

# **Chapter One**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Economic status of women refers to the position and access of women in economy especially in decision making process. It depends upon the educational status, religious beliefs, traditional values and norms of a society.

The generational change refers to the shifts from one generation to another or the gap between two generations. It affects to the social, political, Economic and cultural phenomenon of a society or a country.

The situation of women in economic sector is very poor in the developing and underdeveloped countries like Nepal. Most of the women are deprived from their rights. However, the voice of equal rights to women is raised everywhere, who are not getting the opportunities in every sectors.

The women's movement in developing countries has a rich and varied history that is usually connected with struggles for independence and labor rights. The question facing these today is how to form coalitions with other groups-religious, environmental, economic- to advance cause. In the context of globalization, the most press'ing of these dilemmas is how to respond to foreign assistance and economic reforms promoted by allies in the north or developed world. (Kavita Ramdas: 2006)

Before the industrialization, women were not given their rights even in the western countries. But after the industrialization, women of those countries started to demand rights. History of USA shows that, women were fully provided rights after 1960s. That event influenced through out the world along with developing countries. As a result, most of the western countries providing the equal opportunities to the women in every field at present.

In 1995, Beijing Declaration was launched and 189 countries signed in a pact, which is the great platform for women to express rights. The platform called itself "An Agenda for Women's Empowerment". It aims at removing obstacles to women's and active participation in all spheres of public and private life, through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision making.

In Nepal, women consist of more than 50 percent of the population. Women are heavily engaged in domestic chores along with the socio-economic activities. Women have major role in household work. Less than 50 percent have got chance in decision making power. Even in 21<sup>st</sup> century women are not enjoying equal decision making power. In comparison to male counterparts, women are being discriminated since their childhood. In childhood women have to live under father, in adulthood follow husband and in old age have to live under son. Women have no liberty to decide freely even their own activities.

It was only after the UN declaration of 1975 as the international year of women and 1975-1985 as the UN decade for women that a national committee on International women year in Nepal was formulated. This committee attracted considerable foreign funds after seminars and conferences on women issues headed by women leaders.

Women are more ignored in underdeveloped countries like Nepal. Women have become able to transform public life in socio-political sectors and benefited from the various sectors in Nepal. But women are very few or limited in numbers. However, some women have got opportunities to attend in co-education schools and colleges. Women can go abroad study as per wishes. Women's issues were started in Nepal from the sixth plan period in the fields of education, health, employment, agricultural, forestry, co-operative

development and legal system with the help of non-governmental and governmental agencies.

After the restoration of democracy in Nepal in 1990, educational and political awareness has raised among the women. One of the most important government policy goals in country is the expansion and improvement of education for women. Vital in women right for the realization of individual capabilities, the education transform potential life chances of the women. There is vast difference between two generation of women especially in education and socio economic status. Many of the NGOs, INGOs along with government brought different programs to aware women after 1990 which made women capable to take different responsibilities. As a result women got step to involve in economic responsibility.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Although, the share of women in total population is more than half in Nepal, status in society compared to men is quite miserable. Women are lag behind in access education, health and other facilities. It is fact that more women than men are illiterate. However, buhari is getting more education on the comparison to the saau.

Rural women involved in a low productivity, low wage and higher underemployment sector. Most of the rural women population is involved in agriculture. Women have been compelled to endure discriminatory practices in every step of live due to the patriarchal perception. Women have been regarded as 'weak' in every sectors of the society. According to the census 2001, about 83 percent of household head are men. In government sector of Nepal, there are very few female employees and it is growing up smoothly. Low status of women is mainly due to less involvement in the income generating activities.

Considering the conditions of women in society, the questions arise what can bring changes, confidence and independent? What makes able to handle every type of economic risks in life? How can make them able to quest rights? How can women become able to get respect in society?

In Malunga Village Development Committee the most of the women have greater household responsibilities to men. However, ownership right over family properties rests on the men, not in women. Women have less access in the higher study and less authority for economic decision making, which is the main subject of the study area. Therefore, no single action would be sufficient to change the women economic status. Some common problems related to women are low levels of property right and education, low participation in income generating activities and economic decision making power, low access in employment, social status and economic status in family etc. So that some common problems related to women such as, Most of the women are illiterate so that women are not getting equal rights in family property. There are not employment opportunities in rural areas which make women dependent. However, buhari is involved in some economic activities and getting some better economic status; sasu is depending upon others due to the low level of skill and educational status.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to find out the generational change in economic status of women in the study area. Some specific objectives are as given below,

1. to assess the women's participation in economic activities in Malunga VDC.

2. to assess the decision making power in economy of women in Malunga VDC.
3. to analyze the property ownership of women in Malunga VDC

#### **1.4 Introduction of the Study Area**

Syangja District is located between 27<sup>0</sup> 52' and 28<sup>0</sup>13' altitude and 83<sup>0</sup>27' and 84<sup>0</sup>46' longitude. Its bordering districts are Tanahu in the east, Gulmi and Palpa in the west, Parbat and Kaski in the North and Palpa in the south with the area 1,164 sq Km. Syangja districts comprise of two ecological regions, namely Hill and Siwalik. For the administrative purpose, it lies in the western zone and its Headquarter is Pautali Bazar. There are 60 village Development committees, two municipalities and three electoral constituencies.

The population of the district is 3,17,320. Male occupy the 1,43,619 whereas female 1,73,701. Population monograph of 2058 stated that the growth rate of the population of the Syangja is 0.81percent. The growth of the population is very low in comparison to the other districts due to the out migration. The same report noted that there are 64,746 households the average household size is 4.9. The density of the population is 272 per sq. Kms. Malunga is located 50 km in the south west from district headquarter. The topographical features of the VDC are hilly. This located Jagatradevi VDC in north and east, south and west surrounded by the Kaligandaki River. The people of this area equipped with infrastructure development i.e. education, health, communication transportation and electricity.

Central Beauru of Statistics report 2001 mentioned that the total population of this VDC is 3536 out of which 1946 are females and 1590 are males; the size of households being 708. People adopted the agriculture and

animal husbandry as their main occupation whereas business, government jobs and foreign labour as their subsidiary occupation. The artisan groups engross in their occupational business like manufacturing wood ware, tailoring, manufacturing agricultural tools and brick layering. The study area consisted by the different caste and ethnic groups like Brahmin/ Chettri, Magar and Newar. In addition, some other occupational castes have been inhabitant with the study area such as Viswokarma (Kami), Tailors (Damai) and Cobblers (Sarki). The dominating caste are Brahmin and Magar. Within the study area; there is gender division of labour based on their cultural identity. Mainly male are concerning with income generating activities whereas women only subordinate their male example firewood and fodder collection. Their working hours is naturally longer than that of male counterparts. The eye viewed shows that the male are primarily dominating over the economic activities both within household and community itself.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

This study is important for investigating generational change of women in economic sector or economic empowerment of women in different activities in the study area. Women's education, health, property ownership, decision-making power, employment etc are the key factors to affect status. Therefore, the study has concentrated these factors upon women's ability as well as weakness. The patriarchal society has discarded the women participation in educational, social and economical fronts.

This study is useful for all these national and foreign economist and sociologist also who are interested to conduct similar study on women. Besides, it equally helps the government and non government organizations and agencies to have a clear understanding on the socio-economic status of Nepalese women. At the same time it is useful for planners, policy makers and

other women's development oriented organization for the development considering generational change in economic status of women because need to know the actual conditions of the problem while making appropriate policy and programs to address for women's issue.

### **1.6 Limitation of the Study**

1. This study basically attempts the generational change in economic status of women and which has concentrated on the educational status, health situation, property rights, economic decision-making, employment situation of women and social status of women in Malunga Village Development Committee.
2. This study is based on primary data however the study area is concentrated only on ward number 2, 8 and 9 of Syangja district.
3. This study is only at household level but not at the national level.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study has been discussed under six chapters. The first chapter consists of introduction of study and second chapter consists of review of literature. The third chapter comprises methodology of study and fourth chapter consists of socio-economic condition of the study area and chapter five consists of status of generational change in economy of women. Chapter six consists of summary, conclusion and recommendation. Besides, annex and bibliography are affixed which help to the research.

## **Chapter II**

### **Review of Literature**

#### **2.1 Review of Literature**

There are several studies carried out about the women's education, health, role in society, economic activities but there are not studies about the generational change in women decision making process inside the countries. In this chapter, various books, articles and reports related to the present study are reviewed which are related with this study.

#### **2.2 International Studies**

Asian Women who have been subjected to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continues even to this day, may be to a lesser degree. The monopolies of economic and political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between and within nations is maintained. The majority of the women in the world, especially the Asian women, are excluded from these instruments. The position is further belittled by the fact that work is considered as “non-productive”. This undervaluation of women’s contribution to the economy is closely associated with inferior social status and also “the relative loss of individual freedom and status with the family”. In non-socialist countries, where the extension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic and social roles of women. Women have been projected as mere consumers, worthy of only social welfare services but not as partners with equal say in building a new society. Such welfare policies, no matter how well intentioned, are found to reinforce various forms of exploitation of these women.

In Asia, women constitute the single largest group engaged in agriculture and food production. Some Asian traditions even claim that women



discovered agriculture. Yet very few of them control the basic asset-land. Although participate actively in the labour process, women are often excluded from the decision making process.

