

PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING PROCESS

**(A CASE STUDY OF PHOGATPUR AREA OF THAKRE VILLAGE
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN DHADING DISTRICT , NEPAL)**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This Thesis entitled **Participation of Rural women in Household decision Making Process. A Case Study of Phogatpur area of Thakre VDC in Dhading District**, Nepal, is prepared by Uttam Prasad Subedi under my supervision and guidance in partial fulfillment for the requirement of the master of Arts in Rural Development. I hereby forward this thesis for its evaluation.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This Thesis Presented by Uttam Prasad Subedi entitled **Participation of Rural Women in Household Decision Making Process. A Case Study of Phogatpur Area of Thakre VDC in Dhading District**, Nepal, has been accepted in partial Fulfillment for the requirement of the master of Arts in Rural Development.

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ABSTRACT

Women's population is more than men's population in Nepal. They are dominating from historical period by men as well as human beings. They are not enjoying equal decision making power with their male counterparts. They are discriminated since their childhood. In childhood they have to live under their parents, in adulthood, they should follow their husbands and in old age they are under their children. They have no liberty to decide freely in all level of decision making process.

The economic, demographic and social factors have the strong role interms of decision making power women are not in leading roles they are considered as second grade citizen and play sub-ordinate role in the household as well as society. They are less comfortable in decision making field. In this study we finds that the females who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision making power that merely illiterate household family. Our society is male dominated. Males have superior status in most of the cases and female have to follow to them. Even then can not decide for child, for child birth Education, Employment, on lending money, Borrowing money and goods, and others activities treatment of illness. Women's empowerment battle is necessary for holistic and sustainable development. There is prevalent quotation "man and women are two wheels of the same cart". Men and women both must be stand in equal status to developed the society. That's why women's empowerment is essential, for rural development women's participation must be equal in each aspects and political activities and women's role must be equall in decision-making process in administration socio economic and political sector that is women's empowerment.

In rural area; women's condition is very poor in all aspects and they are unskilled due to different causes. Education is the 1st essential element of

development. But most of are uneducated because of tradition cultural and superstition people think that daughter is like animals for selling. she must goes to the other home because of the conservative thoughts. They don't send school to daughter. The 2nd element of undevelopment of women is "dowry system". Dowry system is also one of the main challenges for the upliftment of women. Rural; urban; mountain; Hill and terai areas are suffering from the dowry system day by day. patriarchal social status. Domestic violence, unequal dealing and existing upto now in our rural society. Thus rural women's status is very miserable and sorrowful in Nepalese context.

This is micro study, due to which it may not be generalized at macro level. Research Design is slightly descriptive as well as analytical. The primary data was collected with the help of Technique (Household survey) and tools (Household Questionnaire). The secondary data was used from various publication, published by different Go' s, NGO' s institutions or agencies.

In this study, Out of 497 household in study area having different caste and ethnic groups only 50 HHS (10 percent) have been taken Sampled (22 are males and 28 Females) Households heads were the respondents either they were male or female. Simple mathematical methods; Like, average, percentage, Figures, Charts and tables are used in relevant places to the main topics into sub-heading according to the nature of data have been chosen according to the findings.

This study we concluded that Females have low socio-economic status and their male counterparts in household decision making power. It is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making roles, Unless females are not brought in to the mainstreams of development activities. It is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. Education and women empowerment plays a vital role in rural development.

This study suggests the Females have to work more but less decision making power. Most of the cases they have reporting their male- partners for

decision. They have no chance to decide for it. If there is any problems to complete the work, they can not decide that moment, they have to ask for male; women's works are highly admirable their contribution to their household are usually discounted. They also deprived of household decision making process as well as social opportunities the fact that women as the oppressed and suppressed late still persists. This is reflected in almost all aspects of their lives (inside as well as outside of the house). Although this differs from community of community. The over all picture of Nepalese women remains more or less then same. Women should be encouraged participation in all level of decision making process. It is essential to involve females in all aspects of socio-economic as well as development activities for social Justice as well as nation building process. Empowerment and enhancement of economic activities to females is essential to raise their status in society and bring them out from the households boondaries.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

CBS	: Central Bureau of Statistics
CDC	: Community Development Committee
CDPS	: Central Department for Population Study.
CEDA	: Center for Economic Development and Administrations
FP	: Family Planning
FWCD	: Forum for Women Law and Development
GoN	: Governments of Nepal
HHS	: Households
I/NGO	: International Non Government Organization
ICPD	: International Conference on Population and Development
JT	: Junior Technician
M-A	: Master in Arts
NDHS	: National Demographic and Health Survey
NJDRS	: Nepalese Journal for Rural Development
NO	: Numbers
NPC	: National Planning Commission
PC	: Population Census
PRA	: Participatory Rural Appraisal
R.D.	: Rural Development
Res.	: Respondents
RRA	: Rapid Rural Appraisal
SLC	: School Living Certificate
T.V.	: Tele-Vision
UNFPA	: United Nation Population Fund
VDC	: Village Development Committee

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

In generally, Nepal is male dominated country where male has higher status than that of female. Women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision making power women have to bear there responsibilities as households, reproductive and productive economic activities. However, their household roles are not considered as productive works.

The majority of Nepallies communities within it are patriarchal in structure. 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, 2002). likewise, the studies and statistical profiles on status of women continue to show great disparity and low 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 (interdependence) in the process of decision making.

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 research like (UNFPA; 1997) suggest that the Hindu women of Aryan origin are more suppressed than their Tibeto-Burman counterparts.

Few studies, like that of Majumpuria (1982), and Cameron (1998) also suggest that among the Hindu Aryan group, the high caste women suffer more from traditional biases and discriminatory practices, as it is the higher caste

families who are unwilling to change their traditional ideologies and way of life.

In Nepal, women comprises more than 50 percent of total population (CBS, 2003). But only 42.9 percent females are literate (CBS, 2001). women have heavily engaged in domestic chores along with the socio-economic activities. They have major role in household management and they have to do more than 50 percent of household work but they have low decision making power. Even in 21st century they are not enjoying equal decision making power with their male counterparts. They are discriminated since their childhood. In childhood they have to live under their parents, in adulthood, they should follow their husbands and in old age they are under their children. They have no liberty to decide freely even their own.

Socio-economic status of females affects the role of women in society. However they are capable and potential, their capability and potentiality do not respected if they have low status. As females are less educated, they have low decision making power. These women who have higher education and sound economic background, have higher chance on decision making. Females are not considered to participate in decision making process in most of the socio-economic religions and other activities. There are very few households which are headed by female. According to census 2001, only 17.18 percent households are headed by women.

The economic, demographic and social factors have the strong role in terms of decision making power. Women are not in leading roles; they are considered as second grade citizen and play sub-ordinate role in the society. They are less comfortable in decision making field. They have low access to resources which make them dependent and it affects their role in households as well as in society.

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural areas, where the choice for livelihood is limited to agricultural work on the farms which are owned in most cases either by fathers, husbands, landlords or brothers. Most of females are economically dependent. They have to ask to their male partners to spend their own income also. Very few women are economically independent and they have little bit higher decision making power.

In Nepal very few women involving (Participation) in main stream of development and very few women are also in services sectors. There are very few women in policy making levels. More than 70 percent females are involving in agriculture sector. Only few percent females are in service. Recently, only one women is nominated as a member of National Planning Commission (NPC, 2004).

It is necessary or, essential for the development that male and female should enjoy equally opportunities for decision making either in lower or in higher level of policy making, plan, formulation or in programme implementation as well as in monitoring and evaluation sector. Unless women are not bringing into the mainstream of development. Participating them in decision making process the path of development will not be smothered.

Rural women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources, but from the lack of power to utilize available resource and lack of power to assert their rights. To empower women (Gender empowerment), social injustice and gender disparity in socio-economical as well as decision making process should be addressed and their by raise the status of female in the society. Policy and programs should be formulated and implemented properly to listen the problems related to women.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

The world is in 21st century and at the same time, it is shrinking into a global village. People are participating in the process of development globally. There is no national as well as international boundary in terms of development. But Nepal is a country where darkness is prevailing under the light. There exist bundles of problem which are discouraging people more forward with freedom. Women's participation in various level of decision making is an essential prerequisite. For the establishment of equality, development and peace. Women constitute about 50 percent of the total population of Nepal but yet their participation in the various level of decision making is negligible (Ghimire, 2001).

