

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Females are discriminated in various fields even though recently country's laws are activated. Women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision making power. Women have to bear three responsibilities as households, reproductive and productive economic activities. However, their household roles are not considered as productive works.

Nepal's constitution (1990) has guaranteed that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of general laws as well as in respect of political and civil rights, on the ground of religion, race, sex and caste. Hence, men and women are given equal rights under the constitution of vote, participate in government or inter-public service.

The total population of women in Nepal is 1,15,86502 (Census, 2001). As it is women comprises more to than 50 percent of total population (CBS, 2003). Forty six percent of the population above the age of 6 years is literate, with 57.5 percent female illiteracy. The marital mortality rate is 539 out of 1,00000 and total fertility rate is 4.1 per women (CBS, 2003). In Nepal nearly oen in four households, 23 percent are headed by a women (NDHS, 2006).

Nepal is the poorest country in the world. It is also agricultural country. The majority of women in Nepal live in rural area where the choice livelihood in limited to agricultural work on the farms which are owned in most which are owned in most cases either by farmers,

husbands, landlords or brothers. Most of females are economically dependent. They have to ask to their male partners to spend their own income also. 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 in 21st century they are not enjoying equal decision making power with their male counter parts. They are discriminated since their childhood. In childhood they have to live under their parents, in adulthood, they should follow their husbands and in old age they are under their child. They have no liberty to decide freely even their own. very few women are economically independent and they have little bit higher decision making power.

Socio-economic status of females affects the role of women in society. However they are capable and potential, their capability and potentiality do not respected if they have low status. As females are less educated they have low decision making power. These women who have higher education and access economic background, have higher chance on decision making. Females are not considered to participate in decision making process in most of the socio-economic, religions and other activities. they are very few households which are headed by female. According to CBS 2004 only 19.6 percent households are headed by women. Among the west region has the highest proportion (28.7%) of female headed households.

Socio-economic and demographic factors have the strong role in terms of decision making power, women are not in leading roles; they are considered as second grade citizen and play sub-ordinate role in the society. They are less comfortable in decision making field. They have

low access to resources which make them dependent and it affects their role in households as well as in society.

Nepalese community with in the patriarchy social systems. It's cultural, ethnic and religious diversity. The patriarchal made of life in these communities is reading visible from the surface, with its kinship structure, with in the patriarchy social system, a distinct division of labour between the two sexes has been created on grounds of biology as women bear children the job of reading looking after children in the role responsibility of women. In doing so en have been expected from the house work. Women have not been only confined to the four walls of the house but in addition have to collect water fetch, fodder for the animals and also work in the fields along side the men. Women work larger time hours than men yet they belong to residual category in the society. their identify and prestige in society is established through affirmed relationship with males.

Very few women are involving in main stream of development and very 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. It is essential for the development that male and female should enjoy equal opportunities for decision making either in lower or in higher level of policy making, plan formulation or in program implementation as well as in monitoring and evaluation sector. Unless women are not bringing into the mainstream of development, participating them in decision making process the path of development will not be smothered.

Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from the lack of power to utilize available resources and lack of power to

assert their rights. Females are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To empower women social injustice and gender disparity in socio-economical as well as decision making process should be addressed and thereby raise the status of female in the society. Policy and programs should be formulated and implemented properly to lessen the problems related to women.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender issues, including women's rights are very significant because women comprise a little over a half of the 20 million population of Nepal. All the Nepalese women suffer from domination, exploitation, suppression, oppression, subordination and discrimination by their men counter part. Although biology is not and should not be the destiny but in practice the male centered process of socialization such as conditioning, indoctrination and imitation under patriarchy continue to reproduce these ugly relationships between men and women that make believe that biology is the destiny in Nepal. In brief, such a male centered biased, controlled process of socialization results in the homo social reproduction of existing discriminatory and exploitative relationship between men and 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 terms of development. But Nepal is a country where darkness is prevailing under the light. There exist bundles of problems which are discouraging people more forward with freedom. Women's participation in various level of decision making is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of equality, development and peace.

Women constitute about 50 percent of the total population of Nepal but yet their participation in the various level of decision making is negligible.

Women in Nepal contribute 50 percent of the household income and work 10-73 hours as against 7.51 hours for men (Acharya & Bennett, 1981). They engaged more in households' chores but they have no decision making opportunities. They have to work according to others order. The role of women as a manager of the subsistence sector is shunned off as unproductive, and the important opinion of women is hardly considered. The freedom of female within the household sphere is restricted. There is gender bias in terms of decision making. Females have to work more but they have less chance to decide.

The fact is that women are oppressed and suppressed lots in our society. They are discriminated in all the sector of decision making and are not considered as main parts of development activities. Though men and women have equal rights to live but there is social injustice due to which women have weak decision making power. The status of women is low which reflects the weak decision making power in household as well as in society. Decision making as important factor which measures the relative status of the households' members' women have access in important sector, but they are still excluded from active role of decision making. Men have major role of decision making inside the household as well as outside. Men ask females only for formality and their decision has not prominent part in any activities in household and in society. Only very few women get opportunity to be leading decision maker. It is true that women are capable and they have efficiency of making important and effective decisions if they given a chance. As they are the providers of basic household needs, they can bear the closest association with it.

The UN Beijing conference on women 1995 has emphasized different aspects related to the problems of women and passed platform of actions addressing twelve different critical areas of concern as poverty, education and training, health, decision making power, armed conflict, the girl child, economy, environment violence, human rights, media and advancement of women. But they are still facing the problems of deprivation. They are deprived from their rights and responsibilities. Even their husband and family members are not ready to hear their voice.

The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men is a matter of human rights. Moreover, it is a condition for social justice and should not be seen as isolated women's issue. It is the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. The empowerment of women and equality between women and men are prerequisites to achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security to all (Beijing, 1995) without empowering and bringing the women in to the mainstream of development as well as other activities, it is not possible to develop the society and the nation. As men and women are considered the two wheels of a car, so both should be equally strong and powerful to draw the social improvement and its development. If issues of women are not considered timely future generation of women might also be suffered from different kinds of difficulties, it will certainly affect their lives as well as the advancement of human civilization, society and nation. Therefore, it should be considered about the decision making power of women and they are endowed with it.

The decision making power of women of study area (Subhang VDC) is weak because their socio-economic as well as political status is very low compared to their counterparts. Higher the status in household and society directly or indirectly affects the living standard of people and

make their voice sound. There is problem of gender equality and equity to prove the way of sustainable development. It is essential to involve females in all the aspects of socio-economic as well as development activities for social justice as well as nation building.

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.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of the study is to portray the decision making power of women in study area. The specific objectives are:

- ☞ To examine the socio-economic status of women in study area.
- ☞ To examine the women participation in household decision making process.
- ☞ To find out the problem faced by women.

1.4 Significant of the Study

In the world as well as in Nepal; women cover a half of the total population. They are backbone of society. They have equal roles and responsibilities to make society developed. Women should be the subject

and also actors of development because women have major duties to maintain at household as well as in society, if women are not treated equally in society, it is impossible to achieve sustainable development.

