

POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN TERAI COMMUNITY

**(A Case Study of Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari
District)**

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that the Thesis submitted by Madhu Shrestha entitled **POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN TERAJ COMMUNITY (A Case Study of Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari District)** has been prepared under my supervision and guidance as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this is recommended for the final approval and evaluation.

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APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that the Thesis submitted by Madhu Shrestha entitled **POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN TERAI COMMUNITY (A Case Study of Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari District)** has been approved by this department in the prescribed format of the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Madhu Shrestha
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ABSTRACT

It is well known fact that until and unless we will able to women participation in politics and decision making level it will be vain, women representation in political activities is positive for the equal and proportional development . To include the women in decision making to benefit sharing is real need of today.

This study 'Political Status of Women in Terai Community' identified the main hindrances of women participation in politics and to draw some suggestive measures for active participation of women in politics. This study was an attempt to draw a picture of women participation in politics. This study clearly enfolds that women representation in local politics especially in municipality level has increased . However their role in municipality level program seems ineffective. They are contrived into household activities that have prevented women from participation in meeting and sharing. The study reveals that 62.50 percent candidates are literate and rest are illiterate among them 25 percent representatives are below the secondary level. It clearly indicates their consciousness is not so high. So, they can not raise their voice actively as higher educated person. On the other side, this study shows that those women who represents in municipality level are not politically active. Only 12.50 percent representatives participate forcefully. The major cause of lower participation of women in politics in social obstacles and male domination. Among all representative 81.25 percent agree that male domination and social obstacles are major hindrances in political activities. Women spend large amount of time in agriculture and other domestics work and get less or no time for municipal council is totally neglected while designed program in the whole project cycle. They even do not know how the program are designed and budget is allocated. They are indifferent to design program to the implementation level.

So, education program, women employment, equitable participation in all respect from all sides of the society can enhance their better quality leadership. This study clearly shows that in order to make the women political mainstream of the nation, they need to be encouraged at different levels first of all , women need to be encouraged in their families by their husbands, sons and daughters to participate in political activities. They also need to be exposed to the income generation activities to make them self dependent . They need to be given education so that they become politically consciousness and feel their responsibility as well.

CONTENTS

Recommendation Letter

Approval Sheet

Acknowledgments

Abstract

Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Acronyms

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the problems	4
1.3 Background of the Study Area	5
1.3.1 Physical Seating and Location	6
1.3.2 Ethnic Compositions and Population	6
1.3.3 Social organizations and Industries	6
1.3.4 Education of the Study	7
1.4 Importance of the Study	7
1.5 Objectives of the Study	8
1.6 Limitation of the Study	8
1.7 Organization of the Study	9

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Women's Participation in National Politics	10
2. Laws regarding women's participation in politics	15
2.1. General Overview	15
2.2 Current Development (Reservation)	16
3. Political Participation of Women: A Global Prospective	17
4. Historical sketch of women's political organization	20
5. Women in Politics	21

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Nature and Source of Data	24
3.1.1 Primary Data	24
3.1.2 Secondary Data	25
3.2 Universe and Sample	25
3.3 Tools of Primary Data Collection	25
3.4 Method of Data Analysis	26

CHAPTER IV: POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE

4.1 Age Structure of Women Representative in Rajbiraj Municipality	27
4.2 Ethnic Composition of Women Representative	28
4.3 Educational Status of Women representative	30
4.4 Position of Women Representative	31
4.5 Causes to Involves in Politics of Women Candidates	32
4.6 Party Association of Women Representative	33
4.7 Problems of Women in Political Participation	34
4.8 Members who represent in Politics of family	36

4.9 Family Support for Politics	37
4.10 Political Strategy at the Time of Election	38
4.11 Participation of Women in Election Before this	39
4.12 Obstacles of Women Participation in Politics	39
4.13 Major Issue of Women Representatives	41
4.14 Political Activates of Women Representative During Election Time	42
4.15 Male response in women's Voice	43
4.16 Women's Open View Toward their Low participation	43

CHAPTER V :AN EVALUATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

5.1 women's Engagement in Different Households Activities	46
5.2 Family's Source of Income of Women representatives	47
5.3 Women's Engagement in Different Agricultural Activities	47
5.4 Women's Involvement in Social Activities	48
5.5 Marital Status of Women Representatives	49
5.6 Financial Mobilization of Women Representatives	49

CHAPTER VI: VARIOUS CONSTRAINTS AND PROBLEMS FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

6.1 Social Values and Norms	50
6.2 Inferior in Family Level	51
6.3 Dogmatic View of Male	51
6.4 Education	51
6.5 Lack of Sharing Household Activities by Male	52
6.6 Deprive in social activities	52
6.7 Lack of Leadership Role	52
6.8 Need Political Awareness Training	53

CHAPTER VIII: MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Major Findings	55
7.2 Conclusion	58
7.3 Recommendations	59
7.3.1 Economic Development	60
7.3.2 Eradicate Gender Discrimination	61
7.3.3 property Ownership	61
7.3.4 provision of Good Education	61
7.3.5 Scientific Outlook	62
7.3.6 Egalitarain Social Activities	63
7.3.7 Empowerment	63
7.3.8 Respect Women's Voice	64

REFERENCE

APPENDIX

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1	Age Structure of Women Representative in Rajbiraj Municipality	29
Table 4.2	Ethnic Composition of Women Representative	30
Table 4.3	Educational Status of Women Representatives	30
Table 4.4	Position of Women Representative in Rajbiraj	31
Table 4.5	Cacues to Involves in Politics of Women Canditates	32
Table 4.6	Party Associtation of Women Representative	33
Table 4.7	Problems of Women in Political Participation	35
Table 4.8	Member who Represent in Politics of Family	36
Table 4.9	Family Support for Politics	37
Table 4.10	Political Strategy at the Time of Election	38
Table 4.11	Participation of Women in Election Before This	39
Table 4.12	Obstacles of Women Participation in Politics	40
Table 4.13	Major Issues of Women Representative	41
Table 5.1	Occupation Holding Women Representative	45

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig 4.1	Enthic Composition of Women Representative	29
Fig 4.2	Educational Status of Women Representative	30
Fig 4.3	Causes to Involve in Political of Women Candidates	32
Fig 4.4	Party Association of Women Representative	34
Fig 4.5	Problems of Women of Political Participation	35
Fig 4.6	Family Support far Politics	37
Fig 4.7	Obstacles of Women Participation in Politics	40

ABBREVIATION/ ACRONYMS

BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Census Beauru Statistics
CPN-UML	:	Communist Party of Nepal United Marxist –Leninist
DC	:	District Committee
DDC	:	District Development Committee
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
LSG	:	Local Self- Governance
MDC	:	Municipality Development Committee
NC	:	Nepali Congress
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
NSP	:	Nepal Sambawat Party
RPP	:	Rastriya Prajatantra Party
UN	:	United Nation
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is known as country of Himalayas in south Asia, which is geographically land, locked with two big neighbors India in south, east and west and China in North. Despite of small territory of 147181 square Km. Its population is growing rapidly according to census 2001 the total population of the country is 2,31,51,413 among which 11563921 are males and 11587502 are females (CBS). Therefore, female cover more than half of country's population. But the political and socio.-economic condition of female is very poor. (CBS, 2001)

Nepal is underdeveloped country where the population of female is more than male. But participation of female is lower than male in development activities and decision making level "Male and Female are the two wheels of a vehicle" this statement not only prove the importance of women's participation in every aspects of development but also demand its equal share in every sectors. In our society religiously, women are rewarded as goddess for knowledge, wealth and power but they are discriminated in every field in practical life. To remove the social discrimination, we first remove the discriminatory law secondly, the social awareness is necessary. It is no doubt that women's participation in politics plays the vital role for the development of nation as well as to remove social discrimination and discriminatory law. Women are often encouraged to take their place as equals in these societies, although

they rarely enjoyed the same level of political power as men, and still often faced very different social exploitation. Women are often overburdened by work as a result of the defective value system in society. This is another significant factor keeping women away from politics. A traditional view of women in Nepalese society is that they are only fit for domestic work such attitudes deny their access to public life.

Nepalese women's participation in politics, continues to remain very inconsequential. Since the unification (1768 A.D) of this tiny patriarchal kingdom. If myth and legends are set aside, the regency of Rajendra laxmal, 1778-86 (the mother of infant king Rana Bahadur Shall) is the first watershed that marked the record in the annals of Nepalese politics. The memory of this event has often inspired the Nepalese. women for seeking human equality, women's rights, organization of women in different names, forms and capacities. Women's name occasionally comes in the games of court intrigues against tyrannical rules in different periods, but overtly there is no remarkable record of women's political activities during a century old Rana oligarchy that subsisted until 1950. Though few women and their political activities added some fuel to the democratic movement of Nepal 1950, their contribution as a separate political identity is neither recognized nor perfectly recorded. (CBS, 2001)

Only in the first elected government (1959 A.D) of BP Koirala, Dwarika Devi Thakurani was assigned as deputy minister of his cabinet. The need for political participation of women is well realized in the political experiments of 1950s and later in panchayat period, although women organizations were the arms of panchayat body politics rather than impendent bodies to aggregate, articulate

and communicate their needs and demands. The representation of women in different level so party less panchyat campaign that stated in the first half of sixties. In different nominal of the kings, women were given some significance whether it was a demonstration effects of other countries where women Voices are head and heeded strongly and their roles in the national development were considerably felt.