In our country, rural men and women do work at private spheres, but the distinction is mainly concerned with less or more works. Often women do work for about sixteen hours whereas, men often spend time lazily playing cards and drinking alcohol (Bhattachan, 2001).

Women in Nepal contribute 50 percent of the household income and work 10.73 hours as against 7.51 hours of men (CEDA: 1981). They engaged more in household chores but they have no decision making opportunities. They have to work. It is true that women are oppressed and suppressed lots in our society. They are discriminated in all sector of decision making and are not considered as main parts of development activities. Though men and women have equal rights to live but there is social injustice due to which women have weak decision making power.

The status of women is low which reflect the weak decision making power in household as well as in society. Decision making is an important factor which measures the relative status of the household members. Women have access in important sector, but they are still excluded from active role of decision making process. Men have major role of decision making inside the

households as well as outside. Men ask females only for formality and their decision has not prominent part in any activities in household and in our society. Only very few women get opportunity to be leading decision maker.

The fact is that women are capable and they have efficiency of making important and effective decisions if they given a chance. As they are the providers of basic household needs. They can bear the closest association with it.

Participation of women in decision making process of study area (phogatpur area of Thakre V.D.C in Dhading district Nepal;) is weak because their socio economic as well as political status is very low compared to their counterparts. Higher the status in household and society directly and indirectly effects the living standard of people and make their voice sound their is problem of gender equality and equity to give the way of sustainable development. It is essential to involve females in all the aspects of socio-economic as well as development activities for social justice as well as nation building process.

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

The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men as matter of human rights moreover it is a condition for social justice and should not be seen as isolated women issue. It is the only way to build a sustainable. Justice and developed society. The empowerment of

women and equality between women and men are prerequisites to achieving Political, Social, Cultural and Environmental security to all (Beijing; 1995) without empowering and bringing the women, in to the mainstream of development as well as other activities, It is not possible to develop the society as the nations. As men and women are like two wheels of a cart, so both should be equally strong and powerful to draw the social improvement and its development. If issues of women are not considered timely, future generation of women might also be. suffered from different kinds of difficulties it will certainly affect their lives as well as the advancement of human civilization, society and nation. Therefore . It should considered about the decision making process (power) of women and they are endowed with it.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the empowerment of their Political, Social, economic and health status is a highly important and in itself. In addition, It is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life including shared responsibilities (ICPD, 1994).

Women will helped to make significant (role), improvement in households in society and in nation. Therefore, policies and programs should be formulated to address the women's issues and should be implemented with proper way. Programs should be beneficial for needy and targeted people and enhance the capabilities of women to enable them to be in the mainstream of social improvement and nation development with their productive capacities of significant and effective decision making. Improvement of decision making process (power) of Female will play the vital role to make society developed and address the problem of social injustice.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the involvement or participation of women in household decision making process in study area. The sepecific objectives are:-

1. To analyze the decision making role of women in household level.
2. To examine the socio-economic status of women in study area.
3. To analyze the role of women in farm and labour Management.
4. To find out the problems faced by women .
5. To provide recommendations.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study may help to find out the gender (women) identity and their differentiation in rural community and shows the status of women in terms of their role in decision making process in household, labour management. All the development activities are preformed by the major part of development. In our society men have major roles and responsibilities in development activities and females are not enjoying with equal rights and responsibilities. They are deprived from their rights and duties even though they work more than their male counterparts.

Women should be the subject and also actors of development. Because women have major duties to maintain household as well as society. Their should not be gender disparity in the society . It is essential to bring them into mainstream of social improvement and national building. People should be aware about gender issue which is essential to protect the rights and duties of female. Their roles in household, in society and in nation have great significance in terms of social justice. Integrated rural development approach should be implemented to improve the women over all aspects. policy

programs should be directed to focus the issue of women which will be helpful to empower them Socially, Politically and economically.

As in the world, women constitute half of the total population population (Census, 2001) 50.05 Percent) in Nepal. They are backbone of society. They have equal roles and responsibilities to make society developed.

This study has attempted to reflect the women status in terms of decision making power inside/Outside the households. Further more, this study will have the importance to find out the actual condition of women in study area (Phogatpur) in terms of socio economic status and their decision making roles.

This study will be very useful for those individuals and institutions, who are interested to know the women's decision making power. It will also be useful even for planners, policy makers, NGO/INGO national and foreign researcher and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies plans and programs focusing the issue of women mainly in decision making sector. It may be helpful for the research students and the personal interested in gender studies. Appropriate policies and programs implemented by governments and non government agencies will be helpful for the empowerment and development of women.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The issue "participation of women in households decisions making process" is very vague issues which cannot be studied at once. This study will. Confined to analyze the situation of women in decision making process especially in household levels, agriculture and socio economic. Sectors of Thakre VDC in Phogatpur area in Dhading districts. It focus the female of rural women of study area VDC of Thakre, having sample size not less than 10 percent of their households population. It is not applicable for the whole nation or that can not be taken as a representative of the country. This is an academic work as a researcher is a students. Who has no experience. The selection of

data is not available for the nations, thus these will be shortcomings. No previous study has been done in the extent of rural women's problems and decision making role in the study area.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis has been divided into six chapters. Chapter I introduces background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance, limitation of the study, and organization of the study. In chapter II, various books, articles, reports, previous research works published and unpublished documents, journals related to the subject matter of the present study are reviewed. Likewise, chapter III represents various methods employed for the study. Here we have touched upon the description of our study area and provide a detailed explanation of the research design and procedures, the data generated and statistical tools used during the process. General socio-cultural and geographic settings of our study area is sketched in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter concentrates on our topic participation of Rural Women in households decision making process in rural Nepal. The later includes all relevant aspects pertaining to the household and measures the relative input of women into decision making of these aspects as compared to the men of the household. The final or the sixth chapter details the summary, conclusions and recommendations. Finally, the bibliography and annex pertaining to our study have been submitted.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with available literature about women's role in decision making process in household level. This section, efforts have been made to review past researches publication and documents pertaining to area of the study.

It is consider that both male and female are equally by legal and human right; but they are separated by different social values, norms and attitudes. Thus, males become more powerful than female in our society. Universal declaration of human rights, article 21, and every citizens shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs to have access, on general terms of equality. to public service in his country (International Convention on civil a Political Rights , Article 25). Every one has the right to take part in the government of his country. Each has to right to equally access to public service in his country.

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural areas. Rural women, as elsewhere play multiple roles. In the domestic sphere they are household managers, mothers and wives in community they maintain social and cultural services, predominantly on a voluntary basis and in economy; if they are not formally engaged as employees or entrepreneurs; they are active in family businesses and farms. But they have to low access to income wealth and employment, which are the main causes of their low economic status. it directly and indirectly affects their decision making power.

According to Acharya M. and Bennett L. (1982), women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A women have a greater economic participation and will have a

greater power in decision making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women.

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

Acharya and Bennett have singled out "decision making" from the multi dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household they developed some model from the study of eight different village development committees. from the status of women in Nepal. In this model the activities households domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

The finding of the model shows that in the 1st sphere women participation in farming and domestic activities constituted 86 percent women imparts account for 57 percent in agro production in second sphree, while their inputs in third and fourth sphere drop down to 38 percent respectively. Their total contribution to the households incom remain 50 percent as oppose to 44 percent for males. The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed by the children of 10-14 years.

The same study of Acharya and Bennett highlight another intrusting pattern, the different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities which subsequently relates. to their decision making power within the households. Women form Hindu communities have greater concentrations in domestic and subsistence production. Women from Tebeto -

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

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

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from participation fully in economic development, which results low decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings conception delivery and unbringing 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 their status compared to male is very low.

Acharya (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performer under national and international aspires activities involving women in development process status of women in Nepal can be improved specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities, of women in Nepalese' societies. To provide similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students eliminating inequalities in heritance right, family rights and all over legal rights involving the educated women in office and involving them into seminar symposia from time to time.