All the development activities are performed by the people and they are the main focal point of development. However, in most of the society men have major roles and responsibilities in development activities and females are not enjoying with equal rights and responsibilities. They are deprived from their rights and duties even though they work more than their male counterparts. If women are not treated equally in society, it is impossible to achieve sustainable development and it will certainly hinder national development. There should not be gender disparity in the society. It is essential to bring them into mainstream of social improvement and national development people should be aware about gender issue which is essential to protect the rights and duties of females. Their roles in household, in society and in nation have been great significance in terms of social justice. Integrated approach should be implemented to improve the women's over all aspects. Policy and programs should be directed to focus the issues of women which will be helpful to empower them socially and economically.

This study has attempted to reflect the women's status in terms of decision making power inside and outside the household. Further more this study will have the importance to find out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio-economic status and their decision 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

also be useful even for planners, policy makers, NGO/INGOs and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies, plans and programs focusing 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 governments and non-government agencies will be helpful for the empowerment and development of women. The most significance of this study is that it will partially fulfill my dissertation purpose to M.A. in Rural Development.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The issue of women's participation in household decision making process is very vague issues which can not be studied at once. This study is concentrate to analyze the situation of women in decision making process especially in household, agriculture and socio-economic sectors. This study covers only the selected area of Subhang VDC, Ward No. 3 and 7 in Panchthar district. The study is focus the females of Subhang VDC Ward No. 3 and 7 having sample size 65 houses in that places with in limited time framework. The generalizations of this research may be applied or may not be applied for other places in same subject and same matter.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. The second chapter includes the literature review. The third chapter deals with research methodology. The fourth and fifth chapter deals with analysis of variables to show the actual situation of women's participation in decision making process. The last chapter is the summary, conclusion and recommendation derived of the study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the available literature about decision making roles of women and men. In this section, efforts have been made to review past researches, publications and documents pertaining to area of study.

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural area. Rural women, as elsewhere 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 voluntary basis and in economy, if they are not formally engaged as employees or 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.

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country. Each has to right to equal access to public service in his country.

International convention on civil a political rights, article 25, it is considered that both male and female are equal by legal and human right but they are separated by different social values, norms and attitudes. Thus, males become more powerful than female in our society.

Social patterns is being changing and most women have started to outside work, the home continue to persist even in the face of drastically changed circumstances. Traditionally, the men was bread-winner; women used to engaged in unpaid labour at home in washing, cleaning, cooking, etc. She was also traditionally regarded as the person with primary

responsibility for the care of children and other member. Studies demonstrate that, when both husband and wife work full time, husband and family responsibilities still fall disproportionately on the women in the situation carry the entire burden of the family. As more women work the burden of two 'jobs' are paid and one unpaid at home, which has always confronted working women, has received more media attention (I.L.O, 2001).

Nepalese Constitution (1990) has guaranteed that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application and civil right, on the ground of religion, race, sex and cast. Hence men and women are given equal rights under the constitution of vote, participate in government inter-public service.

South Asia (2002) currently states that of all discrimination and denial of opportunities that women in South Asia suffer. Perhaps the damaging is the denial of the right and opportunity to education is the ignorance of women and empowering them to improve their lives (Women Education in Nepal). So education is major variable to increase the socio-economic status of women (HDR, 2002).

According to ministry of women, children and social welfare (2002) an percentage of women among total in civil service by class/level show that 2.4 percent in first class, in 3.2 percent in second class, 5.2 percent in third class and 2 percent are none organized (HDR, 2002).

Female population involved in unusual activities in the last 12 month by type, whom that 29.1 percent of them are involved agriculture loan form 2.9 percent have own economic enterprises, 19.8 percent are student, 6.1 percent with now work and 28.6 percent with household chore (UNDP, 2002).

Women in many developing countries marry when they very young. Almost 50 percent of Africa women, 40 percent of Asian and 30 percent of Latin American women are married by the age of 18 year (World's Women UN, 1991).

Still, Nepali women have favour social options for survival other than marriage Kirati, Magar, Sherpa and other will mountain cultural and groups there is freedom before marriage. But according to cultural status defined that married women play a prominent role in the question of marriage, divorce and remarriage (Ghimire, 1997).

Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls must face the practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10 to 14 after with they must start producing children is prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The primed reasons for the practice are the girls virginity, the prize and the luck awareness and education. Early marriage for many girls in Nepal to high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Early marriage robs girls of here childhood time necessary to develop physically emotionally and psychologically in fact early marriage inflicts great emotional stress as the young women is removed from her parents home to that of her husband and in laws. Her husband who will invariably be many years seniors will have little in common with a young teenager. It is with the strange non that she has to develop an intimate emotional and physical relationship. She is obliged to have intercourse although physically she might not be fully develop (UN,1995).

In the context of Nepal, we can measure the women's status in their educational attainment. Women constitute 50.04 percent of the total population but only 44.9 percent females are literate (CBS, 2001).

The gap in literacy rates between man and women is 35% (with 54% literacy for man as against 19% for women). The average life span of a Nepalese women is 53 years compared to 56 years for man only 9% of Nepalese women have access to safe maternity service. The maternal one of the highest in the world. The population of Nepalese women suffering from anemia is about 70 to 80 percent and most women also suffer from respiratory diseases due to smoke and shoot (UN, 1991).

Women work loner hours then man-women spend much more activities than men or subsistence activities and domestic work. in these activities the work loaded of women exceeds that of man by more than 25% (Stri Shakti, 1995). Over 70% are confined to self employed, unpaid and low wage in formal sector activities between 1991 and 2001. There six fold over the same period. They constituted almost 23 percent of the labour force in this sector in 2001 (NHDR, 2004). Economically, women have no right to parental property as well as in the husband's home. They are 70 percent of the household work burden and yet have no success to economic resources. Even doing the same work, they get lower wages as must of the women work as an unskilled labour and get low paid due to (Luitel, 2000).

Women play major role in economic activities. Generally the domestic chores as well as agriculture works done by women is not considered in the national income estimation. Women's access to economic resources and control over it is less because of legal discrimination property right. The difference between average income ratio between male and female is 1.039 (NPC, 2003).

Nepalese women perform basically triple roles; that of (a) production (b) re-production and (c) community activity. Their work

surden in daily life generally exceeds that of their male counterparts rural women work 10 to 14 hours daily as compared to 8 to 10 hours for men (Adhikari, 1999).

Nepali women are daughter, wives and mother but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity. Society has neglected women to the lowest rank. Confined to the home and from there responsibilities are due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented to take part in public life (Subedi, 1993).

Ghimire had further emphasized on the importance of female education. He had mentioned that a boy is to education as individual, but to educate a girl is to educate the whole family and society. Education is therefore essential for women and girls to become self-dependent, more productive, skillful, creative and to recognize their right place in the society and to enter the mainstream of development of the nation (Ghimire, 1997).

Women's education has a significant effect on the number of children they bear. A survey conducted in 1991 showed that Nepali women have an average of 5.1 children during their productive lives. Women with secondary education have an average of 4 children, while women with no education have an average of 6.2 children. According to the survey, the median birth interval was 34 month (MoH, 1993).

Knowledge of family planning in Nepal among currently married Nepalese women of reproductive age is high, 99.7 percent of currently married women of reproductive age has heard of contraception. This figure was 98.4 percent in family planning from radio and health workers were approximately 47 percent, 31 percent and 25 percent respectively. But only 31.2 percent of couples use contraceptive measures. Many

women do not use family planning fear of negative side effect. It also has serious repercussion on their reproductive health with maternal mortality being significantly higher in anemia women (UNICEF Nepal, 2001).

