

CHAPTER - ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

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. This indicates that the key to economic development of the nation and rising the living standard of its people highly depends on the agricultural development.

Being small and land locked country and with agro-based economy, Nepal is one of the poorest countries 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 period development plan since 1956. Currently it is implementing its 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 is never done". No matter, whether women works 11 hours or 22 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). But in recent decades people have started realizing the justification of women's participation in the economic, social and political development. So it would not be out of context of accepting the socio-economic status of women as a indicator of development. In fact, men and women are considered as two parts of a coin. Recent changes in the world for women have made a positive effect in society due to the long-term efforts made by national and international women organizations and the feminist movements.

Women play a key role in the development of a nation. In recent world scenario, women have been actively participating in the political, economic and social aspects. Women's participation in legislature parliament increases from 5 percent to 33 percent in 2008 constituent assembly election. Thus in recent decades, Nepali women's status has generally improved than past.

The workload of women differs and it is defined by several variables. According to Acharya (1981), age is an important factor determining the work load of women. Aged women have to work more than young girls. Among men and women of the same age group, women have to work much more than men do. Acharya (1981) mentions:"In Sirsia male children between 5 and 9 years of age spend 1.24 hours working each day, while girls of the same age group spend 2.05 hours working each day. Similarly, boys of 10 to 14 age group spend 5 hours of work per day, while girls of the same group have almost full work a day i.e. they work for an average of 7.6 hour a day. Thus, the total work burden is higher for females than for males. Adult men spent 92.2 percent of their daily work time in productive work while women spent only 38.8 percent of their daily work-time on this type of work.

Education and labour force participation are the strongest variables affecting the status of women. Education provides some of the basic skills and confidence to begin taking control of their lives. Labour force participation may enable women to be decision makers and may help control over social and material resources within the households. Thus, status of women refers to the extent to which human beings have control over their own lives and access to knowledge, economic resources and political power. The status of women is an important factor affecting the socio-economic development of a country. The long-term socio-economic development of a country can't be fully realized if women,

who constitute more than 50 percent of the population enjoy a subordinate position to men and their talents remain unutilized or underutilized.

According to Sedden (1987), caste plays an important role in the socio-economic status of women because the socio-economic activities are confined according to their caste. "The extent to which women are dominated and oppressed within the family and within individual household, however varies considerably. The most important factor here appears to be the social class of the household and to such facilities as education among others. This however, can be significantly affected by the conventional exploitation and behavior pattern of particular caste and ethnic group. This is a strong tendency in high caste". Hindu families and particularly among Brahmins women are treated more unequally and socially oppressed than among the tribal groups. For example, Limbus, Magars Gurungs or even so called 'untouchables'. Writing about the occupational status of women in Nepal Seddon (1987) said that "women are confined into their domestic and subsistence activities".

Women's socio-economic status plays a vital role in the development of activities in a country. The social status of women and their access to resources varied widely depending on the cultural groups they belong to. Generally, women belonging to Tibeto-Burman cultural groups have considerably great freedom in matters such as choice of marriage partners, deciding the time for marriage and in selection of economic activities they wish to pursue as compared to their sisters belonging to the Indo-Aryan cultural group. While Indo-Aryan women were married early, had no choice in their life partners and were severely restricted in their social mobility, such findings did not generally apply to women belonging to Tibeto-Burman groups. In all cultural groups, however, it was found that women's access to modern resources in the form of knowledge (education, training etc) and traditional and newly created assets (e.g. land, machines, employment) was severally limited (Acharya 1994).

The socio-economic status of females vs males is disheartening. In the Nepalese society where more than 80 percent population practice 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).

Most of the third world economics are overwhelmingly rural and women play crucial role in all rural economics and farming system. They participate in production of food grains, vegetables, fruits, raising livestock and poultry farming. They carry products from farm to farmhouse. In farming women work in different capacities. United Nation 1990's statistics shows that women perform 67 percent of world's working hours. Working women farmers in Nepal are not different from their counterparts in other developing countries. Out of total rural population in Nepal, about 90.5 percent of the women are engaged in agriculture. They contribute 45 percent of total labour input in agriculture as unpaid workers and generate 50 percent of household income (Acharya 1992).

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 of off-season vegetable production. Production pockets are concentrated along with the highways and near town areas.

Since the fifth five-year plan (1976/77-1980/81), HMG has categorized specific and general programs to promote and supply fresh vegetable production. Specific production programs were launched in consolidated pocket area particularly along highways and in production potential area around urban centre. The programs aimed at supplying fresh vegetables for nutrient deficient areas.

In the context of Nepal, due to the diverse climatic condition, vegetables are produced in one agro-climatic region during their normal season of production and marketed to other areas as off seasonal vegetable, where those vegetables can't be grown during that period. In European countries, off season vegetable production is done under

completely or partially controlled environment. Vegetables crops are cabbage, brinjal, okra, broad bean, green bean, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, snake gourd, smooth gourd, late cowpea, carrot, radish, cucumber and capsium, etc. These crops are produced in main seasons and off- season. Land areas for vegetable growing as well as the production of vegetable have been increasing year by year. However, the progress is not yet highly satisfactory.

In production of vegetables, women contribute 56 percent of total labour required per ropani. Excluding ploughing for land preparation, other remaining works like cold soil breaking, cleaning, weeding and leveling work and such work right up to the harvesting stage are mostly done by women. Similarly, after harvesting selecting seeds, cleaning, and storing of seeds are also done by women. With heavy involvement in farming women make only 26 percent of household level decision as compared to 74 percent of decision made by men. To improve the condition of women farmers and to update knowledge and skills in farming practices a separate division known as “Women Farmer Development Division” (WFDD) was created in the Ministry of Agriculture in the year 1992. But even now 69 percent women farmers are getting second hand message about farming practices (MOA, 1993).

The participation of rural women in form of decision making is significantly notable. In many African countries and in the Nepalese hills, women are the primary decision maker in the choice of crops, seed selection, fertilizer and labour allocation decision. In most Asian countries, women are found commonly involved in producing and marketing of vegetables at local level. Hill and Terai Nepalese women are active in production and sale of vegetables. About 43 percent of the decisions are made by women on the sale of vegetables with 31 percent made by men and the rest 26 percent jointly (Jeegins, 1984, Acharya and Bennet, 1981).

1.2 Status of Vegetable Production in Nepal

The land area for vegetable growing as well as production of vegetable have been increasing year by year but the progress can not 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 hectare. 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 as a means of principal cash crops in lieu of other crops (MOF 2007).

Vegetable production in 2008 is expected to rise by 11.1 percent. The crop is expected to soar to 2.56 million mt. from last year's 2.30 million mt. The cultivation area is expected to be 220000 ha. This type of crop has been widely accepted by farmers thereby resulting in the constant rise of the crop's area coverage and production for the past few years. (MOF 2008).

The over all status of vegetable farming in Nepal is presented in table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Area, Production and Yield of Vegetables in Nepal in different Years

Year	Areas (ha)	Production (mt.)	Yield (kg/ha)
2000/01	157162	1652979	10518
2001/02	161048	1738086	10792
2002/03	165488	1799973	10844
2003/04	172486	1890100	10952
2004/05	180823	2065193	11421
2005/06	189832	2190100	11537
2006/07	191922	2298689	11977

Source: The annual development program Report of vegetable, Potato and spices of the economic year 2063/2064.

The table 1.1 shows that total land area as well as the production of vegetable have been increasing year by year. Similarly, yield of vegetable also increases year by year.

1.3 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 through out the country. Women's labour in the vegetables farming is an important factors 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 working 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.

In Kumpur VDC, the study area, most of the women are engaged in vegetable farming. They are also facing various problems during vegetable production period. There seems low level of decision making pattern, low socio-economic status of working women and lack of irrigation facility in vegetable production. Similarly, lack of fertilizer and highbred seeds, subsistence farming system, pevelance of traditional technology,

monsoon based agriculture are the others constraints and problems of vegetable production sector.

