

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal is a land of diversity with marked multiethnic, multi-religious and multi-linguistic country. The census 1991 has listed 35 different languages and 59 ethnic groups. As reported by the census 2001; women cover 50.04 percent of the total population.

According to census 2001, more than 80 percent of Nepalese women live in rural areas, Nepal is the male dominated society. Women's works are regarded as unproductive and considered as wifely duties and women's opinions are hardly sought for the households decision making process.

Women play a vital role in many areas of development sectors. The issues, related to their involvement in development activities, have not been addressed well. Women have remained excluded from development activities. The people oriented approaches have turned into "men oriented" approach. Especially, women of our country in rural areas are confined with in their households activities. Only men interact with the outside world and women stay behind, in traditional role as house wives. (Neupane; 1994)

In rural Nepal, women play multiple roles. They are integrated with their responsibility of domestic affairs of farming

works in field together with their male counterparts. Several studies over the years have clearly indicated that labour contribution of women in Nepalese agriculture appears to be higher than that of men and most of the agriculture work is done by women. In addition to agriculture work, they also have to perform many other households activities. Like care and maintenance of the households and its members including bearing and taking care of children food preparation, water and fuel collection, shopping, housekeeping and family health care. Such kind of reproductive work is crucial to human survival yet it is seldom considered "real work" In our rural society, most of the farm women do almost all of these productive work. They are active in land preparation, compost preparation, especially land leveling sowing, hoeing, transplanting, weeding and harvesting.

The post harvest works such as drying, cleaning storing and processing of food grains are also the responsibilities of women, Likewise they have role even in live stock and husbandry. There is hardly any activity in agricultural production, with the exception of ploughing in which women are not actively involved. Their involvement may vary according to ethnic groups and ecological areas. The degree of women labour involvement in farming system is affected by any interplay of socio-cultural, economic and environmental factors. This study has been carried out in "Thanpati VDC" at Gulmi district to find out role of women decision making Households in Thanpati VDC.

This study has been carried out in "Thanpati VDC" at Gulmi district to find out role of women decision making in Thanpati VDC. The agricultural dominated areas is heterogeneous in terms of ethnic composition in the study area. The women are very hard worker who generally work from dawn to sunset, besides agriculture. They have to perform many other households chorus such as cooking, washing, cleaning, bringing firewood, bringing water, caring, livestock etc.

The study has tried to concentrate on the relative status of the women with special emphasis on their decision-making process in following areas.

1. Farm management
2. Resource procurement and use.
3. Labour utilization pattern
4. Miscellaneous

As we have taken up these are crucial issues we would like to that these women are capable of making effective and important households decisions, if given the opportunity. Undoubtedly they are providers of the basic needs of the households.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As reported by the 2001 population census women constitute 50.04 percent of the total population, however the women's role in

the society has minimal access to resources, information and participation. This indicates that women suffer from discrimination and have to face unequal social and economic conditions. The women of the study area reflects. It is reflected in almost all aspects of their lives. Their freedom with in the households sphere is restricted but they are permitted to work outside leave them alone for the outside work (Agriculture) longer hour than male counterparts.

However, women are capable of making effective and important decision if the opportunity is given. If the opportunities are not timely given, women of the future generation might also left in the same condition as their predecessors. Therefore, programs and policies should be designed to reach the disadvantaged class of the society to enable them to come to the forefront as the equal farmers of effective decision-making power.

A key area of current development thrust is enhancing women participation in households decision-making process as well as in different spheres of life. Households decision making is such a field, that, however before that any recommendation can be made to promote participation of women. Thus empirical studies is imperative to examine the role of women in decision making process in a households. Therefore, this study is an attempt to assess the role of women in households decision making in the one of the round area of the country.