In the Nepalese context, the health condition of rural women is very pathetic as very have to get busy in agriculture, fetching firewood and drinking water. They are always over burdened with work. It is recommended medically that in last before delivery takes place a women should not be involved in physically strenuous work but in Nepal a pregnant women keeps on working even up to the last day of delivery (Majupuria, 1996).

About 62.2 percent of girls between 15 to 18 years are married their bodies are psychologically weak for child bearing. Young child bearers have higher rates of miscarriage, abortion and infant death (ADB, 1999).

There are few opportunities for women in income earning activities on to involve in employment. In addition the prevailing wage rates in and around the village discriminate against women and discourage them from seeking wage employment traditionally women's responsibilities have been confined to he home in cooking, cleaning, child bearing and child caring and looking after house women are considered to be depended on men (Gurung, 1978).

The predominant section of the Nepalese people is employed in the agriculture sector. In we talk into account labor input, women's contribution rural areas, of those who are engaged in outside employment for wage or salary in addition to farming. Own fields, 68.2% are men and only 31.8% are women (Strir Shakti, 1995).

Population control policy is in Nepal relating to fertility determinants Nepalese context. It was found that higher the social status i.e. the higher the standard of a family in relation to other families as represented by income, education etc. It was also found that the higher the economic status i.e. the greater the income received and wealth controlled in relation to other families, the lower fertility of the families (CEDA, 1972).

Education for life it self because it is that element which equips a women with the tool to solve he problems in life and helps her to live in a better life. Education is therefore essential for the rural women in a measure as well as in a form that they need to became more productive and worthier citizen of the country (Kasaju, 1979).

Nutritional anemia is are of the major contributors to the high maternal mortality is Nepal. Women's iron requirement increases during pregnancy, and in normal delivery, women need to make up rapidly for the blood loss, for iron is required for breast feeding. Women with subsequent pregnancies are at greater risk. Adequate supplementation of iron foliate is required to rise hemoglobin lands and insure that women can cope with the risks of delivery when women is anemic even a relatively small blood loss during delivery can increase the risk of mortality high infant and maternal morality is also a product of unhygienic traditional birthing practices and a health came system, which reaches only 15.5% of the pregnant women receive prenatal care and only 10.5% receive any postnatal services. While 20% of the estimated 800,000 pregnancies each year are considered high risk, only 3.1% of all babies one delivered by 4 trained birth attendant. Less than are in four women have received the required five doses of tetanus faxed (UNICEF, 1996).

Complications related to pregnancy and child birth are among the leading causes of mortality for women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing countries. At the global level, it has been estimated that about half a million women die each year of pregnancy related causes. 99 percent of them in developing countries. ICPD defines reproductive health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing not merely the absence of disease or infirmity in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. The national reproductive health strategy of Nepal includes the following elements to make integrated reproduction health services available in the kingdom are: family planning, safe motherhood, child health prevention and management of infertility, adolescent reproductive health and problem of elderly women particular women treatment of the fertility level, private sector (CBS, 2004).

According to NDHS, 2001 for nearly half of the births, mother received antenatal care from health service providers. However, for the majority of births in Nepal, mothers did not receive any ANC, which puts them at risk. For about two fifths of birth, mothers received two or more doses of TT during pregnancy, while 13 percent received one dose. Remaining 54 percent mothers did not receive single dose of TT, that means majority of women and children are not protected against neonatal tetanus.

Most of the contraceptives directed to women. Even in sterilization the focus has been women. Between 1981 and 1991 female sterilization increased more than 358% while the male sterilization rate increase by a more 134% while the male sterilization rate was half of the female sterilization rate in 1991. Given the greater male over resources, higher education level, greater mobility and independent social status these

figures indicate a distinct gender bias against women in population programs (Acharya, 1994).

According to Acharya M. and Bennett L. (1982) 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 role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women.

Acharya and Bennett have singled out "decision making" from the multi dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household they developed some model from the study of eight different village committees from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were more conceived to be operating in much four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Nepalese women also play managerial role for decision making i.e. farm management, resources allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male/female input into the farm management decisions (Acharya and Bennett, 1982).

The finding of the model shows that in the first sphere women participation in farming and domestic activities constituted 86 percent women imparts account for 57 percent in agro production in second sphere, while their inputs in third and fourth sphere drop down to 38 percent respectively. Their total contribution to the households income

remains 50 percent as oppose to 44 percent for males. The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed by the children of 10-14 years.

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-Burma groups have concentration in market activities. This implies women in the more orthodox Hindu communication who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display much less significant role in major household economic decision than those in the Tibetan-Burman communities where women participate actively in the market economy.

Women have very low participation in decision making process, 70 percent of households related and external decision are entirely made by male members of house (Acharya, 1995). Though females spend their time in household activities, they have less chance to decide for those activities.

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from participation fully in economic development, which results low decision making power in women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, conception delivery and upbringing of child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process

as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low.

Acharya, (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performer under national and international aspires 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.

Women are more apt to say that their husbands make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands or those they have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved to accepting their husbands decisions without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly; simply because they express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision. The ideas 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 opinions (Strir Shakti, 1995).

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 (Strir Shakti, 1995).

According to Shrestha S.L. (1994) decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour an input contribution and consultants but as active change agent at the concerned level. It does not mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders, but the involvement of women and man in the sample proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communities at large.

She further added that the women of Nepal are so dependent to men if the partners of members deny giving shelter to them; it is a question of basic survivals. This system has made women to helpless, houseless and dependent that without men they will not survive, so, in this in human systemic the right of survival is laid on the heart of men.

According to Pyakuryal (1998), as soon as the males born, exceptions are bestowed on him. He has certain stereotype roles waiting for him when he reaches adulthood. In Nepalese society, social status of women is always thought to be that of subordinate to men. A survey conducted by UNICEF on the status of women and children in Nepal reports that gender disparity starts right from the birth and continues through different stages of the girl's life and as further depended and perpetuated through various rituals.

On the other hand, unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimating by traditional societal norms owing to this there is a belief that females should confine themselves to such tasks as

cooking, washing taking care of children and should not be involved in traditional male activities (Ghimire, 1996). From this it is clear that women's primary role as wife and mother require their attention 24 hours a day and thus, for working women must be carried out simultaneously with the work role.

Most men do not face such role conflict because society regards their family and personal roles as discretionary, meaning that they are subsidiary to and have to be fitted in with the primary work role. Thus, although men play important roles as husbands and father, they generally don't interfere with their primary work role as family bread winner.

The commencement of systematic economic planning since 1956/75 in Nepal is an indication of the government for all round development of the country by and large, the government. Integrated women development into national development process up to fourth five year development plan from the fifth plan women's education got a separate place in the national agenda, 6th plan adopted the policies of promotion 3 women's health and education. The 7th plan strengthening the previous policies added equal participation of women in development process. That women a strong indication to put women development in to mainstream of the development. The policies adopted in the 8th plan put the women in to mainstream of the development. The main objectives of the plan were sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation, considering women development as an integral part of the all round development of the country. 14 separate policies were adopted which include promotion of women's participation in every sectors of employment general health, education, training, equal rights, equal resources, institutional inform etc. (Khatiwoda, 1998).