Nepal state's has news face since the restoration of multi party democracy in 1990. Now women are fairly involved in the different walks of lives. Whether they are in the affairs of non-governmental organization (NGOs) political associations. Civil servant or in the earning : family income. The present constitution of 1990 of Nepal has recognized and endorsed the role of women for the building of advanced r: society and modernization of the country. It has guaranteed against any discrimination on the ground of sex so far as states activities are concerned and granted equal political rights to women, and equal pay for er.ual work. Indeed the wheels of a society consist of both man and woman and therefore, the proportionate growth of both wheels of a vehicle is most important for social harmonious development, But the Nepalese women have lagged far behind men due to some parochial traditional and some other social evils that have been playing in Nepalese societies one cannot pluck it out easily and get rid of all the deep rooted evils and social inertia at a time; it wears of gradually and in its own pace under the pressure of women as a procure group, as voter, member of political party and actor of development process. (CBS, 2001)

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The total population of the country is 2,31,51,423 of which 1,15,63,921 are male and 1,15,87,502 are female. Thus female covers more than half of the country's population. But the socio-economic and political condition of female is very poor due to traditional values, which gives higher importance and favour to male. Strong patriarchal system is reflected in every aspect of Nepali culture. The Hindu ideology holds a

rigid and discriminated concept about the roles of women. Unlike in Hindu communities Mongolian clan has relatively and their access to decision making within the households. However, the prevalent superstition, social taboos and harmful rituals have caused very poor situation of Nepali women. Low literacy rate higher maternal mortality, lesser average age malnutrition, low wages for the some Job, negligible presence in the politics administration and technical field are the few examples to justify the backwardness of women in Nepal.

In reality, female participation is very low in economic opportunities, public life and decision-making. They still lack adequate access to employment, income, education, health care and politics despite of the impressive legislative and constitutional provisions favoring their equal rights to work employment and education.

Although, women were participated in the politics but the number of women and their decision making power in related bodies is very low. They are uneducated poor and are living in very difficult condition so they cannot raise voice systematically and reasonably. However, they contribute significantly high in household and farming. Despite their involvement in domestic and productive works, Nepali

women do not have access to and control over resources. Their work is not valued and their lives are guided by the decisions made by the men leaders in the power structure of nation, communities and families. Women participation in local and national election is seen very low in the context of total number of women. It is evident that women's condition in general is very poor in almost every field. They are very few and have secondary position in the local and national body. Hence, it has been a strong need to study and analyze their status and role as the elected representative in the local governments and selected women by merit basis in bureaucrats, CBOS, NGOs as well.

This study has tried to analyze the socio-economic and political aspects of the women municipal representatives in respect to their representation and their role in Municipal level program. It also analyzes over their status after being elected in the municipal body. Besides that this study tries to explore that why women are not involving in the process of governance. Why women cannot actively participate in the policy making and decision making process, when after they elected too. Political background of the women representative, support from each other, problems and suggestion to overcome the problems are the other concerns of this study.

1.3 Background of the Study Area

Considering the common biases in the selection of the study area. Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptary district was selected some key information about the Rajbiraj are given below.

1.3.1 Physical Seating and Location

Saptary district is located in eastern part of Nepal. Sunsari, Siraha and Udayapur are neighbor district of Saptary. The headquarter of saptary district is Rajbiraj. It had been established as a municipality since 2016 B.S. The total area of Rajbiraj Municipality is 11.86 square k.m. It has been divided in 10 (ten) wards. In eastern part of Rajbiraj municipality there in Khado river, in western part there is Prakash rice mill in northern side there is Hari Singh Ko Fulbari and in southern part there is Mahendra Bindeshowari multiple campus. The total population of Rajbiraj municipality is 32676 out of which 17352 are male and 15324 are female.

1.3.2 Ethnic Composition and Population

Rajbiraj Municipality is multi ethnical and multi cultural municipality Hindu, Kirat, Buddhist, Muslim, Cliristian and other are v.ere. In the Rajbiraj Municipality among the total population 17% people are Yadav, 14% are Tharu, 9% Dhanuk, 6% Khatbe, 7% Mushar, 8% Musulim 4% Chamar, 3% Batar, 3% Brahmin, 2 % Bania, 1.5% Rajput, 2% Malah, 8.5% Teli and 15% are others.

Source: Rajbiraj Municipality

1.3.3 Social Organizations and Industries

There are many social institutions in Rajbiraj Municipality. Some surely social some economic and some religions organization are working in the Rajbiraj.

Industries of all kinds can be seen there Brick industries are some big industries while sawmills, rice mills etc. are medium and other small industries are also prevalent there.

1.3.4 Educational Situation

The literacy rate of Rajbiraj Municipality is 39 percent among them 58 percent are male and 17 percent are female. The data clarify that the educational status of women is very poor. There are total 31 educational institutions in Rajbiraj. Among them 1 campus, 1 higher secondary school, 4 secondary school, 3 lower secondary school, 9 primary school and 13 private Boarding school are there.

Source: Rajbiraj Municipality

1.4 Importance of the Study

Yet women's lives remained centered on their traditional roles child bearing and rearing, taking care of most household chores, fetching water and animal fodder, and doing farm work. Their standing in society

Was mostly dependent on their husband's and parents social and economic position. Nepal was rigidly patriarchal society. Women usually work harder and longer than men. In practically every aspect of life. Women were generally subordinate to men.

Social inclusion is the burning issues of today in Nepal. So that those women in politics is necessary for their empowerment capacity enhancement. This study has been important due to following regions.

- This study helps to find out the causes of lower rate

of participation of women in politics.

- This study would be helpful to address the real need of Municipality representatives especially the women, and come up with possible recommendations for their empowerment.
- This study would be helpful to suggest the policy makers to make the appropriate police to increase the level of women in politics.
- This study will be the way for those who want further in-depth study in the same or similar issues in future.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The general objectives at this study is to identify the level at women participation in specially in Rajbiraj municipality at Saptary district its specific objectives are as follows.

- I. To analyse the situation of the participation of women in political sector.
- II. To identify the main hindrances of women participation in politics.
- III. To analyse the socio-economic situation of women in Terai community.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

This study examines the women's representation in the municipal level of Saptary district. It also looks over the role of the women in municipal level programs. Therefore it may not include all the aspects of gender relations.

This study is based on the Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptary district so the finding may not be generalized to the national level. The outcomes suggestion of the study may not be applicable to all cases of the women participation in politics across in the country, hence typically reforecast Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptary district.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter includes **the** background of the study, statement of the problem, background of the study area. Importance of the study, objective of the study and limitation the study. The second chapter review literature related to participation of women in politics. The third chapter deals about the research methodology of the study. The fourth chapter Describes political analysis of women representative by analyzing data. The fifth chapter includes socio-economic condition of women representatives. The sixth chapter includes various constraints and problems for women in polities. In seventh chapter includes following sub-chapter major findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Aristotale once declared that “the female is female by virtue of a certain lack of quality. One, might see a continuity in this assumption; even though women play the significant role in the development of the nation; they are considered to be second grade citizens. In the present situation of our society man can think of himself without woman but she can’t think of herself without man. In such a condition, it becomes hard for women to taste the fruit of development. The access of women participation in the education, socio-economic and political activities has been restricted by the male. Thus the access to power has been blacked. They can never think to be in the governing position of the country, though the constitution of Nepal states that there should be 5% women representatives in the parliament. This is the only place where we can be satisfied that at least women are tried to be brought in the main stream.

1. Women’s Participation in National Politics

Women are represented at the national level in the election of 1958, when one woman won a seat in the House of Representatives and another was nominated in the National Assembly. In 1960 the King established the autocratic Panchayat System and put a sudden stop to all associations and their activities. However, women remained politically active. In protest against the undemocratic royal proclamation of 1960, a group of women leader openly waved black flags in a public procession. During the Panchayat rule after 1960 a limited number of women held

government post, yet on social contribution was to the status of women either socially or economically.(CBS,1991)

The women' decade, 1975-1985 provided women with an opportunity to take a retrospective look at the role and opportunity of the women. A three year research study started in 1979 on the status of women in Nepal was carried out to determine the actual participation and contribution of women in rural economy, including their input in the decision making process. Their role in the social and cultural aspect and in economic activities are of the visible achievement of the UN decade of women in Nepal was established the institution for women in both the government and the NGO sector. But , despite some legal reforms intending to improve women's conditions, the absence of a truly democratic political environment made it difficult for people to raise their voice. There were no legal parameters allowing for open protest by any association or group of people. There was , in fact, no special difference in the working style of governmental and non governmental organizations as the NGO's were under the social services co-ordination council(SSCC) which was under the leadership of the Queen.(CBS,1991)

“The people movement of 1989 was an organized effort by the people to get rid of Panchayat System and the usher in the multiparty democratic system. Women of various region and ideologies activity participated and contributed greatly to the success of movement and many also died. The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal established in 1990 was promulgated and achievement of the people's movement. This constitution unequivocally protects the fundamental right of every Nepali citizen. Legal rights for Nepali women to leave as capable strong and free human being are yet to be traditional view that women should be supported by welfare programmes because they are weak and worthy of

receiving consideration needs to be drastically changed. An ending struggle for joint single platform has to continuity for acquiring rights, equal opportunities and justice for women. This can be done for association and guided by political ideologies or are fighting for the social cause of women.”(Action Aid, 1999)

The aforementioned statements prove the participation of women in politics. In spite of the political field, social norms and values play the role of hinders in their active advancement in the field. Various factors like act, law, government, planning process have provided provisions for the active enrollment of women in different sectors. However, priority is expected to be given in solidifying them for their active participations in different sectors.(UNDP,1998)

As per human development profile 1998, the women empowerment as perceived the women participation in the Nepalese context. The measurement is made in compliance with the women participation in different fields like occupational fields, administrative and management sectors in proportion in the parliament.