Further, women in agriculture attach highest priority to food crops, as it becomes responsibility to feed families. Therefore, greater control on agriculture decisions made instrumental in reducing the areas under food crops.

Constraints of family, illiteracy and all traditional barriers and attitudes prevent women's ability to influence vital decision making. It is better to form grass root level organizations responsive to the needs of the poor, local women. Along with this is needed a new approach to study the social organizations, i.e. families and household in a clearer perspective. Better knowledge of women both in the past and present can bring a lot of changes to these perceptions. (Mazumdar, 1982)

To bring women's issues into the forefront of development strategies is necessary. Although such issues have been denied access in important national and international discussions in the past, author felt that the preliminary term of "women and development" now being replaced by "women in development," is quite a significant step towards a realistic perception of women lives. Author observes that the collective effect of perceptions, values and lifestyles have distorted women's personality and stunted growth, reducing the size of a 'crippled' tree.

“Can afford to trace any path of development without pooling the untapped resources of women?” Women are an indispensable human resources and the necessity to mobilize for any significant and balanced development of a nation. (Patel, 1982)

Industrialization and urbanization also have changed women's socio-economic status dramatically. The full-fledged national movement for

modernization, begun in the 1960s, required the massive participation of a female workforce, and thus women became - perhaps unintentionally - major contributors to national development. During modernization, women constituted a large part of the Korean labor force. There is hardly any doubt that improvements in contemporary Korean women's education and employment also have increased women's political consciousness, but these changes have not yet been reflected in increased political participation beyond voting. Take the proportion of elected women in the national legislative body. The discrepancy between slowly changing women's (and men's) attitudes toward women's political roles and the more modest increase in the number of women filling political roles is caused, we believe. (Lee, 1996)

Social-Cultural norms, particularly gender norms often discourage people for using preventive measure in the era of HIV/AIDS, even when risk contracting the virus. Norms encourage men to take sexual risks and also discourage women from questioning partner's sexual activities. Gender inequality in many cultures had shown that women have less powers than men in decision making, most cultures, prevent many women from using preventive measures and even discussing with sex partners. Asking a husband to use preventive measures requires that the wife plays a more assertive role than is the norm in most cultures. In many societies, women are expected and taught to subordinate own interests to those partners. With such expectation, young women often feel powerless to protect themselves against HIV infection and intended pregnancies.

In Nigeria, and else where adolescents sexual interaction is usually characterized by unequal power relationship between the male and female, this due in part that girls are usually socialized in early life to defer to the boys, even when are in relationship. Boys have learned that as boys, must be more aggressive and the girls more receptive with its attendant implications for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The study further shows HIV/AIDS while 169 of respondents married also shows a moderate awareness; only the divorced women had low awareness. The lack of difference as shown by the result amplified the fact that both simple and married have same education given the same environment. For the married, awareness of HIV/AIDS may not influence the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Obviously, gender inequality, in many cultures had shown that married women have less power than men in decision making when it comes to sexual issues. In general, when women are dependent on men, it is more difficult for women to protect own reproductive health. So it is glaring that marital status is not significant issue in HIV/AIDS awareness among university undergraduates.

Even some religions in Nigeria, Christian, Muslim and traditional region discriminate against women and subordinate to men. This gender discrimination in Nigeria worsens vulnerability of women HIV/AIDS epidemic. In northern part of the country, education of women is close to forbidden, therefore relegating the women to what society want to be, mere sex objects who should satisfy the sexual urge and advances of the men. Apart from all these, women are seen to and up in kitchen because must attend to kitchen responsibility no matter level of education. So the traditional parent read meanings to this, although, these women still engage in some productive activities like domestic work, food processing, trade and craft production. (Momoh, Moses, Ailemen, Ugiomoh, 2007,)

Qualifications and life-stage play an important role in predicting women's economic activity across all ethnic groups. Better-qualified women are more likely to be working than less qualified women in all ethnic groups. However, qualifications have the largest impact on rates of economic activity for Pakistani and Bangladeshi women and the least effect for black ethnic groups.

For all ethnic groups, young unpartnered women without children (excluding full-time students) and with degree level qualifications have uniformly high levels of economic activity, all over 90percent. Thus the very low levels of economic activity typically associated with Pakistani and Bangladeshi women is largely explained by partnership and children and a lack of qualifications and, of course, other factors associated with those variables. Qualitative evidence suggests that women with degree level qualifications have the confidence to argue against traditional views of women's employment. Also, younger (second generation) Pakistani and Bangladeshi women see work as important in providing with some independence, although parents might sometimes prefer daughters to stay at home. Married Pakistani and Bangladeshi women talk about needing to get the agreement of husband and, sometimes, his family, before can take paid work.

Rates of economic activity are lower for all mothers with young children. However, the negative effect of young children is least for Black women and greatest for Pakistanis and Bangladeshi women. Employment patterns for Black Caribbean women are consistent with economic migration and norms of motherhood that encompass both roles of bread-winner and parent and where wage-earning forms an important part of 'good motherhood'. (Dale, Lindley, Dex, 2004)

Traditional Balkan life was patriarchal in the simple and literal sense. Women played a subordinate role with few opportunities in the economic realm and virtually none in the political. Liberal ideas and economic modernization in the nineteenth century did not necessarily help women. While traditional Balkan women were confined to certain roles in their families and villages, position was at the same time secure, stable and respected. Women controlled certain traditional village guilds such as cloth-making, and in the south Slav *zadruga* (or commune) women were in charge of the domestic

economy of multi-generational household. These conditions did not confine women to own regions: for example, Bulgarian women traveled substantial distances in organized work groups during the harvest season.

Guilds and Zadrugi broke up in the face of modern economic forces and imports. Modern law codes imitated Western models in which women were legally disenfranchised and thus deprived women of traditional rights to own or inherit property without introducing compensating rights. Many of the new jobs in factories went to women, but these jobs had low prestige and low pay, offered no chance for advancement or ownership, and disrupted domestic life by attracting women to distant towns where lived in dormitories.

Karl Marx and other Communist theorists treated the economic subordination of women as an aspect of class oppression that would be eliminated by socialism. In *The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State* (1884), Friedrich Angeles postulated a primeval classless society in which women had enjoyed a position of equality with men. The goal of socialism was to restore women to an equal role in public life and to end the capitalist situation in which were confined to private and domestic functions. To free women from household obligations, socialism was expected to provide not only education and jobs, but also child-care centers, communal kitchens and household conveniences. The Left also consistently demanded women's suffrage and liberalized access to divorce, contraception and abortion as women's issues.

Greece shows few strong contrasts with its socialist neighbors, despite contrasting views about the role of women found in Marxist as opposed to Western thought. Modernization and general prosperity seem to be the keys to breaking down traditional limits on women, whether under socialism or capitalism. ([www.lib.msu.edu](http://www.lib.msu.edu))

Most of the women regardless of generation hold some very "modern" attitudes about both work and marriage. At the same time, current work force participation levels are low among both mothers and daughters. The generational similarity extends to the determinants of attitudes towards marriage timing, showing that there is no generation gap, and that there is widespread normative acceptance of relatively late marriages among daughters as well as mothers, reflecting traditional support for delayed marriages in Sri Lankan society. However, two generations are very different in the factors correlating with work status: for mothers, family issues, especially the work status of other members is of prime importance, while for daughter's life course stage in terms of age and schooling status, as well as media exposure are the major factors related to employment. Mothers are more likely to be working because of economic need, while the younger women have greater flexibility on issues of family responsibility. (Malhotra Anju, Tsui Ami Ong, 1999)

Wives perform the vast majority of routine daily household maintenance chores and spend longer days in combined paid employment, housework, and child care than do husbands. Wives also experience greater pacing, timing, and multi-tasking pressures than do husbands. Spaniards combine both traditional and equalitarian orientations in daily routines. Wives especially seem to balance a rationally efficient orientation to market capital and time availability demands, but still retain a very traditional homemaking role based on affiliation with Catholic principles. (Sanchez Laura; Hall Carla S, 1999)

However, there are number of insights into the processes of social change that may drive changes from arranged marriage to individually chosen consensual unions by exploring the effects of media exposure and participation in youth clubs. Increasingly, both social scientists and policy makers are beginning to argue that exposure to the mass media may have important consequences for family formation and dissolution processes. The evidence

present is consistent with that idea. In this rural agrarian setting, in which virtually all marriages were arranged by parents only decades ago, exposure to the media increases the chances that young adults participate in the choice of future husband or wife. The fact that this strong effect is independent of a broad range of other nonfamily experiences and other individual and family characteristics only serves to underscore the importance of this mechanism of change. It is quite likely that those who are exposed to the media in this setting, through radio, television, or the movies, are coming in contact with new ideas and foreign examples of behavior, originating predominantly in Western Europe and the United States. These messages from Western countries include the information that those who are the very richest in today's world chose own spouse and do not necessarily marry a person of parents' choosing. These messages may also indicate that independence from parents and exercising one's own decision-making prerogatives may help in the goal of social mobility and achievement of the good life. (Ghimire and William 2007)

The term "status" denotes not only the conjunctions of rights and duties, as reflected in women's survival roles as mother, wife and daughter in law but also the degree of subordination in home, education, the number of sons has, the economic status of family as measured by numbers of utility items found in house, degree of participation in public life, role in decision making in family affairs and self perceived status in the home and the community. (Mukharjee, 1974)

The change in societal attitude towards women employment has occurred because of the economic strains of the time and with this change as well as with the change in the attitude of educate women employment has increased. Women in the past were driven by poverty to work, i.e. only those who were poverty stricken took up jobs. Now this thinking has radically changed. Women may work out of economic necessity or out of own choice.