Womens public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal society system which confines them to subordinated position-Religion ethnicity, cultural, law, tradition, history and

social attitudes place serve limits on womens participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factor have both shape and culture worldview and governed in dividend self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalties women are involved in professional, Management and decision making position (ShtriiShakti; 1995).

Women are more adopt to say that their husband make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husband or those they have made decision alone. Women have symply nodding approved or accepting their husbands decisions without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly, simply because the express their opinion does not mean that make a decision. The idea is that women express disagreement because they have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinions (shtrii Shakti; 1995).

Shrestha (1994) the decision making power of women may increase when there is an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour and input contributions but as active change agent is the concern at all level. It does not mean the involvement of women or the views of the leaders but the involvement of women and men in the same proportion in decision making as their proportion in the community at large.

According to her, the women of Nepal are so dependent to men, if the male partners or members deny giving shelter to them: it is a question of basic survival this system has make women so helpless, baseless and dependent that without mens mercy they will not survive. So in this inhuman system the rights of survival are laid on the heart of men.

She concludes that women of Nepal are not sufficient from lack of resources (like property rights, the generating income goes to families pot) but

from the lack of power to use their own rights. They are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To uplift the women from this stage women's strategies need like consciousness rising. Increasing self confidence, educating people. Only then the decision making may exist at large extent.

UNICEF (1987) "Children and women of Nepal depict that "women contribution to economy and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which hinders the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women the written word still looks no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice.

N.P.C. (1992) " A situation analysis of children and women in Nepal" depict that, women have less access to income wealth, modern avenues of employment, education and health facilities etc than men. Women figure are predominantly has been explained as four concentric spheres of activities I. households chores II. Agricultural production activities III. local market economy IV. Outside the village economy i.e. implement through short term migration. In the same way, the major quantitative indicator of female status used was the relative input into two areas of decision making I. farm Management and II) involvement in local market economy and domestic activities. Women's participation in the market economy has increased their status and this is more conspicuous among Tibeto Burman communities. While women from more orthodox Hindu communities are largely confined to non market domestic and subsistence production, displaying a much less significant role in decision making. Although women are poor, because they are in poor household, The security of women's income is less than of male income, because they lack individual ownership of assets (specially land). They have less access to education and have a very low decision making power.

According to Pyakural and Thakuri (1998), as soon as the males born, expectations are bestowed on him. He has certain stereotype roles waiting for him when he reaches adulthood. In Nepalese society, social status of women is always thought to be that of subordinate to men. A survey conducted by UNCEF on the status of women and children in Nepal reports that continues through different stages of the girls life and as further dependent and perpetuated through various rituals. On the other hand unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimating by traditional socio-economic norms owing to this there is a belief that females should confine themselves to such task cooking, washing, taking care of children and livestock and should not be involved in traditional male activities (Gimire:1996). From this it is clear that women's primary role as wife and mother require their attention 24 hours a day and thus, for working women must be carried out simultaneously with the work role.

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

Women should get educational, social economical rights like the men which was rised since 1910 March 8. In this way international women day was to started to celebrate. There are different types of discrimination eradication indifferent time. In the context of Nepal there are 936716 total civil services staffs. But male 85,708 and female 8,008 involvement. In this way we can say that female participation is minimum in the coparision of male. In Nepal there are six in the field of jurisdial service. There are all together three in district court two in appeal court. One in supreme court are involved. Only 12 percent women are working in the communication area. Altogether 41 civil staff in special level only 2 women are involving. There is not any women secretary in

the ministry. Including 604 gazetted officers only 24 women are involving. In the second level of gazetted staff 130 women among 2356 staff 348 women among 6513 gazetted staff in the third level. Women access in more in the education sector than other comparison level Gorkhapatra, March-8, 2002).

The above referenced studies shows that the decision making power is surrounded by various factors. In Nepal women constitute more than half of total population with poor status. More families are engaged in household activities without decision making power. They have to follow their male partners in most of the cases. A personal of the available literature also makes it clear that there is a persisting controversy regarding women input in decision making process. It can be concluded from the above. studies, that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic and demographic status. Nowadays the access of females of resources has been increased but their status has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way or other females have more responsibilities in household chores, agricultural activities and other but they have less chance to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without equal participation of male and female in all spheres of house holds or other activities, there is less chance to be developed societies. Therefore, women should bring into the mainstream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully decision making power.

CHAPTER - III

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction to the Study Area

The study area has been confined to phogatpur, Thakre VDC in Dhading district. Geographically, Dhading district is located between the latitude 27° 40' North to 28° 17' North and longitude 84° 35' east to 85° 17' east. It is situated in the central development region. Dhading district is one of the hilly zones. It is surrounded by Kathmandu (The Capital), Rasuwa and Nuwakot in the east, Gorkha district in the west, China in the North and Chitawan-Makwanapur in the South. This district has 50 VDCs the total population of Dhading District was 338658 (165864 male and 172794 female) and total households 62759 were enumerated in (2001. Population census.) The total area of this district is 1926 sq. km. According to (2001 population census) the average household family size was 5.4 and density of population was 176 persons/ sq. km.

This study was carried out in 1,2 and 9 ward of Thakre VDC which situated in the southern east part of Dhading district. Thakre VDC is surrounding by Naubise VDCs of Dhading district in the east, Kebalpur and Goganpani VDCs in the North Tasarpu and Bhumesthan in the west and Tistung. Bajra Barahi of Makawanpur district in the South.

The total population was 9065 (4606 male and 4459 Female) and total household 1599 were enumerated in 2001 population census. The total area of the cultivated land in this VDCs is 16776 Ropani. Thakre VDC situated at the 10 kosh far east southern part of the district headquarter, Dhadingbeshi (District profile 2058). This VDC is found 35° c at maximum and 16° c at minimum. In this VDCs mainly Chhetri, Brahmin, Tamang, Magar, Newar,

Chepang and Dalit (Kami, Damai) ethnic groups are settled. Although, agriculture is the main occupation of this VDCs other occupation such as business/trade, teaching and daily wages are prevailing.

3.2. Research Methodology

This is a micro study due to which it may not be generalized at macro level. This chapters deals with the methodology adopted in the study. It contains the research design selection of study area, source of data, method of data collection, sample size. Processing and data analysis process.

3.3. Research Design

This Research is slightly descriptive as well as analytical. It means that the data interpretation has supported by tabular analysis followed by their explanations.

This research is exploratory in nature. it tries to explore and investigated the socio-economic and familiar issues of the study area in-terms of decision making process of women in household level as compared to their counterpart men.

3.3.1. Source of Data

This study will be based upon primary source of data. the secondary data will also be used to complete this task. the primary data has obtained from the field with the help of field survey and the secondary data was used from various publications published by different governmental or non governmental institutions or agencies.

3.3.2. Method of Data Collection Technique and Tool

The data was collected with the help of (household survey)(household tool questionnaire.) Both structured and non structured questionnaires were employed to the respondents(Annex-1). The questionnaire comprises of all

relevant questions related to the decision making process in household affairs and other socio-economic activities. those questions were mainly focused on household and farm management, domestic expenditure, education labour utilization and so on. the socio-economic status of the respondents was also included in the questionnaire. thus the questionnaire was designed in such a manner which had provided over all scenario of the relative status of females in-terms of decision making process in household level. The males and female has provided a glimpse of the socio-economic condition of the selected households with in the study area.

3.3.3. Sampling Procedure/Sample Size

There are total 497 households in study area having different caste and ethnic groups. Out of them 50 households (Near about 10 percent) has taken as sample. The households have been selected from each ward proportionately. In the systematic sampling in order to take a interval 9 or 10 in this way data should be collected. the household heads were the respondents either they were male or female.

3.3.4. Processing and Analysis

Data processing is very important task in research study. The data obtaining from the field has been processed with the help of (through various instruments and sources were edited coded, analyzed and tabulated) using simple mathematical methods like average, percentage etc. figures, charts, graphs and tables are used in relevant places. The result has been interpreted by dividing the main topics in to sub heading according to the nature of data and according to the findings.

CHAPTER - IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS IN THE STUDY AREA

The study area of Phogatpur is Thakre VDC in Dhading district, which is situated in Central Development region. According to census 2001 the population of Thakre VDC was 9065. Among the total population 4606 males 4459 are females. The sex ratio is 0.96 having annual average growth rate 1.46 percent (CBS, 2003).

