Socio-Economic Impact of Biogas Energy on Rural Women

(A Case Study of Chandragadi VDC in Jhapa District)

A Thesis

Submitted to Department of Rural development

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement of the Master of Arts in Rural Development

Submitted by

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LETTER OF RECOMMEDATION

This thesis entitled "SOCIO- ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BIOGAS ENERGY ON RURAL WOMEN : A CASE STUDAY OF CHANDRAGADI VDC IN JHAPA DISTRICT" has been prepared by Pratima Nepal under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts in Rural Development. To the best of my knowledge, the study is original and provides useful information to the field of biogas energy for rural women.

I hereby, recommend this thesis for evaluation to the dissertation committee.

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Associate Prof. Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha
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Date: 2065-06-09

APPROVAL LETTER

We certify that this dissertation entitled “SOCIO – ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BIOGAS ENERGY ON RURAL WOMEN : A CASE STUDAY OF CHANDRAGADI VDC IN JHAPA DISTRICT” submitted by Ms. Pratima Nepal to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuwan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTERS OF Arts IN Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

Dissertation Committee

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Date: 2065-06-09

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to present my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Chandralal Shreshtha for his valuable comments and guidance which inspired me to continue and complete this work. I would also like to thank Lecturer Mr. Ratnamani Nepal who also gave initial idea and encouraged me to do research on biogas programme in Chandragadi VDC and later provided his valuable comments.

I would also like to thank Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and Biogas Sector Partnership Nepal (BSP/N) which provided me necessary literatures. Similarly, Centre for Rural Technology Nepal (CRT/N) is also thankful for providing me financial support to finish this research work. My brother Mr. Shankar Nepal is also thankful as he also gave comments in my works. I am also thankful to my friend Ms. Nishan Rai who provided me the necessary literatures. I would also like to thank Mr. Raju Acharya as he helped me during my field works. Last but not least, I am indebted to my parents as they inspired me all the time.

24 September 2008 Pratima Nepal

ABSTRACT

While talking about the impacts of biogas to rural women, one counts a number of benefits like it minimises the workloads and time of fetching firewood, motivates male to help in kitchen works and kitchen gardening and also make marginalised community inclusive to the livelihood programme for the betterment. Further to the social impact, it also have economic impacts like saving money of firewood, minimisation of health costs due to health improvements, women participation in economic works and slurry use for increasing the productivity of farms. The number of impacts goes even more when environmentalists explain them. However, using the concept of social structure of gender and following the field study with structured questionnaires and focus group discussion the study found that the effect of biogas is general in nature. It has made the work easier within the social construction of gender, but it has no effect to increase women participation in income generating activities outside the farm. After installation of biogas plant women left to go to jungle for collecting firewood or they are saving money by not buying firewood anymore. Social activities of women are mostly religious, which are also parts of the social construction. Besides these observations the study found that biogas program in Jhapa is not able to benefit Dalits and minorities as they are not included in the program significantly. The other weakness is that it is also not able to demonstrate the benefits of biogas for lighting and thus, is limited to cooking and slurry use for kitchen gardening and farms. However, biogas program, in general, has positive effects to reduce the workload and improve health situation of women.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

ADB/N	Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre
BSP	Biogas Support Program
BSP/N	Biogas Sector Partnership Nepal
CRT/N	Centre for Rural Technology Nepal
HH	Household
ICIDMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organization
MOF	Ministry of Finance
NBL	Nepal Bank Ltd
NBPC	Nepal Biogas Promotion Group
NGOs	Non-Government organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
RBB	Rastriya Banijya Bank
RETs	Renewable Energy Technology
VDC	Village Development Committee