The process of industrialization has brought about socio-psychological changes in the attitude and values of the people of this country, especially among the urban population. And has brought a change in the attitude of the educate women. (Kapur, 1970)

Traditionally, rural women have contributed substantially to household income and participated substantially in the household decision making process. But with commercialization of the rural economy is losing ground relative to men because women are less equipped to cope with commercialized economy. The majority of the rural households are fast losing access to community resources, such as land and forest. Rural women are the greatest losers with increasing work burden and reduce access to resource.

Women have not been empowered to participate in the social and economic development in a full fledged manner excluded from the development process. The deep rooted gender stereotyping in the socialization pattern role models has consistently in habited women from coming out of traditional cocoons. Reorganization of the need improve the status of women and to promote potential roles in development is no longer seen only as an issue of human rights of social justice. While the pursuit of gender equity remarks strongly imbedded within the framework of fundamental human rights and gender justice, investment in women now also are recognized that as crucial to achieving sustainable development. Economic analysis recognized other low level of education and training, poor health women's quality of life, but also limited productivity and hinder economic efficiency and growth. Hence promoting and improving the status of women need to be pursued, for reasons of equality and social justice and also because it makes economic sense and is good development practice policy on gender and development. (ADB, 2004)



Poverty plays the vital role in social restriction on women's mobility are limited. Families trade control over women's activities in exchange for increased income. At the same time, export industries tend to have heavily feminized workforces, which range from 50 to 90 percent female. While many of these jobs are described by liberals in the west as "Sweat shop exploitation" the women who work in these units see them very differently. These jobs give young women a space where women are able to escape the supervision of families. The income from jobs often results in greater decision making power, and experience of the wider world can embolden these women speak up for themselves. (Deo 2006)

The socio economic, political and cultural structure of India has undergone a major transformation during 21<sup>st</sup> century. Under its impact, new values have emerged in moulding the lives and life pattern of women. One of the women's greatest problems is the fact that are not only invisible to the system in winch work, but are also invisible to each other. This means that women can not support each other in social change roles. In the past five years systematic efforts have been made to develop restores of qualified women in all kinds of fields from education to medicine in the development and world order. The number of able and experienced women who are being uncovered in every field is surprising everywhere. Women's greatest resources lie in own socially hidden skills, now being made visible; have been working all along in the lower echelons of every type of institution. These days lengthening lists of trained and ready women give the lie to any attempts to say that ,can not find qualified women.' (Agrawal, 2001)

In the early phase of first generation, industrial participation of Singapore women , the family plays a vital role. These women depend closely on family supported services however the expansion of semiskilled factory labor has already decreased the availability of women to perform the support

services that working women need. Coming over several generations, socio economic changes have been less apparent in Saint Simon than have been similar changes in the third world. The removal of Saint Simon women from the co producer role was gradual, unobtrusive and combined with certain obvious 'advantages'. Women were freed from considerable labor associated with fish processing and farming women Saint Simon did not object to decreasing involvement in traditional economic activities as women did in some other areas of the world, for example, the Kon women of eastern Nigeria caused major upheavals because of the deterioration of position as farmers coupled to fear of losing land to male farmers. (Boserup, 1970 quoted in Salaff)

The economically oriented statement defined communist policy goals for women as bringing women from the home into the community ending peasant household that kept women subservient providing equal educational opportunities for women, mobilizing women for political work developing communal services to alleviate housework and providing work condition able to satisfy the particular needs of the female organism and also the physical, moral and spiritual needs of the women as mother. The statement suggest the communist policy's secondary goals for women initial policy aimed at ending women's inferior status in marriage and actively involving women in political work and the building of a new society. (Jancar, 1981)

The quantitative increase in women's economic participation have hot generally seen matched by qualitative improvement or better working conditions and equality of opportunity and treatment for women in employment has yet to be achieved any where in the world. Relative to men, women still face unequal hiring standards, unequal opportunities for training and retraining, unequal access to productive resources, segregation and concentration in a narrow range of 'female' sectors and occupations, unequal

pay for equal work, unequal sharing of family responsibilities, unequal participation in economic decision making, unequal career prospects and greater likelihood of being unemployed and of being poor. The negative impact of economic reform and transition to market economics has tended to hit women harder than men. The number of women living in poverty has increased in most regions.

The role of women in the economy can no longer be ignored or neglected. Since the 1980s, women have been providing the bulk of all new labor supply in both industrialized and developing countries. In almost all regions of world, the female share of the labor force has been rising during periods of prosperity as well as periods of recession, whereas men's participation has been consistently falling everywhere. By choice or because of economic pressure, more and more women have become fully committed workers who are economically active throughout working lives.

Women have not taken up strategic decision making positions as quickly or in as large numbers. Although, represent about 40 percent of workforce, account for less than 20 percent of management and 6 percent or less of senior management. In public administration, female decision makers tend to be concentrated in social rather than economic or line ministries, in non strategic sectors and in staff and administrative positions rather than line and professional management positions. Some women have penetrated the 'glass ceiling' at the highest level. women are heads of state ministers, presidents of the corporations. But at the same time and in the same countries, women are very poorly represented among elected representatives, and 'glass ceilings' at the lower level have been particularly impenetrable. (Lion, 1996)

The need for improving women's role in the economic development effort should widely recognized by governments as national economic and

social goal. Land is still the most important form of collateral for agricultural credit. If due to lack of land ownership, women are not able to obtain credit for agriculture inputs, the land cultivate less economically productive. If women must resort to high interest unsecured loans or to the mortgaging or advanced sale of crops, the land cultivate is apt to be less economically productive. This may result women contributing less to rural economics and having less economic incentive to best utilize productive resources. ( Mueller and Anker, 1988)

### **2.3 National Studies**

Discrimination between males and females starts in the family. Females are not included in the decision making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of husbands/fathers/ parents/ male relatives. (Human Rights in Nepal 2003: 70)

Nepalese societies being patriarchal, people still do not see women politicians as leaders, no matter how capable. Women tend to see through the prism of social roles as sister, wife and daughter-in-law etc. (Karki,Roshan, RPP Member, quoted in the Kathmandu Sunday Post, January 5, 2003:1).

The fourth worldwide women's conference organized by UNO in 1995 in Beijing is the historical milestone of women's empowerment and rights. From 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June in 2000 A.D. UNO organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference regarding women which is also known as Beijing+5. To insecure the layout of Beijing +5 and to improve the hindrances and face the present challenges National Women Commission in 24<sup>th</sup> Falgun 2058 was established in the chairmanship of Mrs. Durga Pokhrel.

The constitution guarantees all citizens the equality before law and equal protection of law. No one discriminated against on the basis of sex. Despite these constitutional and legal provisions, Nepalese women are suffering from social, economical and political discrimination. Major areas of discrimination include citizenship rights, property, employment, reproductive health rights, marriage, family relations and punishment and legal proceedings. Deep-rooted cultural norms and patriarchal values are unfavourable to women. As a result, social preference for sons in schooling, neglect of women's health needs, child marriage and unmatched marriage bigamy/ polygamy are still part of the reality. Dowry and domestic violence are still other problems. (CWD/UNICEF, 1989)

Commenting upon the difference between pre-and post- 1990 years, almost all the women respondents stated that in the post-1990 days, women have the opportunity to speak and exchange views with husband, to participate in public forums, institutions and political parties, and also get elected in different tiers of local government bodies, particularly the VDCs, but also pointed out that women still are not often encouraged to participate in socio-cultural and political activities, and when do, women 'character' is questioned and, worse, the male members of families citizen them (Dahal.: 1992:71).

Women's economic dependence on men, mainly stemming from the fact that men earn cash incomes, contributes to social status. The few women who earn a salary are often held in higher esteem than women who do not. (Gurung, 1999).

The social, economic and political conditions of women in a society depend on the state of society structure. From stage of virtual slavery only a quarter of a century ago, we entered the age of rights and equality in the political and economic spheres. The years after the revolution have seen a

change in the traditional views and attitudes towards. In the less developed areas, the idea of equal opportunities and development is gaining ground. Women were given a high status in the Hindu traditions, but in social concept for giving equal practical opportunities was not possible still very recently.

The wave of consciousness for equality and the recent change in social attitudes have increased the spread of education. The revolution which brought in women status is only a few years old. Before women were limited to the care of children and affairs within the wall of home.

The change brought in 1950, played a historic role in the social, economic and political sectors, as also in the domain of equal rights and opportunities for women. The change took place in its history and at present women is capable to hold the responsible jobs in government as well as non-government sectors. (Pokhrel, 1982)

Women's situation in Nepal is reflected in the fact that Nepal has one of the highest martial mortality rates in the world, one of the lowest female literacy rate, one of the lowest per capita income and one of the lowest participation of women in decision making bodies. In Nepal, there is need for new and reforms to change status of women for participation in decision making program and all round development.