Another problem of vegetable farming is that women lack training facilities about vegetable production to women farmers and the problem of transportation facilities and market to sell the produced output.

The problems mentioned out lined above need to be studied, and solutions need to be foud. This requires an intensive study focusing on the women vegetable farmers of Kumpur VDC . As any intensive study has not been conducted in the area on the above mentioned problem, thre is a need for conducting a study.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

In Nepal women involvement in vegetable production is highly increasing. Dhading district is also popular for vegetable farming. This is a case study of vegetable production of women farmer's of Kumapur VDC of Dhading District. This study can be helpful to understand the socio-economic status of working women in vegetable farming on one hand and it will explore the importance of vegetables from economic point of view in the daily life of Nepalese people on other. It will also help to understand the basic problems of vegetable farming women and help to those people who have interest in vegetable farming. Therefore a study in this field seems necessary. The present study will be beneficial to the people, nation and also to the future researchers. Though research on women participation in different occupation had done, but status of working women of different vegetable production have less researched. In spite of the fact that in the development of the agricultural sector women play vital role, their contribution and problems are not highlighted.

It is expected that this study will provide further information on the status of working women. This study equally helps the government and non-government organizations and agencies to have a clear understanding on the socio-economic status of working Nepalese women. It can be useful for planners, policy makers and the students who are interested in women's issue.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the socio-economic status of women farmers engaged in vegetable production at kumpur VDC of Dhading. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To assess socio-economic status of women engaged in vegetable production.
2. To find out role of women in household decision making pattern.
3. To examine how women formers of vegetable production cope-up with their dual role as housewife and working women.
4. To identify problems faced by working women of vegetable farming.
5. To Provide recommendations.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The study has been organized into five chapters as follows:

The first chapter provides introduction or role of women in various sectors, 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/publications books, theories 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 Kumpur VDC, socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, problems faced by the vegetable growing women in vegetable production in Kumpur VDC, etc. Finally, the fifth chapter comprises of summary, findings, conclusion and recommendation based on findings.

CHAPTER - TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

The various studies have been conducted on different issues related to women and agriculture from different perspectives. This chapter reviews some of them. Review of literature is divided into following sections.

- a. General review of different studies
- b. Role of women in agriculture
- c. Role of women in vegetable production

2.1 General Review of Different Studies

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).

Education is the strongest variable affecting the status of women. Education provides basic skills and confidence to begin taking control of their lives. As status is not a fixed rigid concept, it changes with time. So the status women also change with time. The status women is also determined by factors such as education environment, social situation, health status and economic condition.

Acharya (2003) very optly mentioned that involvement of women was necessary for sucess of development projects not only in education and health but also in areas where they predominated as workers, especially in agriculture and allied spheres in developing countries. In most communities throughout Nepal much of the agricultural works and in many cases much of the trading and small cottage industries are carried out by women.

Poudyal, (Cited by Kirti Ojha 1999) has carried out a study on socio-economic aspect of tea workers in Nepal. He has studied the economic impact made by the tea estate to local people from employment as well as tea saplings to the local people for

extending the surrounding village land for tea plantation . This study deals with economic status of the villagers due to the establishment tea estate in their surrounding area. Tea estates have employed local people as permanent labour; it provides a huge number of employment opportunities for the local people as seasonal workers. There is significant relationship between occupational pattern and existing socio-economic condition. The employment opportunities not only affects the socio-economic condition but also brought socio-cultural change in the community.

Gautam (1998) states that the role of women in various farming activities is crucial not only because of the large number of women engaged but also because of the variety of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables fruits and live stock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of nation, but all these workers by women are considered voluntary.

There has been a drastic reduction in the participation of urban women population in economic activities, from 31.5 percent in 1989 to 20.3 percent in 1991. Similarly, women`s share in labour force falls from 26.4 percent in 1981 to 23.8 percent in 1991. This shows the negative effect on urbanization of women`s participation in the labour force. The participation of women in agricultural and manufacturing activities has gone up to around 20 percent of the total Population (UNFPA 1997).

2.2 Role of Women in Agriculture

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 maintenance 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 villages.

Bajracharya (1994) conducted a study, "Gender Issues in Nepal agriculture". She found that mixed farming where crops and livestock are raised on the same farm, is common in all parts on Nepal. The contribution made by women to household incomes indirectly influences through such activities as agricultural labour fodder collection and crop processing. The contribution of women to household income from agricultural wages labour ranges from 10 to 53 percent (Dey,1985). Although the fact that women play a crucial role in many areas of agricultural farm, women are not recognized as individual farmers but are referred to as farmers wives, sisters, daughters, etc.

In developing countries, agriculture represents the principal employer of female labour. In 1980 two-thirds of the paid labour force in agriculture was comprised of women. Rural women are one of the last groups in society to benefit from modernization and the introduction of new technology. The use of technology and labour situation differs with the ethnic communities. Amongst the Tharu and the Maithali, men are 100 percent responsible, whereas in the Tamang and Newar communities, the responsibility seems to be fairly equally shared between the two sexes. An average contribution from hill and terai women farmers shows that they account for about 57 percent of farm work.

Pyakurayal (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 products like curd, ghee , ' kurumi' are also performed by women.

Weidemann (1987) conducted a study on designing agricultural extension for women farmers in developing countries. He stated that in most countries women farmers are bypassed by agricultural extension. This is due partly to the lack of valid statistics and data about the active role played by women in agriculture as laborers and as farmers who make important agricultural decisions and perform most tasks, and partly to the belief that only women extension workers can reach and interact with rural women. In many countries, the latter has led to unsuccessful attempts to create a very limited, separate and largely ineffective women's extension service. There is considerable evidence from the several countries that in most areas except the most conservative pockets, male extension workers can effectively reach women farmers, provided women farmers are organized into groups, male and female extension workers are trained to understand women farmers role in local production system.

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 properly 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 Varanasi 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-conformist 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.

Acharya and 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.

NARC (2003) made the economic assessment of cross breed cattle under farmers management at Imadole Village of Lalitpur district. 12 farmers were selected randomly and provided with one cross breed pregnant heifer. The animals were reared under the farmers management system. Weekly visit was made for monitoring and recording the data related to feeding, milk production and health care, veterinary services and artificial insemination were provided free of cost. It was found that during the average lactation period of 365 days, average cost of production was Rs.16.7 per litre (ranging from Rs.11.3 to 30.1) and average net profit was Rs. 17.9 per day (ranging from Rs. 18.5 to 43.8).

SAARC Agricultural Information Center carried out studies in Gender Issues in South Asian Farming. It explains the employment pattern of rural women in Hissar District, Haryana. The study compares the crop and its operation, women`s participation in the decision making process related to farm activities and identifies the factors affecting the employment of rural women in agriculture. The percentage of women themselves employed on the farm was found to decrease with size of holding, but large farms had relatively higher employment of female labour in the cultivation of cotton, paddy, wheat, tea and Rabi fodder. The major operations were weeding, hoeing, picking, threshing and winnowing. Rural women worked between 9 to 14 hours in a day and in general, but they had only a supportive role in agriculture decisions. The size of operational holding and ratio of crops to total cropped area were positively and significantly related to the employment of rural women.

This study also looked into the role of women in agriculture in two villages Chotto Kalampur and Jalshar Barahissa in Dhaka district, Bangladesh. Finding of the study reveals that females (75%) in two village are involved in both homestead and field agriculture. This proportion of women`s involvement with agriculture depends on the family farm size. It is found that about thirty percent time is spent in the agricultural activities by women. Women from small farms are found to spend more time in field agriculture, while women from larger farm households directly spend more time involved with agriculture as well as household activities were yet to be recognized earning. Hence, women`s work should be recorded and their contribution to the economy should be recognized in various development activities.