Table**Women Empowerment in Region and Ecological Zone wise**

Region & Zone	In % women participation parliament	In % occupational participation	In % Administrati on Sector	In % Income Generating	In % Empowerme nt Ration
Mountain	0.45	8.74	6.28	20.57	0.111
Hill	0.81	17.87	11.68	13.76	0.180
Terai	0.56	13.69	4.30	28.15	0.117
Estern Devt. Region	0.88	12.69	5.21	22.26	0.125
Mountain	0.73	10.59	8.03	22.12	0.126
Hill	1.12	11.57	9.52	11.59	0.142
Terai	0.72	13.73	3.91	24.97	0.123
Central Dev. Region.	0.59	19.73	10.40	15.12	0.182
Mountain	0.59	10.07	10.34	14.66	0.134
Hill Terai	0.82	27.21	11.77	13.23	0.224
	0.40	10.14	3.59	19.00	0.098
Western Devt. Region	0.83	14.14	11.38	18.41	0.159
Mountain	0.54	12.02	4.39	22.41	0.119
Hill Terai	1.00	13.78	14.81	16.90	0.172
	0.52	15.43	5.74	21.74	0.136
Mid Western Devt. Region	0.52	10.42	5.51	16.40	0.109
Mountain	0.22	7.23	2.04	25.50	0.066
Hill Terai	0.35	8.86	5.25	9.91	0.93
	1.04	13.26	6.05	20.89	0.137
Far Western Devt. Region	0.19	8.26	3.20	17.71	0.076
Mountain	0.13	5.33	2.59	8.60	0.052
Hill	0.16	6.02	2.95	12.83	0.059
Terai	0.13	13.42	3.50	23.17	0.109

Source: CBS report 1991 and 1996 Election Council 1996

This measurement has taken 'income' not only as a medium of the achievement of basic human ability, but has also treated it to be the source of economic power of women. The ratio of the participation of women in administrative and occupational fields indicates their participation also in their political approach along with them, way of making decisions in this field.

The measurement shows that women participation in Nepal is much low as compared with the regional and international level. In South Asia, the Comparatively better than Nepalese women's situation. In Nepal, Gender inequality in political, economic and social participation is much higher in the Mountainous and the Terai regions as compared with the hilly regions. Such inequalities are in burning stage in the far western and mid-western development region (UNDP,1998).

The worldwide moment of women's social, political and economic development, we can easily determine that the book written by Prof. Amrita Basu during the Beijing conference of 1995 has been a challenge for women movement. This book not only includes the women situation in the South Asian Countries, but also concentrates on the women's situation in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Northern colonies. The book is chiefly based on the norm that feminism advances attacking national diversities. Prof Basu emphasizes that the greatest achievement of woman development movement in including women into modernism, ascertaining their social and political rights and bringing out uniformity between women domination and movement against it.

In the same way "Robin Margan quotes that women should get their rights related to their class conscience and exploitation as mentioned in Marxist theory." (Oustima 1999)

The world wide women movement concerning their socio-economic and political development.

- Mass exhibition of the women of National Congress in Darbin in the year 1990.
- Robin Margan's book "Sisterhood is Global" is also a part of a women movement.
- Beijing worldwide women movement of 1995.
- Manila Conference of 1993 (Pakistani women movement)
- Manila conference of 1993 and discussions on cruelty against women.

2. Las Regarding Women's Participation in Politics

2.1 General Overview

Change has been brought about 4th April 1997 ordinance that serves as an amendment to the previous election laws and calls for reservations for women candidates at the local and district levels. In the recent local elections, nearly 40,000 women were elected to various local and district level policy making bodies. It is essential that they should be able to present a united front of women's issues, rising over their individual party interest. The main problem is that once the women attained political power they don't want to rock the boat and perhaps lose the power they had been able to gain, they should not forget history that it was the delegation of women activities that was able to get the

rights for women in 1948. It is because of the women's movements that they are able to be in the parliament today. (Election Commission, 1998)

Unless a reservation scheme is established for women representative, it will be very difficult to bring them forward into politics and they will have to remain the vote bank. Women need to learn about politics and they will have to remain the vote bank. Women need to learn about what politics is, how it functions and how it can benefit them. It is essential to have women in local level. Politics as that is where the location and number of water taps, bridge, community forest, health post are or should be established.

2.2 Current development (Reservation)

“Every women should be politically in her own way even if she does nothing more to cast a vote. She should realize the importance of her own vote to the support those women leaders who will seriously takes women's issues. This is her political responsibility both to herself and to other women.” (Sharma, 1993)

In the case of women in politics, participation of women within the government has been relatively minimal. However, there is a provision in the local Governance Act 2055 that “there must be at least one nominated member in VDC nominated body. Similarly, at least forty percent (40%) member to be women among the nominated members in the municipal body and at least one member in the DDC executive body.” (Local Governance Act, 2055). This is a remarkable improvement towards empowering women. The recent legislation of ensuring a minimum quota of women per VDC to be elected at the ward level means that Nepal suddenly has nearly 40,000 women in politics and local government.

This is a very positive but much work is needed to strength their capacity if it is to be any more the, just a taken gestures. (Action Aid, 1998)

According to the study by Achrya and Bennett (1979-81) women have little share in the decision making process. Men make the majority of dicisions regarding household, financial distribution of resources, education and health care, women access to development process is medicated through men.

3. Political Participation of women: A Global Prospective

Do women process equal right and status like men or not? "Certainly, they do", at present this will be the answer of the whole world. Regarding this like men women almost from each and every part of the world have right to vote and right to stand as candidate in the election. The democracy remains semi-democracy where the women of not have right to detect and to be elected. If a state treat man and women exactly alike, it is the fundamental right of the women to participate in the election. But the women have acquired this right after the struggle of thousands of years. Before 1890's no women of any country in the world had right to vote and put their candidature in the elections. In the human history, New Zealand was the first country where the women where granted the right to vote in national level election in 1893. still they where not allowed to stand as candidate in the elections. Later in 1919 they acquired this right too.

Australia was the second country to assure then right of women to caste vote and stand as candidate. In 1902 Australia granted both of these wrights to women. Similarly, Scandinavian countries – Finland, Norway, Denmark also eased the access of women in the elections. Finland in 1906,Norway in 1907, Iceland and Den mark in 1915 granted this right to

women . The women in Norway first got the chance to stand as candidate in elections and to cast their votes as well. It is better to cite source so far as developed and capitalist countries are concerned, women acquired this right only in early 25 years of Twentieth century. Socialist October revolution in then USSR granted this right to women in 1918. In the same year the neighboring countries of than USSR, Georgia, Kirgistan, Estonia, Latvia granted this right to women.

After this event the women of the developed and capitalist countries acquired the right to vote and participation in the elections. In the same year Germany and Austria granted the right to vote and the right to be elected. Canada in the same year, granted the women only the right to vote but after two years, they acquired the right to stand as candidate in the elections. American women were allowed to cast their vote only in 1920 even if they possessed the right to be the candidate in the election since 1788. The French women had to wait until 1944. However, in Switzerland the women acquired this right only in 1971.

Regularly in the Asian countries, no sooner the revolution wrapped up the Chinese women acquired these rights without struggle in 1949. Similarly, after the Democratic revolution of 1950 (2007 B.S.) in Nepal, the Nepalese women were granted these rights in 1951 (2008 B.S). Though India declared herself independent of the British colony in 1947, the Indian women had to wait until 1950 to participate in the election. But no sooner it separated from India in 1947, Pakistan allowed the women to participate in the election.

In the south Asian countries, it was Sri Lanka which, for the first time allowed women the right to vote and the right to be elected early in 1931. Bhutan in 1953, South Korea in 1948 and North Korea in 1953

were the countries which granted these rights. Even going the developed country of this regain, Japan granted this right only after the World War II i.e. in 1947. Most of the African countries granted these right only after the success of Anti-Colonialism Freedom Campaign. For instance, Namibia in 1989, Ethiopia in 1955, Sudan in 1946, Congo in 1980 and South Africa in 1930 granted these rights to women. So far as the Latin American countries are concerned, as in the African countries, the women of these countries got there right within last forty years. This was the same story of the most of the Arabian countries. To acquire the right to vote and the right to stand as the candidate in election are the essential and decisive aspect for the women to develop their equal participations in the decision making sector. But as a matter of fact, they do not get a chance to reach the governing positions even if they are granted with such rights. Meanshile they are thought to be incompetent to exercise the governing power. Even now, we can see the worldwide average participation of women in the parliaments is only 10 percent. No more than 12 percent women are the members of parliament in the developed countries. If we have a glance at the central cabinets worldwide, we find the women participation is only 5 percent. Even though New Zealand was the first country in the world history to grant the women to be elected, only after 26 years women candidate for the parliamentary election was elected there. In the second country Australia, it took 40 years for a women candidate to win the parliamentary election. So, just giving the right to elect and to be elected does not mean that the women can exercise this right instantly. They need to be elected but above all they need the appropriate environment and broadened opportunities to make use of the rights. Especially, opportunity of educations, productive employment and freedom from the unilateral responsibility of household works. Moreover, in order to increase the women's participation in the

parliament, obligated quota system plays a vital role. Sweden, Norway and Finland are the leading countries on account of political empowerment of the women. 40, 36 and 30 percent of the members of parliament are women respectively in Sweden, Norway and Finland. In this regard, Norwegian cabinet, where the 40 percent of the ministers are women, is the most balanced cabinet in the world.

