

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

Nepal is generally male dominated country where men have higher status than women. Women are discriminated in various fields even though recently countries laws are activated. Women have low economic status as well as low decision making power. Women have to bear three responsibilities as household, reproductive, and productive economic activities. However, their household roles are not considered as productive works (Singh, 2004:1).

In Nepal women comprise more than 50 percent of total population (CBS 2003) but only 42.4 percent females are literate (CBS 2001). Women are heavily engaged in domestic chores along with the socio economic activities. They have major role in household management and they have to do more than 50 percent of household work but they have low decision making power. Even with their male counterpart. They are discriminated since their childhood. In childhood they have to live under their parents in adulthood, they should follow their husband and in old they are under children. They have no liberty to decide freely even their own (singh, 2004).

The status of Nepali women has been deeply affected by various religious belief, traditional costume, social norms and value. According to Nepali belief birth of girl is the birth of bad luck. If a boy is born the family rejoices but if a girl is born the family laments. There is the general belief that is a man is not blessed with a son, the door to the heaven will not be open to him. There is saying that "*Let it takes time but let a son born*" (Ghimire 2009).

At the United Nation International women's year conference in Mexico city in 1975, the significance of women participation in achieving the nations and socio-economic objectives was first articulated since then, the issue on women were taken as considerable importance around the world. A decade from 1975

to 1985 was observed -as United Nation, decade for women, the issues regularly were stressed in national and international conference. Likewise Nairobi conference (1985) and Beijing conference (1995) is also great landmark for women for realizing them from household confinement and allowing the right of franchise. Nepali women's participation programs are also affected by these phenomenons. Today national and international agencies have agreed in a quest of women participation not only to solve the problem of equity but also for national and international progress (Pandey, 2005:4).

Women play a key role in the development of a nation. In the past, women were treated as secondary citizens in most of the countries. This perception is still prevailing in many developing countries like Nepal. But in recent years people have started realizing the justification of women's participation in the economic and social development. So it would not be out of context to accept the socio-economic status of women as a variable of development. In many developed countries men and women are considered as two wheels of a cart. Recent changes in the world for women have imposed a positive effect in society due to the long-term attempt made by the national and international women organizations and the supporters of the feminist movement (Pandey,2004).

Very few women are involving in main stream of development and vary few women are also in service sectors. There are very few women in policy making levels. More than 70 percent females are involving in agriculture sector. Only few percent females are in service. Recently, only one women is nominated as a member of National Planning Commission (NPC Report, 2004).

According to Acharya & Bennett Nepalese women are not only silent workers who take direction from men. Their marginal role agriculture production also appears to be commensurate with the level of their labour input. According to Acharya "confinement the inside domestic sphere does reduce women's status

measured by her input into the most important category of decision while access to the outside increase it"

In the development of a nation the women play vital role. In male dominated country like ours female are considered of low standard and of less value. But in recent years people have started realizing the importance of women's participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio-economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Men and women have now started participating on equal footing development activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "*muscles with the nail of the finger*". This mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic changes in the socio economic status of a nations (Bhusal, 2004).

In connection to the above view greater confinement of the women to the household, implies higher fertility rates, low decision of family planning such a demographic phenomenon further implies low economic participation among these women and consequently a low status attached to them. Again conventional social norms and beliefs trend to diminish the overall status of women both within an outside the household. The general belief is that women belong to domestic sector which releases little time off from there overwhelming work load for any kind of productive economic participation.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Nepalese women are under pressure in term of their socio –economic standard compared to their mail counter –parts particularly in the village. However the ‘Universal Declaration Of Human Right ‘ has crossed half along century along with the global call for gender equity . Nepalese women who constitute more than half of the population are still confined within their houses. It can be guessed if it is observed the life expectancy at birth is 60.1 years for men while it is 61.7 years for women.

The world is in 21st century and at the same time; it is shrinking into a global village. People are participating in the process of development globally. There is no national as well as international boundary in term of development. But Nepal is in a country where darkness is prevailing under the light. There exist bundles of problem which are discouraging people more forward with freedom. Women's participation in equality, development and peace. Women constitute about 50% of the total population of Nepal but yet their participation in the various level of decision making is negligible (Ghimire, 2001).

Women in Nepal contribute 50 percent of the household income and work 10.73 hours as against 7.51 hours for men (CEDA, 1981). They engaged more in household chores but they have no decision marketing opportunities. They have to work according to *other* order. The role of women as manager of the women is hardly considered. The freedom of female within the household sphere is restricted. There is gender bias in terms of decision marketing. Female have to work more but they have less chance to decide (Singh, 2004:3).

It will help to make significant improvement in households, in society and in nation. Therefore, policies and programs should be formulated to address the women's issues and should be implemented with proper way. Programs should be beneficial for needy and targeted people and enhance the capabilities and potentialities of women to enable them to be in the mainstream of social improvement and nation development with their productive capacities of significant and effective decision making. Improvement in decision making power of female will play the vital role to make society developed and address the problem of social injustice. The present study has attempted the following question related with researcher's subject.

- J What are the social and economic livelihood strategies of the household women in the study area?

-) How is their present condition of women involvement of women in decision making process at household level?
-) What changes have taken place in the social and economic aspect at household level of women?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The General objective of this study is to analyze the role of women's at household level. The specific objectives are as follows;

- To analyze the socio- economic status of women in Galyang Village of Malma VDC.
- To analyze the role of women in decision making process at household level.

1.4 Significance of the study

This study is significant to all the concerned stakeholders. It has attempted to visualize the real picture of study area in terms of socio-economic status as well as personal affairs of women of the village greater extent. Gender discriminating perceivers will be discouraged by the proper implementation of the related strategies designed. The planners in gender issues of the districts of Baglung also will be careful and unbiased if this study is looked. Blind believers, evil societies, male dominated groups and the like will be frustrated and disappointed after the proper implementation of the study's recommendations'.