This chapter deals with the socio-economic as well as demographic aspects of respondents of the study area. Out of the total 497 household 50 household respondents were taken as sample and structured questionnaires were asked to the respondents both for males and females. In this chapter age sex composition family structure, types of houses, education, ethnic composition, marital status, land distribution, occupation and other activities are included.

4.1 Age - Sex Composition of Respondents

The age is most important factor in demography and it makes difference in working hours, decision making role, social relation, types of work and responsibilities. Age determines the social status of people. age has great influence interms of decision making and taking part in socio-economic activates.

The age groups divided as 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, and above 60 years of age. The following table shows that the age composition by sex of respondents of the study area is given below.

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents by Age-Sex

Age Groups	Male	Female	Total	%of the Respondents
10-20	2	1	3	6
20-30	4	5	9	18
30-40	3	10	13	26
40-50	7	6	13	26
50-60	4	4	8	16
60+	2	2	4	8
Total	22(44%)	28(56%)	50(100%)	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Table 1 shows the age distribution of respondents by sex in the study area. Out of total 50 respondents 22(44%) are males and 28(56%) are females. There is higher proportion of the respondents in age groups 30-40 years. It is followed by age group 40-50 years. The lowest proportion of the respondents are in age group 10-20 years. In our society age factor plays dominant role in decision making and other responsibilities. The proportion of female respondents is higher in age group 30-40 years while highest proportion of males in age group 40-50 years. The proportion of females in each age group is higher due to higher female respondents were taken as sampled population because main target for female is in household decision making process.

4.2 Family Structures

Family structure has dominant role in decision making process. Family is basic unit of our society and it is an institution which plays vital role in building society. There are two categories of family structure mainly nuclear and joint family.

(1) Nuclear Family:

Nuclear family refers that the family which consist husband, wife and their unmarried children is called Nuclear.

(2) Joint Family:

Joint family contains husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof.

In most of the cases, it was recorded that the women from the nuclear family and female headed household have higher responsibilities for decision that joint family and male headed household.

Among the sampled households, 24 (48%) HHs have nuclear families and 26 (52%) HHs have joint families. It can be seen from the following table. no. 2:

Table 2 Distribution of HHs by Family Structures

Family Structure	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Nuclear family	24	48
Joint family	26	52
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

4.3 Types of Houses

Fooding, clothing and housing are the basic needs for human being. But now a days, education health employment, and human rights are also considered as basic needs. Housing has great contribution in maintaining the quality of life of people. It emphasizes the standard of living. In this study, mainly three types of housing are considered; such as: concrete (Pakki), semi concrete (Ardiha Pakki) and not concrete (Kachhi). The concrete house is

defined as having stone and mud wass and state or link roof, semi concrete consists stone and mod wall having thach roof. Other categories except these two categories were considered as not concrete. Out of the total 50 households there four (3/4) are concrete. There are only 7(14%)HHs are semi concrete and 6(12%) are not concrete. However, all the families have their own residence whether it be concrete, semi concrete or Kachhi. It can be seen from the following table. no. 3

Table 3 Types of Houses

Types	No. of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Concrete (Pakki)	37	74
Semi Concrete Ardha Pakki	7	14
Kachhi (Not Concrete)	6	12
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

4.4 Education

Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision making process in our society. In brief, education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its social and economic status. In most of the cases, it can be seen that higher educational status played dominant role in decision making field. Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher educational background.

The following table indicates the educational status of the respondents.

Table 4 Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status

Education Status	Male	Female	Total	No. of Percentage
Illiterate	9	15	24	48
Literate	8	8	16	32
Under SLC	1	3	4	8
SLC	2	1	3	6
Above SLC	2	1	3	6
Total	22	28	50	100
	44%	56%	100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

The educational status is divided into 5 categories which are illiterate, literate under SLC, SLC and above SLC. Those who only can read and write are kept in literate and having school education but did not pass the SLC are kept under SLC. Above SLC represents all who have attained all the levels above SLC level education.

Table 4 shows the educational status of the respondents. Out of the total 50 respondents 24(48%) are illiterate consisting 9(18%) males and 15(30%) females. It was found that only 16(32%) are literate among them 8(16%) are males and 8(16%) (same) are females. Only 2(4%) males and 1(2%) females have attained above SLC education.

This table shows that higher proportions of females are illiterate. Only 42.5 females are literate in comparison of 65.1 in Nepal (53.74%). (CBS, 2001).

4.5 Ethnic Composition

Caste is also main factor in our society and it plays important role in terms of social activities. Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where are

different caste/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic groups has their own language, culture and religion. Nepal is full of cultural diversity. In Nepal, Brahman and Chhetri have played dominant role then other castes.

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

Table 5 Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity

Caste groups	Male	Female	Total	No. of Percentage
Brahman	4	8	12	24
Chhetri	6	9	15	30
Tamang	5	4	9	18
Kami	5	4	9	18
Damai	2	3	5	10
Total	22	28	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Above table shows that ethnic distribution of respondents. Among the total respondent, Chhetri is the highest. Chhetri contains 15 (30%) followed by Brahman (12) (24%) The 3rd position is occupied by Tamang and Kami 9 (18%), 9 (18%) The Damai has lowest proportion (5)10% It was due to the large population of Chhetri and Brahman in the study area.

4.6 Marital Status

Marriage is the single most compulsory event in the life of men and women. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is important for the all whether man or women. A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a women has no option but to get married. In Nepal, majority of both men and women are married before 25 years of age (Acharya, 1995). Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society, marriage determines the social

roles and responsibilities of people. It is essential for legitimate birth. Females role also increase in family only after marriage. It enhances their decision making power.

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

Table 6 Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	No. of Percentage
Unmarried	2	-	2	2
Married	18	25	43	86
Divorced/Separated	-	1	1	2
Widow/widower	2	2	4	8
Total	22	28	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Above table shows the marital status of respondents. Out of the total 50 respondents 43(86%) respondents are married, among them 18(36%) are males and 25(50%) are females. Only 2s(4%) are found unmarried (male) and (female) is in divorced separated. Similarly, 2(4%) males and 2(4%) females are in widow/widower category. All the respondents are one married except two male respondents.

4.7 Land Distribution

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

The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

Table 7 Possession of Land by Households

Land (Ropani)	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
0-5	31	62
5-10	11	22
10-15	6	12
15+	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Out of the total 50 households most of the household have less than 5 Ropanis of land. Thirty one households 31(62%) have only 0-5 Ropanis. Eleven households 11(22%) possessed 5-10 Ropanis land. Similarly 6(12%) households possessed 10-15 Ropanis and only 2(4%) households have land more than 15 Ropanis. Thus it can be concluded from the finding that most of the respondents have small land holding.

4.8 Food Production

Nepal is basically agricultural country. It was found that more than 80 percent people are dependent upon agriculture. But only few families have sufficient food for the whole year. People are facing the problem of food deficit, as the study area lies in (mountainous) district Dhading. There land is not fertile, thus agricultural production is low.

Thought most of the people live in agrarian society, most of them face the problem of food deficit.

According to the field study of Thakre VDC ward no 9 (upper, zones, Kaule) the researcher found that there were no cultivated land (Khet).

Out of the total 50 sampled households only 19(38%) households have food sufficiency while 31(62%) because of the low agricultural land and low agricultural production. Those who have food deficiency, fulfil their food requirement is from other income sources as business, services, livestock, farming wage earning etc. The following table 8 shows it clearly.

Table 8 Distribution of HHs by Food Production

Food Production	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Sufficient	19	38
Non sufficient	31	62
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

4.8.1 Alternative Source for Fulfillment of Deficit of Food Production

It was found that 31(62%) households have food deficit. They have to face the food problem. Though it is essential for sustaining life. They fulfill their need for food by different alternatives as service, business livestock farming, wage earning and debt. The following table shows the way to fulfill the deficiency of food production.