In the developing countries, Cuba is in the leading position to have a large number of female members of parliament, then come China, South Korea and Vietnam. In the figure stands in 21 percent 18 percent in Vietnam. Nepalese women acquired the right to elect and to be elected in 1951. But the lack of proper environment and opportunity had barred the women's right to elect and to be elected.

4. Historical sketch of women's political organization

The history of Nepal shows that women have greatly women contributed to awaken the political conditions. As far back as 1814 Nepali women exhibited their strength in the historical battle of Khalanga fort at Nalapani against the British and their cannons by using khukuris and stones. In 1917 the first women's organization "Women's Committee" was formed in Nepal with the purpose of making people aware of their political conditions. (Subedi ,1997)

In the past significant contributions to the movement were made by various women through literature songs, through teaching and through writing. In 1947, Kanya School for the girls was opened in Kathmandu. Similarly, under the leadership of various women, Nepal Mahila Sangh (Nepal Women Association of NWA) was established in 1947, with the purpose of attaining women's freedom and equality for the women of Nepal. It was the NWA that mobilized women to fight for women's

suffrage during the first election held in 1958. In the same year the Adarsh Namila Samaj (Ideal Women's Association) emerged with a view to raise social and political consciousness among Nepali women. (Subedi, 1997)

In 1950, All Nepali Mahila Sangh (ANMS) was established with the purpose of raising political and social consciousness among the Nepalese women. All these women's organization were closed with political parties opposed to the Rana regime. Similarly, in 1952 another women's organization, Arya Stri samaj, was established with the aim of protecting Nepali women from the influence of western culture, all of these organizations were influenced by party politics. (Shreshta 1996)

5. Women in Politics

The history of Nepal proudly shows that at different period it's women have contributed greatly to the awakening or political consciousness. As far back 1814 Nepali women exhibited their strength in the historical battle of Khalanga at Nalapani against the British and their cannons by using knives and stones. In 1917 the first women's organization "women's committee" was formed in Sirha district with the purpose of making people aware of their political and social conditions. It was initiated by two very assertive women Yognaya Devi and Diya Devi Koirala, but it would survive for only one and a half year because the ruling authorities changed the organization with participating in undesirable activities (Subedi, 1997).

On the eve of democratic movement of 1950, a few women particularly the relatives of political activities, tried to open women's association which in fact were politically oriented and their ultimate interest was to dethrone the Ranarchy in Nepal. Even after the down of

democracy in 1990, politicians failed to encourage women activities in the state affairs (Sharma, 1998).

Women were represented at the national level in the election of 1958 were Dwaraki Devi Thakuri won a seat in the house of representative and Kamala Rana was nominated to the national assembly. in 1960 the king established the autocratic panchayat system and pert a sudden stop to all associations and their activities, women however remained politically active (Subedi, 1997).

Political status is also a composite indicator and may be measured in terms of power, authority and autonomy in different sphere of life. It is very important to make a distinction between power and authority in the analysis of social stratification (Achary, 1998).

Women's participation in politics means that women take part in Decision making and management of society and enjoy the same right as men to govern the political, economic and social life of the country. Women's participation in parliament of political parties and the role of women in parliamentary election is as both voters and candidates. The proportion of women who stand of election is generally low and the proportion of women elected, therefore is also low, although this differs from country to country and between religions.

The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal, established in 1990 was promulgated as an achievement of the peoples movement. This constitution explicitly protects the fundamental rights of every Nepal citizens. Legal right for Nepali women to live as capable, strong and free human being are yet to be achieved. It is therefore absolutely necessary to amend the law that exists. The traditional view that

women should be supported by welfare programs because they are weak and worthy of receiving consideration needs to be drastically changed. An ending struggle for joint single plant form has to conscience for acquiring rights equal opportunities and justice for women. This can be done through association and institutions whether they are guided by political ideologies are fighting for the social cause of women (Subedi, 1997).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design is the most important part in research. It is the process how the research is conducted employing different tools and technique according to the objective of the topic. An appropriate method had employed in the different context and situations. The study is quantitative far as possible with dominance of primary data, quantitative method for analyzing the abstract situation had been done very fair and natural.

The study is specially designed to examine the female representation in the municipality. It also aims to analyze over the role of the female (elected representatives in the municipality) in municipality level programs.

3.1 Nature and Source of Data

3.1.1 Primary Data

The primary data have been collected through key informant interview. In this regard, various tools including key informant interview, focus group discussion (FGD) and field observation have been used to collect necessary information for the study.

3.1.2 Secondary Data

The secondary data were collected from the available literatures such as record, study reports dissertations and other materials available in government and non-government project libraries publications of the district election office, Saptray, records of connected municipality,

national planning commission and elected unpublished documents were also reviewed to meet the objective.

3.2 Universe and Sample

Most of the respondents were female representative in the local election of 1997 of Rajbiraj municipality. Intellectuals politicians, municipality ex-chairperson were requested to focus group discussion related to women's issues. Out of the total 10 wards in Rajbiraj municipality they are 10 elected member and 6 nominated member. Out of them all 16 respondents were chosen. I am using random sampling in this reach. The sample size is two and total population of the rajbiraj municipality is 5000.

3.3 Tools of Primary Data Collection

A set of structural question was prepared in order to ask for each respondent open and close both questions were asked. Interview was done according to need. Focus group discussion (FGD) was done among intellectual, politicians and with other important persons.

3.4 Method of Data Analysis

The quantitative information were analyzed in descriptive as well as statistical way by using statistical method like average mean, tables, parentage in Rajbiraj Municipality.

The information is quantitative data sheets and necessary tabulation was made. The information that is purely qualitative was also used in the qualitative part of the report. All the qualitative data such as decision making power of women were analyzed following the descriptive way as follow;

-) All the information (responses from the respondents) was first studies separately.
-) Grouped the common statements.
-) Made the general statement from the group
-) Put all those in the table.

CHAPTER IV

POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE

4.1 Age Structure of Women Representative in Rajbiraj Municipality

It has intended to know age structure of women representatives;

Table No 4.1

Age Structure of Women Representative in Rajbiraj Municipality

Age	Number of women representative	percentage
30-35	4	25
35-40	3	18.75
40-45	4	25
45-50	4	25
50 above	1	6.25
Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009 (Rajbiraj Municipality)

The above table shows that the age structure between 30-34, 40-45 and 45-50 has the highest value which represent 25 percent each and 50-above is 6.25 percent the lowest value. Age between 35-40 has second highest value. Age between 30-35, 40-45 has higher participation in political. Research conducted in Rajbiraj municipality in the local election of 1997 shows that only middle aged women involved in politics.

4.2 Ethnic Composition of Women representative

The Rajbiraj municipality is composed of different ethnic group like Brahmin, Tharu, Yadv, Shah, Das, Karna and others. Different ethnic composition of women representative is shown in the table

Table |No 4.2

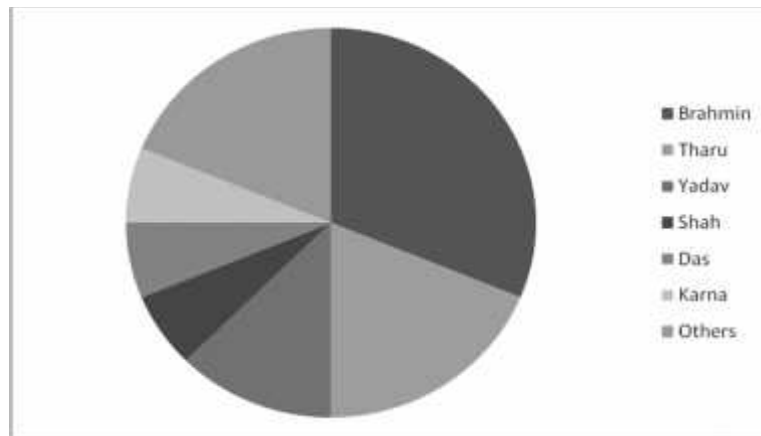
Ethnic Composition of Women Representative

S.N.	Cast	No of women Representative	Percentage
1.	Brahmin	5	31.25
2.	Tharu	3	18.75
3.	Yadav	2	12.50
s4.	Shah	1	6.25
5.	Das	1	6.25
6.	Karna	1	6.25
7.	Others(Dalit and muslim)	3	18.75
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009(Rajbiraj Municipality)

Fig. 4.1

Ethnic Composition of women Representative



The table shows that among the women representatives Brahmin member is highest they represents 31.25 percent and shah, Das Karna representative is equal and lowest which represent 6.25 percent only in this table we can't see any lower caste representative so we can easily conclude that the lower caste representative in politics is not proportional.

4.3 Educational Status of Women Representative

Education in the basic requirement for development only educated person can identify social problems. Illiterate person can not handle the duty activity. The educational status of women representative in Rajbiraj municipality is given below.