Nepal is a rural dominated country, where more than 80 percent of Nepalese women resides in the rural areas. The study attempts the decision making power of Nepalese rural women.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The study site choosen is one of the rural area country of the country i.e. Thanpati VDC of Gulmi district. No even a single research studies have been concentrated on women's decision-making process of the study area. Thus, the present study is appropriate to investigate the role of women in households decision-making process. The information would help to enhance the status of women of village in near future. Although Nepalese women have been empowered only in paper, they have not been wholly translated into real life.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine women's role in households decision-making in rural Nepal. However, the specific objectives are:

- a) To examine the role of women in households farm management activities.
- b) To examine the role of women in households resource and their use.
- c) To examine the role of women in the pattern of labour utilization.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

- 1) The study is a micro study, which may not be generalized at macro level.
- 2) The finding may not be generalized to the whole country.
- 3) It is quite difficult to interview with women in male headed households as head of the households usually gives the answer. For this reason the information collected may not reflect as expected.

1.6 Scheme of the Study

The study is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter consists of the general introduction. The second chapter comprises literature review. Third chapter deals about of the research methodology, used during field study.

The Fourth Chapter presents the general introduction of the study area. Five and six chapters have been devoted to data analysis. The final or the seven chapter tells the conclusion derived from entire study and the suggestions/recommendations as well. Such recommendations, if implemented would hopefully bring about some significant changes within the socio-economic set-up of the householdss of the study areas, if not within the wider spheres of the society.

Finally, the bibliography, questionnaires and appendix pertaining the study have also been attached.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Some of the relevant literature concerning women's role in households decision making process has been reviewed in this chapter. The following few pages are intended to highlight the women's status and their role in decision making process in households as well as in society.

For the first time, the studies relating the status of women in Nepal initiated nearly two and half decades ago CEDA, 1979-1981 studied on eight ethnic groups of women from different geographic areas of Nepal. The study provides comprehensive information on eight different ethnic groups of Nepal. Taking into account the socio cultural, religious and economic variable that influences the status of the aggregate patterns of differentiation of the status of women between different groups and regions, by the education, religion, work pattern fertility. The role of decision making plays by the "status" of women as society. (Rai, 2002)

Acharya M and Bennett L (1982) have singled out "Decision making from multidimensional concept of women within the households the "status of women in Nepal" operated in such four spheres of subsistence activities as:

- a. Households domestic works.
- b. Agriculture production activities.

c. Local market economy.

d. Short term migration to employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

The status of women is a major role to make decision at the households level.

Acharya M and Bennett L (1982) highlighted different degree of female participation of different community in market economy which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the households women from Hindu communities have greater concentration in domestic and subsistence production, while women from Tibeto-Burman group have concentration in market activities. This "implies women in the more orthodox Hindu communities who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display a much significant role in major households economic decision that those in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate activity in the market economy".

According to Acharya M and Bennett (1982) women's role in households decision making play a directly and indirectly by economic factor. If a women has greater economic participation they will have a greater power in decision making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influences role of decision making, small size of children higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women.

CEDA (1981) has given a wider overview of women's, status in terms of their decision making power within the households. This study reveals about eight different communities. Acharya and Bennett (1981) in the "aggregate analysis and summary of village studies gave a wider overview of women's status in terms of their decision making power with in the households. Their first hypothesis related Acharya and Bennett (1983) Version is that women in communities with economic participation in the wider or spheres of society will have a higher status vis-à-vis men that women in groups where their input is continued to non market production within the households unit.

But here, they added a second hypothesis to analyses whether women from communities with high level of cultural and ideological concern will have less input into the most important area as of households decision making.

Since the decision making data are found to be complex, the relative male/female input has been analysed in different stages:

1. The initiating role.
2. The consulting role.
3. Executing the decision.
4. In some cases (rarely) expressing disagreement. Further, the areas covered for decision-making are:
 - a. Farm management.

b. Domestic expenditure.

c. Disposal of households production and major capital transactions.

The eight ethnic communities under study were Mainthili, Tamang, Newar, Parbatiya, Baragaungle, Lohorung Rai, Tharu and Kham Magr etc.