NDHS (2006), about half of women participate in decisions about their own health care, making major household purchases, and visiting family and friends. However one third of women do not participate in any of these decisions at all. Household composition in Nepal consist of an average of 4.9 persons. Households in urban areas are smaller than those in rural areas (4.4 compared with 5.0 persons). Nearly one in four households (23%) are headed by a women. 12 percent of households have a foster child under age 18, while an additional 7 percent have an orphan under 18.

It can be concluded that only strong status of female may increase the decision making power otherwise they have to play sub-ordinate role of their male partners. Women of Nepal are not suffering from lack of resources in some extent (like property rights, the generating income goes to family's pocket), but from the lack of power to use their available resources, lack of power to assert their own rights. They are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To uplift the women from this stage, women's strategies needs like consciousness raising increasing self, confidence educating people, increased women participation in development should be practice. Only then the decision making power may exist at large extent.

Equality between women and men can only be achieved if both are equally in a position to participate in decision making processes at all levels. Reality is however, still very different. UNFPA therefore continues to support change towards equal sharing of power and leadership between women and men, within the family, in the community, at the national and international level (Beijing, 1994).

The above referenced studies shows that the decision making power is surrounded by various factors. In Nepal, women constitute more than half of total population with poor status. More families are engaged in household activities without decision making power. They have to follow their male partners in most of the cases. A percisal of the available literature also makes it clear that there is a persisting controversy regarding women's input in decision making process.

It can be concluded from the above studies that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic and demographic status of females. Nowadays the access fo female of resources has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way orother females have more responsibilities in household chosen, agricultural activities and other but they have less chance to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without equal participation of male and female in all spheres of households or other activities, there is less chance to be developed societies. Therefore, women should bring in to the mainstream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully decision making power.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This is a micro study due to which it may not be generalized at macro level. This chapter deals with the methodology adopted in the study. It contains the selection of study area sampling procedure, research design, source of data collection, data collection tools and techniques, data analysis process.

3.1 Selection of Study Area

The study area is Subhang VDC, Word No. 3 and & of Panchthar district. It is rural area which is 25 kilometer far from the district headquarter Phidim. The total population of Subhang VDC is 5316, among them 2602 male and 2714 female (Census, 2001). This is moderately populated area with diverse caste and communities. This area is dominated by Limbu and there are other castes as Chhetri, Brahman, Damai, Sarki etc. The main occupation of people is agriculture and some people are engaged either in civil service or in small business. Women have main role to maintain the household activities. They are active either in household or outside.

3.2 Sampling Procedure

There are total 954 households in study area having different caste and ethnic groups. All of the households are not taken for the study area. Only 65 households has taken as ample. The households have been selected from ward No. 3 and 7 proportionately. Then respondents had selected purposely allocating the fixed household according to the number of households of different caste and ethnic groups. The

household heads were the respondents either they were male or female. The distribution of the sample is based on household number by simple random sampling.

3.3 Research Design

This research is exploratory in nature. It tries to explore and investigate the socio-economic and familial issues of the study area in terms decision making process of women as compared to their counterpart men. This research is slightly descriptive as well as analytical. It means that the data interpretation has been supported by tabular analysis followed by their explanations.

3.4 Sources of Data Collection

These studies have been based upon primary source of data. The secondary data have also been used to complete this task. The primary data has obtained from the field with the help of field survey which obtained though simple random sampling. The secondary data was used from various publications published by journal educational statistics, book previous study, census data survey reports and different governmental or non governmental institutions or agencies.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

The data was collected with the help of questionnaire. The questionnaire comprises of all relevant questions related to the decision making process in household affairs and other socio-economic activities. Those questions were mainly focused on household management and socio-economic status of the respondents was also included in the questionnaire. Most of statistical data and required information was collected through the primary sources. These data were based on field

survey, interview schedule, observation, key informant interviews, focus group discussion, primary data was collected through questionnaires.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data analysis is very important task in research study. The data analysis has been collected through various instruments and sources like editing, coding analyzing and tabulated using simple mathematical method like graphs, percentage figure, charts etc. The result has been interpreted by dividing the main topics into sub heading according to the nature of data and according to the finding.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF SCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The study area is Subhang VDC of Panchthar District, which is situated in Eastern Development Region. According to census 2001, the population of Subhang VDC was 5316, among them 2602 male and 2714 females. This area is dominated by Limbu and there are other castes as Chhetri, Brahman, Damai, Sarki etc.

This chapter deals with the socio-economic as well as demographic aspects of respondents of the study area. Out of the total 954 households 65 households were taken as sample and structured questionnaires were asked to the respondents both for males and females. In this chapter age sex composition, ethnic composition marital status, family structure, types of HHs, land distribution, occupation and other activities are included.

4.1 Age Sex Composition of Respondents

The age is most important factor in demography and it makes difference in working hours, types of works, decision making roles, social relation and responsibilities. Age determines the social status of people. Age has great influence in terms of decision making and talking part in social activities.

The age groups divided as 15-25, 25-35, 35-45, 45-55, 55-65 and above 65 years of age. The following table shows the age composition by sex of respondents of study area.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age and Sex

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	
			No.	Percent
15-25	-	2	2	3.08
25-35	9	6	15	23.08
35-45	9	13	22	33.84
45-55	7	5	12	18.46
55-65	6	4	10	15.39
65+	3	1	4	6.16
Total	34	31	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows the age distribution of respondents by sex in the study area. Out of total 65 respondents 34 are males and 31 are females. There is highest proportion of the respondents in age group 35-45 years. The lowest proportions of the respondents are age group 15-25 years. In our society age factor plays dominant role in decision making and other responsibilities. The proportion of female respondents is highest in age group 35-45 years.

4.2 Caste/Ethnicity Composition

Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where there are different caste/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has their own language, culture and tradition. Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in society and it plays important role in terms social activities. The

following table reveals ethnic composition of the respondents in the study area.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity

Cast Group	Male	Female	Total	
			No.	Percent
Brahman	7	11	18	27.69
Chhetri	3	-	3	4.62
Janajati	13	8	21	32.31
Dalit	10	12	22	33.85
Newar	1	-	1	1.54
Total	34	31	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows the ethnic distribution of respondents. Among the total respondents households Dalit is the highest. Dalit contains 33.85 percent, followed by Janajati (32.31). The third position is Brahman which is slightly greater than Chheti (4.62%). The Newar has lowest proportion 1 (1.54%). It was due to the large population of Dalit and Janajati in the study area.

4.2 Marital Status

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 man or woman. A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman is married before 15 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. It is essential for legitimate both. Female's role also increases in family only after marriage. It enhances their decision making power.

The following table shows the marital status of the respondents as:

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	
			No.	Percent
Married	31	29	60	92.31
Widow/Widower	2	2	4	6.15
Divorced/Separate	1	-	1	1.54
Total	34	31	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows the marital status of respondents. Out of the total 65 respondents, 92.31 percent respondents are married, among them 31 are males and 29 are females. Similarly, 6.15 percent are widow/widower category. Only 1.54 percent are divorced/separated.

