

**Women's Perception on Equal Property Right and Their  
Decision Making Power**

(A Case study of Anarmani VDC of Jhapa District)

**A Dissertation**

Submitted to the Tribhuvan University,  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master Degree in  
**Sociology**

*By*

**Anjana Kafle**

**Roll No: 170/060**

**T.U. Registration No. 6-1-2-5-97**

Tribhuvan University  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Prithvi Narayan Campus  
Pokhara, Nepal

April 2010

## **Letter of Recommendation**

This is to certify that **Ms. Anjana Kafle** has completed this dissertation entitled **Women's Perception on Equal Property Right and Their Decision Making Power** under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

Date: April 9, 2010

---

Amrit Kumar Bhandari  
Teaching Assistant  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Prithwi Narayan Campus  
Pokhara, Nepal

## **Recommendation by Editor**

This is to certify that I have read through the draft of dissertation entitled **Impacts of Women's Property Right and Their Perception About Equal Property Right** by **Ms. Anjana Kafle** as language editor and made necessary corrections and improvements there in. I have been impressed by her intelligible presentation of the facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

Date: April 10, 2010

---

Shyam Prasad Poudel  
Teaching Assistant  
Department of English Education  
Prithwi Narayan Campus  
Pokhara, Nepal

## **Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled **Women's Property Right and Their Perception About Equal Property Right** submitted to the Department of Sociology/ Anthropology; Prithwi Narayan Campus by **Ms. Anjana Kafle** has been approved by the undersigned members of the Dissertation Evaluation Committee.

### **Members of Dissertation Evaluation Committee**

---

(Amrit Kumar Bhandari)  
Supervisor

---

(Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane, PhD)  
External

---

(Shanti Bhushal)  
Head  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Prithwi Narayan Campus

Date: April 9, 2010

## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

I have been able to give final shape of this dissertation with the help and assistance from different persons and institutions. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thank to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus and its chairperson Shanti Bhusal for providing me an opportunity and a favourable environment for the preparation of this dissertation. I am very much grateful to my dissertation supervisor Mr. Amrit Kumar Bhandari, Teaching Assistant at the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, for valuable and insightful guidance he provided in the course of preparing this dissertation. I also express my thanks to Dr. Biswo Kallyan Parajuli and all of the faculty members at the department especially Mr. Mukunda Raj Gautam and Ishwor Khanal for their astute suggestions and advices they provided in the course of preparing this dissertation.

I must thank Mr. Anil Shrestha and Anju Shrestha of Shrestha Computer Service also for typing and bringing this dissertation into this form through thier sincere, skillful and professional computer works.

At last, I must express my sincere gratitude to all of my family members for helping me in all moments and courses I had to go through while preparing this dissertation.

April 9, 2010

Anjana Kafle

## Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	<i>ix</i>

### **Chapter I** **1-7**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1	General Background	1
1.2	Statement of the problem	3
1.3	Objectives of the Study	4
1.4	Definition of Terms	4
1.5	Use of the term	5
1.6	General Characteristics	5
1.7	Significance of the Study	6
1.8	Limitation of the study	7

### **Chapter II** **8-25**

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1	Theoretical Literature	8
2.1.1	Endowment and Exchange Entitlement Theory	8
2.1.2	Distributive Justice Hypothesis	9
2.2	Conceptual Framework	11
2.3	General Characteristics Property Rights	12
2.4	Empirical Literature	16

### **Chapter III** **26-28**

#### **METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Rational of Selection of Study Area	26
-----	-------------------------------------	----

3.2	Research Design	26
3.2.1	Population and Sample	27
3.2.2	Research Tools	27
3.3	Method of Data Analysis	28

**Chapter IV** **29-37**

**ANALYSIS OF DATA**

4.1	Introduction to Study Area	29
4.1.1	Location	29
4.1.2	Administration	29
4.1.3	Demographyy6	29
4.1.4	Climate and Geography	30
4.1.5	Attractions and Sites	30
4.1.6	Development	30
4.1.7	Education	31
4.1.8	Role in National Politics	31
4.1.9	Agriculture and Industry	31
4.2	The Socio – economic Situation of Respondent	32
4.2.1	Age distribution of Respondents	32
4.2.2	Caste Ethnicity	32
4.2.3	Religion of Despondence	33
4.2.4	Educational Attainment	33
4.2.5	Occupation of the Respondents	34
4.2.6	Quality of Houses of the Respondents	34
4.2.7	Land ownership of the Family of the Respondents	35
4.2.8	Marital Status of the Respondents	36
4.2.9	Husband’s /Father’s Education of the Respondents	36
4.2.10	Husband Father’s Occupation of the Respondents	37