This study has attempted to reflect the women's status in terms of decision making power inside the household. Furthermore this story will have the important to find out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio- economic status and their decisions making roles.

This study will be very useful for those individuals and institutions, who are interested to know the women's decision making power it will be useful even

for planners , policy makers, NGO/INGOs and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies, plans and programs for cussing the issue of women mainly in decision making sector. It may be helpful for the research students and the personnel interested in gender studies. Appropriate policies and programs implemented by government and non-government agencies will be helpful for the empowerments and development of women.

1.5 Limitation of this study

This study has following limitation-

1. This study will cover only decision making process specially in household level of Glayang village.
2. This study has determined the status of women in terms of household decision making autonomy specializing on income autonomy of Glayang village of Baglung.
3. Limited methodological tools like questionnaire, interview are used in data collection. Similarly, only charts, tables and figures will be used to present the data and the analysis of data will be done using simple statistical techniques like percentage, mean, ratio and proportion.
4. This study will be based on the sample data collection of Malma VDC only. Thus, this finding may not be generalized for whole women of nation. Only selected demographic and socio-economic variables will be considered to household women.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

The majority of women on Nepal live in rural areas . Rural women, as else where play multiple roles. In the domestic sphere they are household managers mothers and wives; in community they maintain social and cultural services . predominantly on a boundary basis and in economy, if they ate not formally engaged as employees of entrepreneurs; they are active in family businesses and farms. But they have to low access to income, wealth and employment, which are the main causes of their low economic status . it directly and indirectly affects their decision making power .(Singh,2004;7)

A number of significant studies have been done on women participation. It is because men alone can't accelerate the pace of development unless women are given proper role in society. Acharya and Bennett have conducted an number of studies relating to women status in Nepal. Firstly , the rural women of Nepal has revealed the time allocation pattern of man and women at household level , where women perform almost all kinds of agricultural activities and their daily labour input is 9 hours against 5 hours for men . but the degree of involvement varies considerably across ethnic groups and social classes . women ate greatly involved in farming as well as in household chores. But, their input in decision-making in the household level is very low . (Acharya and Bennett, 1981)

The economic demographic and social factors are found as the most important factor which directly or indirectly affect the decision making process. Women involvement in the market economy lends them greater power in terms of household decision making in important matters. This can be attributed to the contribution of women towards the household income. On the other hand confinement of women to the domestic and subsistence sector automatically implies a low status conferred to them terms of decision making powers (Bhusal, 2004:3)

For Nepalese women, independent decision-making is highly restricted. Lack of decision making power has deprived women of the basic elements of a decent life such as food and nutrition, education, skill development, health, and family planning. This has ultimately undermined their access to gainful employment opportunities and participation in professional jobs. (UN 2004).women have very low participation is in decision making process . 70 percent of household related and external decisions are entirely made by male member of house (Acharya 1995).

Acharya and Bennett (1981) have conducted a study which reported 90 percent of rural woman had never attended village meeting, 31 percent never voted , 53 percent voted only once or twice and only 10 percent had vote regularly in the election . And the central Bureau of statistics (1981) reported that forty eight percent of women were economically active which the corresponding figure for men was 83 percent.

According to Acharya and Bennett (1983), food processing labour create approximately 13 percent of entire household income and some time every more. And, women in Nepal are more involved in domestic work then me. The average adult women spends 4.04 hours a day in cooking cleaning , doing laundry, child caring and the like while men spends 0.80 hours a day in household maintenance activities . The activities done woman in common household are watering , fuel collecting , cooking gardening food processing and child caring and the like that are taken as prime responsibilities of them. Women in rural areas are more economically active than in urban areas. About 96 percent of active women are engaged in agriculture.

According to Acharya and Bennett women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. a women have a greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision

making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the file of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women. Acharya, Bennett,(1983) has highlighted that women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The decision making data shows women's major role in agricultural production both as laborers and managers of the production process.

Pyakurel and Thakure's survey is an important source which shows that soon as a male is born it generates position expectations. He has certain stereotype role waiting for him when he reaches adulthood in Nepalese society, social status of women is always thought to be subordinate to men children and restricts them from the domain of traditional male activities. (P and T,1998)

Women are more apt to say that their husbands make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands of those they have made decision alone . women have simply nodding approved of accepting their husband's decisions without questioning does not mean that they make a decision. The idea is that women express disagreement because they have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinion (Sthiri shakti : 1995).

Acharya (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performed under national and international activities involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention of such things as making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies. To provides similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance right , family rights and all over legal rights involving the educated women in office and involving them into seminar and symposia from time to time.

More than 86 percent of women and 61 percent of men were married before they were 25 years of age. Mean age of marriage nevertheless has been increase steadily since 1961, for women it increased from. 15.4 years in 1961 to 18 years in 1991. The change is most pronounced among young girls between 18-24 years. In 1961, almost 25 percent of girls in this group were already married. In 1991, only 7.4 percent of regional perspective a higher proposition of female are married of an earlier age in the Terai than in the hills and mountain. The eastern development region is socially most advanced with mean age of marriage of 19.2 years and for western development region least advanced with 19.9 years (CBS, 1995)

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Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape and culture worldview and governed in dividend self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position (Shtrii Shakti, 1995).

The same study of Acharya and Bennett highlighted another interesting pattern, the different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities, which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the households. Women from Hindu communities have greater concentration in domestic and subsistence production. Women from Tibeto-Burman groups have concentration in market activities. This implies 'women in the more orthodox Hindu communities who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display much less significant role in major household economic decision than those in the Tibet-Burman communities where women participate actively in the market economy. (Singh, 2004)

Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideas getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary (Acharya, 1997).