Overall, the women from these communities have shown a greater contribution on suggesting and initiating decision making that accounts 53 percent. However, their role as giving advice/consultation was low (18.5 percent) and disagreements were very low constituting only 3.3 percent.

Distinction in decision making has also been made in terms of the dichotomous and non-dichotomous. Dichotomous refers to the greater difference evident between the involvement in local market economy. In wider economy, because of the greater emphasis placed on "female sexual purity and behavioral control by affined" (Acharya and Bennett 1981:308). In non-dichotomous communities the discrepancy is less because female entrepreneurship is emphasized upon (Acharya and Bennett 1981:302).

2.1 Women's Roles in Households Decision-making

The decision-making roles of male/female have been analysed in terms of the stages of the decision-making process and areas of decision making. The stages include:

(1) The initiating or suggesting role,

- (2) The consulting/advising role.
- (3) Making or carrying out the decision and
- (4) Expressing disagreement with decision made.

The major areas covered are:

- i. Decision making in households labour allocation.
- ii. Domestic expenditure
- iii. Disposal of households production and major capital transition.
Each of the major areas of decision-making are further divided into sub-categories.
- iv. Social decision.

The allocation of family member labour refers to parma (exchange) and voluntary labour. In rural areas the decision making power predominates over women's in each category. But in wage and voluntary labour allocation questions, the traditional approach (amounting of an individuals acceptance of tradition) predominates over men's and women's decision-making roles. A women's strongest decision-making role by far is in parma labour 33 percent. Though still out weighed by men's at 42 percent. The traditional decision-making model for parma labour swings from 38 percent in the Maithili community of Sirsia only 1.8 percent in Chandannath, Jumla in voluntary and wage labour, traditional/individual decision-making predominates in all but 2003 of the site for both categories.

Mutual decision making is not developed very well anywhere except in Mustang where, as in Mustang B, women's own decision making also has power.

Education is inadequate, as long as the majority of women do not have access to it as in case in many developing countries, even when accessible the educational systems in many countries, both developed and developing of to ensuring then and perpetuate traditional values and biased images of women's roles in the same way as the media. The internationalization of knowledge and adaptation of educational models tend to reflect the cultural and economic dominance of industrialized countries. This is illustrated in the absence of training opportunities in agriculture for women even in countries where they play major roles in agriculture. [Asian and Pacific 1979]

UNICEF (1987) has depicted that women's contribution to economic and social progress are still constrained by the limited access to education and information which hinders the full development and utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. (Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favour of male). Recruitment of male may also negatively affect the formal employment of women in 1982 in government services only 7 percent of the supporting staffs were women. At first, it concludes that in order to increase the women's participation in decision making efforts to promote a large scale of literacy programmes to create a more literate environment, training centers in rural areas would have to improve this situation.

Significantly, women play a more prominent role in unethical, non governmental organizations engaged in activities for peace and international cooperation. According to the express, relevant official decision making bodies.

Once women have gained experience activities in the civic and political areas on the support of female and male colleagues and in existed their numbers at the local and national levels only then can they hope achieve equal participation with men in decision making on matters of peace and international co-operation.

The duration of work done on the average in higher compared with their male counterparts. According to comparative allocation studies on average men and women are active on the family farm enterprises appropriately 6 hours and 10 hours per day respectively. (UNICEF, 1987)

Women have played and continue to play an important role in the self determination of peoples, including thought national liberation, in accordance with the United Nations charter. Their efforts should be recognized and commended and used as one basic for their full participation in the construction of their countries and in the creation of human and just social and political systems women's contribution in this area should be ensured by their equal access to political power and their full participation in the decision-making process [The United Nations 1945-1996].

2.2 National Planning Commission (1992)

A situation analysis of children and women in Nepal depicts that women have less access to income, wealth, modern avenue of employment, education and health facilities etc. than men Women's role figure pre-dominantly has been explained as four concerning sphere of activities.