**Chapter V** **38-54**

**PERCEPTION OF WOMEN ABOUT EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHT FOR MEN AND WOMEN**

5.1	Women's Perception towards Property Right	38
5.1.1	View on Women Access over Property	38
5.1.2	Opinion on Equal Property Right	42
5.1.3	Perception about Property control	43
5.1.4	Knowledge about existing Property Law	44
5.1.5	Impact of Equal property right on women	45
5.2	Situation of Property Owing by Women	48
5.2.1	The household income keeper	48
5.2.2	Respondents who have at least any property	50
5.2.3	Types of Property Owned by Women	53

**Chapter VI** **55-65**

**DECISION MAKING POWER OVER SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AFFAIR**

6.1	Women's Power of Decision Making	55
6.1.1	Decision Making Household expenditure	55
6.1.2	View on Equal Opportunity in Economic Decision	56
6.1.3	Women's Involvement in decision making about education.	57
6.1.4	Responsible factors for Educational inequality	61
6.1.5	Decision to Consult with Doctor	62
6.1.6	Political Participation	64
6.1.7	Obstacles for Political Participation	65

**Chapter VII** **66-73**

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1	Summary of Findings	66
7.2	Conclusions	70
7.3	Recommendations	71

**References**



## List of Tables

<b>Table</b>	<b>Heading</b>	<b>Page</b>
4.1	Age distribution of Respondents	32
4.2	Cast Ethnicity	32
4.3	Religion	33
4.4	Educational Attainment	33
4.5	Occupation	34
4.6	Quality of Houses	34
4.7	Status in the Family	35
4.8	Land ownership of the Family	35
4.9	Marital Status	36
4.10	Husband's /Father's Education	36
4.11	Husband Father's occupation	37
5.1	Respondents view on the issue of women's access over property based on their marital status	38
5.2	Respondents view on the issue of women's access to property right with respect to their age group.	39
5.3	Respondent's opinion about equal property right for men and women according to their occupational status	41
5.4	Percentage distribution of respondents' perception about the property control between husband/father and wife/daughter in the household with respect to their caste/ethnicity	43
5.5	Knowledge about existing legal provision on parental property right for both male and female with respect to their age	44
5.6	Respondents view about impact of equal property right on women according to their marital status	45
5.7	Percentage distribution of responses for the thing that Should be given to women with respect to their Caste/ethnicity	46
5.8	Percentage distribution of respondents who keeps household income in the Family according to their educational status	49
5.9	The household income Keeper in the family according to respondents' status in the family.	50
5.10	Percentage distribution of respondents who have at least any property in her ownership with respect to their marital status.	51

5.11	The percentage distribution of respondents who have at least any property with respect to their land ownership status of family.	52
5.12	Situation of Property Ownership of Respondent by its type and sources	53
6.1	Percentage Distribution of Respondents about Role in Decision Making for Household Expenditure in the family with respect to their marital status.	55
6.2	Percentage distribution of respondent's view toward equal opportunity in deciding economic activities with respect to their occupational status	57
6.3	Percentage distribution of respondents who play the role in important decision making in education with respect to their own educational status	59
6.4	Percentage distribution of respondent's situation about equal opportunity is education as male in their family according to their status in the family.	60
6.5	Responsible factor for educational Inequality between men and women base on respondent's religious status.	61
6.6	Percentage of respondents who decide to consult with doctor if any member of their family becomes ill based on their educational status	62
6.7	Percentage distribution of respondents who have got equal chance of health treatment as other male member in the family with respect to their marital status	63
6.8	Situation of respondent's political participation based on their educational status	64

## List of Figure

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Heading</b>	<b>Page</b>
2.1	Conceptual Framework	6
5.1	Percentage distribution of respondent's view about the issue of women's access to property right according to their educational attainment.	40
5.2	Respondents opinion toward equal property right for men and women based on their status in the family	42
5.3	Percentage distribution of respondent's view on impact of equal property right on prevailing women exploitation according to their educational status.	47
6.1	Respondents view on obstruction of political participation for women with respect to their Structure of Family	65

## **List of Abbreviations**

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statics
CEDA	:	Central for Economic Development and Administration
CEDAW	:	Conference on Elimination of All kinds of Discrimination Against Women
DDC	:	District Development Committee
FWLD	:	Forum For Women, Law and Development
GOs	:	Governmental Organization
NG	:	Nepal Government
HMG /N	:	His Majesty of Government of Nepal
ICPD	:	International Conferences on Population and Development
ILO	:	International Labor Organization
INGO	:	International Non Governmental Organization
LKACC	:	Legal Aid and Consultancy Center
MGEP	:	Mainstreaming Gender Equality Program
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	:	National Plan of Action
UN	:	United Nations
UNFA	:	United Nations Population Fund
US	:	United State
USA	:	United State of America
USAID	:	United Sates Agency of International Development