Social status of a girl child is also affected by practices of dowry, bride price and different marriage customs prevalent among ethnic group. Girl child also poses a problem that sexual purity has to be ensured and arrangement has to be made for getting decently married. A majority of ethnic groups assign a secondary status to women. A barren woman is scorned in all communities. In rural area have to stay with a co-wife.

In running the family, women's economic contribution which is often ignored, both girl children and female members are the main actors for household management. The child girl is the main help hand of mother. Most of the women are deprived from the social and others rights which are need to develop personality. Women access in decision making process is very low. (Majupuria, 2007)

The major issues related to women in the economic field include limited access to productive assets the land and property credit and modern avenues of knowledge and property information; concentration of women in low productivity agriculture and high and increasing work burden without concomitant increase in access to resources, child labor, lack of access to training, technology and education, concentration at lower levels jobs, poor working conditions and lack of child care facilities at work places, trade union' neglect of women's problems, risk to personal security and sexual harassment in the formal sector and low level of technology, limited market access, low income and progressive loss of proprietorships in informal sector. A problem to be noted is also the declining economic activity rates of urban women probably signaling the domestication of women.

Due to the social, cultural and religious belief, Nepalese women do not enjoy some status as men do. In society women are less endowed with productive resources in terms of education, health and productive assets, which could bring higher, return to their labor. (Acharya, 2000)

Nepal is currently implanting its Eight Fiver year plan (1992/93-1996/97). In all 75 districts a number of development programs are underway. However, the number and type of programs vary from district to district. It assumes that these development programs have an impact of population behavior. In other word, the socio- economic characteristic of the population

register a change over time. The degree of change may naturally vary depending on where or not there are such programs, the length of time have been effect and the scope and effect of implementation. The majority of women in the formal manufacturing sector work as few working in the supervisory or management levels. The concentration of women in low paid unskilled jobs may be attributed to low literacy, low skill levels but also to social biases vis- a vis women capabilities and aptitudes. (Acharya and Bannet, 1996)

Conventional social custom is one of the major reasons in 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 those 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 number of society. Due to all these reasons status compared to male is very low.

Women are more apt to say that husband's decision or have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved or accepting husband's decision without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly, simply because express opinion does not mean that make a decision. The idea is that women express disagreement because have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of confidence in voicing opinions. (Acharya, 1994)

It can be concluded from the above studies that female have low decision making status as well as very low access in property. Because of the lack of education and male domination system, very few female are getting



opportunities. In the last days, some change can be seen among the developing countries. Because of the education and awareness programme conducted by different organizations, women are getting better opportunities in these days. That is positive sign for women. Due to globalization, women are being aware for their rights. In this way there are not studies about the generational change in economic status of women in decision making process in Nepal. Therefore, this report writing is being written.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Rational for the Selection of Study Area**

The proposed area of the study is suitable to get the abundant information of this research queries. Study area being occupied by various caste and ethnic groups like Brahmin, Magar, Kami, Newar, Sarki and Damai. The cultural mosaic of the study area give the space to get the cross-cultural information related generational change in economic status of women. As a motherland of researcher, different information have been observed the ignored matrimonial decision making process for day to day economy and social status.

#### **3.2 The Research Design**

This research is based on both exploratory and descriptive research design. In the exploratory design there is use of various methods like interview, survey, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and observation during the period of study. However, this particular feature of this research design is translated into a descriptive-analytical form which has been utilized during the data analysis process. This means that the data interpretation has been supported by tabular analysis followed by their explanations. In order to meet the research agenda there has been used the secondary information to interpret the field data.

#### **3.3 Nature and sources of Data**

In the present study, both primary and secondary data have been used. The primary data were collected from the field survey. For this purpose, a brief and intensive fieldwork was conducted in the months of June/July 2008. During the field work, primary data were collected from the sample

respondents, observation, semi-participatory observation, field note, focus group discussion and key informant interview. The secondary data were collected from published and unpublished literature such as books; journals, articles, research reports and other official documents.

### **3.4 The Households and the Sample Size**

A total of 708 households are found within the nine wards of Malunga Village Development Committee according to village report 2006. It is very difficult to take census for this study. So, some household have been taken as a sampled house for the study. Among the total household, 86 has been taken as sample household. To make the study qualitative about 12.15% households are taken as sample.

### **3.5 The Sampling Procedure**

However there are 708 Households in the village development committee, only 426 Households have joint family in which Sasu and Buhari are living together. It has already mentioned that there are different ethnic groups but Magar and Brahmin along with Dalit are dominant in the study area. So the first and foremost difficult thing was to take sample on the basis of different ethnic groups. For this, researcher has selected the ward number. 2, 8 and 9 as sample wards where Brahmin and Dalit are living. There is not any representation of Magar community so that researcher has taken some survey of Magar's household who are living in ward number 4 and 5 and there is no presence of other community. There are 76 Household of Magars in these two wards and among them 49 household have joint family. So that, 15 households has been surveyed to make this study authentic and real. Except these household researcher has taken 25, 22 and 24 household from ward number 2, 8 and 9 respectively including dalit community. Within the sampled wards, there is used random sampling for the household survey and at the same time

researcher has taken different ethnic groups' survey that represents in those wards. Such sampling is proportional sampling on the basis of numbers of households in respective wards which also can represent the whole scenario of the village development committee.

### **3.6 Data collection Techniques and Tools**

In order to obtain necessary and reliable data for this study the researcher have used different tools such as primary and secondary data collection. Primary data are collected from questionnaire survey; semi-participation observation, field notes, focus group discussion and key informant interviews and secondary data have been collected from different sources in local level like, publication of women groups, VDCs profile, VDC's records and other relevant published matters.

### **3.7 Methods of Primary Data Collection**

In order to obtain necessary and reliable data for this study the researcher has used different methods such as direct participation observation, survey, and case study.

#### **3.7.1 Observation**

Observation method was used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day-to-day activities, role in economic activities, and relationship with the members of the family. The economic activities in the households were observed to find out the women's status in the economic activities and access in economic sector. The data collected through observations have been used to support the structured data in relevant place in the text.

### **3.7.2 Household Survey**

An interview questionnaire was structured so as to meet the purpose. The questions are categorized in three sections. The first section dealt with purpose of getting information about the general information of a household in which family size, household economy, sources of economy, numbers of pets, etc are interviewed. The second section deals with individual Sasu and Buhari of the household while the 3<sup>rd</sup> section try to get information by focus group discussion.

### **3.7.3 Focus Group Discussion**

This study has mainly concerned with Sasu and Buhari to find out the generational change in economic status of women. Therefore, some effort has been made to take interview with Sasu group and Buhari group separately as well as together in order to get the real information about the fact.

### **3.7.4 Key Informant Interviews**

In order to get some specific information about the past situation of women economic status, researcher has consulted some old people above the age of 75 years. In this key informant interviews, researcher has taken interviews of men also who have enough knowledge about the women status in past societies. Actually it was very interesting matter that were openly telling real information about attitude towards their female counterparts and are also amazed with seeing the present situation of women. Such interview helps to make this study more intensive.

### **3.7.5 Case Studies**

In order to see the process of decision-making and other aspects of household activities, some 'case studies' were also carried out. Three women were taken purposively for case studies. The cases were chosen with level of

income, education, marital status as well as different age groups. The selected informants were intensively interviewed to prepare detail case study, to incorporate individual experience of work and feeling of empowerment.

### **3.8 Data Generation and Data Analysis Procedure**

The entire procedure for the data generation and its analysis begins with the formation of a structured questionnaire. It comprises of the all relevant questions concerning the changing economic status of women. Besides, questions pertaining to the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents have also been included. Therefore, the questionnaire has been designed in such a manner so as to give an overall picture of the relative status of the female in terms of changing economic status as well as a glimpse of the decision making process in economy.