Women in Nepal as elsewhere hold the triple work. However reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making (UNDP, 1995)

The role of women in various farming activities is crucial not only because of the number engaged but also because of the variety of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, fruits and live-stock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of the nation, but all these workers by women are considered voluntary (Bhusal, 2004)

According to Acharya and Bennett aggregate data on the distribution of decision making responsibility between the sexes for certain important steps

are the agriculture production process. Nepalese women are not just silent workers who take direction from men. On the contrary their managerial role in agriculture production appears to be commensurate with the labour input into sphere II. The area covered for decision making are farm management resource allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male female input into the farm management decisions. In Rai, Gurung, Maithili communities the decision making of women is high compared to Parbatiya and Newar community. Newar and Parbatiya shows equal decision making power in farm management. In Baragaunle community the women's labour input is lower than men's in farming.

Acharya and Bennet have singled out "decision making from multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamics of sexual stratification within the households they developed their model from the study of 8 different village communities for the status of women in Nepal". In the study of village women were conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities.

- a. Household domestic work.
- b. Agricultural production activities
- c. Local market economy and shorter migration to employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

So, if the nation wants to gain something from women, their first duty should be given equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc. and control of family by the use of family planning measures and drastic change will come in the nation automatically in every field like economic development, status of women, women's decision making power etc.

Theoretical Framework

This study is related to women's involvement in household decision making process in Galyang at Malma VDC of Baglung district. This study has found out the actual situation of decision making process of women's in household level. Agrawal suggested that rural person's bargaining strength within the family vis-à-vis subsistence needs would depend on eight factors.

-) ownership of and control over assets , especially arable land ;
-) access to employment and other income earning means;
-) access to communal resources such as village commons and forest;
-) access to traditional social support systems such as of patronage, kinship, caste grouping, etc.;
-) support from NGOs;
-) support from the state ;
-) social perceptions about needs, contributions and other determinants of deservedness; and
-) social norms.

These factors would individual and interactively affect a person's ability to fulfill subsistence needs outside the family. The premise here is that the greater a person's ability to physically survive outside the family, the greater would be her / his bargaining power over substance within the family (although, as will be elaborated below, factors such as norms and perceptions also affect bargaining power independently of the fallback position). Inequalities among family members in respect these factors would place some members in a weaker bargaining position relative to others .Gender is one significant basis of such inequality.

Chapter- Three

Research methodology

3.1 Research location

This study is based on the role of women in household decision making process Glayang village Malma VDC of Baglung District. Baglung is a mountainous District of western development region. This village is located at the distance of 40 km west of Baglung Bazaar, the Headquarter of Baglung District.

3.2 Research design

This study has followed descriptive research design to meet the stated objectives. It has tried to explore and investigate the socio-economic and familial issues of the study area in terms of decision making process women. Descriptive investigation will be solved local problems and getting information.

3.3 Universe and Sampling

Total household is the unit for this study. Among total house hold in the VDC, only 53 households have sampled for the study because of the lack of time, resources, expert manpower and proper implication of the study. The draw the sample from whole population. Random sampling with the help of lottery method has followed after the preparation of total population list. There are 53 household have properly represent the characteristics of the universe.

3.4 Nature and Source of data

Both primary and secondary data have been used in this story. Required data have been collected with the help of primary source from the direct field visit, household survey, and interview, group discussion and observation secondary

data have been collected from the various types of relevant literature such as book journals articles and other publications of different government and non-government organization.

3.5 Data collection technique

a. Interview Schedule

Structured interview schedule have been used to collect information overall aspect of village, social economic and educational status. Which data have been collected from this tool? On the basis of schedule, interview has been performed with the head of sampled household to collect the reliable information so this research is based on household head and they were women. With the help of this technique, various information about the decision making of household women has been collected

b. Observation

Observation is one of the important technique to collect various of data at natural level. The researcher has gone along the whole household to observe the social economic condition and decision making at household level. Observation is a important to check the relevance of information provided by respondents.

3.6 Data presentation and Analysis

Collected data were processed. After processing the data some of the information was presented applying simple statistics such as tabulation, percentage and ratio.

Chapter Four

Social and economic characteristics of the women In Galyang village of Malma VDC

This chapter basically describes socio-economic status of the women in Galyang village . It also illustrates the role of married women in house decision making process especially in crops pattern land ownership children's education cast ethnic composition medical treatment purchasing household goods religion buying household things etc . Major social economic characteristics show general status of people.

4.1 To examine social characteristics of the respondents.

4.1.1 Literacy and education attainments

Education always plays important role in the all round development of the nation it is a crucial indicator of Civilization of society. Literacy means the ability to read and write .those who can read and write are called Literate. Education plays an important role in decision making process.

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision making process in the society. In the most of the cases, it can be seen that higher education status played dominant role in decision making field. Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher education background.

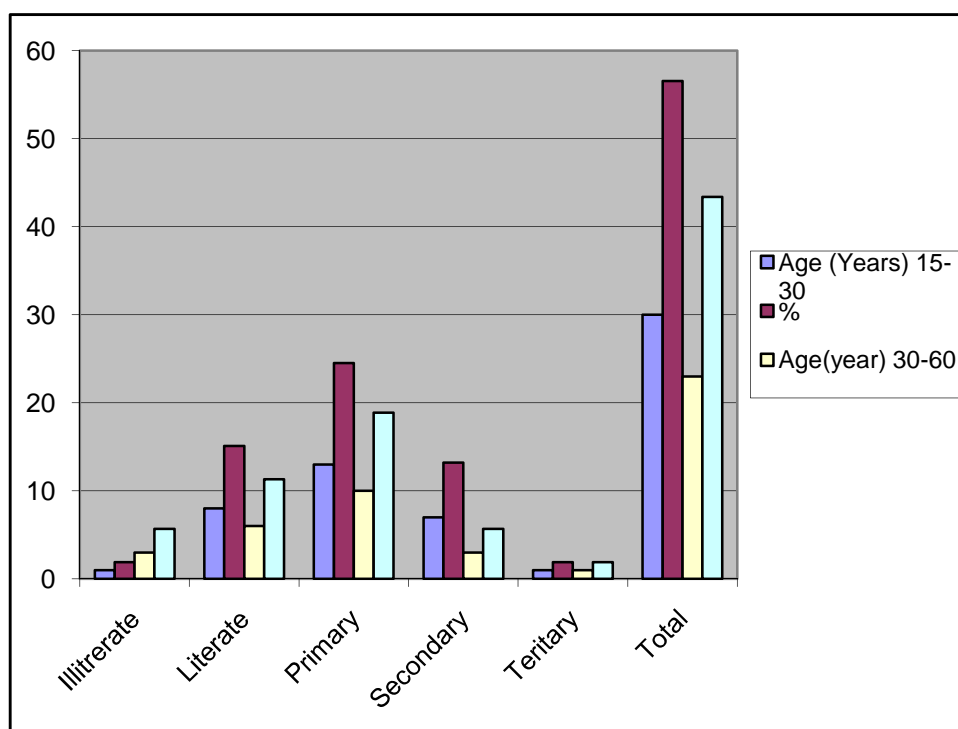
Table No.1:Literacy Status of the respondents