Table No. 4.3

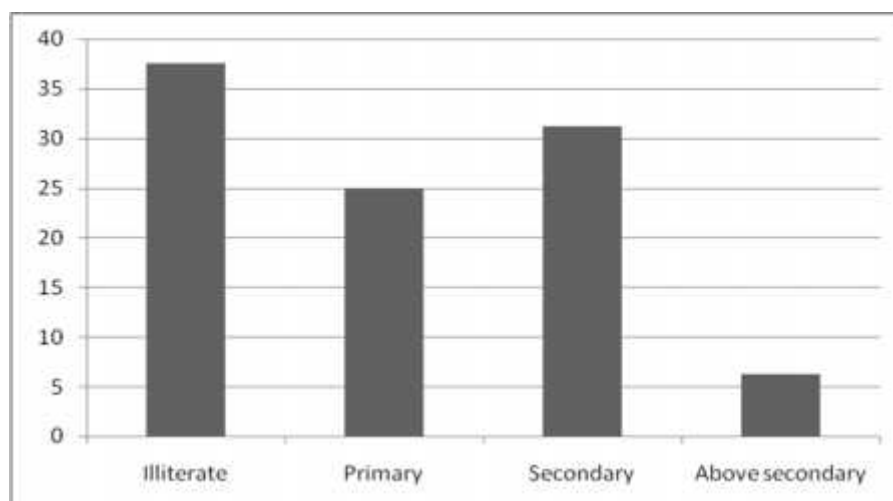
Educational Status of Women Representatives

S.N.	Educational Level	No. of women representatives	Percent
1.	Illiterate	6	37.5
2.	Primary	4	25
3.	Secondary	5	31.25
4.	Above secondary	1	6.25
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009(Rajbiraj Municipality)

Fig. No. 4.2

Educational Status of Women Representative



From the above table, we can easily conclude that the majority of female representative i.e. 62.50 percent are literate and 37.50 percent are illiterate. Among the literate majority representative are in secondary level where as higher education is low. Although to build competent women there is necessary of higher level education the present literacy

rate of women participation shows some optimistic index in future. In comparison to other district women of nepal these women are more literate and conscious.

4.4 Position of Women Representative in Rajbiraj Municipality

Table 4.4

Position of Women Representative in Rajbiraj

S.N.	Position	No. of representative	Percent
1.	Chair/vice chairperson	-	-
2.	Ward chair person	-	-
3.	Members	16	100
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009(Rajbiraj Municipality)

The table shows there is no representation in chair person vice chair person and ward chair person. They all represents ward members. From this table we can easily conclude that the local self government Act 2055 had made them compulsion to have one female candidate from each ward. There is lack of spontaneous female participation in local level. Unless educational status of women doesn't uplift there is no possibility of women in upper political level, initiation is better than static.

4.5 Causes to invovles in Politics of Women Candidates

There are many causes to involve in politics. There are many factors effecting to involve in politics the table shows the different factors.

Table No. 4.5

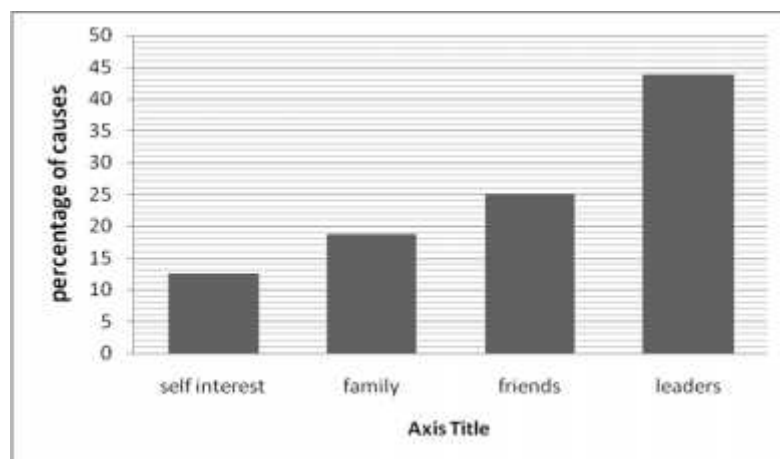
Causes to Involves in Politics of Women Candidates

S.N.	Causes	No. of candidates	Percent
1.	Self interest	2	12.50
2.	Family	3	18.70
3.	Friends	4	25
4.	Leaders	7	43.75
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Fig 4.3

Causes to Involve in political of Women Candidate



The table shows 12.50 percent candidates activities interested in politics. The relation between education and participation in correlated to each other. Beside that political leader and friends are powerful source to mobilize women in politics. From the above table we can conclude that there is higher leader's consciousness in election rather than other. So

higher the leaders and friend motivation in politics there is higher level opportunity in qualifying of women candidates.

4.6 Party Association of women Representative

There are many parties after rehabilitation of democracy in 1990 A.D. Different parties are involved for development secure of human rights with different manifestos. Even people are involving in only politics political parties are medium to bring the consciousness on people. The following table shows the very association of women representative in the local election of 1997 A.D.

Table No. 4.6

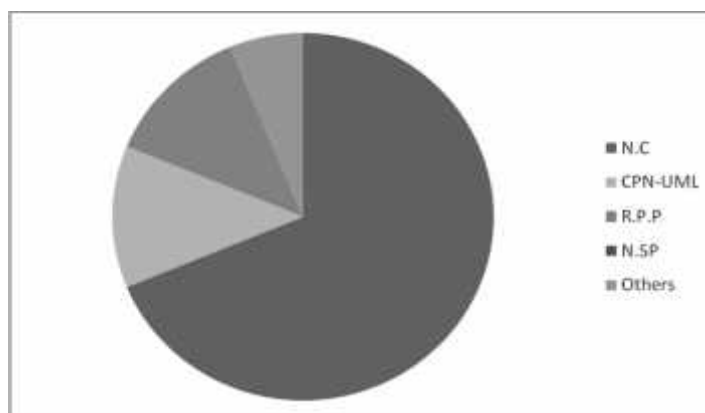
Party Association of Women Representative

S.N.	Party	No. of women Representative	percent
1.	Nepali Congress	11	68.75
2.	CPN-UML	2	12.50
3.	R.P.P	2	12.50
4.	N.SP	-	-
5.	Others	1	6.25
Total		16	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Fig.4.4

Party Association of women Representative



The above table shows that maximum 68.75 percentage women representative is from Nepali Congress party where 12.50 percent women representative is from CPN-UML and Rastra Pragatantra party each and 6.25 percentage women representative was not associated with any party she was free candidate. This is not other party whose representative in this municipality by election. The main four party Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, Rastra Pragatantra Party and Nepali Sadvabna Party were the major four party at them time among the Nepali congress, CPN-UML and R.P.P were success to organizes the people in their own manifestos.

4.7 Problem of Women in Political Participation

Nepali society still is very back on education and their conscious level is still not so good our society is basically male dominated society and there are many obstacles for women to participate in the politics. The following table shows the problem of women in political participation.

Table 4.7

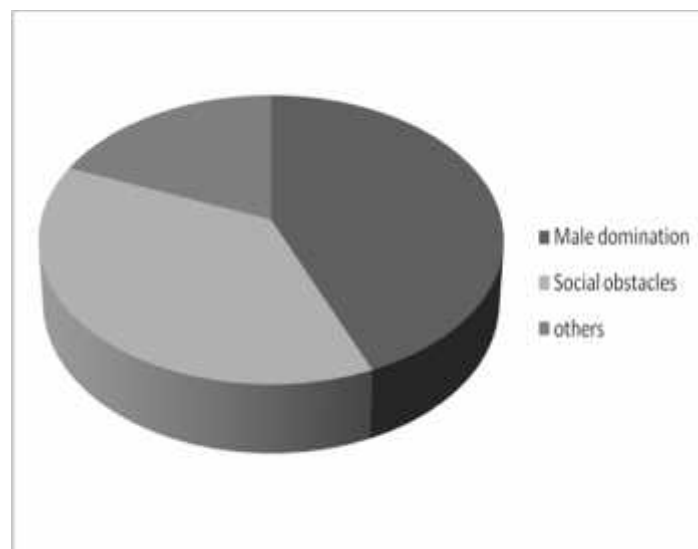
Problems of Women in Political Participation

S.N.	Problems	No. of women	Percentage
1.	Male domination	7	73.75
2.	Social obstacles	6	37.50
3.	Others	3	18.75
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Fig. 4.5

Problems of Women of Political Participation



From this table we know that male is still dominating the women. The male domination is main hindrances for women to involve in politics. Among the respondent 43.75 percent women agree that main obstacles for women to participate in politics is male domination. The another

important causes to involve in politics is social obstacles or problems, tabs and obstacles which represents 37.50 percent respondents.

4.8 Member who Represent in Politics of Family

Another indicator which is effective to indicate the level of participation of women in politics. So here the table shows that either the respondents participate in political activities or others.

Table No. 4.8

Member who Represent in Politics of Family

S.N.	Member	Women No	Percentage
1.	Myself	6	37.50
2.	My husband	5	31.25
3.	My father	3	18.75
4.	Other	2	12.50
Total		16	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

The above table clarify that 37.50 percent respondents themselves participate in politics activity but the 31.25 percent respondents express that their husband, father 18.75 percent and other 12.50 percent participate in political parties. Even those elected member realize that 62.50 percent representative in political activities occupied by their family member so that participation level of women is not so good.

4.9 Family Support for Politics

It is true known fact that until and unless the family member are not positive to a women she can not actively participate in politics although she was has her interest on politics. So to create the positive environment for women is necessary for active participation of women. It the positive environment create by family members to the women their participating rate in politics may be high. The following table shows family support to come far politics.