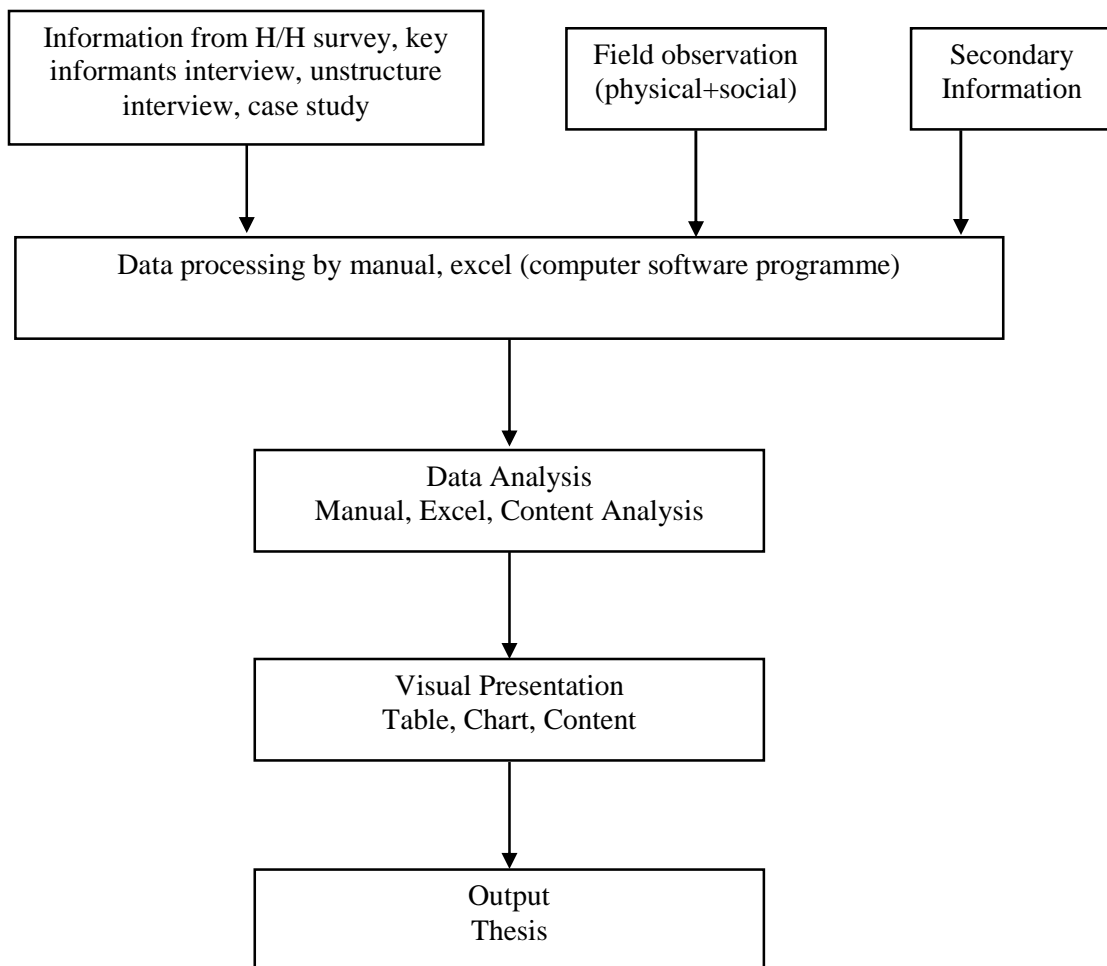
The questionnaire was then pre-tested so as to test its credibility. Accordingly, some additions and deductions of questions were made to support objectives and was eventually finalized. Then the researcher conducted the entire questioning within the 86 households which were earlier selected via the random sampling using the lottery method as mentioned above. The researcher made sure that the respondents were all with joint family where Sasu and Buhari are living together. Researcher has strictly limited to the jointly family or the family where there are Sasu and Buhari living together.

Thus, the data, generated was grouped into mainly two categories all tables containing the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and the tables consisting of the economic status of women different household members. Finally, the data generated in this manner was prepared for analysis as seen in the fourth chapters.

### 3.6 Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation

The qualitative data has been analyzed and interpreted descriptively making the argument in logical way. The quantitative data has been coded, classified on the basis of nature of data and then presented in various tables by using simple statistical tool such as mean and percentage. After presentation of the data in tables are analyzed and interpreted coherently.

### 3.7 Schematic Frameworks for Data Analysis



## **Chapter Four**

### **Socio- Economic Characteristics of the Study Area**

The socio-economic condition reflects the general scenario of the study area. Malunga Village development committee is second smallest village development committee in Syanja district. However, the Siddhartha highway was introduced in 2024 BS; very few people took direct benefit from there. The village is rich in land and forest resources along with transportation and communication facilities.

#### **4.1 Age and Sex composition of Population**

The balance in numbers between the sexes affects social and economic relationship within a community. Age and sex structure of population provides the information on the people's potentiality of economic activities.

Table 4.1 shows that the population structure of the study area where the total population of female is greater than that of the male. Sex ratio of this study area is 98.37 where as the national sex ratio is 99.8 in the last census i.e. 2001. While observing the size of population of here, it is different in the national comparison; population of the first three age group is very low in comparison of national census 2001.



**Table 4.1 Age and Sex Structure of Population**

Age Group	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
0-4	36	4.93	34	4.66	70	9.59
5-9	39	5.34	41	5.62	80	10.96
10-14	38	5.21	37	5.07	75	10.27
15-19	38	5.21	39	5.34	77	10.56
20-24	30	4.11	32	4.38	62	8.49
25-29	27	3.70	29	3.97	56	7.67
30-34	24	3.29	26	3.56	50	6.85
35-39	26	3.56	27	3.70	53	7.26
40-44	23	3.15	23	3.15	46	6.30
45-49	22	3.01	23	3.15	45	6.16
50-54	20	2.74	19	2.61	39	5.34
55-59	13	1.78	13	1.78	26	3.56
60-64	12	1.64	12	1.64	24	3.29
65+	14	1.92	13	1.78	27	3.70
<b>Total</b>	362	49.59	368	50.41	730	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

The population of male exceeds to females in the age group of 0-4, 10-14, 30-34, 50-54, and 65 above. At the age group of 40-44, 55-59 and 60-64 number of male and female population is equal and rest of the categories are dominated by female population. Average household size of the study area is 8.49 which is comparatively very high than the national scenario of last census 2001 which is only 5.44. Actually this study is focused to the joint family which has sasu and buhari, so that the size of family seems very high. However the family size is very high, the population growth rate is very low as a consequence the child dependency is also low.

## 4.2. Educational Status

Education is the key factor for the social and economic development. It is also the means of change and a great infrastructure of development.

**Table 4.2 Educational Status by Sex**

Level of Education	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
Literate Only	96	29.45	126	37.73	222	33.64
Primary	79	24.23	54	16.17	133	20.15
Secondary	28	8.59	26	7.78	54	8.18
SLC	37	11.34	26	7.78	63	9.55
Intermediate	16	4.91	8	2.40	24	3.64
Bachelor +	7	2.15	2	0.60	9	1.36
Total Literate	263	80.67	242	72.46	505	76.52
Illiterate	63	19.33	92	27.54	155	23.48
Total	326	100	334	100	660	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

*Note: Children below five years are excluded in this table*

Table 4.2 shows the overall literacy educational condition of the study area. Table 4.2 shows a person who can read and write their name only are also included in only literate. Out of total population 76.52 percent people are literate which is very high in the comparison of national ratio i.e. 53.08 (Census, 2001). Among the literate people 9.55 percent have passed the SLC. Among the total population 3.64 percent have completed intermediate education in which 2.40 percent are female and 4.91 percent are male.

The literacy rate for male and female do not have very big gap. Female literacy rate is 72.46 percent where as male literacy percent is 80.67 Better school facilities and effectively launched non-formal education programs result the high literacy rate in the study area.

**Table 4.3 School Going Status of Student by Age and Sex**

Age Group	Boys	Percent	Girls	Percent	Total	Percent
6-10	42	50.00	38	46.34	91	46.90
11-13	19	22.62	19	23.17	45	23.20
14-16	21	25.00	18	21.95	45	23.20
17+	2	2.38	7	8.54	13	6.70
Total	84	100	82	100	194	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Table 4.3 shows the formal schooling situation of the study area. Formal education in this study area begun since 2014 BS with the establishment of Sarvajanic Primary School (at present this school is made Higher Secondary School) at the same village development committee. All the boys and girls who are at the age of schooling are enrolled in the school. At present there are six primary schools along with one higher secondary school. None of the students have to walk more than 15 minutes to take primary education which results the successful enrollment of children in school.

#### **4.3 Economic Condition**

The economic condition of population is crucial for understanding the standard of living, stage of economic growth and human capital formation in a country. Economic traits of population reflect the labour force participation, activity rates, dependency load, occupational structure income structure and distribution.

**Table 4.4 Economically Active Population by Sex**

Status	Male	Female	Total	Percent
Eco- Active	261	268	529	72.45
Eco- Inactive	101	100	201	27.55
Total	362	368	730	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Total population of the study area has been categorized into two broad categorized i.e. economically active and inactive (Table 4.4). Population aged ten years and above has been categorized as economically active population and the population aged 60 and above is included in inactive population. Generally economically active population includes aged 15 years and above. But in such rural areas the people of 10 years and above were either directly or indirectly involved in various economic activities.

In the study area 72.45 percent of population is active population. It is greater ratio with comparison to national ratio i.e. only 66.75 according to the census 2001.

**Table 4.5 Occupational Status by Sex**

SN	Occupation	male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
1	Only Agriculture	157	71.69	198	85.71	355	78.89
2	Ag+ Labour	21	9.59	24	10.39	45	10.00
3	Ag+ Service	4	1.83	2	0.87	6	1.33
4	Only Service	2	0.91	1	0.43	3	0.67
5	Ag+ Business	5	2.28	3	1.30	8	1.78
6	Only Business	3	1.37	2	0.87	5	1.11
7	Labour in India	24	10.96	-	-	24	5.33
8	Foreign Labour	3	1.37	1	0.43	4	0.89
Total		219	100	231	100	450	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Primary occupation of the study area is agriculture in which a large number of population is involved. Apart from agriculture people of the study area are involved in other activities such as service, labour, business, foreign labour etc to fulfill economic necessities.

Table 4.5 shows the occupation status of people in study area. Out of total employed population 78.89 percent people are involved entirely in agriculture. The proportion of women involvement in agriculture is higher than the men. Out of employed male population 71.69 percent are entirely involved in agriculture where as female involvement is 85.71 percent. Similarly, the proportion of involvement of women in agriculture and labour is also high in comparison to the male. Only about 4 percent of female population is involved in other sectors than agriculture.