Table 9 Distribution of HHs by Coping With Deficit Food Production

Activities	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Services	8	25.50
Business	5	16.12
Livestock farming	3	9.66
Wage earning	10	32.2
Debt	4	12.88
Other	1	3.22
Total	31	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Above table shows the various alternative wage of fulfilling the food deficiency due to low production in agricultural sector. The main means of compensation for deficit production is wage earning which covers 10 households, followed by services 8 households. The 3rd position is occupied by business and 3 are dependent upon livestock farming for coping with the deficiency of production. About 4 households are taking debt to full fill their needs. It shows the miserable condition of people other category occupies 1 house hold out of (31) total food deficient households.

4.9 Land Cultivation

The survey result reveals that in most of households land is cultivated by female members 26(52%). In some cases both male and female members cultivated the land 12(24%) while only 12 (24%) HHs male members are found cultivators the land. It shows that female are active in farming compared to male members. It is because most of the Nepalese women are engaged either in agriculture or households activities than in other activities.

Table 10 Distribution of Sample HHs by Land Cultivator

Cultivator	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	12	24
Female	26	52
Both	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

It is presented by the pie-diagram in figure : 1

Fig No. 1: Distribution of Sample HHS by Land Cultivation

4.10. Occupation and Source of Income

Occupation and source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Out of the 50 households, agriculture and livestock farming has occupied the first position as the source of income 19(38%) households (19) are dependent upon agriculture and livestock farming for their income. It is followed by wage 12 (24%) earning. The wage earning category has higher proportion as main sources of income because most of civil castes (Kami Damai) have no other alternatives except work as wage lab our. Similarly, 10(20%) people are engaged in business 10(20%). While 9(18%) people are in service and they earn from

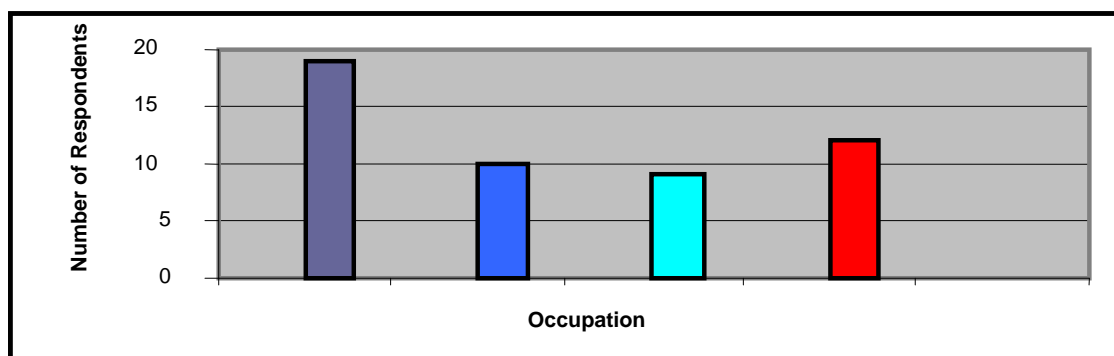
their service. Tale 10 and figure 2 represents the occupation of the respondents below.

Table 11 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Occupation and Source of Income

Occupation	No. of HHs Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Agriculture/Livestock Farming	19	38
Business	10	20
Services	9	18
Wage - earning	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Fig. No. 2 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Occupation and Source of Income



4.11. Collection of Grass and Fodder

The Livestock farming is an alternative source of income of the rural people. In the study area people are engaged in livestock farming except agriculture Grass Fodder collection is considered as the female's main occupation and responsibilities. Most of the women engage in this activity. Only very few proportion of male share to collect it. It can be seen from the following table.

Table 12 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Collecting Grass Fodder

Members of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	5	10
Female	40	80
Both	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Above table shows that a few proportion of male engage in collecting grass/fodder which covers only 5 households while 40 households females are in this activity. Only 5 households occupies by both males and females in total households (50). It shows that grass/fodder collection an activity of females.

4.12 Taking Care for Livestock

The study area belongs to village. In villages each family has their own livestock. Data had been collected with regard to livestock caring. Out of the total (50) households, in 25 households livestock were taking care by female members. While only 9 HHs males were found engaged in this activity livestock were cared both by males and females in 16 households. This shows that large proportion of females were involved taking care of the livestock. This is presented in the following table.

Table 13 Person Involved in Taking Care of Livestock

Member of HHs	No. of HHs Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Male	9	18
Female	25	50
Both	16	32
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

4.13 Energy Consumption

The development status is measure in per capita energy consumption. Developed countries have higher energy consumption than developing countries. Nepal has very low per capita energy consumption. It ranks least five countries, having 15 GJ. Per capita energy consumption. Now a days energy consumption is considered as an indicator of development.

In Nepal near about 78 percent people used traditional source of energy i.e. firewood for energy propose very few proportions used modern means of energy as LP Gas, electricity, etc. (field, Survey, 2006).

4.13.1 Fire Wood Collection

In study area only five woods is used as the source of energy, all the people sued firewood fulfill their energy requirements. They collect it from the forest. More females are engaged rather than males to collect it. It can be seen by the following table.

Table 14 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Collecting Firewood

Members of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	12	24
Female	32	64
Both	6	12
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Above table 13, shows that out of the 50 sampled household, more females (32) are engaged in collecting firewood compared to males (12) in some extent both members (6) are also engaged in this activity.

4.14. Cooking Activities

In our country most of the females are engaged in household chores and agricultural farming activities. They have less access to education and hence lower proportions were involved in gainful economic activities. They are surrounded by house hold activities. The following table shows the involvement of males females in cooking activities as:

Table 15 Distribution of Sample HHs Respondents by Cooking Activities

Members of HHs	No. of HHs Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Male	11	22
Female	28	56
Both	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Above table shows that out of the total 50 sample household in more than half households females cook food 28(56%) Both males and females cook foods in 11 (22%)households. However, only few males were engaging in cooking activities with comparison to female members. Only 11(22%) household, male members are engaged in cooking activities. Thus, it was found that cooking food is the activity of females. They are the cook of households.

4.15 Possession/Keeping of HHs Income

Male and female are both needs to have equally responsibilities for household activities and they have also need to share equal benefits in family. Theoretically both are equal having equal rights and duties, but in practical in our society males have dominant roles. Females have only supportive roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision making. Females are engaged in household activities livestock caring, and agricultural activities and males go out side and earn. Males have more opportunity to keep their property. The following table shows the males domination to keep household income as:

Table 16 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Keeping of HHs Income

Members of the HHs	No. of HHs Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Male	23	46
Female	17	34
Both	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Out of the 50 households male members keep the household income in 23 households (23) compared to in 17 households by females. In 10 households, both males and females keep jointly. This shows that male members control the household income and female have to get permission on

use income. Male can use the income according to his will but female can not do so. It is due to the male domination in the family as well as in our society.

4.16 Medical Treatment

With the modernization, medical science has developed lost of methods and medicine for treatment. However, in underdeveloped countries like Nepal, people are even depending upon the traditional method, (Dhami, Jhankri) for treatment of diseases. In our country people have no easy access to modern medical families. But recently, the proportion of people is getting treatment with doctor due to increase in literacy and getting aware about their heath.

A questions was asked to the respondent that did they been to hospital for treatment? Among the 50 household respondents, number of 43 provide in positive answer (yes) while only number of 7 replied in Negative answer (No). Most of the respondents were consulting to doctor for their illnesses because they are conscious about their health and medical facilities are also available in the market now a day. Government is providing support in medical sector. Each VDC is facilitated with sub health post along with health personal. However, still some respondents were not consulting doctor because of lack of money lack of awareness or any other reasons.

The following table shows respondents practicing hospital treatment for sickness.

Table 17 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Medical Treatment

Hospital Treatment	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Yes	43	86
No	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

4.17 Household Activities

In Nepal more females are engaged in house hold activities while very few males are engaged in these activities. Females spend more time in house hold chores than males. Although, in study area also, it was found that more females are engaged in household chores than males, females are mainly engaged in cooking activities, livestock caring, agriculture activities child rearing and caring collecting grass, firewood etc. the following table. Shows the engagement of respondents in household chores.

Table 18 Distribution of Respondents by HHs Chores

Members of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Male	10	20
Female	28	56
Both	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

In the total 50 sampled house in 28 females wer engaged in household activities while only in 10 males were engaged in such activities. However, in 12 households both males and females are involved in household chores. This shows that more females are involved in non economic activities compared to males.