Table No. 4.9

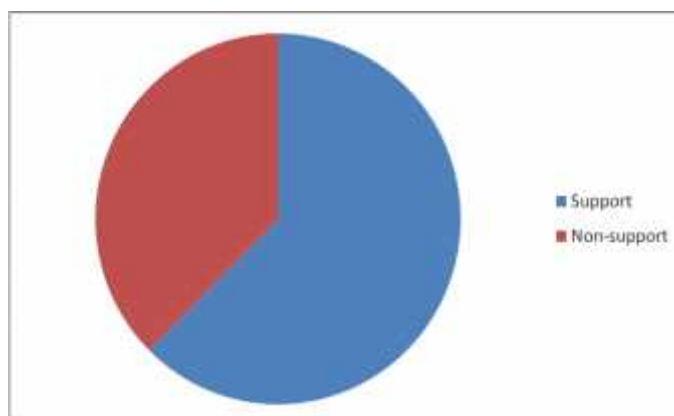
Family Support for Politics

S.N.	Description	No. of women	Percentage
1.	Support	10	62.50
2.	Non-support	6	37.50
Total		16	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Fig. No. 4.6

Family Support far Politics



The above table shows that 68.50 percent women get family support during their political activities on the other side 37.50 percent respondents clarify that they could no get any kind of support from their family members.

4.10 Political Strategy at the Time of Election

To know the level of women in political activities we should know that either women representative are actively conscious about the strategy during the time of election or not. Their consciousness about the election strategy determine their activeness in the politics. The given table shows the political straegy at the time of election.

Table No. 4.10

Political strategy at the Time of Election

S.N.	Strategy	No. of women	Percent
1.	Nothing to do	6	37.50
2.	Messing	2	12.50
3.	Home door program	8	50
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From one above table we conclude that 50 percent women are conscious about the political strategy during the election time which is positive symbol for increasing the level of women participation in politics.

4.11 Participation of Women in Election Before this

The level of women participation in politics determine by their historical situation. If a women participation in political activities before this she may be active. So the given table shows the situation of women.

Table 4.11

Participation of women in Election Before this

S.N.	description	No. of Women	Percent
1.	Participated	6	37.50
2.	Non-participated	10	62.50
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

This table clearly shows that 62.50 percent women who represent in municipality level never elected before this. So it indicate that this was forcefully quota fulfilling which was provisioned by local self government act 1997.

4.12 Obstacles of Women participation in Politics

Basically, women are economically dependent to other and they can not strongly raised their voice for active participation in politics. So dependent to others economically is main obstacles for women. As like this lack of confidence to the women, lack of consciousness and lack of family support are affecting to the low rate of women participation in politics. The following table shows the obstacles of women participation in politics.

Table No. 4.12

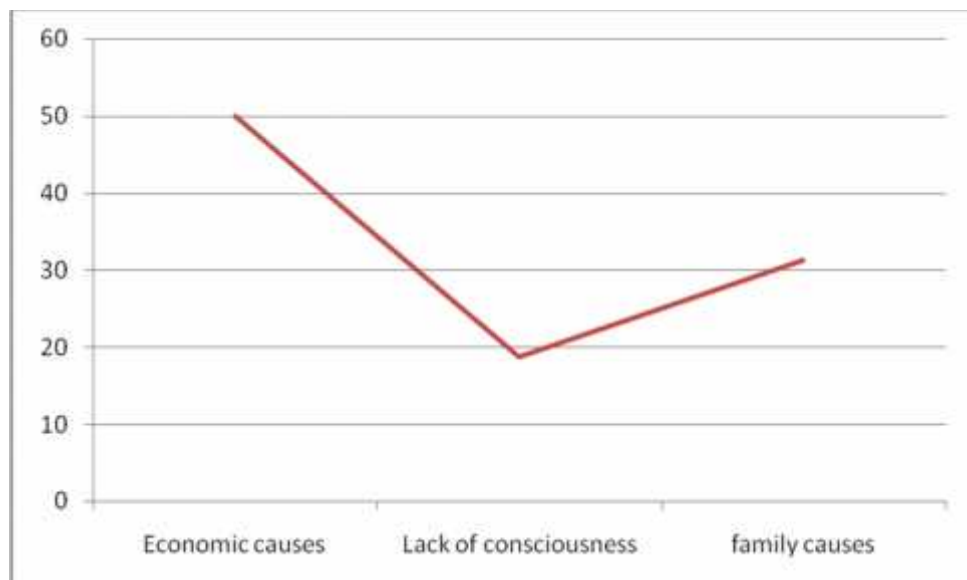
Obstacles of Women Participation in Politics

S.N.	Obstacles	No. of women	Percentage
1.	Economic causes	8	50
2.	Lack of consciousness	3	18.75
3.	Family causes in Rajbiraj	5	31.25
Total		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009(Rajbiraj Municipality)

Fig. 4.7

Obstacles of Women Participation in Politics



From the above table we can conclude that the main obstacles to participate in politics for women is economic causes which occupies 50 percent respondents lack of consciousness to the women is another obstacles. Family support to the women in another major obstacles to participate in politics for women which occupies 31.25 percent.

4.13 Major Issues of Women Representatives

During the research time I raise a question that do you raise the issue of women after elected in municipality. They simply reply that yes and i again ask them that what type of issues did you raised. The following table shows their reply related to the women issues.

Table No. 4.13

Major Issues of Women Representative

S.N.	Issues	No
1.	To increase the level of participation in local government	13
2.	Equal access of women in wealth	10
3.	To reduce the domestic violence against women	8
4.	Equal right of citizenship to women	6
5.	To abolish the social/cultural hindrances like dowry system	4
6.	Participation of women in local level plan, policy and program	3
7.	To create the self employment opportunity for women	2

4.14 Political Activities of Women Representative During Election Time

I asked what political activities they do during election. Almost women representative responded that meeting, program, home door programs etc. should be done. But they have no idea about how to conduct such types of programs all plan and programs arranged by male. They were aroused by male candidate. They remained, isolate, due to lack of appropriate education, lack of consciousness. This was forceful for quota fulfilling. They were busy in household activities and agriculture activities. They had not indicated their horizon of development. They were remained in unorganized sector of society. It is the problem to bring them in mainstream. Illiteracy, drudgery, household activities and indifferent towards politics make them backward. Politics is power exercise game and it makes them authoritative as well as rule making in favour of women male has blind evaluate towards female. If they get opportunity and freedom they can do as male can do. Society cannot develop being half of the population indicative and powerlessness. We have to evaluate every tiling on the scientific basis rather then traditional culture and religious dogma. Revolutionary approach and putting the last first are appropriate tools for social development. Women themselves should not think of inferiority rather fight for equality and preserve of natural human rights. They should participate in every activates of society, buck passing to male make them weak.

4.15 Male Response in Women's Voice

I asked, what is your evaluation to male in your opinion supporting? Almost all candidates gave positive answers. They said that they have their trouble and planning for development. The only complex

problem is that males are agreed but there is no implementation of any agreement as approached by women.

It is the problem here every planning designed by women should be implemented so that they feel of their importance and chance to improve. They can plan, evaluate and implement every activity. And some few candidates did not like male candidates because they do not hear their voice.

4. 16. Women's Open View Toward their Low Participation

There are various causes to have low participation in politics. They had indicated different causes. Lack of education made them to remain in limited sphere. Without education there is no courage and confidence to tackle in the society.

Some had indicated lack of inspiration and fear of family and society, it is the most affecting for low participation. There is under evaluation and social dogma. If we support such blind belief in the competent world the meaning of development will not flourish in backward society. Society will remain static forever.

Women are busy in household and firm activities, society has made partial law in household and agriculture activities. Women should do it only. There should be equity and gender equivalent in every aspect. It should be started from every family. It is very poor in political activities. Politics is all in all for social development.

They had indicated many causes many of them are solvable but few of them are natural obstacles. If we want to make harmonic and inclusive society gender equity is inevitable improvement for creating an egalitarian society.

I asked did go attend the meeting after elected in the municipality. Almost is very much drawback side of "Local self governance act 2055". It seems only necessary for making electoral colleges for the presidential election of municipality. There should be Provision of necessary meeting attending by of women candidate for brain storming of social development.

Some candidate were very much indifferent about. They were forcefully brought for male leader's easiness for election victory.

CHAPTER V

AN EVALUATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

Socio-economic condition is the basic foundation for transformation. As society is modern and laborious there is possibility of economic growth and respect among each other. As physical base of any individual or society is powerful there is greater possibility in increasing mental horizon. So socio-economic are the basis frontier for sensitivity. Economic prospering gives freedom and happiness as well as self actualization in society.

Table 5.1
Occupation Holding Women Representatives

S.N.	Occupation	No. of women representatives	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	8	50
2.	Business	3	18.75
3.	Social services	2	12.50
4.	Others	3	18.75
Total		16	100

Source: Field survey 2009.

The above table shows that among 16 represented in Rajbiraj Municipality 50 percent candidates were engaged in agriculture

18.75 percent represent business and 12.50 percent represent social services. It shows that agriculture is the main occupation of women in almost rural Terai. They are heavily engaged in agriculture activities. It is hard to get free from the daily work in the field. And I asked them is your occupation supporting your need they had different answers. Among 16 representatives 7 representative who were self sufficient from the agriculture activities was 43.75 percent where as 9 representative had said that they were unable to recover by their occupation it was 56.25 percent said they had to take loan to run the family.

We can say that although some part of Saptary district was developed but there is poverty in rural Terai where there is poverty any body cannot develop and think other side of social activities. Absolute poverty is the worst in social development. Poverty should be reduced immediately modern farming and entrepreneur activities should be increased in different field for empowerment of women.