4.4 Family Structure

Family is basic unit of the society and it is an institution which plays important role in building society. Family structure has dominant role in decision making process. There are two categories of family structure mainly nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consist husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family contains husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as

other relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof. In most of the cases it was recorded that the women from the nuclear family and female headed household have higher responsibilities for decision than joint family and male headed household.

The following table shows the family structure of the respondents as:

Table 4: Distribution of Households by Family Structure

Family Structure	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Nuclear family	46	70.77
Joint family	19	29.23
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows the family structure of respondents. Out of 65 respondents 70.77 percent have nuclear families and 29.33 percent have joint family.

4.5 Types of House

Basically there are three basic needs of human being which are fooding, clothing and housing, though nowadays education, health and human rights are also considered as basic needs. Housing has great contribution in maintaining the quality of life of people. It emphasizes the standard of living. In this study, mainly three types of housing are considered, such as: Concrete (Pakki), Semi-Concrete (Ardha-Pakki) and not Concrete (Kachhi). The Pakki house is defined as having stone and cement wall and state or link roof, Ardha Pakki consists stone and mud

wall having Jasta roof, and Kachhi consists stone and mud wall having grass roof.

The following table shows the types of house of the respondents as:

Table 5: Distribution of Households by Types

Types	Households	
	No.	Percentage
Pakki (Concrete)	4	6.15
Ardha-Pakki (Semi-Concrete)	9	13.85
Kachhi (Not Concrete)	52	80
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows, out of the 65 household 80% are Kachhi. There are only 13.85 percent Ardha-Pakki and 6.15 percent Pakki households.

4.6 Land Owner

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent people dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. The question had been asked regarding the possession of land (as cultivated and household). But both types of land is combined due to which every household has their own land.

The following tables shows who are land owner of land by respondents.

Table 6: Distribution of Sample Households by Land Owner

Owner	No of HHs	Percentage
Male	47	72.31
Female	8	12.31
Both	10	15.38
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Above table shows out of the total 65 households most of the household have male owner land. There are 72.31 percent household have male land owner and 12.31 percent household have female land owner and 15.38 percent household have both male and female land owner.

4.7 Occupation and Source of Income

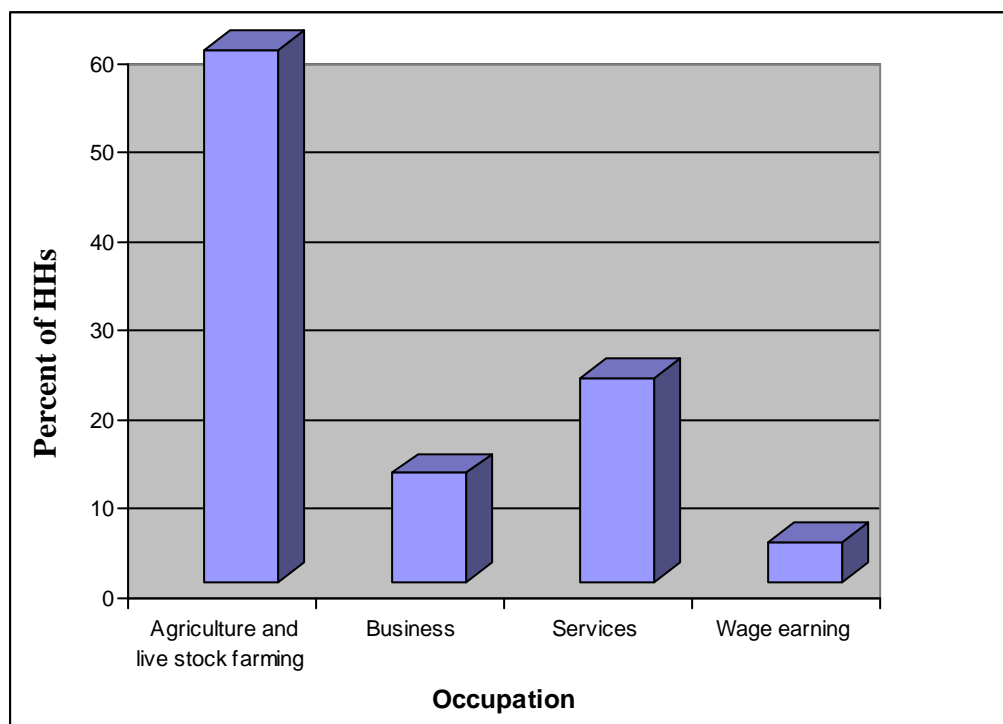
Occupation and Source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Out of 65 household, agriculture and livestock farming has occupied the first position as the source of income. 60 percent households are dependent upon agriculture and livestock farming for their income. It is followed by services which covers 23.08 percent. The third position is occupied by business which covers 12.31 percent. Similarly 4.61 percent only occupied by wage earning. Table 7 and figure 1 present the occupation and source of income of the respondents.

Table 7: Distribution of Households by Occupation and Source of Income

Occupation	No of HHs	Percentage
Agriculture and live stock farming	39	60
Business	8	12.31
Services	15	23.08
Wage earning	3	4.61
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Figure 1: Distribution of Households by Occupation and Source of Income



4.8 Land Cultivation

The survey result shows that in most of households land is cultivated by both male and female. In some cases female members cultivated the land 26.15 percent, and only 13.85 percent male members are cultivated the land. It shows that both male and female member are active in farming.

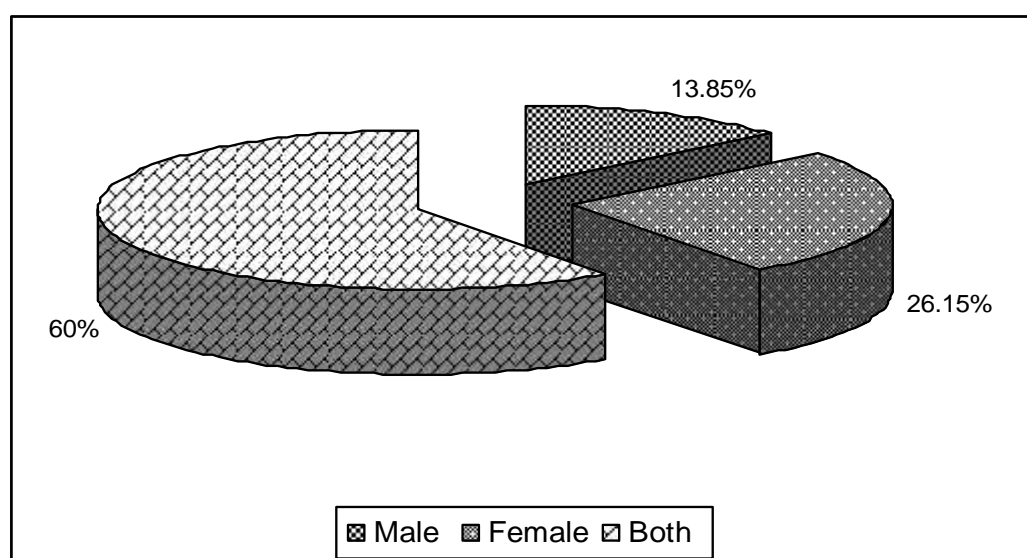
Table 8: Distribution of Sample Households by Land Cultivation

Cultivator	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	9	13.85
Female	17	26.15
Both	39	60
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

It is presented by the pie diagram in figure2.

