

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLDS DECISIONS MAKING:  
A Case Study of Thanapati VDC, Gulmi District**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Economics  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts  
in  
Economics**

**By**

**Laxmi Panthi**

**Central Department of Economics  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Nepal  
2008**

Date:-2064 -11-01

## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This thesis entitled **Role of Women in Households Decisions Making: A Case Study of Thanapati VDC, Gulmi District** has been prepared by Ms. Laxmi Panthi under my Supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

-----  
Dr. Pushpa Shrestha Malla  
Associate Professor  
Thesis Supervisor

Date: 13 Feb 2008

Date:-.....

## **APPROVAL LETTER**

The thesis entitled “**Role of Women in Households Decisions Making: A Case Study of Thanapati VDC, Gulmi District**” prepared by Ms. Laxmi Panthi in partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Economics has been accepted.

### **Thesis Committee**

-----  
Prof. Dr. Madhavi Shing Shah  
Head of the Department

-----  
Prof. Dr. Madhavi Shing Shah  
External Examiner

-----  
Dr. Pushpa Shrestha Malla  
Thesis supervisor

Date:-.....

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Pushpa Shrestha (Malla) Associated Professor, Central Department of Economics for her continuous and invaluable suggestions, and inspiration in the course of this thesis preparation. Probably this thesis would not take this shape in a short time without her continuous and inspiring guidance. I am grateful to Prof. Madhavi Sing Shah, Head of Department, for giving me this opportunity of undertaking the study. I am also thankful to all the staffs of the Department for their cooperation for the thesis work.

I am grateful to the households of Thanpati VDC who spared their time for providing me information and to fill up my questionnaire patiently.

I must acknowledge to my late parents Mr. Koshalewshor Panthi and Mrs. Krishna Kumari Panthi. I wish to express heartfelt thanks to my brothers Mr. Bishnu Panthi and Mr. Chandra Panthi, sister Ms. Renuka Panthi sister in law Sabitra Panthi, and lovely kids, Samir and Binita.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to my husband Ghanashyam Sigdel, my all sisters Sita, Kamala and Parbata Gyawali and brother in Law Mr. Gobinda and Bishnu Gyawali. I would Also extend thanks to dear brothers Ram Prasad Gyawali (Lecturer of CEDECON), Beda Raj Gawaly and Sister in law Devi Wosti.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to sisters Shova Parajuli and Kamala, friend Subin Shrestha, for their cooperation especially in the part of reading and guidance and all my friends who helped me during study period I grateful to Orchid Computer Service for Kirtipur the cooperation.

**Ms. Laxmi Panthi**

# TABLE OF CONTENT

	<b>Page No.</b>
Recommendation Letter	
Approval Letter	
Acknowledgement	
Table of Content	
List of Table	
Acronyms	
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Significance of the Study	5
1.4 Objectives of the Study	5
1.5 Limitations of the Study	6
1.6 Scheme of the Study	6
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>	
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Women's Roles in Households Decision-making	10
2.2 National Planning Commission (1992)	14
2.3 Women's Participation in the Labour Force	14
2.4 The Status of Rural Women and Their Participation in Decision Making	19
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>	
<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Research Design	22
3.2 Selection of the Study Area	22
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data Collection	23
3.4 Techniques of Data Collection	24

3.4.1 Householdss Questionnaire	24
3.4.2 Key Information	24
3.4.3 Observation	24
3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size	24
3.6 Tools Used for Data Analysis	25

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **INTRODUCTION OF STUDY AREA**

4.1 Geographical Location	26
4.2 Climate	27
4.3 Forest Resources	27
4.4 Water Resources	27
4.5 Wild Life	28
4.6 Ethnic Composition	28
4.7 Language and Religion Composition	28
4.8 Occupational Composition	29

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SOCIO- ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

5.1 Socio-Economic Characteristic of the Respondents	31
5.2 Occupation and Income of the Despondence	37
5.3 Women's Ownership of Resources	40