- i. Households chores.
- ii. Agricultural production activities.
- iii. Local market economy.
- iv. Outside the village economy.

The major quantitative indicator of female status used was the relative input two areas of decision-making. (i) farm management and (ii) involvement in local market economy and domestic activities [UNICEF Nepal 1992].

2.3 Women's Participation in the Labour Force

One of the main functions of education is to prepare young people for their adult roles, women's roles in the family and in the paid labour force have important implications for their education. The pattern of female participation in the work force is reflected in the goals and orientation of women's education. Both policy makers

and parents base their decision in a part on the perceived links between education and employment [A World Bank, 1993].

The National population strategy 1983 had also suggested various measures to raise the status of women in Nepal, important measures included were provision of more education facilities for girls expansion of skill development programme, and the adoption appropriate technology directed towards households and agricultural activities (NPC, 1991).

There are some Nodules and government units, specifically looking after women's programmes, such as Nepal Women's Organization, mother's club, women's service co-ordination committee cooperative training center, women's training center, production credit for rural women programme information network for women in development. Agricultural development bank, Women's development programme and others, programmes carried out by those specialized agencies for women can broadly be distinguished as those related to:

1. Training for bringing about awareness, population and education, family planning extension workers and skill development.
2. Skill development projects for income generating activities.
3. Women's family planning projects which include motivational activities for use of family planning methods and distribution of contraception

4. Community development activities involving women (Pradhan, 1989)

In addition to these national institutions and formal organization rural communities have their own associations which reflect women's interests and needs.

With a view to improve the socio-economic conditions and uplift the status of women, various studies, seminars and conferences have made a number of suggestions and recommendations.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held on 5-13 September, 1994 in Cairo, Egypt. its 16 Chapter Programme of nation sets out a series of general principle as well as specific recommendations to guide future population policy making and programmes. In chapter 4, it has discussed about gender equality, equality and empowerment of women. This chapter calls on countries to empower women and eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root cause of son preference increase public awareness of the value of girl children, beyond their potential for child bearing and promote equal participation of women and men in all areas of family and house hold responsibilities (population; 1994).

Women are more to say that their husband is making decision alone than to consider that they are making decisions jointly with their husbands or that they have made decision along. Women have simply nodding approval or accepting their husband's decision

without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly; simply because they express their opinions does not mean that. They make a decision the idea that women express disagreement because they have an increased in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinions (Shtri Shakti 1995).

International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD 1997) carried out a study of Bhuvaneshwari Mahila Ashram U.P. India. This study finds that this Ashram served as a refuge for destitute women and children of general and with time it involved into a institution which undertook to develop the hill region vocational training in sewing, weaving, poultry and vegetables farming, study tours and literacy programmes are activities through which women and young children are been constantly to empower him. Since agriculture is the main stay of the population and women are single-handedly managing decision making, as most of the young boys and men migrate to urban areas.

Regarding their status, it was found that, male out migration for short term or long-term period is increasing throughout the region as female struggle to find way to sustain themselves. In the presence of older men in the households excludes the women from decision making opportunity.

At least, the ICIMOD programme activities states that to ensure gender balanced development and in particular, to create opportunities for women to participate in and benefit from decision making on policies and technologies for sustainable mountain

development. The programme activities must demonstrate stronger integration of gender concern in the future. (ICIMOD 1997).