Asian Development Bank (1999) has conducted several studies on Nepalese women and found that a substantial proportion of Nepalese women (40%) are economically active, most of them are employed in agriculture. They work as unpaid family worker in subsistence agriculture with low technology and primitive farming practices. They carry double burden of work in the family and the farm and have to work long hours with more men entering other non-farming sectors. Agriculture is becoming increasingly feminized. Women participate on a large scale in tourism and related sectors. Their employment in organized manufacturing is also expanding but in all these sectors they are concentrated at lower levels due to educational disadvantages and management biases. Their working conditions are very poor and trade union activism is low.

Food and Agricultural organization (2002) has carried out a study on “Women Farmer Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa”. It identified the need to focus on the increasing women farmers productivity, which seems to be effective engine for social change in Sub-Saharan. Women have a significant role in farming and post-harvest activities in most countries in the region. Nevertheless, a complex set of rights and obligations reflecting social and religious norms prevail between men and women and act as a constraint to women farmers. An understanding of women farmer is a prerequisite to devising policies to improve productivity and socio-economic development.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, women contribute between 60 to 80 percent of the labour for food production both for household consumption and for market. Moreover, agriculture is becoming a predominantly female sector as a consequence of faster male out-migration. Women now constitute the majority of small holder farmers, providing most of the labour and managing a large part of the farming activities on a daily basis.

A report of the international Labour Organization (ILO) year book of labour statistics 1999 shows that in many countries relatively large numbers of women assistants on farms or on other family enterprises and huge majority of women workers live in developed countries and about two- third of them work in the service sector and one quarter in industry and one-fifth of women are in agriculture and the remaining are engaged in industry and service sector. In developed countries such women workers are

to be counted among the economically active groups. Certain countries only include contributing family worker who work more than one- third of normal work-day.

2.3 Role of Women in Vegetable Production

Food problem undoubtedly increase in the future. To meet the change developing countries must diversify their cropping strategies, paying special attention to vegetable crops.

Chaudhary (1984) in his article entitled vegetable and quality of life in the year 2000, found that vegetables are not a panacea for all those ailments but given a fair chance, they can play a major role in meeting the vitamin, mineral and protein requirements of the world's one billion malnourished people. Cereals will of course continue to serve as a basic food, but vegetables can act as an important dietary supplement.

Prava Basneyat (1979) in her study vegetable farming in Siddhigangesh, Sanothimi Panchayat, Bhaktapur District Nepal, found that women regularly participate in producing food grains, vegetables, fruits, 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 dependent 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.

A model survey done by Mrs. Ishori Acharya in 2050 B.C. on "Problem of Women Vegetable Seller, conducted in Baneshwor vegetable market area" stated that lack of transportation facilities to carry the vegetable to the market from the village is the main problem making the job very much time consuming. Due to the lack of cold storage, they could not store perishable vegetable for a long time, so they had to sell their product to the middleman at cheap rates. There is no fixed or proper spaces in Baneshwor so they have to move from one place to another place to sell their vegetables.

In a study on Women farmers in Nepalese Horticulture: 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 secondhand information about farming technologies.

CHAPTER – THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is important for all types of research. This chapter mainly deals on the methods including introduction of the study area, research design, universe of the study, nature and source of data, sampling procedure and sample size, techniques of data collection, reliability and validity, operationalization of the terms, data processing and analysis and limitation of the study.

3.1. Introduction of the Study Area

This study has been conducted in Kumpur V.D.C of Dhading to highlight women`s status in the society. Dhading is a hilly region, located in Bagmati Zone. It is situated between 27°20' to 85°40' longitude in the east. Surrounded by Nuwakot, Kathmandu, Rasuwa in east, Gurkha in west, China in north and Makwanpur, Chitwan in south, the total area of this district is 1926 sq. km. Population of Dhading district according to the 2001 population census was 3,38,658 which reached to 3,88,211 according to the projection of District profile of Nepal 2007/008. Population is increasing at the rate of 1.94 percent. Literacy rate according to 2001 census is 43.28 percent; among them 53.69 percent are male and 33.81 percent are female (District profile of Nepal 2007/2008). There are many big and small rivers passing through the heart of the district. Among them Trishuli, Aakhu, Thopalkhola, Maheshkhola are the major ones.

3.1.1 The Map of the Dhading District

Various rich social values and institutions prevail in this district. There are several caste in this district. Among them Magar, Gurung , Ghale, Tamang, Newar, Brahman, Chhettri, Sarki, Kami, Damai and Chepang are the major castes.

There are 50 VDCs, but no municipality in Dhading district. Agriculture is the main occupation. Food and Cash crops as well as various types of vegetables, fruits and citrus are grown here. Besides these people are also engaged in non-agricultural sector. Area and Production status of the food and cash crops in Dhading District has been shown in table 3.1 and 3.2 and chart 1 and chart 2.

The table 3.1 and charts 1 (A) and (B) show that maize was produced in large area than all other crops. It was cultivated in 19485 ha. in 2004/05 and in 19453 ha. in 2005/06. This was followed by paddy. The amount of paddy production was highest with 47055 mt. in 2004/05 and 46590 mt. in 2005/06. Barley was produced in only 370 ha. of land with output 370mt. These are also clear by chart 1 (C) and chart (D)

The data show the both area and production has decreased in 2005/06.

Table 3.1:

Production Status of Food Crops in Dhading Districts during 2004/05 and 2005/06

Area under food crops (ha)					Production of food crops (mt.)			
2004/05		2005/06			2004/05		2005/06	
Food Crops	Area(ha)	%	Area(ha)	%	Amount(mt)	%	Amount(mt)	%
Paddy	15438	32.4	15750	32.9	47055	44.7	46590	44.5
Maize	19485	40.8	19453	40.6	40919	38.8	40736	38.9
Wheat	4835	10.1	4741	9.9	9636	9.2	9600	9.2
Millet	7589	15.9	7589	15.8	7303	6.9	7303	7.0
Barley	370	0.8	370	0.8	370	0.4	370	0.4
Total	47717	100.0	47903	100.0	105283	100.0	104599	100.0

Source- District Profile of Nepal 2007/08

Chart-1 (A)

Area under Food Crops in 2004/05

(ha)

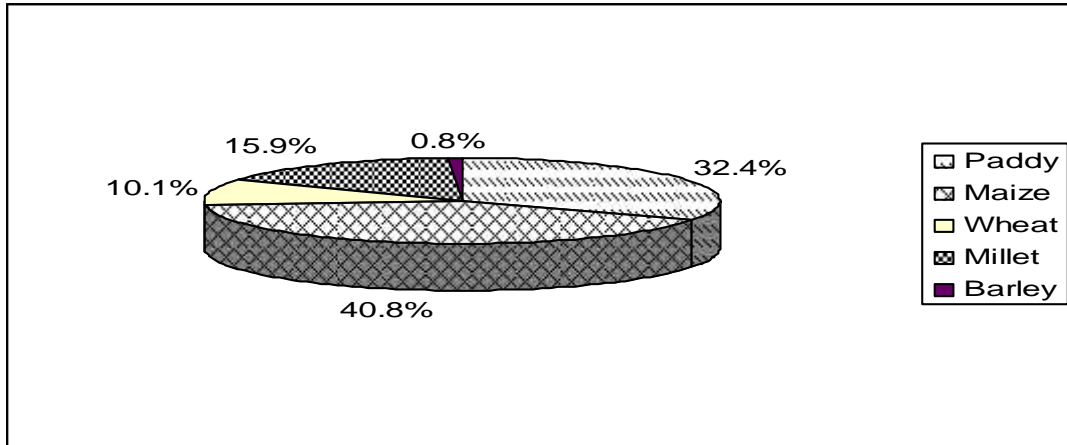


Chart-1 (B)

Proportion of Area under Food Crops in 2005/06

(ha)

