

**GENDER INEQUALITY AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN
HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS IN NEPAL
(A Case Study of Jabdi VDC, Sarlahi)**

**A Thesis
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Fulfillment of the Requirements
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RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled "Gender Inequality and Women's Participation in Household Decision-Making Process in Nepal (A Case Study of Jabdi VDC, Sarlahi)" has been prepared by Jamuna Gotame under my supervision for her partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development. I, therefore recommend this thesis to be accepted for its evaluation.

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APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled **"Gender Inequality and Women's Participation in Household Decision-Making Process in Nepal (A Case Study of Jabdi VDC, Sarlahi)"** has been approved by this Department in the prescribed format of the faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University.

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Masters in Rural Development

ABSTRACT

The present study Gender Inequality and women's participation in women's participation in household decision making process in Nepal's based on primary information collected from field survey. This study demonstrates the role, decision-making, responsibility, constraint and opportunities of woman with comparative to their male counter-partner with respect to housework, economic condition, education health and political sector etc. Information had it explore the perception of women with household decision-making process. The out come of the study helps in the identification of the problem in the study area. Which will help in formulation and implementation of appropriate and action programs.

Majority of women are deprived from the roles, decision-making and responsibilities are economic educational activities while decision-making is very low in such sectors. But majority of women have taken role, responsibilities and decision-making on households works and health sector. But in case of political women's roles, responsibilities and decision-making are negligible which roles and responsibility of their male counterparts have verifying.

Decision making of women is contradictorily lower than roles and responsibility in each other, while these male counterparts have comparatively high decision-making. Majority of woman have listened about gender equality. Who are in favour of parental property rights to women as son. Majority of women have not given the parental property rights to them. Majority of women have focused on "will system" of parents property rights to them.

Women have the low decision-making in their personal life such as choice of means of contraception sexual intercourse, determine to the size of the children. They also have the low decision making in social participation/activities and credit taking and loan repayment and labour allocation functions. Women also deprived from the decision on specific economic issues in their male dominating of the family. Therefore, we should extremely, emancipating the women to develop their status as well as the nations with proper policies and programmes.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BPPA	Beijing Plan for Action
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDA	Central of Economic Development and Administration
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women
DDC	District Development Committee
GAD	Gender and Development
GDI	Gender Development Index
GEI	Gender Employment Index
HIS	International Human Right
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
HMG	His Majesty's Government
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Center
NDF	Nepal Development Forum
NPC	National Planning Commission
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Association
VDC	Village Development Committee
WAD	Women and Development

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Nepal is one of the poorest country in the world. Except for a few professionals, businessmen and some large farmers, everyone in Nepal is poor. The infant mortality rate is 64.4 out of 100 live births. Forty-six percent of the population above the age of 6 years is illiterate with 57.5 percent female illiteracy. The maternal mortality rate is 539 out of 100000 and total fertility rate is 4.1 percent women (CBS, 2003).

In spite of its cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, the majority of Nepalese communities are patriarchal in structure. The patriarchal mode of life in these communities is readily visible from the surface, with its surface, with its kinship structure. Patrilineal residence pattern, patrilineal descent system and nomenclature of the family. However, a closer look within the patriarchal family reveals male domination and female subordination at large, as the very word, patriarchy suggests. Patriarchy by definition is the rule of father but the term 'patriarchy', in general is used to refer to a social system characterized by male domination over women (Karki, 2000). Likewise, the studies and statistical profiles on status of women compared to that of Nepalese men.

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources and political power as well as their personal autonomy in the process of decision making. When analyzed in this light, the picture of Nepalese women's status is generally bleak. Among the two broadly classified groups of the Nepalese population according to its origin: the Indo-Aryan and the Tibeto-Burman group. Previous studies suggest that the Hindu women of Aryan origin

are more suppressed than their Tibeto-Burman counterparts (UNFPA, 1998). Few studies, like that of Majupuria (1982), and Comeron (1998) also suggest that among the Hindu Aryan Groups, the high caste women suffer more from traditional ideologies and way of life.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, economic and social and health status with educational status as well is a highly important issue in gender equality. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities, roles and opportunities in economic, social and political health, education sector and for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of household. In all parts of our country, Nepalese women are facing thrust to their lives, health and well-being as a result of bearing over burden with work and their lacking of power and resources. In addition, improving the status of women also enhances their decision-making capacity at all levels in all spheres of life especially in area of sexuality and reproduction. One of the important issues in gender inequality is women's property right, which was adopted under 6th amendment act of civil code (Muluki Ain) in 1975. Prior to the enactment of civil code 1963 enacted was based upon idealistic approach stating the belief was that women should not be left independent at any time. Prior to the marriage of female must be subjected to her fathers, after marriage she is subjected to her husband, when her husband dead, to her sons. The beliefs, thus made she always dependent to male person of the family. The legal code of 1963 to a certain extend could be change the portion of Nepalese women but that was also discriminatory to daughter in regarding patriarchies inheritance of right. The new amendment includes the following priorities:

1. Women's Property (Stri-Dhan)
2. Womens estate on evidences (Stri-amshadhan)

Estate (Stri-Amshadhan)

Women's property (stri-dhan) consists Daijho, Pewa and women's own earning. And stri-amshadhan means the property which remains under the control of her choice, where she has absolute power in mover poverty right.

This study sets out to explore women's status regarding her decision making autonomy at the house hold level and also participation in development activities in the community level which is in turn associated with her autonomy of movement outside the household sphere.

1.2. Introduction of Study Area

The study was conducted in Jabdi VDC which is located in Sarlahi District of Mid-Development Region of the country. This district has covered an areas of 1259 sq. km. (CBS 1991). The district has 99 VDC and 1 municipality. Among the 99 VDC, Jabdi VDC is one, that consists the total household of 1363 with total population of 7308, out of this 3683 are female and 3625 are male. This VDC is surrounded by Ranigunj in the east, Lalbandi is the north, Ishworpur and Laxmipur VDC in the south and Netragunj and Haripur VDC in the west.

1.3. Statement of the Problem

Gender issue, including women's right, are very significant because women comprise a little over a half of the total 20 million population of Nepal. All the Nepalese women suffer from domination, exploitation, suppression, oppression, subordination and discrimination by their men counterpart. Although biology is not and should not be the destiny but in practice the male-centered process of socialization such as conditioning,

indoctrination and imitation under patriarchy continue to reproduce these ugly relationship between men and women that make belief that biology in the destiny in Nepal. In belief, such a male centred/baised/controlled process of specialization results in the homo-social reproduction of existing discriminatory and exploitative relationship between men and women. It is no wonder that in the global and the south Asian regional context gender inequality has shown its most ugly heads in Nepal than anywhere else in the world, both Gender Development Indexes (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) provided in the Nepal Human Development Report 1997 reveals that women's situation in the country is very frustrating. Both GDI and GEM value of Nepal are three times lower than that of the GDI for the developed/Industrialized countries. Such a perpetuating hopeless system must change for good

The main problem of gender-based division of labour, women is being confined in private spheres and men having privileges in public spheres, is primarily because of industrialization and urbanization. Therefore, in urban and industrial areas, men also should do work at private spheres and women do work at private spheres but the distinction is mainly concerned with less or more works. Often women do works for about sixteen hours sphere as, men often spend time lazily playing cards and drinking alcohol.

The literature on women in Nepal portrays; Nepali women in different ethnic groups as highly varied. Their rituals vary and their positions with in their own societies vary according the larger social frame work distinctive of their ethnic society. In Nepal, women's role and positions symbolically and socially are defined according to the patrilineal concept and values of Hindu society. In the higher caste societies of Nepal, daughter and sisters are placed in different realms

according to notion of purity and pollution. In Nepali society, the girls are taught to care for the old because when they get married and are observed in their husband's log weeds though they have to take care of the needs of the old-father in law and mother in law. The ideally women in Nepal, play the most active part in the socialization of children. Women play an important socio-cultural economic role within the household sphere but they do very little outside the home. Women in culturally restricted in their contacts with strangers, special men and their behaviour in general follows culturally prescribed rules.

There are four main women's activities at present in Nepal. These are:

- i. House hold chores
- ii. Agricultural activities.
- iii. Participation in local market economy
- iv. Outside the village economy. i.e. employment through short terms migration.

The women's domestic and farm activities are quite immense. 86 percent of domestic work and 57 percent of subsistence agricultural activities are predominantly performed by women (Acharya, 1990).

Feminists have risen about gender in equality and property right to women in different conference, forum and walked in rally for the equality between men and women but, such matters were the overall intention of the real women? Do they totally support the matter? So, researcher was interested to do research about this topic to know the real attitudes of men with the women's overall functions and cases/as people in society in Nepal. Also to know the situation of women in their roles, responsibility, decision-making, constraint and opportunity on the household work,

education, economic, health and political sectors. These main issues of these problems are as follows:

- What are the role and responsibilities of women?
- What are the constraints and opportunities?
- What are the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of women?
- What kinds of attitudes of males towards productive, reproductive and property rights of women?