The Ninth Five Years Plan (1997-2002) aimed at integrating women to the development mainstream through gender equality and women's empowerment by increasing women's participation in every sector, giving a concrete shape to gender concept in the process of formulation, implementation and evaluation of sectoral policies and programmes, accelerating the process of multi-faceted development of women's empowerment by uplifting their, social, economic political and legal status protecting and promoting the rights and interests of women and gradually eliminating violence, exploitation, injustice and atrocities being committed against women [Ninth five year plan, 1998]

Gender forms the socially assigned different role between women and men. These are changeable and vary with class, race, caste, ethnic, religion, and age with time. They influence the division of labour, which reinforces existing power relations and access to resources, benefits information and decision making when looking at gender, it is crucial to bear in mind the differences between sex and gender. (UN, 1999)

Women in Nepal as elsewhere hold the triple work responsibility of reproduction, house holding and employment, However, reproduction is not considered as a productive job at least by the state and the society. A study done in early 1980s found that women and girls together contribute more than 53 percent of the households income in rural households of Nepal. Several studies in

subsequent years have reconfirmed that women's labour contribution to Nepalese agriculture is at least equal to men. Ojha found that women contribute over 58 percent of the labour input in the agriculture sector. Acharya and Bennett (1981) concluded that females contribute 51.6 percent of the labour required to run farms. Farming activities included crop farming, kitchen, gardening, livestock and forestry, except. The works of women in Nepal are confined to their domestic and subtend activities which could include a variety of heavy duty tasks such as fetching water, collecting firewood, working in the fields in addition to clearing, cooking, working at home for the family member. (The Economic Journal of Nepal, 2001)

2.4 The Status of Rural Women and Their Participation in Decision Making

Rural women did not actively participate in decision making on agricultural policies. Agricultural policies were usually influenced by the opinion on farmer organization, unfortunately most of farmers organizations were consisted of men farmers. Recently as rural women's organizational activities have been activated, rural women's opinion has been gradually influencing the agricultural and rural policy. [Asian Productivity Organization, 2002]

It was in that respect that a talk programme on "Empowering Women Creating Few Model for Social Change" was organized by society for International Development Nepal chapter, the other day. Speakers after programme stressed that women's empowerment and

access to education are the best and effective tools for preventing HIV/AIDS. This is specially true because it has been reported that at least 40 percent of the coordinator women suffer from one kind or the other of male violence against them.

Emphasis has often been placed on women's employment, wages and access to education and health facilities, in order to bridge the gender gap. However, the prevailing gender relation emanate among other things, from the inequality in property ownership in rural urban Nepali society. Status is primarily determined by land ownership of land acts as a shield against discrimination, and as a means to entrance status in householdss land ownership also works as a shield against vulnerability of various sorts. National Labour Academy- Nepal has recently conducted a study for ILO and has analyzed patterns of land entitlement by gender in Nepal.

Population census (2001) information on land entitlement by gender at households level by district reveals extremely low incidents of women's land entitlement women have some land in their name in only 14 percent householdss. There is a marked variation across regions and districts. The incidence of women's land entitlement declined sharply when one moves from east to west. Women own land in their name in 21 percent householdss in eastern region. In the far-west region, women have land entitlement only in 4 percent householdss. Similarly, income districts such as Kathmandu and Kaski which are relatively urbanized, women own land on over 30 percent householdss. In contrast in districts such as

Darchula, Bajhang, Humla and Bajura, women have land entitlement in less than two percent householdss information derived from land ownership certificates from Kathmandu and Ilam women own land in more than 30 percent households in the rural areas of the study districts, women have land entitlement only in about 20 percent households. By caste and ethnicity, among Brahmin and chhetri women, land entitlement is higher in urban areas by 29 percent compared to rural areas 20 percent. [The Kathmandu Post 2004 March 11]

The references maintained in the previous pages confirm that women's decision making power is influenced by many factors. In Nepalese context, women are observed as heading weak decision making power of women. Therefore, the issue of women empowerment would not be fulfilled till women attain decision-making process rights for their own households. Therefore, this study focuses the women's decision-making power in households, in Thanpati, V.D.C. of Gulmi.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the most important part of research work. Reliable and relevant study can be made possible only by applying scientific method. Hence, the main purpose of this chapter is to present the framework for the research design. Different procedures used to this study are as follows.

3.1 Research Design

This study is based on descriptive as well as exploratory research designs. Descriptive research is fact-finding operation. Descriptive research design has been used to gather qualitative information about the research area and exploratory research design is used for collecting information about respondents' view and ideas about the program and their problems.