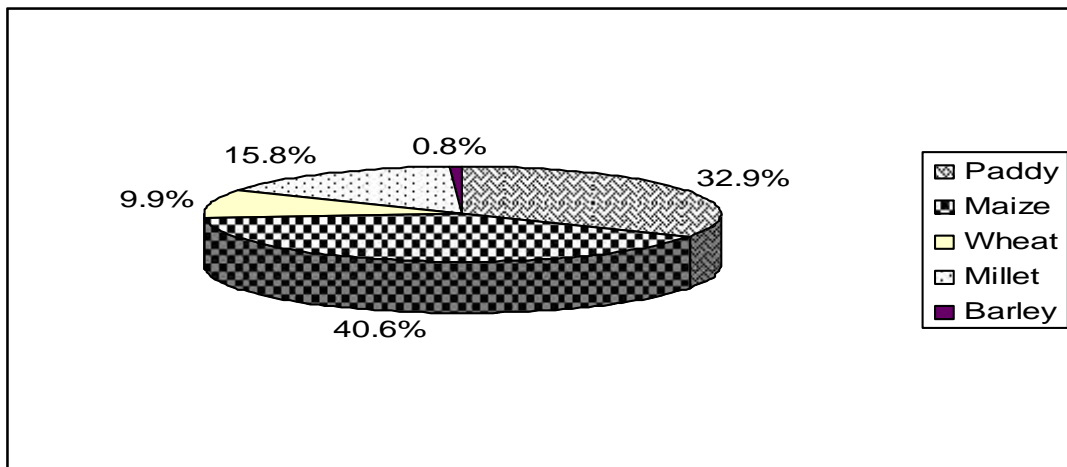


Chart-1 (C)

Distribution of Food Production by Crops in 2004/05

(mt.)

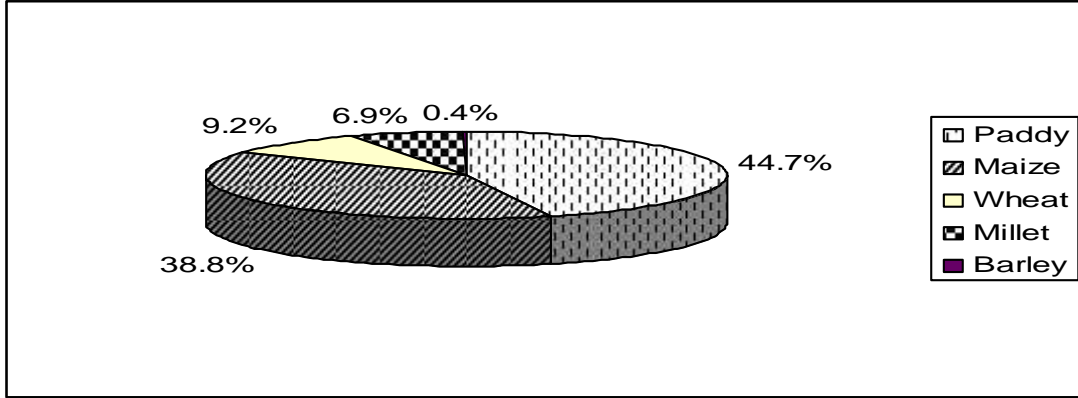
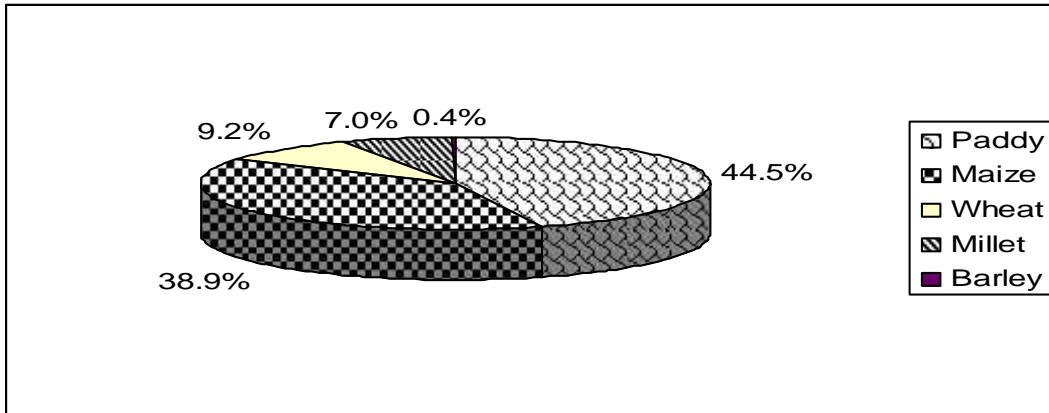


Chart-1 (D)

Distribution of Food Production by Crops in 2005/06

(mt.)



The table 3.2 and chart 2 show that vegetables was produced in high amount with 52522 mt. in the year 2004/05 and 54728 mt. in the year 2005/06. Similarly, vegetables was produced in large area compered to other crops with 4488 ha in the year 2004/05 and 4690 ha in the year 2005/06. Sugarcane was produced in only 300 ha of land with output 10,000 mt. in 2005/06.

Table 3.2
Production Status of Cash Crops in Dhading District in Different Years

Area under Cash Crops (ha)					Production under Cash Crops (mt.)				
2004/05		2005/06			2004/05		2005/06		
Cash crops	Area(ha)	%	Area(ha)	%	Amount(mt)	%	Amount(mt)	%	
Sugar	300	4.1	300	3.4	10000	11.3	10000	11.0	
Oilseed	395	5.4	395	5.3	277	0.3	277	0.3	
Potato	1560	21.3	1560	20.8	19032	21.5	19032	20.9	
Citrus	571	7.8	571	7.6	6643	7.5	6643	7.3	
Vegetable	4488	61.4	4690	62.4	52522	59.4	54728	60.4	
Total	7314	100.0	7516	100.0	88474	100.0	90680	100.0	

Source: District Profile of Nepal (2007/08)

Chart-2 (A)
Area under Cash Crops in 2004/05

(ha)