In general, women have less access to income, wealth, and modern avenues of employment, education, and health facilities than men. They suffer from higher rates of malnutrition and morbidity than men have fewer legal rights, especially in property, reproductive right and family matters. In the hill communities, women enjoy greater freedom, in women and mobility and have greater decision making roles within the household but suffer from overwork and poorer physical and social infrastructures.

1.4. Objectives

The general objectives of this study is to find out the problem and prospects of gender inequality in Jabdi VDC of Sarlahi district. .

The specific objectives of the present study are:

- To assess the status of women in purposed area on the basis of socio-economic condition, and ownership of assets.
- To examine the women's participation in household decision making process
- To identify the constraints and opportunities of women.

1.5. Significance of the Study

In the world as well as in Nepal, women cover a half of the total population. They are backbone of society. They have equal responsibilities to make society developed or underdeveloped. Both men and women are equally responsible for the development of a nation. Equality between men and women must be recognized as the basis of policy not to reduce poverty on women girls, and enable them to participate fully in social and economic development. Particular methods must be made to provide access to preclusion resources and to reduce the burdens of traditional women's works. Equality is a central aspect but men and women in all aspect and concern for social progress. The disproportionate impact of poverty on women, unemployment and violence against women need to be addressed as central concerns of policy from this study. The study attempts to reflect the women's status in terms of socio-economic, demographic, political participation and to identify the main attitudes toward the women's overall rights, responsibilities and opportunities in household decision making process in Nepal.

The most significant of this study is the fulfillment to my dissertation to a M.A. Rural Development Degree. It is also useful for planners, policymakers, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations in relation to the introduction and formulation of planning for development considering gender issues mainly focus on women. It may be useful for the person of research on gender studies and these people who are to women's issues. It tries to reflect the actual scenario of gender inequality situation and women's participation on household decision making process concerning to social justice to some extent.

1.6. Limitation of the Study

The present study is subjected to the following limitations.

- This study covers only the selected area of Jabdi VDC in Sarlahi district
- This study conducted in one VDC with limited time framework.
- The generalizations of this research may be applied or may not be applied for other place in same subject and same matter.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This section deals how the chapters are organized here by. Although, this study is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which includes background, statement of the problem, objectives, significance, limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter includes the Literature Review, including religions and historical background, worldwide scenario, Nepalese context covers status of women in terms of socio-culture, economic, health, education. occupation, marital status and overview on gender. Chapter Three deals with Research Methodology containing general background, sources of data, method of data analysis, interpretation of the data. The fourth chapter deals with Analysis of Variables to show the actual situation of gender inequality and woman's participation on household decision-making process. Then chapter five consists of Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations. At last references are submitted too.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Background

This chapter deals-with the review of available literature about gender inequality, gender disparity and effect of gender equality in socio-economic up well as demographic study of Nepalese women and u omen's participation household decision - making process including reproductive health right, law (property) right, accessibility in resources, decision on the specific economic aspects, social integrating variable, participation in the other services sectors actually related to households These are larger of resources which have been published by different organizations and scholars in the field. They already try to attempting to review the literature, which all fairly recent ones. In the review, the focus is organized in the way that religious and historical establishment will be made of the basis first and then world scenario, then the theoretical overview on gender and the Nepalese context will be discussed In Nepalese context, various sectors of gender aspects will be discussed specifically as well as categorically.

2.2 Religious and Historical Basis

By the Hindu mythology Manu. who look half a man and half God It is considered as a faith of a human and he is accepted as the founder of a human's soul and moral order. According to Hindu codes (Monusmith), first discovers, it has been stated that both men and women originated from God. Man came out one half of his being and women the other half. However a lot of discrimination has been made between men and women the Smith age (Monusmith). By Manu. however, we may be of basted the women must worship her husband as God. Prior to the political change of

1951. The social, political legal, economic and religious factors have made Nepalese women weaker, exploited and denied of any sort of freedom. Social evils are affecting the freedom of Nepalese women are sati system, polygamy, unequal marriage and child marriage were in vague. Though the sati system stem came to end during the Rana Regime, polygamy and child marriage assets in vague.

2.3 Worldwide Scenario

The problem of gender inequality has been persisting with and among the country worldwide. Less developed countries are more affected than developed countries in form of gender issues. Women are facing lots of problem in comparison to men. The UN has been doing several working for women since its establishment (UN, 1945). As a result of continuing efforts the UN formed a commission to study the situation of women in order to promote their political, economic and social status in 1946. Then UN performed various conventions regarding the women's rights. Convention that women should have their political right to current citizenship in 1952. In 1974, the UN decided to convent the first women conference with policy of observers women's year. The five years 1976-1985 was declared as the UN decade for women's equality development and peace. The second conference has held in Copenhagen in 1980, Denmark. In the 20th century, women acquired the right to vote and hold elections practices in most of the countries. They were legislation for special position as women where as the lams were thought to be beneficial but such extents were not bought in practical life. The intentional women conveniences were held in Mexico city 1975. Nairobi 1985), Kenya. Then last new conference was held in 1995 in Beijing of China. This Beijing conference focused on gender equality and women empowerment. These issues are pertinent in the context of Nepal

as the status of women in Nepal is low and the Nepalese delegation expressed its commitment to the Beijing plan for action (BPPA). ICPD platform of action 1995 have gone the women to participate in all sector of development as equal as men and though brought as adventure of women and employment respectively (UN, 2000), (MOPE, 2004). Lots of attempts have been advocated in terms of gender equality and equity internationally, but these exist gender disparity worldwide either in developed or under developed countries.

2.4 Theoretical Overview of Gender

The last phase of century, gender has widely occupied a place in development studies as well as population studies. Demographers are also interested in human behaviour, which are affected by the socio-economic and cultural practices among groups life. Although, our source relationships are evoking kept in variety of ways, gender is a key component of this ending. Gender can be analyzed from the following theoretical perspectives functional and social conflict.

Functional Theory

Functionalism beliefs/believed that society is made up of interdependent parts of each of which contributes to the functioning of whole. In terms of roles, men and women play different roles and take the different tasks because it is the most important function in the society for these to do. So, functionalists conclude that a gender division of labour promoted the survival of the species and hence has been returned.

Bales (1995) have propounded principles applied to gender roles in the modern family. There is less description and competition in one harmony and stability can be approved. When men and women assume complementary and specialized roles. When the husband has taken the .

important role, he helps to maintain the basis social and physical integrity of the family by providing food and shelter, living the family to the house outside the home wife/mother takes the entrepreneurs roles which helps to sustain family unit and ensures that the household runs smoothly.

Conflict Theory

Conflict theory is based on the assumption that society is a stages, where one struggles for obtaining power and dominants over others. These struggles among social divergence/which captures for control and the means of productive and the distributive of resources (Karl Marx, 1884). Every person in socialistic society must do work, each person showed manage sensitively means of labour and production should not be misused. In capitalist society, women are subjected to be means of property being as neglected system and a means of neglected morality.

As far as the family is certainly the mother slave or exploiter-exploited into the household. The household is a autonomy was the husband supremacy unquestionably. It provokes that there are conspiring relatives in different groups e.g. employers and employees, parents and children, husband and young and old, mother and father and any other groups that contrive and defined as a majority.

Engels suggested that the empowerment of women will only be maintain whom women are take part in product in a large scale and no sole centre put endowment work.

2.5 Nepalese Context

Gender inequality is an obvious phenomena increasing status of Nepalese social structure from family level through societal to national level. women are marginalized of deprived from social upliftment.

Despite of government and non-government effort, women are reluctantly driven from the main stream of development.

The majority of population in Nepal is female as 50.04 percent where the literacy rate is 42.5 percent comparing with 65.4 percent for male. Similarly, health, economic and political contributes 50 percent of the household income and work 10.73 hours against 7.57 hours for men (CEDA, 1981). In the absence of her male partner, who usually goes at for employment, her burden of work and responsibility also increase even more women are disadvantage than their men due to inadequate access to exposure technology, credit and employment.

Nepal is agricultural country and majority of the people engage in agriculture production where women have more work burden than men due to the household work and out of the household work in the rural areas. Thus spend a great proportion of their time and domestic activities. So women do not get time to enjoy equal status than man and are under represents in educational system too.

Patriarchy has put all kinds of resources whether they are mental, physical, financial, spiritual, decision making, etc. in control of men There is no doubt that patriarchy denies women the right to their bodies and reproduction, the right to think for themselves, decide an act on their own, the right to develop their inherent potential, their right, to live inequality with man as free human being and most important of all right to lead the society. So, gender is socially constructed and has no relation of biological characteristics. Patriarchy establishes this unequal power equation between men and women by justifying the control of women by men in the society in general and the family in particular. So patriarchy is not a natural fact.