3.2 Selection of the Study Area

The area which has been selected for the present study is Thanpati VDC which lies in the south-western Nepal. Thanpati VDC is moderately populated with people from diverse ethnic communities. The Branmin/Chhetri dominate that area, second Sarki and others are Kami, Magar, Newar and Damai among other.

Agriculture is the major occupation of the most of households. But selling was also found as the main source of income for some

like. foreign employment although the people professed various kinds of wage labour and community activities as their alternative source of income. However, entrepreneurial activities such as small business and industry could not be detected among them.

The women were found to shoulder most of the work both within and outside the households in the fields and in many cases for foddering and fuel wood collection as well.

The working hours, therefore, were naturally longer than that of their male counterparts. While drinking water is divided to accessible pipe and stream to almost all households. There are 7 wards having electricity facility.

Although there are no VDC offices because of activity of Maoist. There is facility of health post but not medicine. Most of the cases, they have their conventional doctors (Dhamis/Jhankris) whom they really upon for minor ailments.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data Collection

The study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data are collected with the help of questionnaire by using both structured and non structures questionnaire. Some additional information are collected with the help of observation, discussion, interview etc. Important relevant materials-books, journal published/ unpublished/research, articles and VDC records are consulted, for secondary data.

3.4 Techniques of Data Collection

3.4.1 Householdss Questionnaire

Households questionnaire were used in interviewing the sampled women regarding their socio-economic, demographic characteristics, farm management, resource procurement and use, labour utilization pattern, and others in the decision making pattern. The decision makers in the households activities include husband, wife, other male members, other female members, jointly (it is combined decisions of all male of female members of the family).

3.4.2 Key Information

In Thanpati VDC, people having a good knowledge about the local area and resources such as farmers, leaders, social members, ward chairman, VDC chairman as well as house wives and women group leaders, were consulted though conversations, interviews for broader information collection.

3.4.3 Observation

Direct observation also has been used to collect relevant information regarding the "role of women in households decision making" in the study area.

3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Sampling is taken as portion of universe or as representative of that population or universe. The present study area consists of 639 households selected as the respondents of total population. The

sample size of 10 percent is considered to be satisfactory to depict the overall situation of the VDC.

3.6 Tools Used for Data Analysis

Data analysis have mainly relied upon Tabular analysis for data information. However simple statistical tools like percentage, ratio, pie-chart, bar diagram and average have also been used during the analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

INTRODUCTION OF STUDY AREA

4.1 Geographical Location

Among the seventy-five districts of Nepal, Gulmi is one of them. It lies in Lumbini Zone and Western Development Region. Gulmi is divided into 79 VDCs and three electoral constituencies. Tamghash is the headquarter of district. The political boundary of the district is separated from, Baglung in the north, Palpa and Arghakhanchi in the south, Parbat and Syangja in the east and Pyuthan in the west.

The district profile of the area of Gulmi is 1149 sq km and total population is 296,654, among them 1,33,771 and 1,62,883 are male and female respectively. Population density is 258 person/sqkm. There are 59189 households and average households size is 5.01. (Source, CBS, 2001)

Thanpati VDC is one of the VDCs of Gulmi district, which is located in southern part of the district headquarter, near Ridikhola. The name of this VDC is derived from the Thorga village, where VDC was destroyed so there is no VDC office at present. According to district profile total households is 639. (Census 2001)

This VDC is surrounded by Baletaksar VDC in the west; Ruru and Gwadi VDC in the east, Ruru and Digam VDC in the South and Balataksar VDC in north. Main highway from Palpa to

headquarter of Gulmi district lies in this VDC. Whole VDC have transport facility, and also telephone facility.

4.2 Climate

Climatically the study area lies in temperate zone. However, this area is extended in large variation of altitude and also slope aspect is caused the area to separate micro variation in climate within short distance. Such variation play an important role in the agricultural and cropping strategies.