Especially the male population has adopted different occupation like service and foreign as well as labour in India. None of the female is involved in labour work in India but only 0.43 percent of women are involved in foreign labour. Malunga is a small market centre so some of the people are involved in business only. At the same time Siddharth highway has passes through this market center so some of the people are involved in hotel business.

#### **4.4 Land Ownership According to Holding Categories**

**Table 4.6 Land Ownership According to Holding**

SN	Holding Category	House Hold	Percent	Area	Percent
1	Only Ghaderi	2	2.33		
2	<2 ropani	3	3.48	4	0.42
3	2-4 Ropani	9	10.47	28	2.96
4	4-8 Ropani	14	16.28	98	10.36
5	8-12 Ropani	24	27.91	229	24.21
6	12-16 Ropani	19	22.09	289	30.55
7	>16 Ropani	15	17.44	298	31.50
	Total	86	100	946	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Table 4.6 shows the land ownership pattern according to holding. Most of the household of this study area have more land holdings i.e. more than eight ropani. But it is not sufficient to live for a year with product. Some of the land is very fertile near to the Kali Gandaki River bank. In this land *kharbari* and *pakho* has also included so that the productive land is less in every household. Some of the household have land in Terai region by which can live for a year with their product.

Dalit household have only *ghaderi*. Village development committee has provided some land to live as *ghaderi* who were landless for Dalit. At the same time some people are migrated there for the business purpose who have bought only *ghaderi* or less than 2 ropani of land. Other people who are the prime settlers of the study area have more land. But due to the fraction of land for *Ansa* people have getting less land.

#### 4.5 Role in Decision Making Process

Decision making process is one of the most important indicator is gender equality. Generally, decision of household head is the final decision in each household. If there is equal involvement of both male and female in decision making process, it is best indicator of gender equality.

**Table 4.7 Decision Making Process in Different Sectors by Sex**

Sex	Land Purchase	Land Sell	Goods Purchase	Goods Sell	Child Welfare	Education	Health	Social Activities	Social Meetings
Male	77	77	59	70	42	Both	Both	81	83
Female	9	9	27	16	44	Both	Both	5	3

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Decision making process in a family is the most important component. It reflects the situation of male and female in a family. Being a patriarchic society most of the family has male members as its family head. As a family

head he has to manage all the economy and other activities in a family. In every household, household head has to face different problems.

Table 4.7 shows that male is decision maker in every sectors. Only in health and education there is equal role to decide and in the sector of child welfare there is some dominant role of female. While observe in land transaction and social sectors, there are very few roles of women but the male member use to take some suggestions with family before making decision. Such trend is positive signal for the female in family status.

But in these days, the concept of family head has slightly changed. Especially, a person who has high income in a family as well as who control the economy of a family likes to be a head of the family. At the same time, if there is not any income of wife but husband has its great role in family income, such wife are also made head of the family if women are educated and active. Khagisara Pandey, (28) says:

*I have got married before eight years. At that time my husband had no job. He has two brothers and one sister. He was failed in S.L.C. exam but I passed after marriage. After marriage, he went to India to search a job. Fortunately, he got a job in a company where he got 3600 rupees per month along with lodging and fooding. Since last 3 years he started to send money and my father in law gave up all the responsibilities of household economy. Then I started to do all kinds of activities and got a responsibility of whole family. Now we are living in a joint family and my husband is the single job holder and has a responsibility of his brothers and sister to teach. He is doing better and my family is satisfied with me and my role in family. As a house hold head I use to decide every kind of activities in my family.*

## **4.6 Infrastructure Situation in the Study Area**

Malunga Village Development Committee is one of the development villages in Syangja district in the sector of infrastructure development. It is rich in land and forest resources.

### **4.6.1 Road Network**

Siddhartha highway is the main road of this VDC. It was introduced in 2024 BS in this VDC which links to this village from two sides. Besides, there are agricultural road in each wards joining with this highway.

### **4.6.2 Health**

There is a Primary Health Centre in this VDC which was established in 2050 BS. People of surroundings are getting better health treatment after its establishment. Before this, hospital of UMN in Tansen was the first choice of the local people. At present this PHC has providing different health service along with delivery service. So it has playing great role in health sector especially for women and poor people. Besides, it has an ambulance so that people can get better health service in time.

### **4.6.3 Education**

There is one higher secondary school and 7 Primary schools, and 2 private primary schools. None of the child has to walk more than 15 minutes for primary education from house and similarly non of the student has to walk more than 25 minutes for the secondary and higher secondary education. There is a campus 7 km far from the village where there is transport facility.



#### **4.6.4 Drinking Water**

There is problem of drinking water in this VDC. Especially in the summer season i.e. April, May and June, people have to pay more time to collect the water from its spring. This problem affects especially for the women in village.

#### **6.4.5 Communication**

The situation of communication is satisfactory in the VDC. There are different communication services like, radio, television with cable network, CDMA, GSM and Sky Phone mobile service, Internet Email. For this, this VDC is rich in communication.

#### **6.4.6 Electricity**

This Village Development has facilitated with hydro electricity. Andhi Khola Hydro Electricity project has provided this facility to this VDC.

## Chapter V

### Status and Generational Change in Economy of Women in Study Area

Status of women means the place of women given by a society. If women are given equal rights as men in different sectors like property and other social as well as political sectors that society is advanced and women status is high. But most of the women are deprived from rights and are compelled to be limited inside the household activities in Nepal. However, education and awareness has brought some changed among the Nepalese society it is not satisfactory towards the women right.

#### 5.1 Land Ownership Pattern of Women

Because of the patriarchic society very less land is registered in Nepal. In this study area also very few land has registered in the name of women. This trend has started very late except *Namasari*.

**Table 5.1 Land Holding Status of Women**

S N	Types of Land	Sasu			Buhari		
		Number of Sasu	Land Size	Registered Date (BS)	Number of Buhari	Land Size	Registered Date(BS)
1	Only Ghaderi	3	1.5	2053-63	17	13.4	2053-65
2	Ghaderi with House	2	1.2	2056-64	5	4.0	2057-64
3	Khet	1	5.0	2052-58	7	42.0	2059-65
4	Bari	1	9.0	2048-54	2	9.0	2056-60
5	Kharbari	3	28.0	2050-57	--		2054-56
6	All Land Property	12	102.0	2046-62	--		--
Total		22	146.7		31	68.4	

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Table 5.1 shows the land holding of women in study area. After 2053 BS only buhari started registered land in their name. The trend to buy ghaderi and house is increasing in last years. There is no purchase of kharbari after 2056 BS in the name of women and bari after 2060 BS. But ghaderi is bought in this year (2065BS) also. At the same time ghaderi with house is also bought in their name still 2064 BS. For this Kamala Bhandari (Teacher) says:

#### Box 5.1

*In these days the concept of single family is growing on. Since last 12-15 years, many of the youth are involved in foreign labour from where they send money to buy some land in and outside the village. Such types of land especially are registered in the name of their wives. At present government has adopted a policy to raise women status by giving some discount in the registration tax of land for women which is also influencing to the people of rural areas. Likewise, the land which is in the name of women need not to divide as Ansa with other brother of family. At the same time, since last 6 years drip irrigation project helped to the women to produce vegetables. Some of the women are being able to collect more than 50 thousand rupees in a year. When they mobilize that money in proper way they can buy a piece of ghaderi. In these days most of the women want to buy ghaderi or some land in Terai or city area. For this they are selling some kharbari and bari also. The land value in village is in decreasing pattern but the land of Terai or city area has high value and it can be sold if needed. Besides, some of the male are drunker who never think about the future of their children and their wives can't protest them. So mother herself has to manage all the economy to fulfill the household need and children's need. For this they have to collect some cash and land property. So they are involved in vegetable farming to earn money. Some of the women are highly success to buy land and collect for future.*

By this statement the increasing pattern of women ownership in land of the study area. The women of this study area are aware about the land value so that do not like to buy land in rural areas because the land value in rural areas is not in increasing pattern than the urban areas. Furthermore, women whose husbands are drunker, do not like to buy land in their home village because if

buy there, have to register that land in husband's name. When women collect some money request to buy *ghaderi* to parents.

Some of the Sasu of this study area have all land property in ownership. It is because of husband's death. Generally, after the death of husbands the land is registered in the name of wives.

Actually the land ownership of women in this study area is very poor. But the recent trend it is in improving way.

## 5.2 Transaction of Land by Women

Transaction of land property by women shows the access of women in land property. Since the last 12-15 years women are actively participated in land transaction in this study area.

**Table 5.2 Transaction of Land Property by Women**

Types of Land	Bought			Sold		
	Transaction Number	Area (ropani)	Bought Date	Transaction Number	Area (ropani)	Sold Date
Only Ghaderi	24	18.5	2053-65	6	2.5	2055-63
House	3	-	2058-64	-	-	-
Khet	7	44	2056-62	-	-	-
Bari	-	-	-	6	23	2053-61
Kharbari	-	-	-	8	53	2054-63
Total	34	62.5		20	78.5	

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.2 shows the transaction of land property by women. There are 34 cases of land purchase and 20 cases of land sell. Very few area of *ghaderi* has sold but *kharbari* and *bari* has sold in high quantity. But there are not any

cases of *kharbari* and *bari* purchase. The purchase of *ghaderi* is the highest in number. It is because most of the women have bought *ghaderi* after selling those lands. This also reflects the attraction of people towards the city or Terai region. All these land are purchased after 2053 BS which proves the statement of box 4.