Education	Age(years)	%	Age(year)	%	Total	%
	15-30		30-60			
Illiterate	1	1.88	3	5.7	4	7.54
Literate	8	15.09	6	11.3	14	26.41
primary	13	24.59	10	18.9	23	43.39
secondary	7	13.20	3	5.7	10	18.86
Tertiary	1	1.88	1	1.88	2	3.77
Total	30		23		53	

In the above table, illiterate respondents are 7.54 percent and literate respondents are 26.41percent. Education development is going to increase. This table shows that primary level of education is 43.39 percent. Secondary level is 18.86percent and tertiary level is also 3.77 percent. It shows that educational activities should be held in that VDC.

Figure: 1

Educational Status of the Respondent



4.1.2 Cropping pattern

Agriculture is the subsistence activity of Nepal characterized by low productivity. Likewise agriculture is the main occupation of Galyang village of Malma vdc .the principal crop grow here is paddy (rice) wheat maize and mullet are also grown here . Besides various vegetable are also grown here. Land in Nepal is divided by two types' khet and Bari .khet is low land and having irrigation facilities where mostly main crops such as depends on the rain water in this area maize , millet, potato and other vegetables are grown .

4.1.3 Medical treatment

With the modernization medical science has developed lots of methods and medicine for treatment. However in underdeveloped countries like Nepal people are even depending upon the traditional method of for treatment of disease. In our country people have no easy access to modern medical facilities. But recently, the proportion of people are getting treatment with doctor due to increase in literacy are getting aware about their health.

A question was asked to the respondents that did they been to hospital for hospital for treatment. Among the respondents, number of 47 provided in positive answer while only number of 5 replied in negative answer.

Most of the respondents were consulting to doctor for their illness because they are conscious about their health and medical facilities sector. Each VDC is facilitated with sub-health post along with health personal. However still some respondents were not consulting doctor because of lock of money, Lack of awareness or any other reasons.

The following table shows protecting hospital treatment for sickness.

Table No 2: Distribution of Households by Medical Treatment

Hospital treatment	No of HHs	Percentage
yes	47	88.67
No	5	9.43
Total	53	100

Field survey 2010

4.1.4 Family Type

Family is a social institution and most important primary group in society. It is the simplest and most elementary form of society. It is the most basic of all social graphing. It is the first and most immediate social environments to which a child is exposed. It is an outstanding primary group, because, It is the family that the child develop its basic attitude. Further of all the groups that affect the lives of individuals in society none touches them too intimately of so scenes consciously as does the family. Form the moment of birth to the moment of death the family exerts a constant influent. The family is the first group in which we find ourselves. It provides for the most enduring relationships in one form of other.

There are two types of family based on number Nuclear family is a small group composed of husband and wife and immature children which constitutes a unit of the community. Joint family which is also known as undivided family normally consists of members who at least belong to three normally consists of members who at least belong to three generations such as husband and wife, their married and unmarried children and their married as well as unmarried grand children. The joint family system constituted the based social institution in many traditions. In Nepalese context this joint family system prevailed among the Hindus as well as non Hindus. The following table should family types in society.

Table No 3: Family Type

Family Type	Number	Percentage
Joint	23	43.39
Nuclear	30	56.60
Total	53	100

Field survey 2010

Table no 3 shows that out of 53 households, 23 are joint family which is 43.39 percentage and nuclear families have been found 30 out of 53 households which is 56.60 percentages. Among the 53 most of families are nuclear ,which are 30 (56.60 percentage).During survey period, it is known that in the past

these people used to live in joint family and some families were nuclear but today these joint families are changing to the nuclear families. High fertility and high reproduction was a major factor in the past. It was due to lack of knowledge about family planning, which leads to joint family . Again, the culture of practicing endogamy marriage, resulted early marriage and this lastly resulted to the more children and more family members. Low fertility helps in making family size smaller. But it is changing to nuclear family these days.

4.1.5 Marriage

Since the growth of human society, several forms of marriage also have been existing. According to social rules and regulations and their belief system, types and forms of marriage various widely. In Nepalese society monogamy, polyandry, polygamy are the main types of marriage. In this survey, the monogamy seems the most popular marriage.

Marriage is the single most important event in the life of men and women. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is compulsory for the all whether men or women. A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has no option but to get married. In Nepal majority of both men and women are married before 23 years of age. (Acharya, 1995) marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of people.

Table No 4: Distribution of respondents women by age at marriage.

Age	Number	Percentage of total
13	3	5.66
14	5	9.43
15	8	15.09
16	8	15.09
17	7	13.20
18	6	11.32
19	5	9.43
20	-	
21	4	7.54
22	4	7.54
23	3	5.66
Total	53	100

Field survey 2010

4.1.6 Cast and Ethnic Composition of study area

This study area is located in the Malma VDC of Baglung district particularly study is confined to word no 3 VDC. This study area reveals a marked diversity in the ethnic composition. This study reveals by the following caste and ethnic composition.