2.5.1 Women's Educational Status

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence necessary to participation fully in the development process. The increasing literacy rate of female population from 1954 to 2001 is 0.7, 1.8, 3.9, 12.0, 25.0 and 42.1 percent in each Census period respectively. But the current gender gap in literacy rate is nearly 23 percent points. The literacy among girls and women in terms of percentage points grew much faster than for boys and men during these years even these still only two fifths of female population is literate. The 2001 census indicates that literacy rate among men from 6 years older was 65.7 percent comparing to female literacy rate is 42.8 . percent. The net enrollment rate of primary school of female is 75 percent while the male enrollment is 86 percent. Literacy rate of women by development region is EDR-45 percent, CDR-41.6 percent, WDR-49.1 percent. MWDR-37.7 percent and FWDR-33.2 percent.

2.5.2 Health Status

Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality for women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing countries. At the global level, it has been estimated that about half a million women die each year of pregnancy -related causes 99 percent of them in developing countries. ICPD defines reproductive health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well being not merely the absence of disease or infinitely in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. The national reproductive health strategy of Nepal includes the following elements to make integrated reproduction health services available in the kingdom are: family planning, safe motherhood child health, prevention and management of complications of abortion, STD/ HIV/AIDs, prevention

and management of infertility, adolescent reproductive health and problem of elderly women particular women treatment of the fertility level, private sector (CBS, 2004).

Some of the related issues of women's health are antenatal care, TT coverage, place of delivery, assistance at delivery and nutritional status.

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

The NFHS 1996 also show that only 9 percent of births were delivered under the supervision of doctor/nurse/midwife. NDHS 2001 has indicated that there has been a little change in this area. The nutritional and health condition of Nepalese women and adolescent girls is extremely poor. It is generally manifested in the inadequate intake of calories and protein and in poor access to health and services many studies have shown that the weight and height of Nepalese women are substantially less than that of women in developed countries.

2.5.3 Women's Employment and Economic Status

Women in Nepal as elsewhere are responsible for three types of works: reproduction, management of the household and employment. However, reproduction is not treated as work and management of the household is not considered as a productive work. Women in Nepal,

work for longer hours than man, have much lower opportunity for gainful employment and possess extremely limited property rights. (NESAC, 1998).

Women, generally, are involved in a low productivity, low wages and higher underemployment sector. However, an increasing number of women are entering into the work force in the formal manufacturing sector, which is a welcome trend.

In Nepal, classifying women as economically active or inactive has been a matter of dispute moment in Nepal is, engaged in domestic unpaid works. If the development includes gainfully' employed then their contribution to the national economy is minimize. The trend of economic active population of female is given below:

Table 1: Economically Active Female Population in Nepal

Year	Percentage of economically active female population			
	Female	Total	Male	Gender Gap
1971	35.1	59.3	82.9	47.8
1981	46.2	65.1	83.1	36.9
1 99 1	45.5	57.0	68.7	23.2
2001	55.3	63.4	72.7	16.4

Source: CBS, 2002.

According to the occupational situation of Nepalese women, most of the work force is engaged in agriculture sector is about 59.6 percent belonging to females is 67.7 percent. Service sector registered the second highest percentage is 6.2 percent followed by production and sales. The economically active female population in professional and technical sector is 1.9 percent administration and related field is 0.2 percent, clerical 0.6 percent, sales 4.5 percent, services 9.5 percent, production 0.4 percent, others 15.0 percent. The problem of unemployment in the

country is revealed by the fact that in 1997, 14 percent of the economically active population was employed (NPC, 1997).

2.5.4 Marital Status

In societies, where child bearing takes place mostly within marriage, think of marriage works the beginning of women's exposure to child bearing. Age at marriage in most of the societies begins women's exposure to the risk of child bearing. Age at marriage is a major determinant of the duration and tempo of fertility in a population. Consequently, age at marriage and proportion of women never married are important proximate determinant of fertility.

The Nepalese society is characterized by early and nearly universal marriage. Marriage usually takes place early and by the age of 30 almost every woman is already married. In populations, when use of contraception is low, early marriage leads to longer exposure to child bearing. So, early and universal marriage practice in Nepal results in long-term social and economic consequences including higher fertility. If a mother gets pregnant during her early times when the health of both the mother and child is adversely affected. The age at marriage in Nepal for male is 22.9 and for female is 19.5 and the difference is 3.4 (CBS, 2003).

2.5.5 Legal Status

By the constitution of the kingdom of Nepal 1990 status right of equality with part 4, article 11 as follows:

Article 11 (1): All citizens shall be equal before the law. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws.

Article 11 (2): No discrimination shall be made against any citizen in the application of general laws on grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, tribe or ideological conviction or any of these.

Article 11 (3): The state shall not discriminate citizens among citizens on grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, tribe or ideological conviction or any of these.

Article 11 (5) No discrimination in regard to remuneration shall be made between men and women for the same work.

There are not also discriminate provisions in Muluki Ain (2021 B. S.) of Nepal. It also advocates equality and justice. But these occurs discrimination everywhere each other. Specific gender inequality exists/occurs between man and women into the field of education, health, property rights, and decision-making levels.

Nepalese legal system and provision are based patriarchy. The women and the girls are manifestly subjected to discriminate and exploited of voting too. There are certain legal provisions are not sufficient to provide the full rights, the government has changed the Muluki Ain to provide parental property to women and the abortion law also enacted to the women too.

2.5.6 Decision Making Role and Political Participation

Most of the Asian girls and women have poor bargaining power to make decision and concerning the numbers and spacing of children. Reproduction control lies mostly with men and husbands, limited access to information and education and patriarchal religious and cultural beliefs further accounts for low contraception use, leading to disease, frequent pregnancies and death (UNICEF, 2001).

Nepalese women also do not have right to one's own body. They have no light on their reproduction health. They have no right to decide when to become pregnant how many times to be pregnant and whether or not to do abortion. Decisions about such critical matters are usually done

by men and women how to follow them faithfully. Political status is also a composite indicator and may be measured in terms of power, authority and autonomy in different spheres of life. It is very important to make a distinction between power and authority in the analysis of social structure. Access to political power and decision-making process is considered as an index of the overall status of women in society. In patriarchal and male dominated society like Nepal where women are systematically discriminated by culture to them a very low status the inadequate and unfair representation in politics has been historical reality. Among the seven south's Asian region, Nepal's situation is not very encouraging.

The low participation of women in Nepalese politics is a result of complex mix of interrelated factors. According to the Election Commission, the election held in 1991 in Nepal, women's participation at local bodies are DDC, metropolitan and municipality, VDC and wards are 6.7 percent, 19.5 percent, 7.7 percent and 20.0 percent respectively. There were 7 members of parliament in National Assembly.

The representation of women in Bureaucracy are given by strength of civil service- 8.55 percent. Gazette level employees 5.12 percent, non-gazette level employee 8.93 percent, special and first class 4.02 percent, officers of 2nd class 5.04 percent, officers of 3rd classes 5.34 percent, health service 48.90 percent, administration service 39.67 percent, other sectors 11.32 percent (CEDA. 2001).

The practices of controlling resources within the household in the Brahmin/Chettri dominated Kalyan was considered to be ADIKHAR of women, which involves management of food grains and its storage and distribution of the other scarce and insufficient resources. In the agricultural production women also play a significant role as decision

makers with regard to which crops to grow, where and when, and also in irrigating the crops. Actually many women consider themselves to be more knowledgeable with regard to agricultural than men.

2.5.7 Women's Empowerment

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, and economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. Inequality between men and women limits the potential of individuals, families, communities and nations. Ending gender discrimination is as an urgent human right and development priority (UNFFPA, 2001). Gender disparity happens in every aspects of development. So, the international human in 1948, universal declaration of human rights as well as UN convention on the Elimination of world conference of women held in 1975 in Mexico City, the first global conference brought nation of health care and education for girls and women. Women's decade of 1978-1985 is known as the UN actions of equality and peace. Similar other conferences were held in 1987 in Nairobi, Beijing Conference, 1995. China the plate form of action 1995. has given the women to participate in all sector of development as well as new advancement of women and empowerment respectively (UN, 2000),

ICPD. (Cairo, 1994) recommends that the full participation and partners of both women and men is required in production and reproduction life including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household women.

The power relations that impede women's attainment of healthy and fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society from the most personal to the highly public. Achieving change requires policy and programme actions that will improve women's access to secure livelihoods and economic resources, alleviate their extreme

responsibilities with regard to housework, remove legal impediments to their participation in public life and raise social awareness through effective programmes of education and mass communication improving the status of women also enhances their decision making capacity at all levels in all shapes of life, especially in the area of sexuality and reproduction.