5.1 Women's Engagement in Different Households Activities

Women are busy in almost household activities. I asked what kinds of work do you do in your household? Almost women replied that they performed different activities in the house male do only hard worked seasonal work and they are free in other times.

They had to clean the cowshed always and feed their all cattle in time to time. They had to collect grass from grassland even from distance. Not only this they had to cook for their family and clean utensils always. They had to feed baby child as well as take care over children as well as aged family members.

It is necessary in equity consideration in share of household activities. They seemed busy always and no spare time to think and participate in social activities all household activities should be done by only female candidates. It is very narrow concept, if believe it and do not see democratically women will not uplift their status. It is the cause to have low level of education in female group.

5.2 Family's Sources of Income of Women Representatives

Among 16 women representatives, agriculture is the main occupation of more families. Almost, all had agriculture land and did cultivation. Besides agriculture activities their family member used to do business and services. They are army, policeman, teachers, civil service persons etc. Their sons were reading in higher level and some were in foreign countries for employment.

But all of the family had lower level job. The family who had job beside agriculture felt comfortable to run the family clearly understands that agriculture was very difficult to live by agriculture only. Some told that their production was not sufficient as their requirement.

All the candidates indicated that if they had cattle they could earn the hand cash by selling ghee and goat and goat meat had high price in the market. Poultry was very attractive source of income.

5.3 Women's Engagement in Different Agricultural Activities

Nepal is agricultural country; about 80 percent people are engaged in agriculture. Almost all activities are carried by women. Women dig the land and plant the different food crops. They weed out from the land. Almost all activities were done by women. Men only plough the field and

remaining all activities were done by women. Sometimes women had to go market to buy and sell their agricultural products.

Women are busy from morning to evening in all seasons in agriculture activities. They had to perform all activities from plantation to harvesting in agriculture. They are like manual machine in household activities to agricultural activities.

5.4 Women's Involvement in Social Activities

Women's involvement in household activities and agricultural activities is very high but there is very low involvement in social activities. Following traditional belief and impractical social norms and values women were remained in house only. They are always busy in house only and do not dare to go outside. Even male do not like women's outing. In every social activity there is very low participation of women. It makes them weak as well as access less to utilize their knowledge for creating an egalitarian society.

In our society even in women related problems women do not participate rather than male participate and decide the issues of women. It is very much gloomy side of society. There is emphasis on son rather than daughter. There is good provision of education, nutrition fulfillment to son but low for daughter. Society laughs at women's voice and undermines their attitudes. Women have fear and in priority complex in front of male. It is very much sorrow side of women's development. They should participate in every nook and corner of social activities. If men and women are the two wheels of a same cart, there is urgent need of women involvement in social activities. Putting the last first is tool for making harmonic society. Our cultural beliefs that are unscientific should follow women empowerments.

5.5 Marital Status of Women Representatives

In the study area, 16 respondents of women representatives were married. we can conclude that all participant of women were married. Generally, all women were jointly stayed with their husband. According to research male were family need for all women representatives.

5.6 Financial Mobilization of Women Representatives

To run family there is necessary for loan. Almost candidates take the amount of loan from local agent. They directly do not ask money but their husband take loan in high interest. Basically agricultural development bank, commercial banks, and local landlords provides loan for them. Among 16 respondents only 7 women representative had not need of loan. Their families have no knowledge about how to take the loan from the different types of bank.

CHAPTER VI

VARIOUS CONSTRAINTS AND PROBLEMS FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

Considering women as equal counter part of male, different awareness group of civil society have involved in different types of awareness and conscious program for the access of women in planning and decision making but in practical women are static in rural areas. Women have exercised the value of democracy and freedom in western countries but in Nepal women are shrinking their interest. There are innumerable causes that lead to women to be underdeveloped. I had asked some questions for discussion in the study areas, which are elaborated in the following topics.

6.1 Social Values and Norms

Historically, our society is so traditional that it leads women to be backwardness stage. In the name of religion women are always suppressed by male our society is so traditional that it is due to our Hindu Philosophy. In Hindu philosophy women are shown as conspiracy character as well as unbelievable character. It is weakness of philosophy so our society is guided by it. We should not believe it. Societal values and norms are not modern and democratic. We should overthrow such blind beliefs women should not keep only in house. They should come out as male in every social activity. Otherwise women will not be developed. Higher the social activities higher level political participation.

6.2 Inferior in Family Level

Even today in Nepali society we clearly identify gap between son and daughter. Assumption of keeping the son a little bit higher than daughter is still prevalent in our society that is our culture. Daughter has so involved in all household activities. Society has blindly indicated works only for daughter which makes them busy killing brevity and creativeness. They perform any moderate activates. It is the most cause to be women backward than male. So, it should be reversed from infant level so that women may stand themselves.

6.3 Dogmatic View of Male

A irresponsible agreement which prevail in our society is that women are incapable to perform and bear high responsibility in the society. Built in reality which is just a creation to suppressed those capable women. It is unjust and unfair thinking. In the real sense. If women get opportunity, they can easily perform any kind of task easily so it is needed to replace such type of our narrow view. Without proper ratio of women's development half of sphere of society will remain in undeveloped stage. That may brings social disequilibrium and uncertainty in future.

6.4 Education

Education is the backbone of any kind of development either that is software or hardware it does not matter. Everybody needs education either male or female but our society gives priority for male rather than female which is not appropriate in this context. Due to lack of education women are falling behind. If there were proper education to all women, all blind beliefs would disappear from the

society. Education gives insight and techniques to all people. So there should not be discrimination in schooling activities. Education widens the horizon of individuals and sharpen the thinking so that quality leadership emerge in women.

6.5 Lack of Sharing Household Activities by Male

The main problems which are bearing by particularly household women is that they can not get help from their male in household activities. So they are always busy on their household work. These activities should be done equally by male also, when get spare time, instead of they keep interest in social activities rather than in household activities. I think there is no work which only female has to do.

6.6 Deprive in social Activities

It is the society which comes in between the women and their progress. The societ never permit women to come in front line of social activities. To be the passive is common and good feature for women according to our unjust eyes of society. Almost women remain in house only and perform only and perform only limited works. They have no access to participate in other social activities. They should come out at every feast, festivals and ritual activities as well as other community works. This is very learning base for them they should participate in each and every work of society. Not only this they should show their endeavor in male's activities which gives them courage and new insights in their feelings.

6.7 Lack of Leadership Role

Leadership is not out outcome of recent activities it is a kind of learning process. So we should not neglect that women have no capacity

for the leadership. It should be developed by given opportunities on them. Whatever community works are done, they should bring in leadership level. Leadership role bring them decision making techniques. When, they are in decision making level they can handle every activity qualitatively.

6.8 Need Political Awareness Training

Politics is a fundamental factor for the development so it is necessary to gain the knowledge about politics for both women and man. But unfortunately, we claim that it is not necessary for women to interest on politics. That is not good idea to develop the whole society by inclusiveness and participation.

Now a days politics in fact is known as dirty game due to unhealthy political culture among leaders and parties. It should be reversed by initiating literate people in politics. Politics is the supreme dimension because every appropriate policy can be brought legalized by politics only. Politics invisible tool that provides unthinkable should be deserved and desired by vision person.

Although, we have many sources and opportunities to develop our country. But we Nepali people in age of 21st century of science and technology are deprived of many things. There are many causes behind this among them lack of political consciousness, non responsible politics and weak level of political implementation are main. Every anti social activity can be controlled by politics only. So politics should highly respected by running highly respected persons politics should not remain far away from people but it should be on the heart and mind of the

people . It should address the ever citizens problem and leads to them on national prosperity through the integrated and equal way. It should be centered among people without any kind of biasness and disparity people short coming should be addressed by politics.

So political awareness and consciousness is necessary to bring the women in national mainstream. Until and unless women themselves participate activity in politics there is chances of national development. Women who are covering more than 50 percent of the population, they should be 50 percent representation in each and every activities of the state.

CHAPTER VII

MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Major Findings

This study analyses women's participation in local politics, particularly in municipality level and more focused on women's representation in the municipality and their role in municipality level program. The study was mainly based on the primary data collected at Rajbiraj municipality. Besides some secondary data and information were also referred wherever felt necessary.

Most of female representatives do not have political background. They contested the election on the guidance and instruction of the party workers and male members in the family. It means the decisions are being made by the males on behalf of female. This also discloses that the female representatives in the municipality are just to fulfill the mandatory quota. As female representation in the municipality council is nil beyond the reservation seat, their voices are thin and normally not heard. Female representatives in the municipality are totally neglected while designing program or in the whole project cycle. They even do not know how the programs are designed and budget is allocated. The very remarkable change is the reservation of ten seats for the female that has been considered as a milestone in female participation in politics, the municipality, however, it seems like token support just to fulfill the quota that is mandatory.

The major findings of the study are as follows

1. Education is one of the major problems of women representatives. They have to sign on the paper without knowing any thing. Uneducated people can not find their perspective and role in society. Education provides guidelines in every activity. Uneducated people are run by other's direction which is not beneficiary for social as well as organization development. They are just vote banks for the politicians.
2. Most of the female representatives have not political background so they just come from the pressure of the leaders or family on their personal interest.
3. The number of the female in municipality is just on quota seat which shows that their active participation is less, through that causes their voice are thin and are normally not heard of.
4. Although female have participate in municipal council but their voice are neglected at the time of policy making and program implementation.
5. Women give larger amount of time in agriculture and other domestic works and get less or no for participation in meeting and other social activities.
6. Party and the municipality lack training for the female members to empower them. This has caused lower participation of the female representatives in development works.
7. Participatory practices were not applied during programs

planning, this has caused wrong prioritization of program and very often programs are designed focusing the area where the party followers/ workers are located in rather than focusing on targeted people.

