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 RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled “SOCIO- ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BIOGAS ENERGY ON RURAL WOMEN : A CASE STUDY 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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Date: 2065-06-09
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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( Thesis Supervisor )

Date: 2065-06-09
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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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