A United Nations Conference was held in Beijing in 1995. this conference focused on gender equality and women empowerment. There issues are pertinent in the context of Nepal of the status of women in Nepal is low and the Nepalese delegation express its commitment to the Beijing plan for action (BPA). In this conference, 12 areas of critical concern were identified Such priority areas are women and poverty, education and training of women. Violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and economy, women in power and decision making, women and the environment, the girl child, women and health, women and human right.

So, the empowerment of women depends upon the behaviour and actions and responsibilities of male person in household. The equal participation of women and men in all areas of family and household responsibilities, including family planning, child-bearing and house work, should be promoted and encouraged by governments.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter is very important for the study than the remaining chapter. The overall study depends on the selection of the methods of sampling, research design and the data collection and interpretation of the data. This includes mainly selection of the study area, source of data, method of data collection, sample selection and interpretation of the data.

3.1. Rationale of the Selection of Study Area

- Because of my service area (working field), it helps deep or intensive study on this subject.
- It is male dominated society, therefore female are backward in terms of social and economic condition.
- No one has study on this subject matter in this area.
- Because of easy accessibility with the study area it is easy to collect the information.

3.2. Research Design

This study has been carried out on the basis of descriptive and exploratory research design. Findings have been described elaborately within a view of providing an in-depth understanding of gender inequality and women's participation in household decision-making process.

3.3. Sources of Data Collection

This study was based on primary data source collected from the field survey. The data collected in this study are qualitative as well as quantitative to some extent. Both primary and secondary data have been employed here. Primary data have been collected during the field survey and the interview with key informants wherever they were met.

Secondary data are taken from standard and authentic sources. Publication from governmental and international agencies and other institutions in the related field.

3.4. Sampling Procedures

All of the households are not taken for the study purpose. The distribution of the sample is based on household by simple random sampling. There are 356 household scattered with in study area ward No. 1, 2, 3 and 7. 15 percent of the total household were selected (53 household) with the help of simple random sampling. This household representing ward No.1, 2, 3 and 7.

3.5. Data Collection Tools and Techniques

Most of the statistical data and required information are collected through the primary sources. These data based on field survey, interview schedule, observation, key informant, interviews, focus group discussion. Primary data collected through questionnaires.

3.6. Data Analysis

The collected data was processed and statistically analyzed to make them more clear and scientific. To illustrate the research work maps, graphs and diagrams were used as tools and techniques of the data analysis. To the study, descriptive method was used for qualitative data. The qualitative data was encompassed the study systematically and logically.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF VARIABLES

The chapter IV consists different variables of the recent study of gender inequality and women's participation in household decision making process. Such elements are roles, responsibilities constraints and opportunities in educational, social, political, health, economic sectors of women and the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents as well. The another part belongs to the women's involvement in the different aspects of household decision making process in man and woman's status in Nepalese society. The research is case study approach, so the data of primary form were taken the Jabdi VDC as field.

A major challenge for development is that poverty cannot to be reduced as long as gender inequality persists. In Nepal men's and women's responsibilities, opportunities and influence are unequal and in some communities, these inequalities are very severe. The Gender Development Index (GDI) value for Nepal is 0.484, ranking the country 73rd out of 144. Only 3.9 percent of women in Nepal have house and land ownerships 5.8 percentage of the member of parliament, 7.8 percent in civil services. There is the pressure to work harder and in more hazardous work conditions than men secure livelihood and other means of survival. The other acute problem in the poor status of decision making opposition and male dominated social culture.

The terms responsibilities, constraints, opportunities are used in the contents. Roles are considered as the person's function women's or men's functions related to the education, political, household, health social etc. The prominent functions of women or men are evaluated to these sectors.

Responsibilities are the norms of the women's activity related to the economic, political, social, health, household works. Women have to bear the response to the function.

Constraints are considered of the permission not to give the authority to women in related field. Opportunity is considered as the situation or environment to for taking the enjoy or interests, rights and duties in different sectors.

4.1 Socio-Economic and Demographic Background of Respondents

4.1.1 Religion

Hinduism is the main religion of all caste/ethnic groups in the VDC.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Religion by Caste/Ethnicity

Caste/ethnicity	Hindu	Percent	Christian	Percent
1. Brahmin	19	41.30	1	14.2
2. Tharu	16	21.73	3	42.85
3. Chamar	4	8.69	1	14.2
4. Muslim	6	13.04	2	28.57
5. Chhetri	7	15.21	-	-
Total	46 (26.79%)	100.00	7 (13.20%)	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Table 2 shows that 41.30 percent of people followed the Hindu religion, 14.2 percentage of respondents believe on Christian religion. Among all the caste/ethnic groups of people, 41.30 percent Brahmin, 21.73 percent of respondents are Tharu, 8.69 percent of people are Chamar, 13.04 percent of respondents are Muslim and 15.21 percent of respondents are Chhetri.

4.1.2 Literacy Status

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of the Literacy Status by Caste/Ethnicity

Caste	Literate	Percentage	Illiterate	Percent	Total	Percentage
Brahmin	13	65.00	7	35.00	20	100
Tharu	6	46.15	7	53.84	13	100
Chamar	3	60.00	2	40.00	5	100
Muslim	3	37.5	5	62.5	8	100
Chhetri	4	57.14	3	42.85	7	100
Total	29		25		53	100
Percent	54.71		45.28			100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Among all the respondents in different caste/ethnicity groups of people 54.71 percent people of women were literate and 45.28 percent of women were illiterate.

4.1.3 Source of Occupation

Occupation is one of the important components for sources of income. Food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs for man. In addition to these basic needs, he has other various kinds of needs such as education, health etc. He fulfills those various needs through the different source.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Occupational Groups by Caste/Ethnicity

Characteristics	Occupational groups				
Caste/ethnicity	Poultry firm	Shop	Cutting	Total	Percent
Brahmin	-	25	2	27	50.09
Tharu	3	1	-	4	7.54
Chamar	1	-	9	10	18.86
Chhetri	2	4	2	8	15.09
Muslim	-	1	3	4	7.54
Total	6	31	16	53	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2006.

The percentage distribution of the respondents is given below, 50.09 percent Brahmin are involved in poultry firm, shop and cutting occupation 7.54 percent, 18.86 percent, 15.09 percent and 7.54 percent respectively. Tharu, Chamar, Chhetri and Muslim are involved in different occupation poultry firm, shop and cutting.

4.2. Household Works

4.2.1 Role in Household Works

There are various works within the household. Her household works role means such as kitchen works washing clothes, fetching water, firewood collection etc.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Role in Household Works

Role in household work	Number	Percentage
Both	37	69.81
Mother	12	22.64
Daughter-in-law	4	7.50
Total	53	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Table shows that, majority of the respondents (69.81%) or 37 women have prominent role in household work, while there lies both mother and daughter-in-law, but (22.64%) or 15 mother have prominent role in this work. She taken from unmarried women only 75 percentage of daughter-in-law has prominent role in this works.

This indicates that variations in household work with in women there sees, while role of mother-in-law is comparatively higher than daughter-in-law. There is not as prominent role of men in this sector but

that means they have not only role of all men also help to their female counterparts in their leisure time but not always.

4.2.2 Decision-Making in Household Works

In terms of caste and ethnicity, Brahmins and Chhetries practices serve forms of gender discrimination. Among the indigenous ethnic group, the status of women (Cheli/Maiti) is very high. Women family members often make household decisions and they have high social mobility.

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Decision-Making Household Works

Decision making in household works	Number	Percentage
Both	31	58.4
Male	9	16.98
Female	8	15.09
Other	5	9.43
Total	53	100.00

Table 6 shows that 58.4 percentage of respondents (women and men) had decision making ion household works, 16.98 percentage of men had decision making in household works 15.09 percentage of respondents covers female and 9.43 percentage of others.

4.2.3 Constraints in Household Works

Constraint-means don't give authorize (permission) to do as they wish in their household work such as cooking, washing sanitation go to their birth place, social participation etc. There are such constraints use family, culture and social. Table 7 shows that variations of constraints among the different caste/ethnic group and literacy level.

Table 7: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of the Constraints in Household Works by Caste/Ethnicity and Literacy Status

Characteristics	Constraints in household work				
Caste/ethnicity	Family	Culture	Social	Total	Percentage
Brahmin	1	5	4	20	37.73
Tharu	3	7	3	13	24.52
Chamar	2	1	2	5	9.43
Muslim	3	1	4	8	15.09
Chhetri	2	3	2	7	13.20
Total	21 (39.62%)	17 (32.07%)	15 (28.30%)	53	10

Source: Field survey, 2006.

The respondents of all caste/ethnic group of people said 39.62 percent of the family was the main constraints in educational sector. 342.67 percent said culture and 28.30 percent of respondents said social was the main factor as the constraints in educational sector. 28.30 percent said social factors.