### 5.3 Source of Land Purchase

There is very difficult to buy land with own income to women who are involved in subsistence farming like the study area. However, some change can be seen due to education and awareness programme launched by GOs, NGOs and INGOs. Concept of saving has increased among the women for future.

**Table 5.3 Source of Land Purchased by Women**

Sources	Transaction Number of Sasu	Transaction Number of Buhari	Land Area (in Ropani)
Pewa+Sold land	3	4	23.4
Loan	-	-	-
Loan+income	2	6	12.1
Own Income	2	1	5.0
Family Income	2	4	22.0
Total	9	15	62.5

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.3 shows the sources of land purchased by women. Mostly women bought and sold the land with *pewa* (*kharbari* and *bari* land of village). Women collect some money as *pewa*. After this, family income is the major source to buy land. Some women are being able to buy the land with their own income, who are either service holder or vegetable producer farmer. Some of the women are supported by husband (especially for *buhari*) but do not like to

flash this fact with family member. Actually the future of joint family is uncertain. According to Saraswati Basyal (with condition of keeping secret this matter):

**Box 5.2**

*My husband is eldest son of his parents. He has great responsibility to help their three siblings. His two brothers and one sister are studying in collage level. He has to pay their entire fee along with food and accommodation. Furthermore he has to fulfill the need of house where there are his parents and babies. Now he is employed in foreign labour. He will stay there at least 4 years more. But his brothers have to study for 5 years more. They all are unmarried and he should fulfill this responsibility also. After doing all this he can not save his income. Now I have bought some land i.e. 3 ropani in Terai. To buy this land my husband supported me for 60 thousand rupees and other 35 thousand rupees was collected by me own self. But in my family I am telling that my parents had given that land as pewa. It's my compulsion to secure my future. I will continue this behave in future also.*

**5.4 Decision Making Process of Sasu and Buhari**

Generally, the decision of a household is made by the household head. But in the transitional phase of social change, there is some contradiction about the household head. However, in the study area most of the decision in different sectors are made by the male members, some of the household decision is made by the female.

**Table 5.4 Decision Making Process of Sasu and Buhari in Different Sectors by Household**

Sex	Land Purchase	Land Sell	Goods Purchase	Goods Sell	Child Welfare	Education	Health	Social Activities	Social Meetings	Total
Sasu	45	45	50	50	14	9	8	21	7	86
Buhari	41	41	36	36	71	75	78	65	79	86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Here in the study area, the decision over the daily activities are made by the female members but the decision which effects to the family for a long last are made by the male members. At the same time mostly decision over the property is made by male members.

Table 5.4 shows the situation of decision making process of women in family. Table 5.4 has seems some of the female members have full right to decide in the above mentioned matters. But some of the members are compared only in between sasu and buhari after male members. Sasu controls over the land property and goods and decide in these sectors for transactions. But there is not vast difference between sasu and buhari to decide these sectors. Except these two sectors, there is dominant role of buhari in decision making process like in the sectors of, child welfare, education, health, social activities etc. It shows that the new emerging sector which affects for last long in family is handled by buhari who are educated and aware about the modern age. Such decision making process is depend upon the understanding between and among the sasu and buhari. For this Parbati Pandey (28) says:

### Box 5.3

*I have got marry before 6 years ago. I have passed Intermediate level. My husband is job holder in Kathmandu. At present, I am living with my sasu, sasura and two children in this village. All the land property is registered in my sasura's name except some ghaderi land. (This ghaderi land which has registered with me is given by my maternal house). My sasu and sasura used to ask in every kind of household activities except land property. If there is need to take decision over their land property, sasura use to ask to sasu but not to me. I will not give any interest about their matter but they use to ask to his son So it doesn't need to give interest for this.*

*However they do not ask about such cases, they use to ask me to take care over the household management. Usually, I go to attend to the village level meeting, and I use to take every kind of decision in my daily household activities with out any objections. It depends upon the mutual understanding between and among the family members.*

## 5.5 Occupational Status of Women

Occupation is one of the major means to measure the status of women in a society. In the village area most of the women are depended upon husband's income. However women are involved in different economic activities but women can not get money from such household work and farming. A person who has job in an organization has high status in a society. In these days, income source and cash money determines the status of a person.

**Table 5.5 Occupational Status of Sasu and Buhari**

SN	Occupation	Sasu	Percent	Buhari	Percent	Total	Percent
1	Only Agriculture	77	89.53	94	83.93	171	86.36
2	Ag+ Labour	9	10.47	11	9.82	20	10.10
3	Ag+ Service	--	--	1	0.89	1	0.51
4	Only Service	--	--	3	2.68	3	1.51
5	Ag+ Business	--	--	2	1.79	2	1.01
6	Only Business	--	--	-	--	--	--
7	Foreign Labour	--	--	1	0.89	1	0.51
Total		86	100	112	100	198	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Table 5.5 shows the occupational status of women in study area. In this study area 89.53 percent sasus are involved in only agriculture and rest of others are involved in agriculture and labour. None of the sasus is involved in other occupation except these two type occupations. But the condition of buhari is a bit different. Out of total buhari 86.36 are involved in only agriculture and 10.10 percent are involved in agriculture and labour. Some of the buhari are involved in service, business, foreign labour etc except agriculture. Because of



the education and changing attitude towards women in society can see some changes among the women of buhari seems possible. But it can not feel change in status of dalit community in the society. Most of the dalit female members are illiterate and who are involved in labour work for hand to mouth problem. For this Sunmaya Nepali says:

#### Box 5.4

*However, there is great change occurring in the Brhamin society, we are very behind of them. Children of Brhamin community have good environment for the study but we can not provide such environment to our children. We have to do struggle to solve the hand to mouth problem and our children are also compelled to do work in very child age. He is my son at the age of 11 (showing a boy near to her), and he had gone to plough a land of a landlord and earn 200 rupees a day. While he was ploughing, the son of land lord was going to school that was at the age of about 15 years. My husband is drunker. He never thinks about the family. So I have to conduct all the responsibility of my household. My son (11) and my daughter (12) use to help me to manage the household.*

Because of the poverty Dalit can not send children in school. However all the dalit children are enrolled in school, attendance is very low. Such inequality can not be seen in Magar community, because Magars are educated and are involved in different sectors for the job.

### **5.6 Educational Status of Sasu and Buhari**

Education is the major component to get better opportunities in a society and country. Female education has great importance to raise the society and status of women. Only 3.49 percent sasus have taken primary education. However 76.74 percent of sasus are literate but can not read and write properly except name. This literacy rate was increased after adult education programme

conducted in 2056 BS. But this programme can not bring change among the dalit community.

**Table 5.6 Educational Status Sasu and Buhari**

Level of Education	Sasu	Percent	Buhari	Percent	Total	Percent
Literate Only	66	76.74	8	7.14	74	37.37
Primary	3	3.49	43	38.39	46	23.23
Secondary	-	--	24	21.43	24	12.12
SLC	-	--	23	20.54	18	9.09
Intermediate	-	--	8	7.14	8	4.04
Bachelor +	-	--	6	5.36	6	3.03
Total Literate	69	80.23	112	100	181	91.41
Illiterate	17	19.77	-	--	17	8.59
Total	86	100	112	100	198	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Table 5.6 shows that all of buharis are literate. But very few buharis have completed higher education. About 12.5 percent buhari have completed higher education. Because of the establishment of higher school in village level, became able to get higher education.

Buhari are educated and aware about the modern age. So that most of the sasus believe for the household economy. Sasus want to hand over all the responsibility of household economy and management to buhari except land and immobile property. However sasus never handled household economy before this, sasus are ready to hand over that responsibility to buhari. For this Khagisara Basyal (73) says:

## Box 5.5

*"I was married at 7 years while I didn't have any concept about marry. I stay my maternal house after marry for two years. My mother had given me moral lessons after 10 years old. Mother told me not to talk more with husband and even not to look at his face. When I fall in first menstruation then my mother as well as friends and my sister (Jethani didi) told me keep some distance with husband. I became afraid at first but I started cope many problems of my house. I gave birth to a baby at the age of 15 at first but he did not live long. Then I gave 6 babies (4 daughters and two sons with the different of 18 to 23 months. When I gave fourth baby, then only I talked directly with my husband for the first time. Actually a husband who used to talk with his wife directly, used to blame as henpecked (jiotingre). Therefore, most of the husband didn't like to talk with their wives.*

*I did many struggles to adjust in my house at first. My sasura was very strict. She didn't even give enough food to eat. Varieties of rice and milk were given for male member or only for the guest. We used to eat such varieties in festivals or at maternal house. We used to wake up at 3 am and used to go to bed at 11 pm. There was no mill so that we had to do dhiki and janto to make chykila and pitho for the family members and domestic animals. The household economy was in under my sasura. After his death my Jethaju started to control over economy for some time. After the death of sasura, we separated from the joint family where there was four brother's family. Then my household economy was gone under husband. My husband died before 9 years when my elder son was 42 years old. My elder son is a job holder in India. He earns for our family. However my younger son is not separated with us, he use to live in Butwal where he has kept his family with him. He do not support our family neither he hopes from our family. At present I am living with my elder son and all the house hold economy is conducted by my buhari. I don't know about the calculation of money. Buhari is educated who can conduct the household economy very well. She use to decide the house hold economy and I don't like to interfere in her activities. I am satisfied with her activities.*

The above box message reflects the some fact of the village level. Buhari from new generations are almost literate. Very few buhari are incapable to conduct their household economy.