Figure 2: Distribution of Sample Households by Land Cultivation



4.9 Prominent Household Workers

In Nepal most of the females are engaged in household workers and agricultural activities. They have less access to education and hence lower proportions were involved in gainful economic activities. They are surrounded by household activities. The following table shows the involvement of prominent household workers as:

Table 9: Distribution of Households by Prominent Household Workers

Members of households	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male (Husband)	6	9.23
Female (Wife)	52	80
Others	7	10.77
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows that out of the 65 sampled households in more than one third percent households wife prominent household workers. it is 80% involved in household activities. Husband prominent household workers are 9.23 percent and others are 10.77 prominent household workers. However, only few husband were engaging in household activities.

4.10 Keeping of Households Income

Both male and females need to have equally responsibly for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in family. Principally both are equal having equal rights and duties but, in our

society males have dominant roles. Females have only supportive roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision making. Females are engaged in household activities, livestock caring and agricultural activities and males go outside and earn. Males have more opportunity to keep their property. The following table shows the males domination to keep household income as:

Table 10: Distribution of Households by Keeping of households Income

Members of the HHs	No of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	31	47.69
Female	15	23.08
Both	19	29.23
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Out of the 65 households, male members keep the household income in 47.69 percent households compared to in 23.08 percent households by females. In 29.23 percent households, both males and females keep jointly. This shows that males' members control the household income and female have to get permission to use income. Male can use the income according to his will but female can not do so. It is due to the male domination in the family as well as in society.

4.11 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 for treatment of diseases. 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 increases in literacy and getting aware about their health.

A question was asked to the respondent that did they been to hospital for treatment. The following Table shows respondents practicing hospital treatment for sickness.

Table 11: Distribution of Household by Medical Treatment

Hospital Treatment	No of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Yes	56	86.15
No	9	13.85
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows that out of 65 respondents, 86.15 percent provide in positive answer, while only 13.85 percent replied in negative answer. Most of the people were consulting to doctor for their illnesses because they are conscious about their health and medical facilities are also available in the market nowadays. Government is providing support in medical sector. Each VDC is facilitated with Sub-health post along with health personnel. However, still some respondents were not consulting doctor because of lack of money, lack of awareness or any other reasons.

4.12 Family Planning

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

4.12.1 Knowledge of Family Planning

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.

FP is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries, the food production is low and there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore use of FP is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly. The contraceptive prevalent rate is 39.1 in Nepal (NDHS, 2001).

Table 12: Distribution of Respondents by Knowledge of Family Planning

Knowledge on FP	No. of respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	52	80
No	13	20
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The question had asked to the respondents 'regarding the knowledge about FP' of the total 80 percent respondents give in positive

answer and 20 percent in negative answer. Most of the respondents have knowledge about family planning methods and they have heard either about temporary or permanent method.

4.12.2 Use of Family Planning Method

Though people have knowledge about family planning, they may not use family planning methods properly. Among the 65 respondents 80 percent have knowledge about family planning but only 73.85 percent are using family planning and 12.31 percent respondents did not use it. Similarly 13.84 percent did not provide any answer about it. The following table shows the distribution of respondents who used family planning devices.

Table 13: Distribution of Respondents Who Used FP Devices

Use of FP devices	Respondents	
	No.	Percentage
Yes	48	73.85
No	8	12.31
Not stated	9	13.84
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.12.3 Method of Family Planning

There are mainly two types of family planning methods: permanent and temporary. The temporary method consists different devices of contraceptives. Among the 65 respondents who had knowledge about

family planning, 73.85 percent respondents had used family planning. Among them majority are permanent method. It is 41.54 percent while 32.31 percent temporary had used temporary method. similarly 26.15 percent respondents are not using any methods.

Table 14: Distribution of FP Users by FP Method

FP Methods	Total	
	No.	Percentage
Temporary	21	32.31
Permanent	27	41.54
Not use	17	26.15
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.12.4 Adoption of Family Planning

Among the 65 respondents the family planning users are 48 who had knowledge about family planning, 73.85 respondents had used family planning. Among them, majority are females and only 18 are males, out of 65 respondents 46.16 percent are females and 27.69 are males used family planning method. Condom was found popular among the males. Similarly, injection was being practiced by the females. The following table shows the respondents by adopted of family planning.

Table 15: Distribution of Respondents by Adopted of FP

Adopted of FP	No.	Percentage
Male	18	27.69
Female	30	46.15
Not use	17	26.16
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.13 Represented at Social Organization

The Nepalese society is traditional and most of the traditional and cultural aspects play effective role to enhance the status of women in the society. Females have no property rights and low access to education and economic activity. Indeed it is ridiculous in modern society where both males and females are equal having equal rights and responsibilities. Though males and females are considered equal, female have low access to education, employment and in other gainful activities and they have low status in the society. But different social organization females generated low social status. Out of the 65 respondents the represented at social organization shows the following table.

Table 16: Represented at Social Organization

Represented	No.	Percent
Yes	50	76.92
No	15	23.08
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows that out of 65 respondents 76.92 percent respondents are represented in social organization. Only 23.08 percent respondents are not involved in social organization, because of lack of knowledge and lack of awareness.

4.14 Conclusion

In the world as well as in Nepal women constitute half of the total population. They are backbone of the society. Though males and females are considered equal having equal rights and responsibilities there is gender disparity in various aspects as socio-economic, political as well as decision making process.

More or less male dominance is practiced in our society. Due to this, females are deprived more in labourious and physical activities. Very few females are lucky get opportunity to engage in white colour job. Must be surrounded by household boundaries. They are mainly engaged in cooking, livestock caring, firewood collection, grass/fodder management child rearing, agriculture activities, household chores; they have low access to education, employment and medical facilities.

Though status of female has been improved recently, still it is not satisfactory. It is essential to eliminate the gender disparity which is prevailed in our society. National development is not possible, if women are not brought into mainstream of development as well as in decision making process. In this situation empowerment and enhancement of economic activities of females is essential to raise their status in society and bring them out from the household boundaries.

CHAPTER V

WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Decision has great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role in terms of peoples participation in different activities. In Nepalese society, man has dominant role and female has to support their male counter parts.

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 activities. Decisions regarding to purchase household things, cropping pattern, selling surplus, borrowing and lending money, household expenditures, expenditure in children's education business investment, seeking treatment, family planning and miscellaneous. Miscellaneous contains property rights of women, essential of education for female happiness with family and decision capacity of families and different reasons related to women's decision making processes.

There is gender disparity in terms of decision making process. Improvement in women's decision making power on 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 when play a dominant role in decision making process. The ability and capacity of females in decision making is affected by various factors as education, occupation, employment status, age factor etc.

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 alone 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.

Table 17: Distribution of HHs by Decision on Purchasing HHs Goods

Decision makers	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	49	75.39
Female	5	7.69
Both	11	16.92
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Among the 65 sampled households males were playing a dominant role in decision on purchasing household goods as T.V., Radio, Ornaments as well as consumption other materials. In 75.39 percent households, decision is made by males while only in 7.69 percent household females decide for it. However, there are 16.92 percent households in which decision is held by both males and females. This shows male's domination in family as well as society.