4.3. Economic Sector

4.3.1 Economic Role

There are different type of economic activities in the family such are decision to expenditure, loan taking and paying, ownership in the banking money etc. The table 8 presents the economic role of women in household/family.

Table 8: Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of the Economic Role by Caste/Ethnicity, Religion and Occupational Groups

Caste/ethnicity	Women in economic role			
	Women	Men	Total (No.)	Total (%)
Brahmin	3	17	20	37.73
Tharu	6	7	13	24.52
Chamar	1	4	5	9.43
Muslim	3	5	8	15.09
Chhetri	3	4	7	13.20
Total	16 (30.18%)	37 (69.8%)	53	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

This table shows that, among caste/ethnicity groups, 30.18 percent of women's role was prominent in economic sectors in family while 69.81 percent of men's role was prominent in economic sector in family on the group of occupation, higher percent of men's role was prominent.

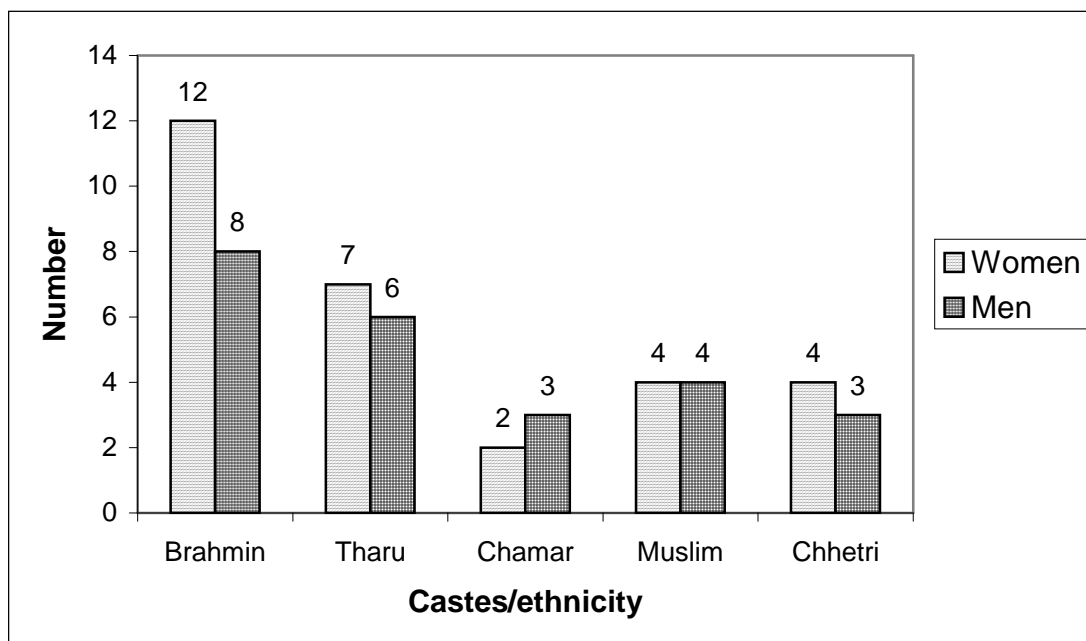
4.3.2 Economic Constraints

Table 9: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Economic Constraints by Caste/Ethnicity and Literacy Status

Caste/ethnicity	Economic constraints			
	Women	Men	Total (No.)	Total (%)
Brahmin	12	8	20	37.73
Tharu	7	6	13	24.52
Chamar	2	3	5	9.43
Muslim	4	4	8	15.09
Chhetri	4	3	7	13.20
Total	29 (54.71%)	24 9(45.28)	53	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Economic Constraints by Caste/Ethnicity and Literacy Status



Higher percent of respondents in all caste/ethnic groups of people said economic constraints remains with women 54.71 percent of women's constraints and 45.28 percent of respondents said the constraints with men. By the occupational groups, 54.71 percent of women and 45.28 percent of men remains constraints in economic sectors.

4.3.3. Economic Opportunity

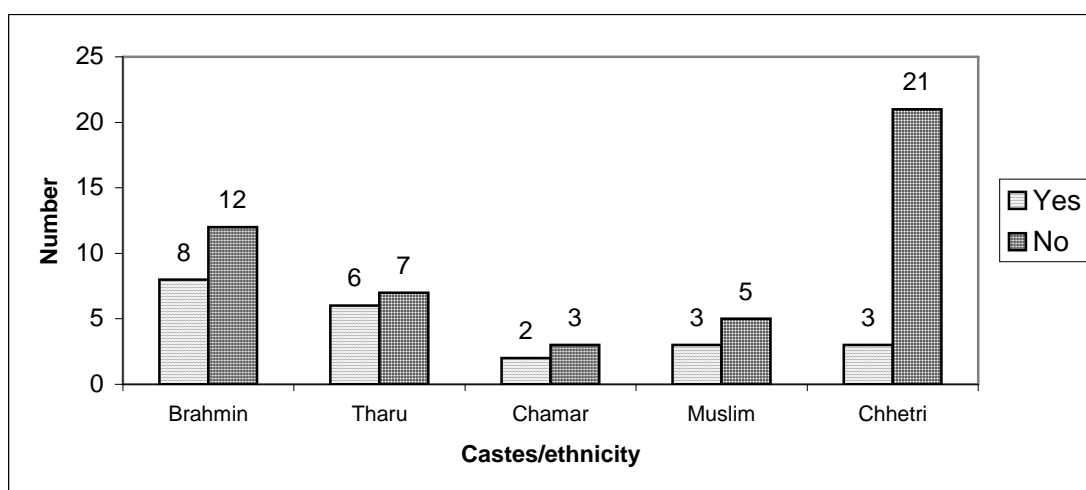
Some women had saving for themselves but they said it was done in secret and nobody of the household knew about it. When asked why such secret saving the women said it was for family use in future if there is sudden need of money but nobody reported it was for them.

Table 10: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of the Economic Opportunity by Caste/Ethnicity Age Group and the Occupation Groups

Characteristics	Economic opportunity for women					
Caste/ethnicity	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brhamin	8	36.36	12	38.70	20	37
Tharu	6	27.27	7	22.58	13	24
Chamar	2	9.09	3	9.67	5	9
Muslim	3	13.63	5	16.12	8	15
Chhetri	3	13.63	21	12.90	7	13
Total	22 (41.4%)	100	31(58.40%)	100	53	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Figure 2: Distribution of Respondents in Terms of the Economic Opportunity by Caste/Ethnicity Age Group and the Occupation Groups



The respondent below 30 years said 46.15 percent of women have got opportunity in economic sectors but 29.165 respondents said women have not got opportunity 53.84 percent of aged between 31-45 years

arranged that women have not got economic opportunity in family among all caste groups of people, 41.50 percent of respondents said women have taken economic opportunity but 58.39 percent of respondent arranged that women have not got economic opportunity in this sector.

4.4. Educational Sector

Education is one of the basis human need's with out education we cannot even imagine the improvement in social, economic and political situation which are the backbones of a nation. So for the development of social, economic and political situation people must be conscious.

Table 11: Educational Sector

Characteristics	Women in educational role					
	Women		Men		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Caste/ethnicity						
Brahmin	13	65	7	35	20	100
Tharu	8	61.53	5	38.46	13	100
Chamar	3	60	2	40	5	100
Muslim	5	62.5	3	37.5	8	100
Chhetri	3	42.85	4	57.14	7	100
Total	32 (63.37)		21(39.62)		53	100
Literacy status						
Illiterate	14	66.66	7	33.33	21	100
Literate	11	34.37	21	65.62	32	100
Total	25	100	28			100
Occupational groups						
Student	1	50	1	50	2	
Household	29	64.44	16	35.55	45	
Workers	3	50	3	50	6	
Other groups	34		19		53	

Source: Field survey, 2006.

The prominent role of women in educational sector of Brahmin respondents were 65 but 35 percent of respondents arranged that men's role is prominent in educational sector. Tharu respondents said 61.53 percent of women's role was prominent in education sector but 66.66 percent of respondent said women's role is prominent in education sector 35.37 percent of literate people and 65.62 percent of educated respondents said the women's role was prominent in education sector. Among all castes group of respondents, 50.00 percent respondents said that women's role was prominent in educational sector and some 50.00 percent of respondents have said the men's role was prominent in educational sector.

4.4.1 Decision in Educational Sector

Table 12: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Educational Decisions by Caste/Ethnicity and Literacy Status

Characteristics	Main deciding person educational sector					
	Women		Men		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Caste/ethnicity						
Brahmin	7	35.00	13	65.00	20	100
Tharu	8	61.53	5	38.46	13	100
Chamar	2	40	3	60	5	100
Muslim	2	25	6	75	8	100
Chhetri	5	71.41	2	28.57	7	100
Total	45.28			54.71		100
Literacy status						
Illiterate	8	40	12	60	20	100
Literate	14	42.42	19	57.37	33	100
Total	22 (41.5%)		31 (58%)		53	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Main decision have taken by man in educational sector was 65.00 percent. Only 35.00 percent of respondents said women have taken main decision in education sector.