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISIONS MAKING**

6.1 Women's Role in Farm Management	46
6.1.1 Farm Management	46
6.2. Women Role in Resource Procurement	51
6.3. Women's Role in Utilization Pattern Labour	57
6.4. Miscellaneous	59

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Summary	67
7.2 Conclusion	70
7.3 Recommendation	71

### **REFERENCES**

## LIST OF TABLE

	<b>Page No.</b>
Table No. 5.1.1 Ethnic Composition of Respondents	31
Table No. 5.1.2: Marital Status of the Respondents	32
Table No. 5.1.3: Educational Status of the Households Couple	33
Table No.5.1.4: Type of the Sampled Households	34
Table No. 5.1.5: Sex Composition of the Children	34
Table No.5.1.6: Age at Marriage	35
Table No. 5.1.7: Polygamy Practiced	35
Table No. 5.1.8: Belief on Medical Treatment	36
Table No. 5.2.1: Occupational Composition of the Households	37
Table No. 5.2.2: Male and Female Headed Households	37
Table No. 5.2.3: Comparison of Work Load of Male and Female	38
Table No. 5.2.4: Source of Income of Households	39
Table No. 5.3.1: Women's Ownership of Resource	40
Table No. 5.3.2: Personal Income of Women	41
Table No. 5.3.3: Livestock Holding of Households	42
Table No. 5.3.4: Landholding of Households	43
Table No. 6.1.1: Food Items	46
Table No. 6.1.2: Crop Production Sufficiency for The Whole Year	47
Table No. 6.1.3: Use of Surplus Product	48
Table No. 6.1.4: Deficit Production	48
Table No. 6.1.5: Decision Making	49
Table No. 6.1.6: Investments	50
Table No. 6.1.7: Economic Management of Households	50
Table No. 6.2.1: Cropping Pattern	51
Table No. 6.2.2: Major Winter Corps	52
Table No. 6.2.3: Women Access to Information	53



Table No. 6.2.4: Use of Energy	54
Table No. 6.2.5: Use of Energy Decision	54
Table No. 6.2.6: Involvement of Women in Forest Management	55
Table No. 6.2.7: Source of Water Management in Household	55
Table No. 6.2.8: Collection of Grass and Overall Maintenance for the live stocks	56
Table No. 6.3.1: Exchange Labour	57
Table No. 6.3.2: Voluntary Labour	58
Table No. 6.3.3: Hired Labour	58
Table No. 6.3.4: Utilization of Women's Ownership	59
Table No. 6.4.1: Type of Family Planning Measures Used	60
Table No. 6.4.2: Decision Making for the use of family planning Measures	60
Table No. 6.4.3: Decision Making in Sending Children to School	61
Table No. 6.4.4: Women's Involvement in Literacy Program	61
Table No. 6.4.5: Visit to Maitighar (Parent's House)	62
Table No. 6.4.6: Clothing (Buying Clothes)	62
Table No. 6.4.7: Small Gifts and Loans Friends	63
Table 6.4.8: Medical Treatments	64
Table No. 6.4.9: Religion Ceremonies	64
Table No. 6.4.10: Dowry System and Neglected Attitude	65

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AFP	– Asian Family Planning
APO	– Asian Productivity Organization
CBS	– Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	– Central Department of Population Studies
CEB	– Children Ever Born
CEDA	– Center for Economic Development and Administration
CEDECON	– Central Department of Economics
CRMP	– Land Resource Mapping Project
F.P.	– Family Planning
GDP	– Gross Domestic Product
HHs	– Households
HMG/N	– His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ICIMOD	– International, Cultural and Integration of Mountain Development
Non-agri	– Non-agricultural
NPC	– National Planning Commission

UNICEF – United Nations International Children Emergency Fund

VDC – Village Development Committee

WACN – Women Awareness Center Nepal

PCRW – Production Credit for Rural Women

SFDP – Small Farmers Development Programme.

WB – World Bank

ICPD – International Conference on Population and Development

INSEC – Informal, Sector, Service, Centre