Table No 5: Caste and Ethnic Composition of Study Area

Caste	No.of Household	Percentage
Brahmin	40	75.47
Chhettri	8	15.09
Magar	5	9.44
Total	53	100

Field survey 2010

Out of the total respondents households the major faction of the sample household is from Brahmin ethnicity 75.47 percentage, chhetri 15.09 percentage, Magar 9.44 percentage.

4.1.7 Caste –wise Involvement in Household Decision Making

The caste system in Nepal, however has resulted in social discrimination and has create imbalance power structures and hierarchies in society. The social and economic gap between upper caste and lower caste people have been widening which directly or indirectly hindrances the decision making power of the women caste –wise household decision making is presented in the following table.

Table No.6 Caste –wise Household Decision Making

caste	Taking household decision	
	Yes	No
Brahmin	15	25
chhetri	3	5
magar	1	4
Total	19	34

Field survey 2010

The above table infers that high caste women were found less involved in household decision making than so-called lower caste women. Based on data we can scrutinize the result that higher caste family women seen to be more development on their husband than lower caste family women. Magar women were found more decisive than others.

4.1.8 Training

The study revealed that women from Galyang village are involved in different type of training like cutting/sewing, weaving bag, agriculture training. The following table shows the situation of training related to women aged group (16-60) in study area.

Table No 7: Type of Training

S.No.	Type of Training	No of women	Percentage
1.	Cutting/sewing	2	3.77

2.	Weaving	15	28.30
3.	Agricultural training	10	18.86
4.	No training	26	49.05

Field survey 2010

The table shows that 3.77 percent of the respondents were involved in sewing training and 18.86 percent of respondents were involved in agricultural training. In Galyang Village, project like Lutheran had launched programs to uplift the women's educational and economic status. 49.05 percent of training which shows that majority of the women in that village stalls remains out of the main stream of women development.

4.2 Economic characteristics of the Respondents

4.2.1 Occupation

Nepal is an agricultural country where of 5.53 percent of table population is engaged in agriculture based. Occupation (B.S. 2002). Occupational status of the respondents strong relationship have shown that people who have received higher educational attainment are enclosed mainly in servile and similar kind of business work.

Table No 8: Occupational status of the respondents

S.N.	Occupation	No. of respondent	Percentage
1.	Service	10	18.86
2.	Agriculture	30	56.60
3.	Business	5	9.43
4.	wage	8	15.09
Total		53	100

Field survey 2010

4.2.2 Land ownership Pattern

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percentage people dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture

and it measures the economic status of people. The trend of land ownership in Nepal is in favour of husband. The pattern of land ownership is presented in the following table.

Table No 9: Land ownership pattern

S. No.	Response	No of HHs women	Percentage
1	yes	20	37.73
2.	No	33	62.26
	Total	53	100

Field survey 2010

From this table we come to know the trend of land ownership in Galyang Village is in favour of husband and study revealed that 37.73 of the respondents had a piece of land in their own name. But 62.26% respondents had no land in their own name. Therefore it is clear that the most of the women have no land their own name.

4.2.3 Source of income

Food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs for man in addition to these basic needs he has other various kinds of needs such as education health e.t.c. the fulfils those various needs through the different sources.

Agriculture is the only one source which fulfils the various types of needs including to the basic needs. Out of total 81 percent persons in Nepal are involved in agriculture. Similarly, the two are engaged in agriculture. Through most of the people have their own land; they also work on other's land. They cultivate such rented land sharecropping giving half by the product of the land owner.

Table No 10: Main income sources of respondents

S.NO.	occupation	No of HHS	percentage
1	Agriculture and lives stock	30	56.60

	farming		
2	Daily wage labour	10	18.86
3	Business	13	24.52
Total		53	100

Field survey 2010

Above table shows the various alternative ways of fulfilling the daily financial problems. This table shows 10 households practice daily wage-labour. Out of 53, only 30 households in the study area, practice agriculture along with animal husbandry, livestock as their only sources of income. From field survey, found only 18.86 percent HHs engaged in daily wage labour and 24.52 percent engaged in Business.

4.2.4 Family planning

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem of present in most the developing countries. Rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of life as well as environment.

The family planning is getting popular recently to maintain the small family people don't like to create burden having large family, so they are attracted toward family Planning. Family Planning is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of being of people. In developing countries, the food production is low and there is lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 39% in Nepal (MDHs 2001)

Table No 11: Distribution of respondents by knowledge of family planning

S.N.	Knowledge of FP	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	30	56.60

2.	No	10	18.86
3.	Not sated	13	24.52
Total		53	100

Field survey 2010

The question had asked to the responds regarding the knowledge about family planning of the total 56.60percentage respondents gave in positive answer and 18.86percent in negative answer while 24.52percent respondents did not reply. Either they hesitated to talk about family planning or they did not hear about family. So they can not react about it. The table shows the knowledge about family planning of respondents most of the respondents 56.60percentage have knowledge about family planning methods and they have heard either about temporary or permanent method.

4.2.5 Method of Family Planning

There are mainly two types of FP methods: percents and temporary. The temporary method consists devices of contraceptives. Among the 53 respondents two had knowledge about FP, 56.60 percent respondents had used FP.

Table No 12: Distribution of FP Users by Method

FP Methods	Male	Female	Total
Temporary	26	5	31
Permanent	15	7	22
Total	41	12	53

Among then majority are males and only 12 are female. Out of the 41males 26 had used temporary method while only 5female had practiced permanent method. condom was found popular among the males. Similarly injection was being practiced by the females. Out of the total FP users 41 are males and only 12 are females. Females have low contraceptive prevalence due to lack of knowledge about the family planning devices in the study area.

4.2.6 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most of the women are engaged in household chores and they spend more time for these activities than. Males played dominant role in decision on household expenditure. The following Table shows the situation of decision making in terms of household expenditure.