The respondent of Tharu caste group have said 61.53 percent of women have taken the main decision in educational sector. Only 38.46 percent of respondent belongs to Tharu argued the men have taken that main decision in educational sector. The higher percentage of respondents said that men have taken the main decision in educational sector belongs to the land caste groups of people. Among all the caste groups of people 45.28 percent have argued that the women have taken the main decision in educational sector but 54.71 percent of respondents argued that men have taken sectors among the total respondents 41.59 percent argue women and 58.49 percent argue for men had taken main decision in educational sector.

4.4.2 Landholding Size/Share Cropping Pattern

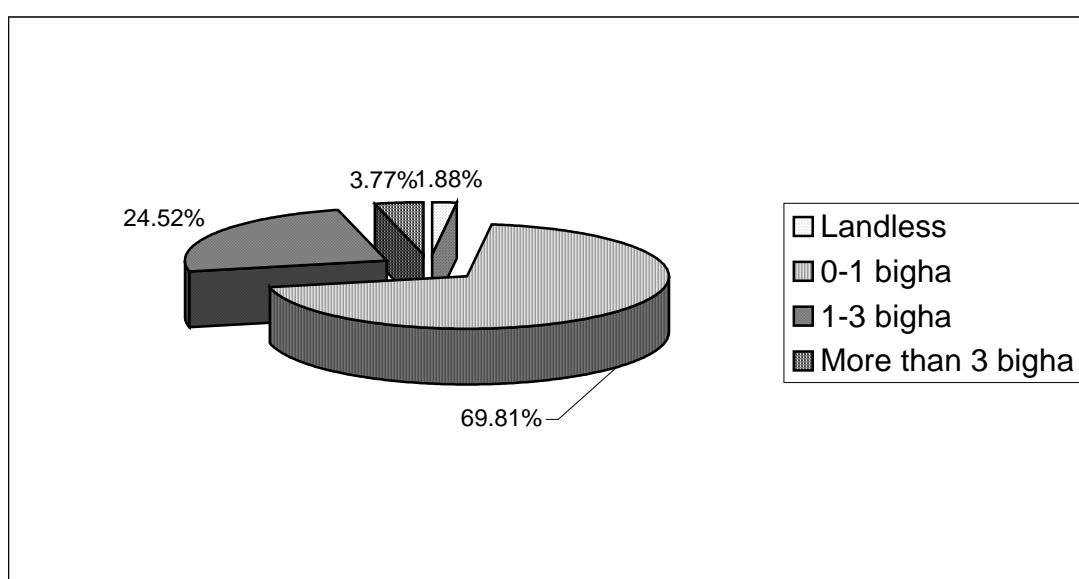
In an agrarian economy, the extent of ownership of land, is the main indicator of relative economic status of people. The following table gives the landholding pattern of respondents.

Table 13: Landholding Size in the Sample HHs

Size of landholding	No. of household	Percent
Landless	1	1.88
0-1 bigha	37	69.81
1-3 bigha	13	24.52
More than 3 bigha	2	3.77
Total	53	100.00

Note: 1 bigha = 20 katha, 30 katha = 1 hectore, 20 dhur = 1 katha.

Figure 3: Landholding Size in the Sample HHs



In the table No. 13, 1.88 percent of respondents have no land. They are depend upon others land. 69.81 percent of respondent have 0-1 bigha, 24.52 percent of respondents have 1-3 bigha and 3.77 percent of respondent have more than 3 bigha.

4.4.3 Age Structure of the Respondents

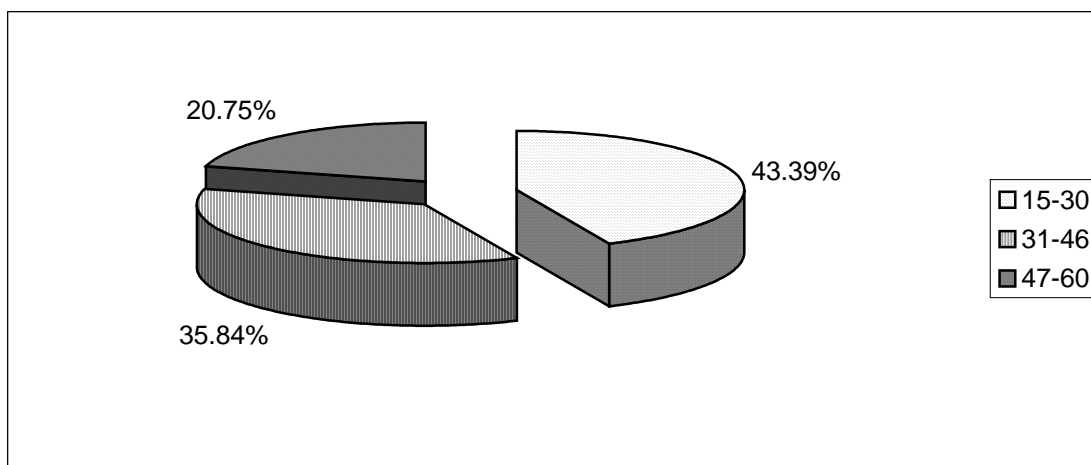
Age is an important demographic factor which makes difference in burden of work, ability to work and involvement in economic activity.

Table 14: Respondents by Age Group

Age	No. of respondents	Percentage
15-30	23	43.39
31-46	19	35.84
47-60	11	20.75
Total	53	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Figure 4: Respondents by Age Group



The age of respondents of the sampled households range from 15-30 years. Out of the total sampled population majority (43.39) of the respondents fall in the age group of 15-30 years, 35.84 percent were between the age respondents fall in the age group 31-46 years and 20.75 percent were between 47-60 years.

4.5. Health Sector

4.5.1 Main Decision in Health Sector

The main decision in health related activities has taken mostly by men in all the caste/ethnic groups occupational groups and both by literate and illiterate.

Table 15: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of the Main Decision in Health Related Activities by Caste/Ethnicity

Characteristics Caste/ethnicity	Main decision making person in health sector					
	Women		Men		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Brahmin	6	30.00	14	70.00	20	100
2. Tharu	4	30.76	9	69.23	13	100
3. Chamar	2	40.00	3	60.00	5	100
4. Muslim	2	25.00	6	75.00	8	100
5. Chhetri	4	57.14	3	42.85	7	100
Total	18(33.96%)		35(66.03%)		53	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

The main decision in health activities was taken by women 33.96 percent when Brahmin 30.00 percent, Tharu 30.76 percent, Chamar 40.00 percent, Muslim 25.00 percent, Chhetri 57.14 percent and 66.03 percent of men was involve decision in health activities. When Brahmin 70.00 percent, 69.23 percent Tharu, 60.00 percent Chamar, Muslim 75.00 percent, Chhetri 42.85 percent involve in decision making in health sector.

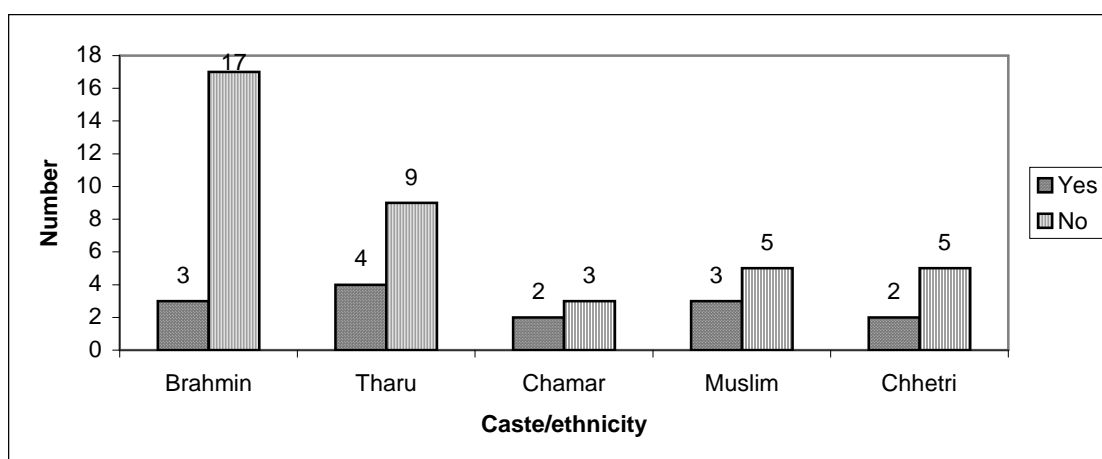
4.5.2 Decision in Specific Economic Issue in Family

Table 16: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Decision in Specific Economic Issue in Family by Caste/Ethnicity

Characteristics	Women's involvement in decision in specific economic work in family					
Caste/ethnicity	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Brahmin	3	15.00	17	85.00	20	100
2. Tharu	4	30.76	9	69.23	13	100
3. Chamar	2	40.00	3	60.00	5	100
4. Muslim	3	37.5	5	62.50	8	100
5. Chhetri	2	28.57	5	71.42	7	100
Total	14(24.45%)		39(73.58%)		53	100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Figure 5: Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Decision in Specific Economic Issue in Family by Caste/Ethnicity



The percentage distributional respondents not involving to decide in specific economic issue in family was 73.58 percent. Only 26.41 percent of respondents had involved to decide in specific economic issue in family.