4.18 Family Planning

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

The family planning is getting popular recently to maintain the small family. People do not like to create burden having large family. So they are attracted toward FP. FP is main factor for not only controlling birth but also

enhancing the standard of living people. In developing countries, the food production is low and there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 39.1 in Nepal (NDHS, 200).

4.18.1 Knowledge of Family Planing

The question had asked to the respondents regarding the knowledge about FP of the total 62 percent respondents gave in positive answer and 17 percent in negative answer while 21 percent respondents did not replied. Either they hesitated to talk about FP or they did not hear about FP. So, they cannot react about it the following table shows the knowledge about FP of respondents.

Table 19 Distribution of Respondents by Knowledge of Family planing

Knowledge of FP	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Yes	31	62
No	8	16
Not Stated	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Most of the respondents (31) have knowledge about FP methods and they have heard either about temporary or permanent method.

4.18.2 Use of Family Planing Method

Though people have knowledge about family planning. They may not use family planning methods properly. Among the 50 respondents 62 percent have knowledge about FP but only 48 percent are using contraceptives or done vasectomy and laparoscopy. Among those who had knowledge about FP 77.4 percent were found using FP devices and 16.1 percent respondents did not use

it. Similarly, 6.5 percent did not provide any answer about it. The following table shows the distribution of respondents who used FP devices.

Table 20 Distribution of respondents who used Family planing Devices

Use of FP devices	No. of HHs	Percentage of HHs
Yes	35	77.4
No	10	16.1
Not stated	5	6.5
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

4.18.3 Method of Family Planing

There are mainly two types of FP methods permanent and temporary. The temporary method consists different devices of contraceptives. Among the 62 percent respondents who had knowledge about FP, 77.4 percent respondents has used FP. Among them, majority are males and only 7 are females out of the 41 males 36 had used temporary method while only 5 had practiced permanent method. Among the 7 females, 5 had used temporary method and 2 had practiced permanent method. Condom was found popular among the males. Similarly there monthly injection ("Sangini") was being practiced by the females. (Table 20)

Table 21 Distribution of Family planing Users by Family planing Method

FP Methods	Male	Female	Total
Temporary	36	5	41
Permanent	5	2	7
Total	41	7	48
Percent	84.4	14.6	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Out of total FP users 84.4 percent re males and only 14.6 percent are females have low contraceptives prevalence due to lack of knowledge about the FP devices in the study area

4.19 Conclusion

In the world as well as in Nepal, women constitute half of the total population. They are backbone of the society though males and females are considered equal having equal rights and responsibilities. There is gender disparity as decision making process in our context.

More or less male dominance in practiced in our culture or society. Due to this, females are deprived from gainful social as well as economic opportunities. They are getting involved more in labourious and physical activities. Very few females are lucky get opportunity to engage in while collar job most are mainly engaged in cooking. Livestock caring, firewood collection grass/fooder management child rearing, agriculture activities, households chores they have low access to education, employment and medical facilities.

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

CHAPTER - V

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Involvement in female decision making process indicates one's religiously higher in Nepal especially in higher caste Hindu families. But today it is only in theory or it can be said that it is true to some extent, when they are in their status of daughter. In the role of daughter or daughter in law, women are not accepted as a decision maker. When, particularly at their old age performing the role of mother or in law, she can take part in decision making process. Except for a few percentage most of the women have no authority of say on economic decision making. The situation is however much better in woman such as Limbu, Gurung and Magars (1987; 193).

Decision has a great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role interms of people's participation in different activities. In Nepalese society, man has dominant role and female has to support their male counterparts.

In this chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision making process in different aspects of household level as well as other activities. It shows women's participation in decision making household activities. Decision regarding to purchase house hold things, cropping pattern, selling surplus and lending or borrowing money, household expenditure, expenditure in children's education business investment seeking treatment family planning and others activities in the study area.

Other activities contains property rights of women education rights for female happiness with family and decision capacity of families and different reasons related with women's decision making process.

There is gender disparity in terms of decision making process. improvement in women's decision making power minimize the gap between males/females status in the study area as well as society. So many cases females are deprived in decision making process due to low educational and economic status in the society. However woman play a dominant role in decision in female headed households or in Nuclear family. This reflects that women are also playing in important role in decision making process. the ability and capacity of females in decision making is affected by various factors as education, occupation, employment status age factor and so on.

5.1 Decision on Purchasing Households Goods

Man and woman are like tow wheels of a cart' In this statements it is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal role and responsibilities. But males alone have greater contribution over the purchasing of household things and its consumption. The following table shows the decision on purchasing household things of males and females.

Table 22 Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Purchasing HHs Goods

Decision makers	No. of Households Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Male	37	74
Female	6	12
Both	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Among the 50 Respondents Sampled males were playing a dominant role in decision on parching household goods. As T.V., Radio, Ornament as well as consumption other materials. In 37(74%) Respondents females decide for it. However, there are 7, 14% Respondents in which decision is held by

both male and females. This shows males domination in family as well as in society.

5.2 Decision for Family Activities

Most of the females are engaged either in household chores and in agricultural activities. There is more involvement of females in agriculture provided capable in decision making regarding cropping pattern. Out of the total 50 households. Sample, 29(58%) of the decision for cropping pattern were made by females, while 11(22%) decisions were made by males. Both males and females occupy slightly lower. However, in 10(20%) households both males and females jointly take decision for cropping pattern. The following table reveals that the decision on cropping pattern.

Table 23 Distribution of HHs Respondents by Decision on Farming Activities

Decision makers	No. of Households Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondent
Male	11	22
Female	29	58
Both	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

5.3 Decision Making in Selling Surplus, Food Grains/Agricultural Products

Out of the total 50 sampled house hold respondents, only 30(60%) household Respondents had surplus agricultural products to sell. As regards, selling of these surplus products mostly 23 (76.7%) of decision was made by male members. Only 4(13.3%) percent females households Respondents 3(10%) joint decision were made in selling surplus food of the household. Since, selling activities is related to out side home and has to go to market which is for from their residence, because male dominance in this activity.

Females rarely go to market to sell. The following table shows the decision made by males and females in selling surplus, agriculture products such as vegetables, eggs other agriculture production, milk etc.

Table 24 Distribution of HHs by Decision on Selling Surplus Agriculture Products

Decision makers	No. of Households Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Male	23	76.7
Female	4	13.3
Both	3	10.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

5.4 Decision on Money Lending

In terms of money lending, out of the total 50 households 29 households had provided loan to others (institutional loan, or individual loan). Males are performing leading roles than females in deciding on money lending. Out of 29 households, 23(79%) number of loans were provided by decisions of males while 4 females were found in the position of decision for providing loan. Loan is provided to others by the decision of both members in 2 households. Most of the decision regarding providing loan were made by males. The following tables shows the situation of decision for lending money.

Table 25 Distribution of Respondents by sex Regarding by Lending Money

Decision makers	No. of Households	Percentage of HHs
Male	23	79.31
Female	4	13.76
Both	2	6.88
Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

5.5 Decision of Borrowing Money and Goods

Respondents were asked "who decide borrowing money or essential goods?" Among the 50 sampled household 62 percent replied that they borrowed from others to fulfill their needs. Regarding borrowing money and goods, in most of the households decisions were made by males. Out of the 30 household, in 17 households, decision were made by male members while only 8 households decision were done by females. Similarly, in 5 households, decision were made by both members. It can be seen shown in the following table"

Table 26 Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Decision makers	No. of Households	Percentage of HHs
Male	17	56.61
Female	8	26.63
Both	5	16.66
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

5.6 Decision on Household Respondents Expenditure

Mostly, women are engaged in household chores and they spend more time for these unproductive works and other activities than males. Males played dominant role in decision on household expenditure. The following table 26 shows the situation of decision making in terms of households expenditure.

Table 27 Decision on HHs Respondents Expenditure

Decision makers	No. of Households Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Male	28	56
Female	12	24
Both	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Among the 50 sampled households 28 households decision on expenditure are made by male members. Only 12 households decisions are done by females, whereas 10 households decision are made by both male and female members. It shows the low decision making power of females in household with regard to household expenditure.