Table No 13: Decision on Household Expenditure

Decision makers	NO . of HHS
Husband	30
Wife	15
Both	8
Total	53

Source: Field survey,2010

Among the 53 sampled household 30 household's decisions on expenditure are made by male members. Only 15 household decisions are done by females whereas 8 household's decisions are made by both male and female members. It shows the low decision making power of females in household with regard to household with regard to household expenditure.

Chapter Five

Women in Decision making process

Decision has great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role in terms of people's participation in different activities. In Nepalese society, man has dominant role and female has to support.

This chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision making in different aspects of household as well as other activities. It reveals women's participation in decision making household's activities. Decision regarding to purchase household things cropping pattern, decision in children education, Buying household thing, cropping pattern, decision in children education, Buying household thing, Decision on treatment for sickness, Decision for family planning. The information included both male and female members of various households.

This is gender display in terms of decision making process. Important in women's decision making power minimize the gap between males /females status in the society. In many cases females are deprived in decision making process due to low educational and economic status in the society. However women play dominant role in decision in female headed households or in nuclear family. This reflects that women are also playing an important role in decision making process. The ability and capacity of females in decision making in affected by various factors as education, occupation, employment status etc.

In Nepal females perform both the productive and reproductive rules. Yet they are usually seen only in their latter roles. Besides these households chores are considered no work at all. In addition, it has been only recently that studies have been unclear taken which reflects women's productive roles. But women participation in decision making is very little.

5.1. Decision on purchasing household goods

It is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal roles and responsibilities. But males have dominance in decision making process and other social activities. Males along have greater contribution over the purchasing of household things and its consumption. The following table shows the decision on purchasing household things of males and females.

In this selection ratio.T.V.,furniture and utensils were categorized as household things. Almost all respondents had a radio in their home but only a few respondents owned television. Maximum number of women replied that they had mutually decided to be more by a television. But in the case of utensils women were found to be more decision than men .The responses from the respondents are shown in the table no.

Table 14 : Decision on Buying Household Things

	Male	percent	female	percent	Both	percent	Total
Radio	30	56.63	15	28.30	8	15.09	53
Television	5	9.46	2	3.78	8	15.09	53
Furniture	25	47.18	18	33.96	10	18.86	53
Utensils	10	18.86	30	56.63	13	24.52	53

Source: Household survey,2010

*Television (15 household have T.V.)

The above table shows , the decision of male and female and both of them on buying of household things. As shown in the table 56.63 percent of male, 28.30 percent of female and 15.09 percent of them made decision on purchasing radio. 9.46 percent of male, 3.78 percent of female and 15.09percent of both of them made decision to purchase television. Similarly, the decision to purchase furniture is made by 47.18 percent of male, 33.96 percent of female and 18.86percent both of male and female made decision to purchase furniture. Likewise 18.86 percent of male, 56.63 percent of female and 24.52 percent of both of male and female made decision to purchase utensils.

Therefore, as shown in the table , the decision to purchase radio , television, Furniture were found to have relatively more say of male. In the same way the decision to purchase utensils is made by women.

5.2 Decision on Education of the children

Parents have to take the responsibility of education of their children. Educated women may have more status in the household and have grater authority to speak openly with their husband about their children education. In the present study all the respondents were asked about who decides to take admission of their children to school, buy books uniforms and payment of fees. The responses are presented in table.

Table.15:Decision on education Education of the children

Particular	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Total
Books\Copies	30	56.60	15	28.30	8	15.09	53
Uniforms	15	28.30	32	60.37	6	11.32	53
Payments of fees	40	75.47	6	11.32	7	13.20	53
Selection of admission in school	20	37.73	18	33.96	15	28.30	53

Source: Household survey, 2010

The above table shows, the decision of males and females regarding education of the children. As shown above, 56.60 percent of male 28.30 percent of females and 15.09 percent of both of them made decision to buy books and copies for children. Similarly to buy their uniforms, the decision is made by 28.30 percent of male, 60.37 percent of female and 11.32 percent both of them. Likewise 75.47 percent of male 11.32 percent of female and 13.20 percent of both of them made decision to pay the fees of the children. 37.73 percent of male, 33.97 percent of female and 28.30 percent both of them decided regarding selection of the school regarding their children admission.

According to the table , it is clear that most of the decision regarding education of the children, purchase of the books and copies , payment of their fees and selection of the school for admission is made by males where as female made the decision regarding the uniform of their children.

5.3 Decision on buying of Food

In this topic agriculture product like pulse, rice, vegetables and milk were taken as major agriculture productions. Almost all respondent belong to the farming, they do buy some kind of agriculture products, thought all the respondents were living in the same area but they had different buying and selling capacity. Results are reproduced below:

Table 16: Decision on Buying of Food

Agricultural products	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	No necessity of buying	%
Rice	8	15.09	12	22.64	9	16.98	24	45.28
pulse	7	13.20	28	52.83	8	15.09	10	18.86
vegetables	3	5.66	7	13.20	1	1.88	42	79.24
Milk	5	9.43	6	11.32	2	3.77	40	75.47

Source: Household survey, 2010

The above table shows the decision made by males and females on buying of agriculture products. As shows in the table 15.09 percent of male and 22.64 percent of female and 16.98 percent of both of the made decision regarding purchase of rice. 13.20 percent of male and 52.83 percent of female and 15.09

percent both male and decision to purchase vegetables is made by 5.66 percent of male, 13.20percent of female and 1.88percent of both the male and female. Likewise, 9.43percent of male, 11.32percent of female and 3.77percent of both of them made decision to purchase milk.

Therefore, as shown I the table, the decision to purchase rice is mostly made by women. In the same way the decision to purchase other agricultural products like pulse, vegetables and, milk is also made by women.

5.4 Decision makers for the cropping pattern.

Table No 17: Decision making for the cropping pattern.