4.5.3 Responsibility in Choice of Means of Contraception and Sexual Intercourse

Table 17: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Responsibility in Family Planning Method and Sexual intercourse by Caste/Ethnicity

Characteristics	Responsibility in family planning and sexual intercourse					
Caste/ethnicity	Women		Men		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	5	25.00	15	75.00	20	100
Tharu	7	53.84	6	46.15	13	100
Chamar	1	20.00	4	80.00	5	100
Muslim	2	25.00	6	73.00	8	100
Chhetri	3	42.85	4	57.14	7	100
Total	18		35		53	100
Percentage	33.96		66.03			100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

According to the caste groups of people, 25.00 percent of Brahmin respondents, 53.84 percent Tharu respondents, 20.00 percent Chamar respondents, 25.00 percent Muslim respondents and 42.85 percent Chhetri respondent said, women had responsibility in choice of means of contraception and sexual intercourse and 75.00 percent of Brahmin respondents 46.15 percent of Tharu, 80.00 percent of Chamar, 75.00

percent of Muslim and 57.14 percent of Chhetri said men had taken responsibility in choice of means of contraception and sexual intercourse.

4.5.4 Decision Making in Participation in Social Activities

Table 18: Decide to Involve in Social Activities, Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Decision Making Process in Social Activities by Caste/Ethnicity

Characteristics	Decision making in social activities					
Caste/ethnicity	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	16	60.00	4	20.00	20	
Tharu	45	30.76	9	69.23	13	
Chamar	1	20.00	4	80.00	5	
Muslim	2	25.00	6	75.00	8	
Chhetri	3	42.85	4	57.14	7	
Total	26		27		53	100
Percent	49.65		50.94			

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Among all the caste/ethnic group of people, 60.00 percent of Brahmin respondents, 30.76 percent of Tharu, 20.0 percent of Chamar, 25.00 percent of Chhetri respondents said, women involve to decide in participation in social activities. 20.00 percent Brahmin respondent, 69.23 percent of Tharu, 80.00 percent of Muslim, 75.00 percent of Chhetri respondents said women had no decide to involve in social activities.

4.5.5 Views of Parental Property to Women

Table 19: Percentage Distribution of Respondents in Terms of the Views on Parental Property to Women by Caste/Ethnicity

Characteristics Caste/ethnicity	Views on parents property to women					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	14	70.00	6	30.00	20	100
Tharu	5	38.46	8	61.53	13	100
Chamar	2	40.00	3	60.00	5	100
Muslim	3	37.5	5	62.5	8	100
Chhetri	4	57.14	3	42.85	7	100
Total	28		25		53	100
Percent	52.83		47.16			100

Source: Field survey, 2006.

Among of the caste group of people, 70.00 percent of Brahmin respondents, 38.46 percent of Tharu, 40.00 percent of Chamar, 37.5 percent of Muslim and 57.14 percent of Chhetri respondents said there was necessary of parents property to women and 30 percent Brahmin, 61.53 percent Tharu, 60.00 percent Chamar, 62.5 percent Muslim and 42.85 percent Chhetri respondents said there was no necessary to parents property to women.

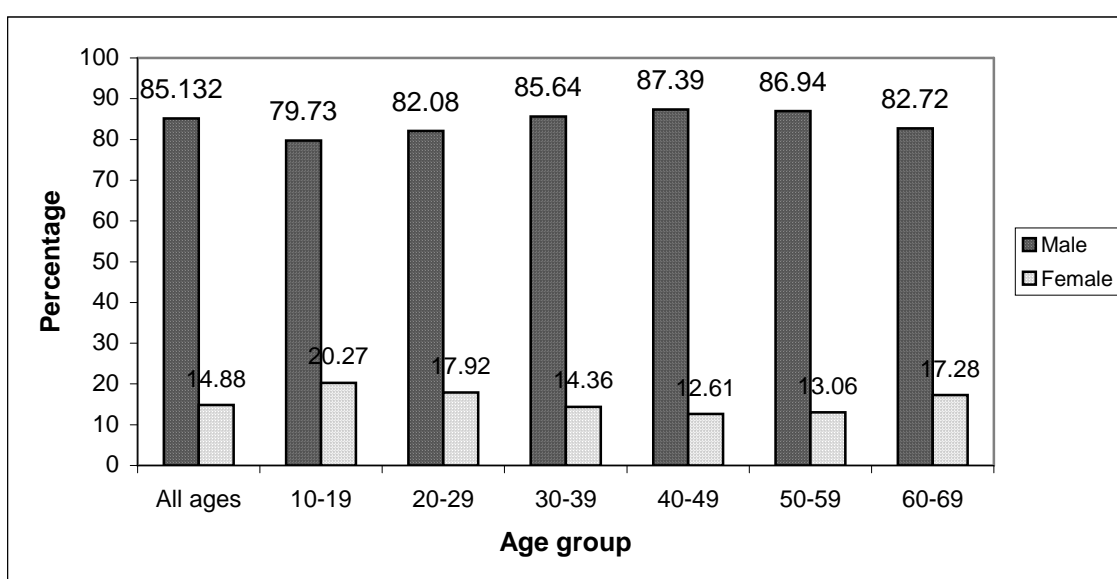
4.3.6 Distribution of Household Head by Gender

Table 20: Distribution of Household Head by Sex and Age Group

Age group	Percent of household head		
	Male	Female	Gender gap
All ages	85.132	14.88	70.24
10-19	79.73	20.27	59.46
20-29	82.08	17.92	64.16
30-39	85.64	14.36	71.28
40-49	87.39	12.61	74.78
50-59	86.94	13.06	73.88
60-69	82.72	17.28	65.44
70 and above	81.36	18.64	62.72

Source: CBS, 2003.

Figure 6: Distribution of Household Head by Sex and Age Group



The household head by male was 85.12 percent and 14.88 percent of household head by female only in Nepal. The gender gap in Nepal is 70.24 percent. The highest difference between male and female between the age group of 40-49 and the lowest gender gap between the age group 10-19 is 59.46 percent.

4.5.7. Ownership of Assets

Table 21: Distribution of the Households by Female Ownership in House, Land and Livestock

Female	Percent
House only	0.78
Land only	5.25
Livestock only	5.42
House and land only	3.86
Land and livestock only	0.94
House, land and livestock	0.78
Not reporting ownership	82.97
Total	100.00

Source: CBS, 2003.

The ownership by female of livestock was 5.42 percent and 5.25 percent of land only by female ownership, only 0.78 percent of house, land and livestock by female ownership. There is highest percent 82.87 percent of not reporting ownership my female ownership.

4.5.8 Population 10 Years of Age and Over by economic Activity, Age and Sex

Table 22: Population 10 Years of Age and Over by Economic Activity, Age and Sex

Area and age	Usually economically active		Usually economically not active	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Nepal	5971024	4666219	2359552	3773484
10-14	449307	446505	11114499	1007621
15-19	589410	579285	596916	623891
20-24	728007	658438	218735	411588
25-29	754817	594009	66197	310455
30-34	70147	517632	24693	245831
35-39	634141	457197	17210	202165
40-44	524450	382876	15543	165775
45-49	454452	314635	45243	139043
50-54	371024	248011	21635	126384
55-59	291115	175709	27495	107774
60-64	214827	135388	47428	123265
65+ above	288126	102534	194459	311352

Source: CBS, 2003.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the summary of the study and its conclusion and recommendations may be assistance for the policy maker as well as the for the future studies.

5.1. Summary with Major Findings

Inequalities between men and women exist in both developed as well as developing countries (UN, 2001). In case of Nepal, a clear inequality is in every sector such educational health, economic, political participation etc. Therefore, the proportion of men and women is very unequal in these sectors, while men are highly enjoying in such sectors and women are depriving.

Literatures were reviewed to get in depth knowledge about the status of women in terms of their decision making in the household level and their participation in the village development activities through CDC. To serve the purpose general overviews of the studies held outside Nepal and inside Nepal are included in the study.

The entire analysis focuses upon the relative status of women in terms of their household decision making power vis-à-vis their male counterparts. Household decision making is envisaged to be the strong indicator of the different powers and positions held by the different members within the household.