8. Political parties or district development committee lack program to aware the municipality representatives on their role and responsibilities. As a result majorities of the members in the municipal council are confused or do not know about their role and responsibility.
9. Meeting are being conducted in simple majority. Their participation in the meeting is very low and majority of the member in the municipal council are not even aware on how many meeting are exactly conducted in the municipality in a month.
10. Municipality representatives belonging to a party, which is minority are often discriminated by the majority group. This has brought frustration among the representatives under minority. Consequently, they perform less participation in the meeting and other activities.
11. Gender discrimination is another prevalent characteristics of municipality governance system in our society. We follow out dated customs and systems. We have no modern approach and scientific method to analyze the social development. Our religion and culture has made women as inferior character which is lower value than son.
12. There is lack o confidence in women. Women have no strong

will in any activities. They have fear and terror in mind. It is due to undermined of male.

13. The local self government Act 2055 has made minimum one women from each ward but has not mentioned about attending meeting in each municipal meeting. It seems just quota fulfilling of women representatives. Women have to participate in every

implementation, monitoring and evaluation level, program but there is no such types of activities.

7.2 Conclusions

The study clearly shows that women's representation in local politics especially in municipality level has increased because of the reservation. However, their role in municipality level program is negligible. Their representation beyond reservation seat is quite minimal. They are confined into household activities that have prevented women from participation in meeting and sharing.

The study found that almost candidates were uneducated and the role in political activities was just fulfilling not as active candidate performance. It was involved by local self-government act 2055. Women's participation is mostly taken as living symbol of the parties who act according to the leaders in most cases they are ignored while designing the programs. They even do not know how the programs are prioritized and municipality fund is distributed. The female representative in the municipality are not being able to incorporate programs while making municipality level planning focusing on the real need of the people. They are just called in municipality assembly to pass the program in favour of the elites in the municipality body.

Education, women empowerment and respect toward women from all sides of society can create, better leadership quality in women. Nevertheless gender discrimination prevails in our society women status can not reach as male. Ignoring the level of participation of women in local bodies there is no chance of real development.

7.3 Recommendations

This study clearly shows that in order to make the women politically conscious and to motivate them to participate in the political mainstream of the nation, they need to be encouraged by their families by their husbands, sons and daughters to participate in political activities. They also need to be expose to the income generation activities to make them self- dependent. They need to be given education so that they become politically conscious and their responsibility as well.

The role of the government as well as the political parties to empower the women will be immensely important if they really want to do so. The political parties should pay attention and bring program to build the capacity of the municipality representative so the desire level of participation will be possible in real sense. Political parties should bring programs to aware people to increase female representation in the municipality. They should also arrange relevant training for the representatives for meaningful participation. Municipality should implant ward level programs through female representatives that will help to build confidence of women representatives. Municipality, District Development Committee (DDC) and political parties should design and implement the participatory program planning monitoring and evaluation training for the municipality representatives. Women's representation in

municipality has increased women's awareness on political issues, although their capacities for meaningful participation need to be developed. Political parties should select the candidates based on their capacity rather than just fulfill the quotas political parties, municipality. DDC should bring the program that can uplift the capacity of municipality representatives, especially of women.

According to different opinion and findings of the research some major recommendations are presented categorically in below:

7.3.1 Economic Development

The main hindrance for women to participate in politics is their dependency on male. There is the condition of lower the economic condition of women lower the rate of their participation and higher the economic level of women higher their participation. So there is the cause and effect relationship between economic situation of women and their participation on politics. So it is necessary to create self dependency on women for their active participation in politics. Development brings enlargement in choice. Human being feel easy and comfortable like. It gives happiness and freedom to each individual. It gives liberty as well as feeling of self steem, without economic development there is not possible of progressive society. It may be vice versa. Economic prosperity bring sensitivity to acMeve something. In Nepal, mostly in rural areas there is low rate of ecoiomic development. They are living in subsistence level of economic development, whereas women have heavy duty towards family. Women are marginalized than, how is it possible of strong leadership in political activities.

7.3.2 Eradicate Gender Discrimination

Traditionally, our society biasness towards male. Every activities of society promotes the behaviour of the male rather than female. Although female are capable but priority always given to the male. It is the most and first obstacle in our society sexually men and women are two different human kind but gender they are alike. Women can do every activity as male can but in our society there is discrimination between male and female. Our societal cultural and religions, norms and values are unscientific. Religion has standard to women as flexible, unbelievable conspiracy and weak person in society. Society has divided the activities to male and female which are very much unscientific. This concept should be abolished. Every activity should be done by male and female equally.

7.3.3 Property Ownership

Generally in our Nepalese society the wealth of family is owned by male members of the family either in the name of son, father or father in law. Female have no access to get property early. Although the state provisioned some system and law for the women but that is not sufficient to equal distribution of wealth to women in one side. Another side, such types of law and system is not strictly follow in our society. There are many terms and conditions to have property rights. There should be easiness as male so that they feel and utilize as their own interest. It gives them freedom. They should not compromise with male. Access on wealth of women is inevitable condition for the prosperity and status building of women.

7.3.4 Provision of Good Education

Education is the window which medium pears all over the world until and unless we can not develop our educational status, literacy rate

there is no chance of development. Lack of consciousness brings unknowing that leads to under development. Those are interrelated terms to each other. So to improve the women status in society we should change their mind through education. Education provides them sensitivity, knowledge and information which helps them to come in the mainstream of development activities.

Education gives knowledge and creativity. It widens the horizon of thinking and rights of individual, in Nepal there is discrimination to provide education between male and female. Sons are mainly prioritized and educated whereas daughters are deprived of education. Although today females are also going to school but they dropped out of education at the primary level. That kind of primary education is not sufficient to bring women in the mainstream of every aspect of society. Sub-literacy does not make women powerful. There is a necessity for higher level education for empowerment of women. Only educated women know the right in every social activity.

7.3.5 Scientific Outlook

Our society is very traditional. We believe in non-existent principles and beliefs. It does not make us progressive rather makes regressive our cultural practices are development resistance. So we should forget such practices. In every activity we should give majority to the women. This is the era of science and technology so we should empower women in this sector too. They should be provided the knowledge related to science and technology.

7.3.6 Egalitarian Social Activities

Generally, either in household activities or social activities we could not participate the women in decision making. So we can not address properly the problems of women. Now, we can realize that, without double hand clapping is impossible. So there is necessary involvement of both man and woman in decision making to benefit sharing from household level. There is necessary of women in every institution of every, organization. But there is very low level of women participation in decision making level. They should represent in every aspect of state such as in administrative level, ministry level as well as root level of social activities.

7.3.7 Empowerment

From the history women were suppressed by the exploitation of male in society. So due to such type of suppression women could not raise their head freely in our society. Due to the various obstacles women can not compete with male at present situation. So the government should be empowered them by reserving quota and proper specialize training. But it should be only for certain time. When they are compete with man and build the capacity as like male there is not necessary of such type of reserving system.

7.3.8 Respect Women's Voice

In our society, female are known as second grade citizen. Their voice have not play any effective role in society so we should address such type of discrimination properly. Male think that female have no power and logic in their opinions. Their voice is not considered valuable. This type of dominance ultimately brings violence so as far as possible we should recurrent our thinking and equally give priority to the female voice. Then only our society will be prosperous and integrated.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Name : Age:
Caste/Ethnicity: Religion:
Education : VDC/Ward No. :
Marital Status : Position :

Political Analysis

1. What made you to involve in politics?
a) Family/ friends (b) Leader (c) Self interst (d) Other
2. In which party are you related?
a) CPN-UML (b) NC (c) RPP (d) NSP (e) Other
3. What made you to involve in this party?
a) Leader (b) Family/friend (c) party manifesto (d) Other
4. have you ever elected before in elections?
a) yes (b) No
5. Does your family support you for the participation in politics?
a) Yes (b) No
6. What are the reasons behind the lower participation of women in politics?
a) Male dominate (b) Social dogmas (c) Other
7. Who is participate more in political activities of women in politics?
a) Your husband (b) Father (c) Father in low (d) You (e) Other
8. Did you raise women's issue after elected ?
a) Yes (b) No
9. If yes what are those?
(a)..... (b).....
(c) (d)
10. How many time did you attend the meeting after election?
.....
11. Did you feel any change after elected?
(a) Yes (b) No
12. what are the various constraints for the lower level of political participation of women?

- (a) Economic backwardness (b) Lack of consciousness
(c) Family problem

13. Due to economically dependent they are politically inactive, do you agree with the statement?

Socio Economic

1. What is your occupation?
(a) Agriculture (b) Business (c) Social services
2. What is primary source of income of your family?
3. Are you economically dependent on family?
a) Yes (b) No
4. Do you make any direct contribution to your household income?
a) Yes (c) No
5. If yes occupation is agriculture, does it fulfill your need?
a) Yes (c) No
6. If agriculture doesn't fulfill your need, where do you bring loan from?
a) Money lenders (b) Banks
7. Do you have government job?
a) Yes (b) No
8. Who takes parts in social activities?
a) You (b) Your husband (c) Father (d) Father in law (e) Other
9. Who are more education in your family?
a) Males (b) Females (c) Equal
10. Do you participate in community activities?
a) Yes (b) No
11. What is your family head in your family?