S.N.	Decision makers	No. of households	Percentage
1	Husband	20	37.73
2	wife	25	47.16
3	Jointly	7	13
	Total	53	100%

Field survey 2010

It is clearly evident that the wives of households have a greater input in the cropping pattern decision making process scaring 47.16 percent of total. The husband then follows with only 37.73 percentage husbands 7.54 percentage wives. The joint decisions of both the male and female members are 13 percentages.

5.5 Decision making in live-stock purchase

The study area belongs to village. In the village each family has this own livestock. Data had been collected with regard to livestock caring. Nepal is an agricultural country that mark than 80percentage people are depend upon agriculture and live stock farming.

Table No 18: Decision making in live-stock purchase

S.N.	Decision maker	Who first thought N. of H.S.	%	Who was consulted N. of 4 hrs	%	Final decision maker n. of HHS	%
1	Husband	23	43.39	20	37.73	18	33.96
2	Wife	25	47.16	26	49.05	20	37.73
5	Jointly	5		7	13.20	15	28.30
	Total	53	100%	53	100%	53	100%

Field survey 2010

In this table we see that 53 household involved in a recent livestock purchase. Both husband and wife of a household have participated in livestock purchase. Wives score the highest 49.05 as the person consulted and highest in giving laded as well as final decision makers for this percentage 37.73percentage. But the other female members score lower percent than the male members as the final decision makers in this matter.

5.6 Firewood collection

In study area only fire wood is used as the source of energy all the people used firewood fulfill their energy requirements. They collect it from Forest and Bari. More females are engaged rather than males to collect it. It can be seen by the following Table.

Table No 19: Decision making in firewood collection

S. No.	Who bring firewood	No. of HHs	Percentage
1.	Husband	15	29.41
2.	Wife	28	54.90
5.	Jointly	8	15.68
Total		51	100

Field survey 2010

Out of 53 households two households brought it from others source. Out of the 51 households who procure firewood from the forest and Bari there are 28 households where wives and other female members are involved in such procurement together they constitute 54.90 percentage of the total. The male members excluding the husbands appear to have no input in the respect. Therefore women are found to make the most significant contribution in firewood procurement.

5.7 Decision making on treatment for sickness

Health is very sensitive for human being and it affects all the other activities. Medical science has developed many kinds of medicine and infection for treatment of decisions. The life expectancy of people has been increased due to modern medical facilities. In terms of decision related to treatment for sickness of family members, male have dominant role firstly, male members decide the types of treatment to be practiced to care the disease. The following table shows the male dominant in decision for treatment

Table No 20: Decision on Treatment for sickness

S.N.	Decision Maker	No. of HHS	Percentage
1.	Male	25	47.16
2.	Female	13	24.52
3.	Both	15	28.30
	Total	53	100

Field survey 2010

5.8 Decision for family planning

The different means of family planning are oral pills, condom, IVD, male/female sterilization, Depo-Provera, Norplant, forming tablets with draw and tradition methods must of the people are unknown to these method. Methods of family planning are basically two types permanent and temporary.

Use of family planning is burning issue in the present world and it is considered to be the main factor for reducing rapid population growth most of the people are worried about large family size, since, they wanted to manage their family with higher living standard.

At present various types of family planning devices are available for of the males and female family planning methods are available to females than for males. But males played dominant role in deciding to practice family planning methods. It presented in the following table.

Table No. 21: Decision for Family Planning

Decision maker	No. of Households	% of HHS
Male	25	47.16
Female	15	28.30
Both	13	24.52
Total	53	100%

5.9 View Towards female's Decisions

Lastly respondents were asked "Does female decide correctly?"

Among 53 respondents, respondents were agree that female can decide correctly which respondents were disagreed. But percentage respondents did not like to mention their view. It is presented in the following Table.

Table No 22: view towards female's decision

Respondents View	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	30	56.60
Disagree	15	28.30
Do not know	8	15.09
Total	53	

Field survey 2010

With regard to women's decision making power 56.60percentage replied positively and 15 respondents later stated following reason.

- women are uneducated
- Women are soft hearted
- Women are dependent
- Women are hesitated to decide
- Women lack of knowledge and awareness
- Women are stubborn.

5.10 Problems faced by women in Decision making process.

Though women in Nepal are spending their lots of time in household activities. They are lacking in decision making. They are facing the problems of decision making due to the following reasons.

- They are dependent socially and economically.
- They have no control over resources.
- Due to traditional norms, value and attitude.
- Involvement in non-economic activity.
- Females hesitate to decide freely.
- They have no confident to decide solely.

Chapter Six

Summary, Major Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

Summary

6.1 Summary

This study analyzed the women's participation in decision making process, particularly is Galyang Village of Malma VDC. This study is based upon the primary data collected from the field survey. There are 53 households in VDC are taken as sampled households to collect on formation. This study is an attempt to analysis the socio-economic status of females and their roles and participation in decision making process. This study is mainly focused upon the women's participation in decision, which is taken in households as well as other social activities.

Women are involved in most activities and decision-making relating to household and other activities. As majority of women do not have the land title and lack of other source of income, they are dependent upon their husbands. Thus, when it comes to using access to land resources the women lack accessibility. However, when it comes to control of benefits of the resources the males still exercise the control because our society is male dominated society where major decisions are taken by the male household head. Unequal rank and power in decision-making and benefit are legitimizing by traditional society norms.

6.2 Major Findings of the study

It is concluded that over married respondents women's in Galyang of Malma VDC are found to be positively involved in spousal communication about households matters, conversely there was low participation of women in household decision making.

6.2.1 Socio-Economic characteristics of respondents

-) Majority of respondents are Brahmin Near about half of the respondents are literate (48.07) out of which 19.2 percent are female.
-) With regard to family structure, 23 house holds have joint family and 30 households have nuclear family.
-) Mostly females are involved in agriculture 56.6 percent taking care for livestock 37.73 percent.
-) Males control the household income. Mainly they depend on agriculture to maintain their financial problems.
-) In the context of decisions relating to education of the children, decisions for family planning purchasing households goods, treatment for sickness most of the decisions were male by the males.
-) Respondents with land ownership found strong decision making power but who have no land (property) in their own name were found weak in decision making power.
-) Most of the respondents believe in medical treatment for sickness.
-) More women are involved in household chores than males.
-) Most of the respondents have knowledge on uses of family planning.
-) Relating to the decision on participating in training programme only few respondents state that they themselves decided to join the training.
-) Mostly females are involved in firewood collecting, cropping pattern, taking care for like stock.