### 5.7 Number of Women Received training

Different training helps to involve in self employment. Training like, animal husbandry helps to rural women to rear goat and cattle for sale. Women can rear such animals for commercial purpose. Cutting and sewing helps them to generate income source within very few investment. Such income generating training helps them to be independent and raise the status of their living.

**Table 5.7 Number of women received Training**

SN	Types of Training	Sasu	Buhari	Total
1	Agriculture	-	2	2
2	Animal Husbandry	4	11	15
3	Health	1	3	4
4	Cutting and Sewing	-	29	29
5	Painting	-	4	4
6	Weaving	3	19	22
Total		8	68	76

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

In the study area, most of the buhari have gained training. However buhari are trained, they are not using training to generate income. Very few women are rearing goats forming groups but are not getting success as can. It is because buhari have to pay more attention in other household activities. Some of the women are rearing goats as pewa using the training. Cutting and painting training are not useful in village due to lack of market. It is found that

most of the buhari use to get training after completion of SLC exam in maternal house before marriage to use the leisure time.

### **5.8 Relation between Sasu and Buhari**

Relation between two groups or individual depends up on the personal behaviour of both sides. It is mutual understanding between two sides. If there is not perfect coordination between two sides, in can cool but if there is perfect coordination and understanding between two sides the relation is very well and remains long last.

While talking about the relation between sasu and buhari, there found the good relation in general. If there is dispute between sasu and bhuri, first other members of family and society try to solve the problem but if not solved ,separated each other taking ansa (patriarchic property). It is very difficult to know about the relation of sasu and buhari within a short period. But researcher made many try with semi participate observation and key informant interviews to get the real information.

There are very few sasu and buhari who want to give the real information about the dispute between them. Some of the families are living in joint family in spite of the dispute between sasu and buhari. There are some compulsion to live in joint family. It depends upon the behaviour of male members in a family. If male member is the head of a family, and he did not pay attention about the women dispute then can not be separate in each other. For this, Gayatri Bhandari (a health women health worker) says:

### Box 5.6

*There are some dispute between sasu and buhari in a joint family. Especially the sasu who are from traditional concept, can not understand the interest of buhari of new generation, then dispute takes place. Sasu want to control over the every activities of their buhari and they should obey every order of the sasu. When buhari didn't obey her, then dispute emerge.*

*Some buhari are getting intermediate education. They are more ambitious. They want to live with their husband in city or their job place. But every husband can not keep their wife because of the economy. Such condition helps to buhari to increase the conflict between them. Generally buhari shows their dissatisfaction through her sasu because they can not talk to male member of the family.*

Some times, the household economy is conduct with Sasu as a household head. Mainly it depends upon the structure of family. The economy of joint family with only mother (sasu) is commonly use to conduct with buhari but the joint family with two or more brothers' is conduct by mother or Sasu.

### Box 5.7

*I don't like to give the household economy to my buhari. I am alive till now. She doesn't know how to maintain the household economy. If I gave all the economic responsibilities of my house to her, my house hold economy will be disorder. I used to collect income of my all 3 sons and invest in the household welfare. I have bought some land in Terai with their income. If I handover this responsibility to her then, she will be bias to provide necessary goods to among the children of her and others. I have to maintain my house with conducting the economy in a good perspective. After separation of family they can conduct their economy as their wish. But still they will not separate; I will not handover the economy to others.*

Generally in the study area there is good understanding between sasu and buhari who are living in a joint family. Such good relation can be seen in those families where there are more than two buhari living in a joint family. In such a condition also all the buhari of house are satisfy with Sasu. buhari's common voice (for their Sasu Humkala Bhandari) is:

Box 5.8

*Our sasu has great responsibility. She does many works of house. She is maintaining our economy very well. However, the income is not equal of our husbands, they give all their income to mother. She cares equally to every child. We are free from our children. They love her more than us and they do every activity in her order. We need not to keep more attention to our children except breastfeeding. We all are happy with our mother (sasu).*

Such relation of sasu and buhari is also depends upon the personal behaviour. Some of the buhari wants to separate from the family when husband earns more. She likes to go with her husband at his working place and want to give quality education to children in city area.

## Chapter VI

### Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

#### 6.1 Summary

The present study entitled "Generational Change in Economic Status of Women in Nepal" (A Case study of Malunga Village Development Committee, Syangja District) highlights the generational change in economic status of women in country. This study has based on primary as well as secondary data. However there are some quantitative data, most of the data are qualitative and qualitative approach is highly used in this research. There are different caste groups in the study area. Brahmin, Magar and Dalit are dominant groups of there.

In this study there are 86 respondents are from sasu and 112 respondents from buhari. The sample has taken with inclusive method. All the sasu are involved in agriculture and labour work but some of the buhari are involved in other different activities like service, foreign labour etc along with agriculture. Educated and capable buhari are getting jobs inside the village like teacher, social supervisor etc. But the major occupation of here is agriculture. There is vast different of educational status between sasu and buhari. There are not sasu member having more than primary education. But some of the buhari have bachelor's degree and more.

Buhari is more educated than that of the sasu. That's why buhari is more aware of rights and duties. Very few women have control over the land property. Only widows have full control over their land property. The new land purchase percent of buhari is more than the sasu. The trend of land purchase by women is increasing in these days which is positive sign to the women status. Besides, if the buhari is employed and capable to handle the household



economy, sasu use to handover the responsibility of household activities to buharir.

Generally in joint family there is no more burden to buhari of their child. Mostly sasu use to take care over their children. There must be mutual understanding between sasu and buhari to live together in a family. Women of here are getting better health service and other facilities due to availability of infrastructure.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

There is high change in economic status in buhari than that of the sasu and there is great gap between these two generation. Some of the sasu could not get handle the household economy. Because while they were buhari, sasu used to handle the household economy and when they became sasu, buhari started handle the same.

Since last 20-25 years, women education took place in country with great importance. After the restoration of democracy, the new government adopted the free education policy in the country. From 1989 after the establishment of higher education board in Nepal, many of the rural women are getting education in home village. Such education programme helpe to be aware of rights and duties.

But the sasu could not get proper education. There was very narrow thinking about the woman education in past. Society did not like to provide education to the women. Because of the lack of education and lack of awareness, women could not get rights. But the sasu felt about the need of education for the status in a society.

At present women who have own property or job or high educational degree or political access, have high status in society. Among the different

sectors, economic condition of a woman determines the status of in a society. In the study area, women having job or source of income have great status than that of the low income source and low educational status. Most of the buhari have more income source and educational status than that of sasu. Actually, sasu are old and can't do hard work as buhari. Buhari are educated and young than that of sasu. So buhari can learn any training fast like animal husbandry, vegetable farming etc. At the same time, if buhari have higher degree of education, have more chances to get job. It is found that, most of the job holder buhari have controlled the economy of her household instead of sasu. Besides, some of the buhari are head of the family however their sasura are alive. But in such condition the land property has not registered in buhari's name.

It shows that if the buhari or women are educated and capable to handle the household economy, the sasu easily handover the responsibility to them. If could provide more opportunities to the women, the economy of a house will be better. Buhari has actively participated in economic activities. That's why we can conclude that it is positive sign of change for the development of society and social as well as economic status of women.

### **6.3 Recommendation**

Some recommendations have been made under the findings or conclusion. It is hoped that these recommendations will be able to add milestone to planner, policy makers and other organizations who want to do something for the welfare of women. Focusing the gender discrimination and its impacts on women, the programme aims at empowering women through enhancing high participation on the economic sectors. Increasing access to every resource both at public and private, have been kept as the key areas for central development. From the entire study, these recommendations are made:

- ) Women education programme should be launched properly and free education should provide at least bachelor's degree.
- ) Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women that would encourage their economic participation and hence elevate status within the household.
- ) Bringing the women into the market economy is another approach to increase economic status. Policies and programmes intended to encourage entrepreneurial skills among the women, should be promoted. These women could then be mobilized to engage in income generating activities such as weaving, knitting, petty shops, small scale cottage industries and so forth. The income added into the overall household income would earn respect and the power to decide upon expenditures on important matters like investments and so fourth.
- ) The concept of gender equity and the attitude towards women need to be modified in patriarchal society to boost up the women's status in the family or society.
- ) Late marriages among the women should be encouraged with the aim of reducing child bearing age and consequently lesser confinement to reproductive roles. Such a demographic factor indirectly implies encouragement of productive roles via greater economic participation and consequently a greater status in terms of decision making within the household.
- ) However, it is positive aspect to handle the economy by buhari, it might be harmful to sasu because, if the buhari did not looked after sasu in old age, such condition will be very critical. For this government should bring strict rule to protect the rights of ageing population.

- ) Different co operative organizations should be established to enhance the women economy and there must be active participation of women.
- ) Discriminatory Acts/ laws and practices in all sectors such as legal, political, social and economical should be addressed carefully to enhance women's participations not only in economic status but along with in all multi-dimensional areas and there should be conservation for women in every sector, especially in economic sectors.

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