5.2 Decision for Cropping System

Mostly, females are engaged either in household chores or in agricultural activities. There is more involvement of females in agriculture, provided capable in decision making regarding cropping pattern. Out of total 65 households, 52.31 percent of the decisions for cropping pattern were made by males while 26.15 percent decisions were made by females. Both males and females occupy slightly lower. However, in 21.54 percent households both males and females jointly take decision for cropping pattern. The following table reveals the decisions on cropping pattern.

Table 18: Distribution of Households by Decision on Cropping Pattern

Decision makers	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	34	52.31
Female	17	26.15
Both	14	21.54
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

5.3 Decision Making in Selling Surplus Food Grains/Agricultural Products

Out of the total 65 sampled household, only 42 household had surplus agriculture-products to sell. As regards, selling of these surplus products mostly 40.48 percent of decisions was made by male members. It is followed by 38.10 percent females decide in sell such surplus

products and in some households 21.42 percent joint decision were made in selling surplus food of the household. Since selling activities is related to outside home and has to go to market which is far from their residence male dominate in this activities. Females rarely go to market to sell. The following table shows the decision made by males and females in selling surplus agriculture products. Such as vegetables, eggs, other agricultural production, milk etc.

Table 19: Distribution of Households by Decision on Selling Surplus Agricultural Products

Decision makers	No of HHHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	17	40.48
Female	16	38.10
Both	9	21.42
Total	42	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

5.4 More Decision in Household Works

Out of the total 65 sampled household, more decision in household works in male domination. It is 73.85 percent of respondents are more decision in male. Only 21.54 percent of females decide to household works and others decide 4.61 percent. It shows that in household works husband are domination in family. The following shows the more decision in household works.

Table 20: Distribution of Households by More Decision in Household Works

Members of the HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male (Husband)	48	73.85
Female (Wife)	14	21.54
Others	3	4.61
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

5.5 Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Respondents were asked "who decide for borrowing money or essential goods?" Among the 65 sampled households all replied that they borrowed from others to fulfill their needs. Regarding borrowing money and goods, in most of the households decisions were made by both out of 65 households, in 67.69 percent household, decision were made by both members while only 18.46 percent households decisions were done by males. Similarly, in 13.85 percent households decisions were made by females members. It can seen in the following table.

Table 21: Distribution of Households by Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Decision makers	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	12	18.46
Female	9	13.85
Both	44	67.69
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

5.6 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most 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 22: Decision on Household Expenditure

Decision makers	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	26	40
Female	18	27.69
Both	21	32.31
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Among the 65 sampled households, 40 percent decisions on households expenditure are made by male members. Only 27.69 percent decisions are done by females where as 32.31 percent decisions are made by both male and female members. It shows the low decision making power of females in household with regard to household expenditure. However, there is leading role of females in female headed household and nuclear family. in male headed households and households with joint family, females have lower power of decide in household expenditure.

5.7 Decision on Expenditure of children's Education

According to the filed survey, out of the total 65 sampled households, male members have dominant role in deciding children's

education. The decisions about children's education and expenditure for them were made by males in most cases. It was found that 56.92 percents decisions were made by male and only 20 percent by females. Similarly, 23.08 percent decisions were made by mutual consent of both members. Though both are equally responsible for the children's future but only males members decide in most of the cases. It may be due to the low educational study of female and their economic dependency.

Table 23: Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	37	56.92
Female	13	20
Both	15	23.08
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The following table illustrates the dominance of male role on decision for children's education and expenditure for them.

5.8 Decision 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 injection for treatment of diseases. The life expectancy of people has been increased due to modern medical facilities. In terms decision related to treatment for sickness of family members, males have dominant role. Mostly, male members decide, the types of treatment to be practiced to

care the disease. The following Table 24 shows the decision for treatment.

Table 24: Distribution of Households by Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Decision makers	No of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	12	18.46
Female	15	23.08
Both	38	58.46
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Above table shows that 18.06 percent decisions are made by males and 23.08 percent by females. Similarly, 58.46 percent decisions are made by both male and females members. It shows that both male and female equal decision for treatment.

5.9 Decision for Family Planning

Use of family planning is burning issue in the present work 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. Rapid population growth degrades the quality of life of the people and resulted different kinds of problems as food deficit, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, health hazards, bad sanitation etc.

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

Table 25: Decision for Family Planning

Decision makers	No of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	8	16.67
Female	13	27.98
Both	27	56.25
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

It is found that 48 respondents are using family planning devices. However 56.25 percent decisions are made by both males and females and 27.08 percent decisions were by females members, where as only 16.67 percent decisions to family planning are made by males. Thus both are same condition deciding to use family planning methods.

5.10 Decision on to Go Social Activities

Social activities are important part of human life. It is generate the human beings and to gain for knowledge and awareness. The following table shows the situation of decision making on to go social activities.

Table 26: Distribution of Households by Decision on to Go Social Activities

Decision makers	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	16	24.62
Female	14	21.54
Both	35	53.84
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Among the 65 sampled households, 53.84 percent decision are done by both members where as 24.62 percent decisions are male members and 21.54 percent decisions are female members. It shows the decision making power of male and female both are equal on to go social activities.

5.11 Miscellaneous

Respondents were asked to know their views towards property fight for women, education for women status of family life, causes of family backwardness and view toward women's decision making power.

The Nepalese society is traditional and most of the traditional and cultural aspects play effective role to enhance the status of women in the society. Females have no property rights and how access to education and economic activity. They are considered as the supporter to the males and they have to follow their male counterparts. Husband is considered as god for wife and she has to respect him in every step of life. In deed it is

ridiculous in modern society where both males and females are equal having equal rights and responsibilities. Though males and females are considered equal, females have low access to education, employment and in other gainful activities and they have low status in the society. There is vast gender disparity in socio-economic status as well as decision making power.

5.11.1 Education for Female

Views of respondents towards education for female had been recorded. Most of the respondents realized that education is the main factor which keeps the females to raise their status in the society. They are in favour of women's education. Few are against it. It is presented in the following table.

Table 27: View Towards Education for Females

Respondents view	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	59	90.77
No	6	9.23
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Out of the 65 respondents 90.77 percent have positive yes answer towards education for females and 9.23 percent have stated negative no answer. The following reasons were also reported by the respondents. Thus, the reasons to provide the education for and against to the females are as follows. Reasons for favouring female education:

- ☞ Knowledge and awareness building.

- ☞ Employment opportunities.
- ☞ To improve socio-economic status.
- ☞ Easy way to live.
- ☞ Son and daughter are equal.
- ☞ Bright future for themselves as well as children.
- ☞ Demand of time.

Reasons for not favouring females education.

- ☞ Property of others.
- ☞ Not work in household activities.
- ☞ Go to other house.
- ☞ Culture and tradition.
- ☞ Busy in household activities.

5.11.2 Reasons of Females Backwardness

In the study area, females are found deprived from their rights and responsibilities. They have low access to education, employment and decision making. They are dominated by males in each and every step of life. The followings are the main reasons for their backwardness in the study area as given by the respondents.