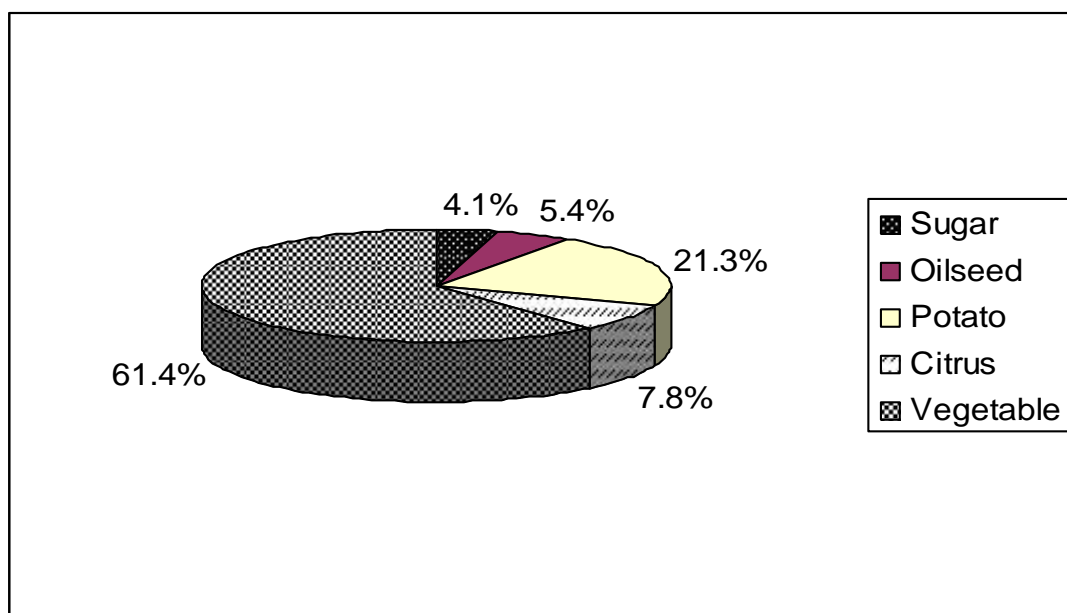


Chart-2 (B)
Area under Cash Crops in 2005/06

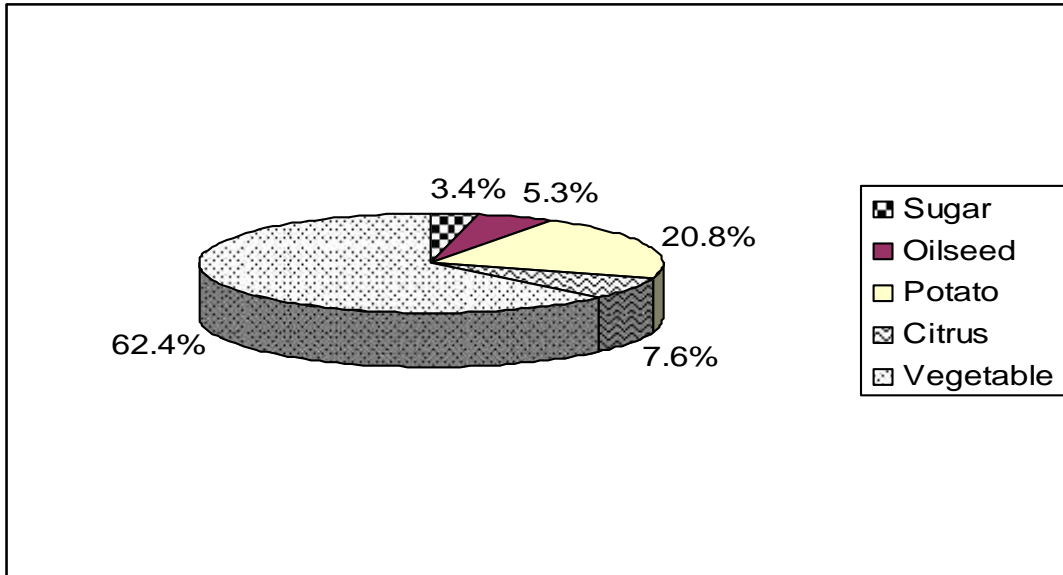


Chart-2 (C)
Distribution of Cash Crops Production in 2004/05

(mt)

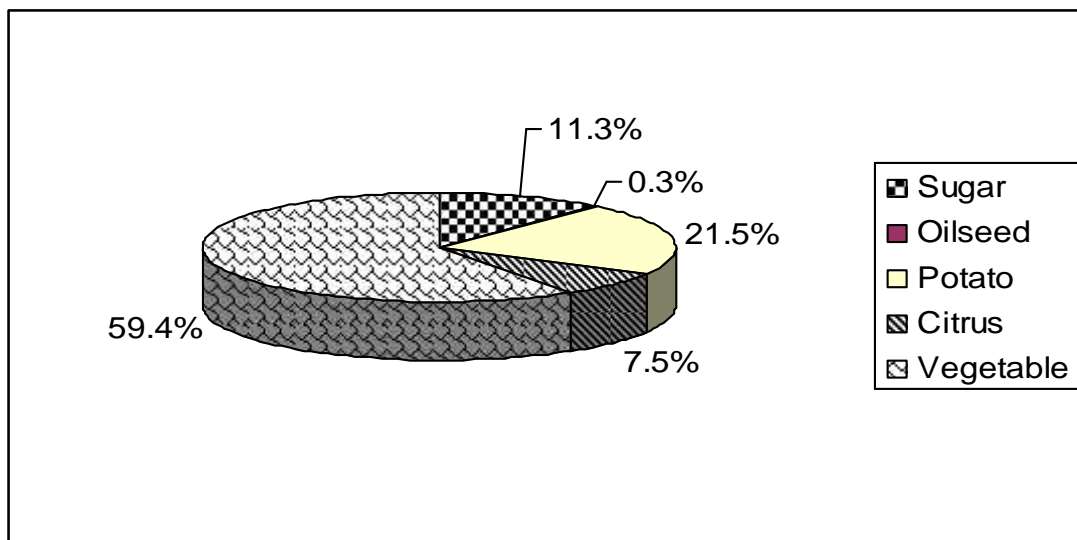
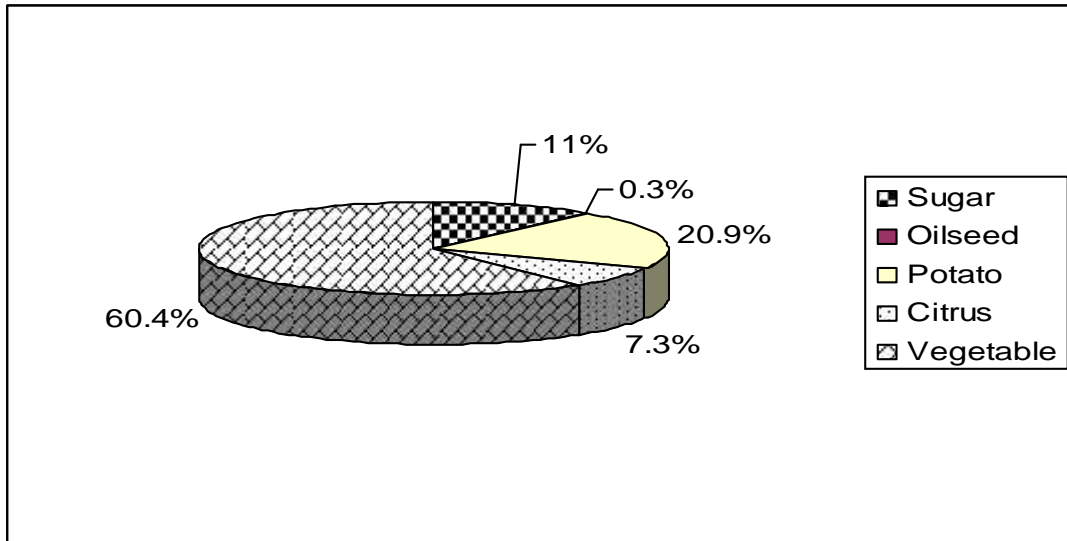


Chart-2 (D)

Distribution of Cash Crops Production in 2005/06



Main vegetables produced in Dhading District are potato, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, raddish, brinjal , bitter gourd, bottle gourd , snake gourd, smooth gourd, chilli, beans, okara, cucumber, carrot and s. pepper etc. (District Development Profile of Dhading 2007/08).

Kumpur is one of 50 VDCs of Dhading,. It is situated 20 km east from district headquarter, Dhadhing Beshi, and Trishuli river has separated it from the direct link to Prithivi Highway. The famous Trishuli river has been passing through the southern part of the Kumpur VDC. But unfortunately, there is not any irrigation program in this VDC. Both food and cash crops are produced in this VDC. Among them paddy, maize, wheat, barley, sugarcane, potato and different kinds of vegetables are the major crops.

Many researchers have researched on women participation with different occupations in hotels, casonas, banks, carpet factories, garment factories, small cottage and industries, big industries and tea estate etc. Similarly, study on women participation in governmental sector had been done. But, the study on the status of working women of different vegetables production is fewer conducted from socio-economic perspective. Though women play as vital role as men do in vegetable production activities in economy and society they are not accounted. Keeping this in mind researcher has decided to study

on women involvement in different type of vegetable production, to find out their actual socio-economic status their daily lives such as their need and difficulties.

The four wards of Kumpur VDC selected for this study are ward no. 3, 4, 5 and 7. These wards are appropriate to study about women's vegetable farming because these area is influenced by both modern urban culture as well as traditional rural culture. Thus, these four wards are selected purposively.