4.3 Forest Resources

Forest is the main natural resources of the study area, which is economically productive resource and it covers considerable area of study area. According to the survey of land resource mapping project, Nepal has 29percent Forest in its report published in 2055. (Source: CBS 2001)

4.4 Water Resources

Drainage of this VDC is in well condition. There are numbers of streams which flow north to south. These streams can be used for drinking water, distributing from pipes in required areas. But some of the wards of this VDC have difficulty of drinking water. To solve this problem, some NGOs have started "Ghaito Karyakram" from 2058 B.S. which helps the villagers for their clean drinking water.

4.5 Wild Life

There are many kinds of wild life but they are in limited number now a days. Because of encroachment of people on their inhabiting area important wild life are disappearing day by day. In spite of this fact some important wild life are found in this area. They are jackals, rabbits, dears, ghoral, foxes, tiger, leopard, wild cats, squirrels. similarly beautiful birds like peacocks, turkeys, vultures, bulbuls, and sparrows etc.

Nightingale, parrot, kalize, eagle, sparrow and other innumerable kinds of birds can be found in (Thanpati VDC) and insects like butterflies, wasps, cockroaches, honey bees, houseflies and dargontly butterflies etc are also exist.

4.6 Ethnic Composition

The main ethnic groups in this VDC are Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Magar, Kami, Damai, Sarki and Sunar.

4.7 Language and Religion Composition

Nepali is common language in Thanpati VDC but sub languages are also spoken, they are Newar, Magar. The majority of the people are Hindu by religion. Tribal groups practice their own Culture. Dashain, Tihar, Shrawnesakranti, Magheshakranti, Teej, Kattike Thula Yekadasi, Chaite Dashain are the main festivals celebrated by the villagers.

4.8 Occupational Composition

Agriculture is the dominating occupation as almost all the people are engaged in agricultural activities. Agricultural is the main economic base, thus it is backbone of economy of the rural areas. Some people are in Indian and British military (army) force and some have gone as laborer in foreign countries. Very little number of people is engaged in the government.

Main agriculture production of this VDC is Paddy, Maize and Millet but Coffee and Ginger are special cash crops. In current year people of this VDC have opted the cultivation of cash crops which is main source of income. The Thanpati VDC is actually a typical Nepalese village, found in most of hilly areas of the country.

CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIO- ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents play a crucial role in the research study. Therefore, it essential to observer to know the background of the respondents. A marked diversity in the ethnic composition of population is observed in the study area. However, some selected ethnic groups such as Brahmin/Chhetri, Newar, Sarki, Kami, Gharti, Sunar and Damai are included in the study randomly.

General observation reveals that Brahmin and Chhetri are most economically advanced groups in terms of livestock and landholding. The major source of income for almost all the selected households are from agriculture. No significant inclination towards industrialization is observed, but small business are run by these households.

Woman undoubtedly showed a greater input to the domestic and subsistence sector, their activities ranking from households chores, fuel wood and fodder collection to child care and to all kinds of agriculture activities. Therefore, their working hours were naturally much more than their male counterparts. Low literacy rate is evidence among women as compared to their counterparts.

The total 80 households have been selected for the study. Table No.1 presents the different ethnic composition of

respondents. Besides the general observations, efforts have been made to include all possible socio-economic aspects of the respondents in the present study.

5.1 Socio-Economic Characteristic of the Respondents:

Table No. 5.1.1 Ethnic Composition of Respondents

Ethnic groups	Householdss	Percentage
Brahmin	25	31.25
Chhetri	15	18.75
Sarki	12	15
Gharti	7	8.75
Newar	5	6.25
Kami	5	6.25
Magar	5	6.25
Sunar	3	3.75
Damai	3	3.75
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

The ethnic groups revealed a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However, people from different groups were also found to be living together in certain areas of settlement.