Table 28: Reasons of Females Backwardness

Reasons given by the respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Lack of education	25	38.46
Lack of awareness	22	33.85
Low economic status	6	9.23
Tradition and culture	12	18.46
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

As reported by the respondents, the main reason of female's backwardness is lack of education 38.46 percent. It followed by lack of awareness 33.85 percent. The stated third reason, which make female as backward is tradition and culture 18.46 percent. Than lack of awareness 9.23 percent also contributes to keep women low status.

5.11.3 Views of Respondents Towards Property Right of Women

The respondents were asked "Does it correct to provide property to daughter?" Most of the respondents replied negatively while some replied properly right to daughter. The following table reveals view of respondents on property right to females.

Table 29: Views of Respondents on Property Right to Women

Respondents view	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	15	23.08
No	50	76.92
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Out of the 65 respondents 76.92 percent are in negative answer of property rights to women, while 23.08 percent are in favour of property rights to women. Most of property rights to women. Most of respondents are not in favour of property right to women, it may be due to effect of lack of education and awareness.

5.11.4 Happiness with Family

Human being is rational animal which wants to survive contestably. Nobody wants to live with grief in family. Respondents were asked "Are you happy with your family?" The analysis of reply is described in the following table.

Table 30: Status of Family Life

Status	No of Respondents	Percentage
Happy	60	92.31
Not happy	5	7.69
Total	65	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Out of the total 65 respondents, 92.31 percent are happy with their family members and 7.69 percent are unhappy. The followings reasons are provided by the respondents with regard to their feelings on happiness and unhappiness.

Reason for happiness:

- ☞ Good environment.

- ☞ Small family

- ☞ Everybody loves family.
- ☞ Satisfaction.
- ☞ Easy to work.
- ☞ Note loneliness.
- ☞ Having son and grandson.
- ☞ Family members are supportive.

Reasons for unhappiness:

- ☞ Unfavourable environment.
- ☞ Husband is out of home
- ☞ Lack of son
- ☞ Beaten by husband
- ☞ Death of husband.
- ☞ Due to domestic quarrel.
- ☞ Deficiency of food and cloth.

5.11.5 Problems Faced by Women in Decision Making Process

Though, women in Nepal are spending their lots of time in husband 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, values and attitude.
- ☞ Involvement in non-economic activity.
- ☞ Females hesitate to decide freely.
- ☞ They have no confidence to decide solely.

5.11.6 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 that 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. 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 socio-economic 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.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

This study analyze the women's participation in household decision making process, particularly in Subhang VDC of Panchthar District. This study is based upon the primary data collected from the field survey. There are 954 households in Subhang VDC, among these households 65 are taken as sampled households to collect on formation. This study is an attempt to analyze 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 decisions which is taken in households as well as other social activities.

The following are the major findings of the study.

A. Socio-Economic Characteristics of respondents.

- ☞ Among the 65 respondents 34 are males and 31 are females.
- ☞ Majority of respondents are Janajati, Dalit and Brahman.
- ☞ Majority of the respondents are married except only 5 respondents.
- ☞ With regard to family structure, 46 (70%) households have Nuclear family and 19 (29%) households have Joint family.
- ☞ Of the total 80 percent households are Kachhi, 14 percent are Ardha Pakki and only 6 percent are pakki.
- ☞ Males control the household income. In 47 percent household income is kept by males and 23 percent by females while 29 percent by both members.

- ☞ Mostly both are involved in land cultivation (60%), female (26%) and male (13%) land cultivation.
- ☞ Most of the respondents are involving in agriculture and livestock farming (60%), services (23%), business (12%) and wage earning (4%).
- ☞ Of the total 65 respondents use of family planning (73%) are used.
- ☞ Most of the users use temporary method (32.31%) and (41.54%) have practiced permanent method.
- ☞ Most of the respondents believe in medical treatment for sickness (86%).

B. Women in Decision Making Process

In most of cases females have low decision making power with compared to their male counterparts. The following are the major findings with regard to participation of female's in household decision making.

- ☞ Male have higher decision making power for purchasing household goods (75%) with compared to females (7%).
- ☞ Males are (40%) and females are (38%) decide for selling surplus production.
- ☞ Males are (52%) and females are (26%) in engaged in decision with regard to cropping pattern.
- ☞ Male's decision has dominant role in household works (73.85%) compared to females (21.54%).
- ☞ Both are in borrowing money (67.69%), males are (18.46%) and females are (13.85%).

- ☞ More than one third percent decision for household expenditure is taking by males.
- ☞ Regarding expenditure on children's education more than half male make decision.
- ☞ 58 percent decisions are made by both for sickness treatment while only (18%) are male decision and (23%) are female decision.
- ☞ Decide for using family planning (56%) are both while (27%) female and (16%) are male.

C. Miscellaneous

- ☞ View towards education for females (91%) respondent are favour of it.
- ☞ 76 percent respondents are not in favour of providing property right to women while 23% only favour of providing property to women.
- ☞ Main reasons for backwardness of females is lack of education (38%).
- ☞ 92 percent respondents are happy with their family members and family environment.

6.2 Conclusion

As this study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities, it can be concluded the females have lower decision making power and they have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They are deprived from their right and responsibilities. They have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. In major household activities men played a dominant role in decision making. The females who have higher

educational background and employed have higher decision making power than merely illiterate households.

As our society is male dominated, males have superiorities status in most of the cases and female have to follow to them. Even they cannot decide for child birth and treatment of illness. It can also be concluded the females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process. Unless females are brought into the mainstream of development process, it is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this education and empowerment plays a important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making. They have to report their male partners decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work, they cannot decide at that moment, they have to ask for it.

6.3 Recommendations

This study indicates the women's participation in decision making process. This study has been carried out to analyze the women situation in decision making in household as well as other activities. Though women decision making power has been increased in recent days but it is satisfactory. Lots of governmental and non governmental organization are involving to empower the females socially as well as economically but result is not as desired. So, the governmental, NGO/INGOs 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.

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following recommendations can be suggested to improve the status females and to increase their participation in decision making process.

- ☞ Increase the access of females for gainful economic activities.
- ☞ Increase the access of females to modern health facilities and contraceptives.
- ☞ Encourage females to participate in politics and other related activities.
- ☞ Respect their voices in society.
- ☞ Eliminate the gender discrimination existed in the society.
- ☞ Make aware them for their rights and responsibilities.
- ☞ Bring them into mainstream of development.
- ☞ Women's role in decision making should be increased.
- ☞ Provide them opportunity to decide freely in socio-economic sector.
- ☞ Males have to participate for household chores.
- ☞ Give them opportunity to work according to their desires.
- ☞ Encourage them to be social and give them chance for social activities.
- ☞ Don't harass them for their mistakes.
- ☞ Develop the concept of equality between men and women.
- ☞ Women should not be bounded in household and agricultural area only.
- ☞ Give them opportunity to handle the male scale enterprises in household.

- ☞ Share the ideas of females in development activities.
- ☞ Their decisions should be respected for the social welfare.

Special Recommendation to Study Area

According to the finding of the study, women are spending more time in household activities but they have less decision power. The following recommendations should be followed to increase women's decision making power.

- ☞ Create awareness to the people about women's rights.
- ☞ Increase educational status both male and female.
- ☞ Change the traditional values norms and customs gradually.
- ☞ Provide opportunity to female in decision making.
- ☞ Involve them in social and economic activities.
- ☞ Encourage them to decide freely.
- ☞ Increase their economic status.

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