5.7 Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education

According to the field survey out of the total 50 sampled households. Male members have dominant role in deciding children's education. The decision about childrens education and expenditure for them were made by males in most cases. Out of total 50 household it was found 26 households were made by males and only 13 households by females similarly, 11 household's decisions were made by mutual consent of both members. Though both males and females are equally responsible for the children's future (education). But only males members decide in most of the cases. It may be due to the low educational status of female and their economic dependency.

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

Table 28 Decision on Expenditure of Children Education

Decision makers	No. of Households Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Male	26	52
Female	13	26
Both	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

5.8 Decision for Family Planing

Use of family planning is burning issue in the present world and it is considered to be the main factor for reducing rapid population growth. Mostly, the people are worked about large family size, although they wanted to managed their family with higher living standard. Rapid growth of population degrades the quality of life of the people and resulted different kinds of problems as food deficit, literacy, poverty, health hazards, band sanitation, one employment problems etc.

At present days, various types of FP devices are available in the market, for both males and females FP method are available females than for males. But male played dominant role in deciding to practice FP methods. In the given table can be seen for this proposed.

Table 29 Decision for Family Planning

Decision makers	No. of Households	Percentage of HHs
Male	17	68
Female	3	12
Both	5	20
Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

It is found that out of 50, 25 households, respondents are using FP devices. Among these user; 68 % decisions are made by males and 12% decisions were by females. But only 20% decisions made each together. Thus, females are lag behind deciding to use FP planning methods. They have less knowledge about FP due to which they cannot decide which will be better to use. Therefore females have low decision making power for using FP.

5.9 Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Health is wealth for this statement we know health is very sensitive for human being and effects all the other activities. Medical science has developed many kinds of medicine and injection for treatment of diseases. The life expectancy of people has been increase due to modern medical facilities. In terms of decision related to treatment for sickness of family members, males have dominance role. Mostly, male members decide the types of treatment to be practiced to care the disease. The given table shows the male domination in decision for treatment.

Table 30 Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Decision maker	No. of Households	Percentage of HHs
Male	26	52
Female	11	22
Both	13	22
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

About table shows that 26 HHs decisions on treatment for sickness are made by males and 11 HHs by females. Similarly 13 HHs decisions are made by both the members.

5.10 Other activities in Decision Making Role

The Nepalese society is traditional and most of the traditional and cultural aspects play effective role to enhance the status of women in the society. Females have no properly rights and low access to education and economic activity. They are considered as the supporter to the males and they have to follow their male counter parts. Husband is considered as god for wife and she has to respect him in every step of life. Indeed it is ridicules in modern society where both males and females are equal having equal rights and responsibilities. Though males and females are considered equal, female have low access to education, employment and in other gainful activities and they have low status in the society. There is vast gender disparity in socio-economic status as well as decision making power.

5.10.1 Views of Respondents Towards Education for Female

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

Table 31 View Toward Education for Female

Respondents Views	No. of Households Respondents	Percentage of HHs Respondents
Agree	41	82
Dis Agree	7	14
Do not Know	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Out of the 50 respondents 41 have agreed towards education for females and 7 have disagreed. Only 4 percent (2 respondents) have not cleared their view about it. The following reasons were also reported by the respondents. Thus the reasons to provide the education for and against to the females are as follows:

Reasons for favoring female education

- Employment opportunities.
- Self reliance and equal rights.
- To improve socio-economic status.
- Easy way to live.
- Demand of time.
- Knowledge and awareness building.
- Bright future for themselves as well as their children.
- Son and daughter are equal.
- Reasons for not favoring female's education etc.
- Property of others
- Go to other house.
- Culture and traditions religion.
- Develop providence's.
- Not work in household activities.
- Busy in household activities etc.

5.10.2 On Property Rights to Female

The respondents were asked "Does it correct to provide property to daughter?" most of the respondents replied positively while some replied against of properly rights to daughter. The following table shows vies of respondents on property right to females.

Table 32 View of Respondents on Property Right to Female

Respondents Views	No. of Households	Percentage of HHs
Agree	41	82
Disagree	7	14
Do not know	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Out of the 50 sample household respondents 41(82%) are in favour of property rights to women, while 7(14%) respondents are against it only 2(4%) (2 respondents) did not like to clear their view. Most of respondents are in favour of property right to women it may be due to effect of modernization and the nation that both son and daughter are equal and they have to behave equally.

5.10.3 Reasons of Women Backwardness and Deprivation

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

Table 33 Reasons for Backwardness of Female

Reasons given by the respondents	No. of Households	Percentage of HHs
Lack of education	28	56
Lack of awareness	6	12
Low economic status	8	16
Tradition & culture	8	16
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

As reported by the respondents the main reason of females' backwardness is lack of education 28(56%) followed by low economic status 8(16%) The stated third reason, which make female as backward is tradition and culture 8(16%) lack of awarness 6(12%) also contributes to keep women low status.

5.10.4 Views Toward Females Decision Making Power

Among the 50 respondents 31(62%) were agreed that female can decide correctly while 16(32%) respondents were disagreed. But 3(6%) respondents did not like to mention their view. It is presented in the given table.

Table 34 View Toward female's Decisions

Respondents Views	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	31	62
Disagree	16	32
Do not know	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

With regard to women's decision making power 31(62%) replied positively and 16(32%) respondents replied that women could not decide properly. They later stated following reasons.

- ❖ Women are dependent.
- ❖ Women lack of knowledge and awareness.
- ❖ Women are soft hearted.
- ❖ Women are uneducated.
- ❖ Woman are hesitated to decide.
- ❖ Women are stubborn.

5.10.5 Happiness with Family

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

Table 35 Status of Family Life

Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Happy	39	78
Unhappy	6	12
Do not know	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006.

Out of the total 50 respondents 39(78%) are happy with their family members and 6(12%) are unhappy. Only 5(10%) do not stated their status. The following reasons are provided by the respondents with regard to their feelings on happiness and unhappiness.

Reasons for Happiness	Reasons for Unhappiness
Small family	Unfavorable environment
Everybody loves family	Husband is out of home
Easy to works	Lack of son
Good environment	Beaten by husband
Satisfaction	Due to domestic quarrel
Having son/grandson	Death of husband
Not loneliness	Deficiency food and cloth etc.
Prosperous family	
Family members are supportive	
Obey him/ her etc.	

5.10.6 Problems Faced by rural Women in Decision Making Process

Although, women in Nepal are spending their lots of time in household activities. They are lacking in decision making. They are facing the problems of decision making due to the following reasons.

-) They are dependent economically, socially and various aspect of society.
-) They have no control over resources.
-) Due to traditional norms, values and attitude.
-) Involvement in non economic activity.
-) Females hesitate to decide freely.
-) They have no confident to decide solely.

5.10.7 Conclusion

Although men and women are born equally yet discriminated in the society after their birth they are not treated as equal in household as well as in society. Their roles and responsibilities are determined on the basis of sex difference. Male child respected in the family while female child does not get that opportunity as that of her brother. Females are discriminated in socio-economic sector as well as decision making process. Male child has legal rights of paternal property while female child has not received that right.

In this study is conducted to explore women's participation in decision making process, it was found that females have low decision making power with compared to their male counterparts. Except in the cropping pattern (farming activities), females have low decision making power in all the other aspects. Though females have participated in decision making process and in some household, played a leading role in must of the cases male have a dominant role. It is due to lack of education, and low socio-economic status of

female in our society. Our society is male dominated and it is considered that females are the subordinates to males and they have to follow their male partner. They are engaged in house hold activities and surrounded by household boundaries. The findings of this study show that females have low decision making power and they are not capable of exercising their right and responsibilities, more or less this situation can be seen in other society and all over the country. It is essential to empower women to make them able in decision making process in the household and socially as well.

Unless the female's participation in decision making has increased their status in the family, in society will not increase. It is possible to develop the society properly with social justice in the socially. This well also enhances the gender disparity and women's backwardness.

CHAPTER - VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

This study analyze the participation of women's in household decision making process; particularly is Phogatpur area of Thakre VDCs in Dhading district. This study based upon the primary data collected from the field survey. There are 497 household in study area; among these household near about 10 percent (50 household) are taken as sampled households to collect an information.

This study is an attempt to analysis the socio-economic status of females and their roles and participation in decision making process. this study is mainly focused upon the woman's participation in household levels in decisions which is taken in households as well as other social activities.

The following are the major findings of this study

A. Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents.