3.2 Research Design

The present study is based on descriptive as well as exploratory research design. This study is exploratory because it tries to explore and investigate the socio-economic status of the women of different vegetable production at Kumpur VDC . This study is descriptive because it attempts to provide proper knowledge of decision making power of the women farmer and their socio-economic status. Both qualitative and quantitative data are used in this study.

3.3 Universe of the Study

There are various types of vegetable produced in Kumpur VDC. Women farmers engaged in vegetable farming at Kumpur VDC of Dhading district are taken as the study universe. The women is selected from 4 wards among 9 wards of VDC. There are 1916 households in the Kumpur VDC among them only 75 women vegetable farmers are taken from 1014 households of the 4 wards. Sampling frame was identified from key informant and other records of concentering VDC.

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data have been collected by using primary and secondary sources. This study is primarily based on primary data. The primary data has been collected using structured questionnaire with women farmers of different vegetable production at Kumpur VDC. The structured questionnaires are used for collecting the quantitative information. Data were collected from the field survey through structured questionnaire. The other information and secondary data were collected through different publications, Ministry of Agriculture, Vegetable Development Centre, NARC, Report of VDC office and other related books and articles.

3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

This study is a very small part with an objective to analyse socio-economic status of women farmers in vegetable farming. The sample frame is developed purposively and includes such pocket area where women farmers are growing vegetables. The vegetable production pockets area and suitable women farmers for this purpose were identified with the help of VDC Office. Target of the study was to include 75 women farmers engaged in vegetables farming. The data were collected by using systematic sampling method. Thus, this study is conducted in the Kumpur VDC ward no. 3,4, 5 and 7. There are 211, 256, 273 and 272 , households in ward no. 3,4, 5 and 7 respectively. Among them 20, 15, 18 and 22 households are selected from ward no. 3,4,5 and 7 respectively. 75 women farmers were selected and only one women was taken from each sampled households. They are the respondents of this study.

3.6 Techniques of Data Collection

The main objectives of this study is to find out soci-economic status of women farmer of Kumpur VDC. So, to achieve this objectives, data has been collected from primary source. The primary data has been collected by interview with women farmers of different vegetable farming. To conducted the interview, questionnaire was prepared to obtain information from the respondents. Secondary data were used in the study from the related literature which was available during the period of study.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire contains socio-economic status of women, their role in household decision making pattern etc. For such type of information researcher used questionnaire. The primary data has been collected mainly through the use of structured questionnaires asked with 75 women farmers engaged in the vegetable production at Kumpur VDC of Dhading. The model of questionnaires for women of vegetable production are as in appendix-I. The questionnaires have been designed to collect the necessary data.

3.6.2 Observation

Observation is one of the techniques to collect the data. It helps to provide reliable information from the field survey which is not actually obtained through the questionnaires. In this study, the researcher observed location of vegetable farming pocket area where women farmers were involved. To know more detail about women's attitudes, behavior, physical environment, working and living conditions, the participation observation method has been conducted.

3.7 Reliability and Validity

After the development of the questionnaire the researcher conducted a pre-test of questionnaire in the field before beginning the actual data collection. Pre-test helps in evaluating different questions, language, format and interview with questionnaire or schedule. The questionnaire is checked for clarity and understanding the prospective respondents and format about the same.

In this study, the collected data are reliable and valid because the researcher of the study herself has collected information by filling questionnaires.

3.8 Definition of Terms

-) **Age:-** Age means the length of time a person lives. In this study, it refers to the age of the respondents during the period of interview.
-) **Education:-** Education means educational status of respondents which measures the educational attainments in terms of schooling year. For the purpose of this study educational status has been categorized as illiterate, literate and schooling. Schooling has been also categorized primary, secondary and above secondary level.
-) **Marital Status:-** Marital status means whether the respondents were married or unmarried or widow at the time of interview.
-) **Employment:-** Employment refers to the job under taken by the working women during the period of interview.
-) **Type of Family:-** Type of family refers to the joint or nuclear type of family of the respondents.

-) **Size of Family:** - Size of family refers to the number of people living together in a family, sharing the same kitchen.
-) **Caste/Ethnicity:**-Caste and Ethnicity reflects social composition of a society. In Nepal there are some groups which are not covered by Hindu caste system. There are 59 the ethnic groups.
-) **Land Types:-** Vegetable produced land was classified as Khet or Bari.
-) **Expenditure:-** Average monthly household expenditure of the respondents.
-) **Income:-** Income refers simple monetary gain of respondents.
-) **Status of Women:-** The status of women regarding their social and economic condition and position.

3.9 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.

3.10 Limitation of the Study

The present study is a case study of status of women farmer of different vegetable production of Dhading only. This study has focused only on those women who have their involvement in different vegetables production at Kumpur VDC as farmers. The finding represent status and household decision making power of women vegetable farmers of the 4 wards of Kumpur VDC only. So, the findings of the present study may not be equally applicable to all other parts of Nepal at large. As a result, the study may not be conclusive at the macro level. Production of vegetable differs according to season and their price also differs, but in this study, seasonal variation in production has not been taken into account.

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 characteristics and household decision making pattern of working women of vegetables production at Kumpur VDC of Dhading.

4.1 Short Overview of Kumpur VDC

4.1.1 Location

Kumpur VDC is very near from the Prithivi high way of Nepal. Trishuli river has separated it from the link to Prithivi highway. It is one of the remote and developing VDCs of Dhading district. It is situated at 20 km east from district headquarters, Dhading Beshi. The VDC shares its boundaries with sunaulabajar on the north, Trishuli river on the south, Kalleri on the east and Nalang and Salang on the west. Its total area is almost 44 square km.

4.1.2 The Map of the Kumpur VDC

4.1.3 People and Population

The total population of the VDC according to household survey 2062 report is about 11407, among them male population is about 5835 and female population is about 5572 living in 1916 households.

Among the total population, 2503 are Newars, 2102 are Dalit, 1815 are Brahmins, 1684 are Ghale, 1508 are magars and remaining are in other category.

4.1.4 Ethnicity and Culture

There are various ethnic groups in Kumpur VDC. The major ethnic groups are Newar, Ghale, Brahmin, Chhettri, Magar, Bhujel, Gurung, Damai, Kami and Sarki.

Most of the families are living in joint family. Majority of population is Hindu but very few families follow Christian religion. Main language is Nepali which is predominant language of this VDC. Gurung language is also spoken by some people.

Most of the people in this VDC have agriculture occupation. Women are mostly engaged in household works as well as farming. They are also involved in different activities like in women improvement committee, women literacy classes and others small village improvement committee.

4.1.5 Occupation and Economic Characteristics

This section deals with the occupation and economic characteristics of respondents. According to households survey, 90 Percent households have agriculture as their main occupation. But agriculture alone is not sufficient for livelihood. Most of the women farmers are engaged in agriculture, but their male members (husband, father/father-in-law and son or brother) are also engaged in other off-farm activities.

4.1.6 Demographic Profile of the VDC

This section deals with the ward-wise demographic characteristics of the vegetable growing farmers. The distribution of households by ward of the VDC is given in table 4.1.

Table 4.1
Distribution of Total Households and Sample Households by Nine wards of Kumpur VDC

Ward No.	Total No. of HHs	No. of HHs involved in vegetable production	Sample ward No.	No. of Sample households
1	112	35	-	-
2.	228	40	-	-
3.	211	152	3	20
4.	256	114	4	15
5.	273	137	5	18
6.	198	80	-	-
7.	274	167	7	22
8.	216	45	-	-
9.	148	30	-	-
Total	1916	800	4	75

Source: Record of VDC and field Survey, 2009

The 4.1 table shows that Kumpur VDC has 1916 households, and ward No. 7 has maximum number of household and ward No. 1 has minimum number of households out of nine wards, four wards are samples as given in table 4.1.

