.....Ropani

Among them, how much are:

a) Own () ropani Rented in () ropani

B. Information of the women respondent :

1. Name of the women respondent :

2. Caste:

3. Religion :

4. Age :

5. Marital Status :

a) Married () b) Unmarried () c) Widow ()

6. Educational Status :

a) Literate () b) Illiterate ()

7) How much income you get last year from vegetable selling?

Rs.....

8) Who keeps your income?

a) Your Self b) Your husband c) Other

9) Do you save some part of your income?

a) Yes b) No

10) If no, then why?

a)..... b)

11) If yes, how much saving annually?

a) Up to Rs. 500 b) Up to Rs. 1000 c) Up to Rs. 5000

12) Which of the following assets you have in your house?

a) Land b) Goat e) hen

f) TV g) Other

Use of Inputs in different vegetables

Input and Output Table

Name of vegetable	Production (in kg)	Price (in Rs)	Use of labour (in no.)						Use of chemical fertilizer in kg	Use of Farmyard (in doko)
			Field preparation	Weeding	Irrigation	Harvesting	For transport	total		
Tomato										
Chilly										
Beans										
Bitter gourd										
Kohlrabi										
Okra										
eggplant										
Onion										
Pumpkin										
Cucumber										
Rayo										
Cauliflower										
Potato										
Squash										
Mushroom										

13) How do you get vegetable seeds?

- a) Own b) Buy from local vendors c) Buy highbred seed

14) How many months do the money made from selling vegetable support to your family?

..... months

15) Where do you spend your income?

- a) Consumption b) Education c) Health d) Other e) All

16) Who decides to spend the money in household expenses, vegetables farming and other social activities?

- a) Yourself b) Patriarch c) Father/Mother in law
- d) Brother/Sister in law

17) What different activities do you do for the whole day?

Activities	Morning	Day	Evening
Wake up			
Household Chore			
Animal care			
Field work			
Carrying vegetable to the market place for selling			
Bed time			

18) As working women how do you manage your dual role as a house wife?

- a) Easily b) Hardly c) Anyhow d) Somehow

19) What do you think of your mobility level ?

- a) High b) Medium c) Low

20) Do you have had any moral/physical exploitation in your work?

- a) Yes () b) No ()

21) Is there discrimination in wage of man and women for the same kind of work?

- a) Yes () b) No ()

22) If yes, what should be to remove that discrimination?

.....

23) In your opinion does the government of country to improve the vegetables farming?

- a) Yes () b) No ()

24) Do you continue vegetable farming?

- a) Yes b) No

25) What are the problems that you face?

- a) High price of seeds b) lack of market c) lack of irrigation
d) Unavailability of credit c) low profit d) other

26) To improve vegetable farming, what support governments should provide?

- a) Credit facility b) Technology c) Seeds facility
d) Market creates e) Irrigation facility

27) What are your suggestions to improve vegetable farming?