- Among the 50 respondents 44 percent are males and 56 percent are females.
- Majority of respondents are Chhetri/Brahman and Tamang
- Majority of the respondents are married except two males and 1 females (10-20 age groups) are unmarried.
- Near about half of the respondents are illiterate 48% out of which 30 percent are female.
- With regard to family structure, 26 households have joint family and 24 households have nuclear family.
- Out of the total 50 households, 37 (74%) households are concrete (Pakki).

- Most of the (620%) 31 households are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfilled their food deficiency by involving in service (27.4%) business (16.2%) livestock farming (9.7%) and wage earning 32.3%.
- Mostly females are involved in land cultivation (52%), taking care for livestock (49%) and cooking activities (55%), fire wood collection (64%) collection grass and fooder (81%).
- Males control the household income in 46% household income is dept by males and 34 percent by females while 20 percent by both members.
- Of the total 62 percent respondents have the knowledge about family planning and out of them 77.4 percent use contraceptives.
- Most of the users use temporary method (85.4) and 14.6 Percent have practice permanent method.
- Most of the respondents belive in medical treatment for sickness (86%).
- More women are involved in households chores (57%) than male (20%).

B. Women in Decision Making Process

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

- Males have higher decision making power for purchasing household goods (74%) with compared to female (12%).
- Higher proportion of female (58%) are engaged in decision with regard to cropping pattern.
- More than two third males (76.7%) decide for selling surplus production.

- Males decision has dominant roles in borrowing money and goods (56.61%) and lending money (79.3%) compared to females (26.64 and 13.76% respectively).
- More than 50 percent decision for household expenditure is taking by males.
- Regarding expenditure on children's education more than half male make decision.
- Decision for business investment has great influence of males (65.6%) compared to female (15.6%).
- Males decide for using family planning (68%).
- About 52 percent decisions are made by males for sickness treatment while only 22 percent decisions by females.
- About 82% respondents are in favour of providing property to women.
- About 82% respondents have positive attitude towards providing education for female.
- Main reasons for backwardness of females is lack of education (56%).
- About 78% respondents are happy with their family members and family environment.
- Most of the respondents advised to provide education, build awareness and give employment to females for enhancing their social status.

6.2 Conclusions

From the above descriptive analysis of decision making power of women in the household level and be participation interms of social as well as household activities. It can be concluded that females have lower decision Making power and they have so-ordinate role in family after then in society. They are deprived from their right and responsibilities. They have lower

decision making power than their male counterparts. In major household activities men played a dominant role in decision making. The females who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision making power than merely illiterate household.

As our society is male dominated, males have superior status in most of the cases and female have to follow to them. Even they cannot decide for child for child birth and treatment of illness.

It can also be concluded that females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process unless females are brought into the mainstream development process. It is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this, education and empowerment plays a important role. This study reveals that females have to work more in household having less decision making. They have reporting their male partners decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work. They can not decide at that moment, they have to ask for it.

6.3 Suggestions

This study has been carried out to analyze the women's situation/participation in decision making in household as well as other activities. Or indicates the women's participation in decision making process. Although women's decisions making power has been increased in recent (after the restoration of democracy 1990) days but it is not satisfactory. Lots of governmental and non governmental organization are involving to empower the females socially as well as economically but result is not as desired. So the governmental NGO/INGO have to work to empower and increase the potentialities of females. It is essential to employment the existing policies and

programs properly and new appropriate policies and programs to enhance the capability of females.

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

-) Eliminate the gender discrimination existed in the society.
-) Increase the access to females for gainful economic activities.
-) Encourage females to participate in politics and other related activities.
-) Respect their voices in society.
-) Increase the access of families to modern health facilities and contraceptives.
-) Bring them in to mainstream of development
-) Women's role in decision making should be increased.
-) Provide them opportunity to decide freely in socio-economic sector.
-) Males also have to participate for household chores.
-) Give them opportunity to work according to their desires/wills.
-) Women should not be bounded in household and agricultural area only.
-) Develop the concept of equality between men and women.
-) Share the ideas of females in development activities.
-) Their decisions should be respected for the social welfare.
-) Do not harass them for their mistakes.

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ANNEX-I

Questionnaire

Participation of Women in Households Decision Making Process

(A Case Study of Thakre VDC, in Dhading District, Nepal)

Questionnaire Schedule

Central Department of Rural Development T.U. Kirtipur

Personal Information:

a. Name

Address:

b. Sex: Male/Female

c. Age:

d. Marital Status: Married/Unmarried/Divorced/Separated

e. Caste/ Ethnicity

g. Family Structure: Nuclear/ Joint

VDCs.....Ward No.....Gaon/Tole

Detail Information

1. Family Information

S.N	Name	Sex	Age	Education	Occupation		Relation of Respondent
					Main	Secondary	

2. What type of your house? (Trick One)
(a) Pakki (b) Ardha Pakki (c) Kachhi (d) Others
3. Do you have own land?
(a) yes (b) No
4. Who is land owner?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
5. How many land have you? (in Ropani)
(a) Cultivated land(b) Residential Land
6. What is your main source of income?
(a) Agriculture and livestock (b) Service (c) Business
(d) Wage earning (e) Others
7. What is your secondary source of income?
8. Is the food production in your land sufficient for consumption for a whole year?
(a) Yes (b) No
9. If No? from where do you fulfill food deficit?
(a) service (b) Business (c) Livestock (d) Wage earning
(e) Borrowing (f) Others
10. Have you any Business?
(a) Yes (b) No
11. Who engaged in Business activities?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
12. In your Business who decide the business?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

13. Do you have the following things?
(a) Radio (b) TV (c) Toilet (d) Electricity (e) Ornaments
14. Who decide to purchase above items if you have any?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
15. Who cultivate the land in your family?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
16. Who decide the cropping pattern?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
17. Who decide livestock farming?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
18. Who looks after livestock i.e. cutting grass collecting feeders, growing animals etc?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
19. If female does not decide in livestock farming why?
20. Do you sell surplus food, milk product, vegetables, fruits eggs etc?
(a) Yes (b) No
21. Who decide for it ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
22. Have you any debt?
(a) Yes (b) No
23. In case of food deficit or in other cases, If you have to borrow money, who decide for it?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
24. Who keep the household income or money?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

25. Who decide the expenditure of household?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
26. Do you have given money/loan to anybody?
(a) Yes (b) No
27. If yes, who decide?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
28. Have you sent all your children school?
(a) Yes (b) No
29. Who decides for children's education?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
30. If No, whom have you not sent school and why?
(a) son (b) daughter (c) Both
31. Who decides for the expenditure of children school?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
32. Do you consult doctor/ Health personal if any members of your family suffer?
(a) Yes (b) No
33. If yes, who decides for it?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
34. If you do not consult doctor, why?
(a) Lack of money (b) for, from the home (c) Lack of time
(d) Lack of Knowledge
35. Have you heard about family planning?
(a) Yes (b) No

36. Do you know about family planning?
(a) Yes (b) No
37. If yes, what kinds of methods do you know?
(a) temporary (b) Permanent
38. Does has your spouse adopt family planning?
(a) Yes (b) No.
39. Which method do you use?
(a) Temporary (b) Permanent
40. If method is permanent, which method do you use?
(a) condom (b) pills (c) injection (d) others
41. If method is permanent who has used it?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
42. Who decides for it?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
43. Do you think education is needed to female?
(a) Yes (b) No
44. Why it is needed?
45. Why it is not needed?
46. Is it good to provide property to daughter (female)?
(a) yes (b) No
47. Are you happy with your family environment?
(a) yes (b) No
48. If no why?
49. Who collects the fire wood?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

50. Who collects the grass or fodder?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
51. Who purchase the goods/commodities from market?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
52. Who decides for it?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
53. Do you engaged in social activities?
(a) Yes (b) No
54. If no, why?
55. Who decides to got in social activate?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
56. Who works more in home?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
57. Can you decide freely in household activities?
(a) Yes (b) No
58. If No, why?
59. What can be done to improve the decision making power of women?
60. What are the causes of being deprived female?
(a) Lack of education (b) lack of awarness (c) low economic status
(d) due to tradition and culture.
61. Does female decide correctly?
(a) Yes (b) No
62. If No why?

THE END

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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