Table 4.2
Distribution of Land Used for Vegetable Production by Wards of Kumpur VDC
(Land in sqft.)

Sample ward No	Sample households	Total owned land	Land used for vegetable production	Out put (in kg)
3.	20	2387536	37500	37900
4	15	2075404	40800	27800
5	18	1653752	31500	21800
7	22	2776332	52200	41900

Total	75	8893024	162000	129,481
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Source: field Survey, 2009

The table 4.2 shows that people of ward Number 7 used the maximum size of land for vegetable production i.e. 52200 sq. ft whereas the minimum amount of land for vegetable farming is used in ward Number 5. The table also shows that maximum amount of vegetable is produced by the people of ward Number 7 i.e. 41900kg and minimum amount of vegetable is produced by the people of ward number 5 i.e. 21800kg.

4.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Working Women Respondents

This section deals with socio-economic characteristics of the working women farmer engaged in vegetables production at Kumpur VDC of Dhading.

4.2.1 Age Structure of the Women Respondents

This section deals with the age structure of the working women in vegetable production at Kumpur VDC of Dhading. On the basis of data collected in selected ward of Kumpur VDC the age group of the respondents has been divided into four major groups that is the age between 20-30, 31-40, 41-50 and above 51 years.

Table 4.3
Age Wise Distribution of Women Respondents

S.N.	Age group	Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Between 20-30	18	24.0
2.	Between 31-40	33	44.0
3.	Between 41-50	21	28.0
4	Above 51	3	4.0
Total		75	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The distribution of the respondents by age group shows that forty four percent respondents are from 31-40 years age group, and only four percent are from above 51 years age group.

This data shows that highest proportion of women respondents are in 31 to 40 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 (worker).

4.2.2 Caste Composition of the Respondents

The distribution of respondent by four broad caste and ethnic groups is given in table 4.4

Table 4.4
Caste Wise Distribution of the Respondents

S.N.	Caste	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Brahman/Chhettri	24	32
2	Adibasi Janjati	36	48
3	Dalit	12	16
4	Others	3	4
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Out of the total respondents, forty eight percent are Adibasi Janjati, and thirty two percent are Brahmin/Chhettri. This implies that the women vegetable farmer in the Kumpur VDC are mostly from Adibasi Janjati, or from Brahmin/Chhettri caste groups.

4.2.3 Educational status of the Respondents

The distribution of respondents by educational level is given in table 4.5.

Table 4.5
Education Wise Distribution of the Respondents

S.N.	Educational level	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Illiterate	18	24
2	Literate	30	40
3	Schooling	27	36
a	Primary	12	16

b	Secondary	9	12
c	Above secondary	6	8
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From table 4.5 only twenty four percent respondents found illiterate, and only eight percent have above secondary level of education. However, as large as seventy six percent of women are literate or have some year of formal schooling. This is indeed an encouraging educational situation of women in the sample area. The literacy rate of the women is moderately high but only one-fifth of women have either secondary or above level of education.

4.2.4 Marital Status of The Respondents

The Distribution of the respondents on the basis of marital status is given in table 4.6.

Table 4.6
Marital Status Wise Distribution of the Respondents

S.N.	Marital status	Number of respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Married	62	82.66
2	Unmarried	6	8
3	Widow	7	9.33
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The table 4.6 shows that most of the women engaged in vegetable production 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.

4.2.5 Family Structure

The distribution of the respondents according to family type presented in table 4.7.

Table 4.7

Distribution of the Respondents by Family Types

Type of family	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Joint family	39	52
Nuclear family	36	48
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Table 4.7 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 out side 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.

4.2.6 Nature of Daily Activities and Working Hours of Women Vegetable Farmers.

This section of the 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 types of work and time. The division of different activities, their nature and time is presented in table 4.8 and chart 3.

Table 4.8

Nature of Daily Activities and Working Hours of Women Vegetable Farmers

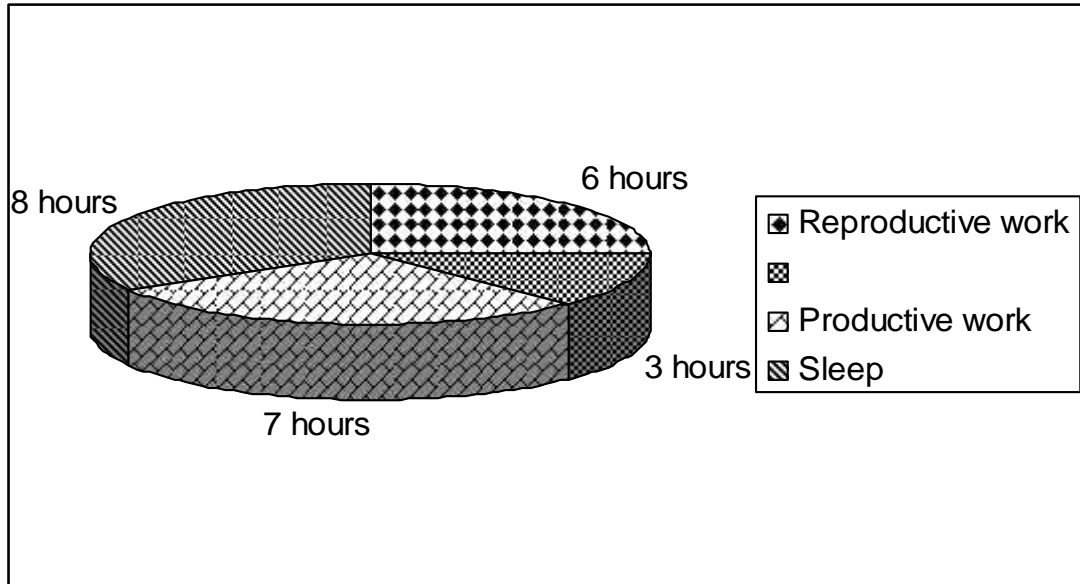
Type of Work	Activities	Hours	Percent
Reproductive work	Household: Cleaning, Washing, waste collection, cooking food, cleaning the pots, personal cleaning and washing, childcare	6	25.0
	Animal care: cleaning shed, feed preparation, fodder collection	3	12.5
Productive work	Farm work: Land preparation 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	8	33.3
Total		24	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Table 4.8 shows that out of 24 hours of a day, women work 16 hours. It is found by the study that 37.5 percent of a day time is used by the women farmers in reproductive work like household work, animal care and personal activities. They spend 29.2 percent of time in productive work like farm work and vegetable selling. They spent 33.3 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 reproductive work, 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 3.

Chart-3
Daily Activitis and Working Hours of
Women Farmers



4.2.7.1 Decision Making by Women

Table 4.9 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 4.9

Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Decision Making Position

S.N.	Position	Number of respondents	Percentage Respondents
1	High	6	8
2.	Medium	27	36
3.	Low	24	32
4.	Not at all	18	24
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.9 shows that thirty six percent respondents have medium position, thirty two percent respondents have low position, twenty four percent respondents have almost insignificant position in decision making. As only eight percent respondents have high position in decision making, it implies that the important decisions are still taken by male members.

4.2.7.2 Decision Making on the Choice of Types of Vegetables

The table 4.10 presents that the respondents have also role in decision making on the choice of types of vegetable. Making decision on the choice of types of vegetables is divided into four groups such as own self, husband, father/mother in-law and brother/sister-in law.

Table 4-10

Decision Making Position on the Choice of Types of Vegetables

Decision maker	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Own self	27	36
Husband	30	40
Father/mother-in-law	15	20
Brother/sister- in- law	3	4

Total	75	100
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Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.10 shows that only thirty six percent women farmers make their own decision on the choice of vegetable themselves, forty percent respondents follow husband's decision, twenty percent follow father/mother-in-law's, four percent follow brother/sister in-law's 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.