6.3 Conclusion

Though men and women are born equally yet discriminated in the society after their birth. They are not treated as equal in household as well as in society. their roles and responsibilities are determined on the basis of sex difference. Male child is respected in the family while female child does not get heat opportunity as that of her brother. Females are discriminated in socio-economic sector as well as decision making process. Male child has legal rights of paternal property while female child has not received that right.

As this study is conducted to explore women's participation in decision making process, it was found that females have low decision making power with compared to their male counterparts. Except in the cropping pattern, females have low decision making power in all the other aspects. Though females have participated in decision making process and in some households, played a leading role in most of the cases male have a dominant role. It is due to lack of education, and low socioeconomic status of female in our society. Our society is male dominated and it is considered that females are the subordinates to males and they have to follow their male partner. They are engaged in household activities and surrounded by household boundaries. The findings of this study show that females have low decision making power and they are not capable of exercising their right and responsibilities. More or less this situation can be seen in other society and all over the country. It is essential to empower women to make them able in decision making process in the household and society as well. Unless the females participation in decision making has increased their status in the family, in society will not increase. It is possible to develop the society properly with social justice in the society. This well also enhances the gender disparity and women's backwardness.

6.4 Recommendations

This study indicates the women's participation in decision making process. This study has been carried out to analyze the women's situation in decision making in household as well as other activities. Though women's decision making

power has been increased in recent days but it is not satisfactory. Lots of governmental and nongovernmental organization are involving to empower the females socially as well as economically but result is not as desired. So, the governmental, NGO/INGO's have to work to empower and increase the potentialities of females. It is essential to implement the existing policies and programs properly and new appropriate policies and programs to enhance the capability of females.

1. To achieve better literacy status of women, literacy program should be implemented.
2. To provide employment opportunities to the women, proper management should be made to increase girls enrollment in educational and training institutes.
3. Women's participation in household decision-making issues must be encouraged. They should be further motivated to have such decisions even in the matters of all round development of the family.
4. To support ever married women in decision-making, there should be access to guidance and counseling program in the community.
5. To empower women in decision -making issues women should have access over land and property.
6. Educating mother-in laws and father-in-law in necessary to overcome women's fear, shyness and hesitation regarding decision-making issues.
7. Late marriages among the women should be encouraged with the aim of reducing their child bearing age and consequently lesser confinement to their reproductive roles. Such a demographic factor indirectly implies encouragement of their productive roles via greater economic participation and consequently a greater status in terms of decision making within the household.
8. The concept of gender equity and the attitude towards women need to be modified in our patriarchal society to boost up the women's status in the family or society.

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Interview Schedule: role of women in Household Decision Making

Galyang of Malma VDC, Baglung.

A. General information

1. Name: _____ Cost: _____ Age: _____

2. Martial status: _____
3. Your education: (a) Literate (b) illiterate
4. Husband education: (a) Literate (b) illiterate
5. Your Occupation: _____
Husband occupation: _____
6. Working hours: (a) Male _____ (b) Female _____
7. How many children do you have ? (a) Sons: _____
(b) Daughter: _____ (c) None: _____
8. Number of family members: 0-9 10-14 15-59 60-64 65+
Male: _____
Female: _____
Age of marriage: _____
9. Landholding: (a) Khet Land ____ (b) Bari Land _____
10. Energy use: (a) firewood _____ (b) kerosene _____
(c) Crop Reside _____

B. Economic Aspects:

1. Cropping Pattern: Summer Winter
Area: _____
Crop: _____
Production: _____
2. Who decides this cropping pattern? _____
3. Is the crop production sufficient for the whole year?
(a) Yes _____ (b) No _____ (c) If yes, surplus: _____
4. Who decides? _____

C. Live stock management:

Purchase of live stock	Who first thought of this idea	Who was consulted	Who decided to purchase/sell
1.			
2			
3			
Sales of live stock and live stock products			
1			
2			
3			

1. If yes, who decides? _____
2. Who collects grass for the livestock? _____
3. Who looks after the overall maintenance of the livestock?

D. Energy use and maintenance:

Source	Firewood	Kerosene	Others
Who brings it?			

1. Who decides the use of the energy?

E. Labor utilization Pattern:

Decision items	Initiators	Person consulted	Final decision makers
1. Exchange labor (perma)			
2. Wage labor (Agriculture)			
3. Wage labor (non Agriculture)			
4.Others			

F. Social aspects:

1. What kind of marriage do you have? _____
2. If in case of arranged marriages, who usually decides about the bridegroom?

3. Is child marriage practiced within the family?
a) Yes _____ (b) No _____
4. Is Polygamy practiced within the family?
a) Yes _____ (b) No _____
5. Have you heard about family planning measures?
a) Yes _____ (b) No _____
6. If yes, through what source?
a) Yes _____ (b) No _____
7. Do you use family planning measures?
a) Yes _____ (b) No _____
8. Do you believe in doctors or faith healers (Dhami/Jhankari)?
a) Doctors _____ (b) Dhami/Jhankari _____ (c) both _____

G. Educational aspect:

1. Do you children go to school?

(a) Yes _____ (b) No _____

2. Are Boys given priority over girls to go school?

(a) Yes _____ (b) No _____ (c) equally _____

3. Do you think that girls should go to school?

(a) Yes _____ (b) No _____

4. If no, why not? _____

5. Who decides whether your children should go to school? _____

6. Are you participating in adult literacy classes?

(a) Yes _____ (b) No. _____

7. If yes, who made this decision? _____