- There is predominance of the Brahmins, in the sample household, majority 37.73 percent of the respondents are Brahmins, 24.52 percent are Tharu, 9.43 percent are Chamar, 15.09 percent are Muslim and 13.20 percent are Chhetri.
- The majority 86.79 percent of respondents are Hindus and 13.20 percent and rest are followers of other religions.

- The majority (43.39%) of the respondents fall in the age group 15-30 years. Seems to have greater decision making power. The shows that decision making power is not given to women unless she is a widow or has the status of the mother.
- 54.71 percent female respondents are literate and 345.28 percent female are illiterate.
- Majority of the respondents (69.81%) or 37 women have prominent role in household work, while there lies both mother and daughter in low but (22.64%) or 15 mother have prominent role in this work.
- 54.4 percent of respondents had decision making in household works, 16.98 percentage of men had decision making in household works.
- The respondents of all caste/ethnic group of people said 39.62 percent of the family was the main constraints in educational sector. 32.07 percent said culture and 28.30 percent of respondents said social was the main factor as the constraints in educational sector.
- 30.18 percent of women's role was prominent in economic sector in family while 69.81 percent of men's role was prominent in economic sector in family.
- Higher percentage of respondent said economic constraints remain with women 54.7 percent and 45.28 percent of respondents said the constraints with men.
- The respondent below 30 years said 46.15 percent of women have got opportunity in economic sector but 29.16 percent respondents said women have not got opportunity.
- The prominent role in educational sector 63.37 percent women and 39.62 percent men in educational role.

- Main decision have taken by man in educational sector was 65.090 percent only 35.00 percent of respondents said women have taken main decision in education sector.
- The main decision in health activities was taken by women 33.96 percent and men 66.03 percent.
- The percentage distribution respondents not involving to decide in specific economic issue in family was 73.58 percent. Only 26.41 percent of respondents had involved in decide in specific economic issue in family.
- 33.96 percent of respondents women had responsibility in choice of means of contraception and sexual intercourse and 66.03 percent of respondents men had taken responsibility in choice of means of contraception an sexual intercourse.

5.2. Conclusions

The main objective of the study is to find out the gender inequality persisting in our country and women's participation in household decision-making as well which are close to underdevelopment. The study shows that the female's status is weaker as compared to their male partner. In each and every aspects females have to bear inferiority than males. They have to play only subordinate role in the society. They have low status in education occupation health nutrition, political participation ownership of assets weaker in household decision making process etc.

The study compassed any women above the age of 16 years for the interview. However, the main contribution of studying is to equal rule, decision making responsibility, constraints and opportunity in the household work, education, economic, health, political and participation in household decision making issues such as reproductive rights specific economic issues, leadership etc. It also tries to know the views of women

as parental property right among the different sector. Women have limited access to resources and even they are deprived from their rights. They are disadvantaged deprived and discriminated socially as well as economically and politically with in and among the nations. They are regarded as the second degree citizens of the country having subordinate role. They get fewer opportunities to involve in mainstream of development. The majority of respondents are Hindu religion and literate also. Similarity, majority of women are involved in the household works most of the respondents do not involve in politics.

All rules and responsibilities of household works are cover women side and very few decision making of man in this sectors, which shows that the household works are confirmed women in household works. They centered doing out of household works even as they have desired. Majority women have low role, responsibility and decision making in addition economic and political sector. Most of the economic role, decision, responsibility and opportunity in lower caste groups and household workers are performed by the male counterparts.

In fact, it is impossible to bring about overall development without women's fully participation. So it is essential to increase participation in decision development activities.

5.3. Recommendations

5.3.1 Policy Recommendations

Advancing gender equity and the empowerment of women is a cornerstone of population and development related programmes. Women and men have to such equal right to participate fully in policy and decision-making process at all levels.

But in Nepal, there is gender inequality in all the aspects of social, economic and political issues females are deprived from the rights and

their occupation is very low to opportunities and their status in society is also lower than that of their male partner. The status of females should be raised with proper policies and programmes focusing special issues due to which they are in backward. It is necessary to bring them into mainstream of development increasing their opportunities and potentialities providing their opportunities in governmental and nongovernmental institutions and agencies should be concentrated with the following issues:

1. Governmental should give priority to increasing their literacy rate of female with the help of proper education policies and programmes.
2. Increase the access of females to vocational training, science and technology and continuous these programmes.
3. Eliminate the gender discrimination in developmental institutions and issues includes gender sensitive syllabus to education.
4. Provide those scholarships or other increasing facilities for their easy access to higher education.
5. Eliminate all types of health related discrimination conduct health related awareness programmes.
6. Promote women's economic rights and include access to employment, appropriate women's conditions and control over economic resources.
7. Increasing women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.
8. Review, adopt and maintain the micro-credit policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty.
9. Eliminate all kinds of discrimination against the girl, child and promote the girl child's awareness into the part of economic, political, social life.

10. Provide the opportunities for accessing the women on parental property rights.
11. Facilitate the social empowerment programmes and policies for women to be able in capability building approach.

5.3.2 Recommendation for Further Study/Research

Gender study is a vast subject matter which can not be studied at once. This study covers only few variables such as education, health, economic, decision-making, political participation household decision-making process in family. There are other variables such as crimes trafficking, legal issues, which further study can be done to improve their social and legal status of females.

Other studies can be conducted in terms of women's access to technology, media, credit, property, foreign employment, which will be helpful to clarify the women's situation compare to men. This study will be helpful to planners, policy makers in terms of policy making a programme implementation.

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APPENDIX-I

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name of Respondent:

VDC:

Ward No:

Age:

Cast:

Religion:

Family Size

Number:

Literate: read and write only/Illiterate Occupation:

1) What is your marital status:

a) Married

b) Unmarried

2. What is your designation?

a) Mother

b) Sister

c) Daughter in law

3. Do you have independent source of income

a) Poultry

b) Shop

c) Weaving

4. How much land do you have on your family's ownership?

a) Landless

b) 0-1 Bigha

c) 1-3 Bigha

d) More than 3 Bigha

5. Do you have authority to spend as you like?

a) Yes

b) No

If yes, for which purpose

6. Do you have authority to save income

a) Yes

b) No

If yes for what purpose?

7. When do you plan to use the money?

8. In which category do you keep yourself?

a) High status

b) Medium status

c) Low status

9. Whose role is prominent household workers in your family

a) you

b) Household head

c) Others

10. Who does the more decision in household works in your family
 - a) You
 - b) Husband
 - c) Others
11. Who is the responsible successful or failure in household works ?
 - a) You
 - b) Husband
 - c) Others
12. What are the constraints to perform the role in household work?
designing ?
 - a) Family
 - b) Culture
 - c) Social
13. What can you do if you have got good opportunities in household works?
 - a) I would reform economic conditions better than present
 - b) I would guiding family members in proper way
14. What is the reason to do household works in your family?
 - a) Being women
 - b) male dominating
 - c) Others
15. Who does the main decision in economic work in your family?
 - a) You
 - b) Husband
16. Whom is responsible of successful or failure in economic?
 - a) You
 - b) Husband
 - c) Others
17. What are constraints to design the expanding in your family?
 - a) You
 - b) Husband
18. Who decides for the marriage of family members?
 - a) Father
 - b) Mother
 - c) Girl/herself
 - d) Boy himself
 - e) By decision of all members
 - f) Others
- 19) Did you give or take dowry in marriage
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 20) If dowry is given in daughter's marriage did you give dowry of your desire?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 21) Do you have poly gamy practice in your family ?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

22) If yes, who and why?

.....

23. Do you know about means of family planning ?

a) Yes b) No

24. If yes what kind of means?

a) Permanent b) Temporary

25. Who has adopted ?

a) Male b) Female

26. Who decides for it ?

a) Male b) Female

27. Do you know about abortion?

a) Yes b) No

28. Do you have any group committee in own society ?

a) Yes b) No

29. Have you represented at social organizations and user committees?

a) Yes b) No

30. Do you have your equal right at all sector sin year own house?

a) Yes b) No

31. Have you involve to decision all of the following?

a) Credit and payment,

i) Yes ii) No

b) Selection of seed in Agriculture production

i) Yes ii) No

c) Social welfare activities

i) Yes ii) No

d) Fodder collection, livestock's number

i) Yes ii) No

e) Labour allocation mobility, Income

i) Yes ii) No

32. In your, opinion, is there necessary to have parents property to woman?
- i) Yes ii) No
33. Do you have your own property
- i) Yes ii) No
34. In your opinion what should be done to be equally treated as women to men in all aspects I your family?
35. Which factor is more important in overall decision-making role in family equally to women?
- a) Property rights b) Sex education
- c) Social participation d) Reproductive right
- e) Sexual control
36. What re the obstacles for getting expected education?
- a) Family b) Culture c) Social