4.2.7.3 Decision Making Practices on Vegetable Farm Activities

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

Table 4.11

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

S.N.	Practices	Own self	Percent	Husband	Percent	Other	Percent
1	Seed selection	27	36	33	44	15	20
2	Seed cleaning	60	80	6	8	9	12
3.	Manuring	63	84	9	12	3	4
4	Seed sowing	30	40	36	48	9	12
5.	Transplanting	51	68	18	24	6	8
6.	Weeding	57	76	12	16	6	8
7.	Pesticide/spraying	21	28	42	56	12	16
8.	Harvesting	61	81.33	5	6.66	9	12
9.	Seed storage	53	70.66	15	20	7	9.33

10	Average		62.66		26.7		11.25
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Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.11 shows that the average, sixty two percent of the decision on 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, manuring 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.

4.2.8 Respondents and Their Income

Table 4.12 presents the distribution of the respondents on the basis of their income. Income has been divided into six main groups.

Table 4.12

Income Pattern of the Women Vegetable Farmers

S.N.	Income (Annually)	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1.	Up to Rs. 10,000	12	16.0
2.	Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000	18	24.0
3.	Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000	13	17.3
4.	Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000	15	20.0
5.	Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000	9	12.0
6.	Above Rs. 50,000	8	10.7
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.12 shows that twenty four percent respondents earn between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 per year and only around eleven percnet 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.

4.2.9 Respondents and their Assets

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

Table 4.13

Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Assets Owned

S.N.	Assets	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Land	75	100
2.	Oxen	45	60
3.	Buffalo	60	80
4.	Goat	51	68
5.	Hen	39	52
6.	Radio	75	100
7.	T.V.	18	24
8.	Mobile	27	36

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.13 shows that all have land and Radio. Whereas only twenty four percent respondents have Television. It is interesting to note that a larger proportion of women have buffalo than goat. Similarly, a larges proportion of women have mobile phone than

TV, implying that how women are serious in their production activities and productive use of money.

4.2.10 Control Over Income

Income earned by vegetable farming are controlled by various members family. Control over income earned from vegetable production by women farmers is presented the in table 4.14.

Table 4.14

Possession of Income Earned from Vegetables.

S.N.	Details	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1.	Own self	18	24
2.	Husband	36	48
3.	Father/ Mother-in-law	15	20
4.	Brother/Sister-in-law	6	8

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.14 presents that forty eight percent of the money earned from vegetable production is kept by their husband, twenty four percent is kept by women farmers themselves, twenty percent is kept by their father and mother- in-laws and eight percent is kept by their brother and sister-in-laws, respectively.

With respect to the spending of money for domestic expenditure, only twenty four 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 father and mother in-laws and brother and sister in-laws.

Table 4.15

Decision Making Practices on Money Expenditure

S.N.	Details	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Own self	18	24
2.	Husband	39	52
3.	Father/Mother-in-law	12	16
4.	Brother/Sister-in-law	6	8
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Regarding decision making practices on the use of income from vegetable selling only, twenty four percent of the women respondents make decision themselves, fifty two percent have to follow their husband's decision, sixteen percent have to follow their father/ mother-in-laws' and eight percent have to follow their brother/sister-in-law's.

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.

4.2.11 Mobility Level of Women Farmer

Table 4.16 presents 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 production. 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 4.16

Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Mobility Level

S.N.	Mobility level	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1.	High	12	16
2.	Medium	45	60
3.	Low	18	24
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.16 shows that only 12 respondents (16%) have high mobility level, whereas 45 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.

4.2.12 Dual Role of Women House-Wife and Working Women

Table 4.17 presents the distribution of the women respondents on the basis of their dual role as a house-wife and a working women on the farm.

Table 4.17

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

S.N.	Responses	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1.	Easily	18	24
2.	Hardly	30	40
3.	Anyhow	24	32
4.	Some how	3	4
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.17 shows that forty percent respondents hardly manage their dual role and twenty four percent respondents easily manage and only four 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 production.

4.2.13 Wage Discrimination between Male and Female

Table 4.18 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 4.18

Response 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	45	60
2.	No	30	40
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.18 shows that sixty percent respondents think that there is discrimination on the wage between male and female. But forty percent do not believe that there is wage discrimination between male and female with the same kinds of work.

This finding discourages 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.

4.2.14 Moral/Physical Exploitation

Table 4.19 presents the distribution of the respondents on the basis of moral/physical exploitation in their work at the farm.

Table 4.19

Response of Respondents on Moral/Physical Exploitation in Their Work

S.N.	Response	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	6	8
2	No	69	92
Total		75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.19 shows only eight 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 production. This finding suggests that women vegetable farmers have less exploitation.

4.2.15 Problems Faced by the Vegetable Growing Women in Vegetable Production

This sections of the study deals with the problems faced by the women farmers in vegetable production which is shown by table 4.20.

Table 4.20

Problems Faced in Vegetable Production

S.N.	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1.	High price of seeds	45	60
2.	Lack of market	30	40
3.	Lack of irrigation	69	92
4.	Unavailability of credit	15	20
5.	Lack of cold store	75	100
6.	Lack of transport	57	76
7.	High cost of production	60	80
8.	Low profit	36	48
9	Other	6	8

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Of all the problems, lack of cold storage is the most important problem identified by women. This is follow as by lack of irrigation and high cost of production. Therefore, this implies that there is a head 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 have compelled women farmers to sell their production at as low price some times as most of the production are perishable on the other hand they have to buy expensive inputs, for the farming. Thus, the farming becomes less lucrative.

Most of them farmers face the problem of transport facility. Because of this problem women farmer are bound to foot which consume a long time to take the vegetables in the market and return to the village. Moreover, they have to transport the vegetables on their back to market by themselves. Some women farmers faced the problem of lack of market and low profit. Due to the lack of market they have to move from one place to another to sell their vegetables. Due to low profit and face other problems, they women are also sometime fell discouraged.

4.3 Status of Vegetable Growing Women in Kumpur VDC

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 on improvement of socio-economic status of women.

Even after facing many problems the women farmers have satisfaction on their occupation. The vegetable farming support 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 farmer at farm, their role in household decision making and problems faced by women of vegetable production at kumpur VDC of Dhading Distirct.

The researcher selected Kumpur VDC being her own village. According to District profile report 2007/08, the total population of Kumpur VDC is 11407. Out of them 5572 are female and 5835 are male. The total number of households are 1996. Among 9 wards, 4 wards (3,4,5 and 7) are selected for sample. These wards have 1014 households among them 75 households; are selected and only one vegetable farming women is selected from each sampled households. The information was collected the women about their 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 informants of vegetable production of Kumpur VDC. The key informant interview with them are 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 respondents women farmers (44%) of this VDC belong to the middle age group i.e. 31 to 40 years. The highest proportion of respondents (48%) were Adibasi-janajati and the lowest were from others caste like Majhi, thakuri etc. Majority of the respondents (76%) were literate and only 24 percent respondents were illiterate. Literacy has been defined in this study as those women who can read and write in simple words. There was only few formally of educated women in this VDC. Most of the respondents (82.66%) were married and only 8 percent were unmarried. 52 percentage 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, manuring, 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. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 in per year. All respondents have land for vegetable production and all of them use radio for entertainment. 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, 24 percentage respondents keep money by themselves. The study found that a large number of women (52%) 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 75 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 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. Lack of transport and market, 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 VDC 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 7 hours is 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 production at Kumpur VDC of Dhading 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. The 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. A 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 were manage their dual role hardly. We must understand that in a patriarchal society, beside farm work 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 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 Kumpur VDC is yet low. In order to develop their economic status, government and other 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 production 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 programmers 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 Kumpur VDC. 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.

5.2.4 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 production. As demanded by the women respondents, government should provided support for vegetable production such as fertilizer in time and irrigation facility, cold store and market in adequate amount.

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