In this table shows 31.25 percent of households are of Brahmin and 18.75 percent of Chhetri. Damai and Sunar

represented only 3.75 percent of households. It clearly depicts Brahmin/Chhetri domination over the other communities in the study area.

Table No. 5.1.2: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital status	Households	Percentage
Married respondents	68	85
Unmarried	1	1.25
Widowed	9	11.25
Separated	2	2.5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Out of the total 80 female respondents, 68 of them were found to have married, 9 of the widowed, 2 of the separated and only 1 unmarried.

The married women, therefore, constitute a large majority of 85 percent, the unmarried a small majority of 1.25 percent, widowed 11.25 percent and 2.5 percent separated. This clearly shows that marriage is the counterpart practice of Nepalese society.

Table No. 5.1.3: Educational Status of the Households Couple

Education	Male Respondent	Male Percent	Female Respondent	Female Percent	Total Number
Literate	20	28.58	16	20	36
Illiterate	16	22.85	36	45	52
Primary	5	7.15	15	18.75	20
Lower secondary	5	7.15	5	6.25	10
Secondary	6	8.75	3	3.75	9
Higher education	18	25.72	5	6.25	23
Total	70	100	80	100	150

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

The total 70 males and 80 females were interviewed to assess the educational status of the area.

The households couple here does not strictly mean husbands and wives since, questions were put up to only women during the research. Women of different marital status, married/unmarried and separated/widowed have been included. Similarly, out of the 80 female respondents 36 of them are illiterate and 16 of them are literate. 15 of them are primary, 5 of them lower secondary, 6 of them secondary and 5 of them higher education.

The total illiterate male and female respondents amount 52 out of which the male constitutes 22.85 percent and the female 45

percent. Similarly, the total number of literate women and male are 36 out of which 28.58 percent is male and 16 percent is female. Only 18 males and 5 women have attended higher education i.e. more than secondary level.

Table No.5.1.4: Type of the Sampled Households

Mud	57	71.25
Wooden house	3	3.75
Pakki house	18	22.5
Living at others house	2	2.5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

71.25 percent of the total households 80, 57 are mud house, 3 (3.75) wooden house, Pakki house 18 (22.5) of them. Thus mud house is common houses in the area.

Table No. 5.1.5: Sex Composition of the Children

Sex	No. of children	percentage
Sons	170	51.20
Daughters	162	48.80
Total	332	100

The total number of children within the 80 households is 170 male children and 162 female children with male children taking a large chunk of 51.20 percent and female children only 48.80

percent. The higher number of male children is, defacing the preference of son.

Table No.5.1.6: Age at Marriage

Age at Marriage (Years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
0-9	5	6.33
10-14	27	34.18
15-19	39	49.37
20-24	4	5.06
25 +	4	5.06
Total	79	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Nearly 50 percent of women got married between the ages of 15-19 years. They constitute 49.37 percent and followed by women who got married between the ages of 10-14 years (34.18 percentage). It shows that 10 to 19 is the marriage age for a very few observe marriage after 20 years.

Table No. 5.1.7: Polygamy Practiced

Polygamy Practiced	No. of Households	Percent
Yes	10	12
No	70	88
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Observations revealed that divorce among the 80 householdss was non- existent however, polygamy was evident among only 12 percent of the households. But the case where husbands with more than one wife was reported to be higher than that of wives having more husband.

Table No. 5.1.8: Belief on Medical Treatment

Belief	No. of Households	Percent
Doctors	25	31
Dhami/Jhankri	5	6
Both	50	63
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Although a low percentage of the householdss believed purely on either doctors (31 percent) or traditional witch doctors called Dhami/Jhankris (6 percent), a large majority (63 percent) believed in both while 5 households solely believed in the traditional treatment and another 50 households rely on it for minor ailments, this clearly indicates a strong sense of superstition still evident among rural people.

5.2 Occupation and Income of the Respondence

Table No. 5.2.1: Occupational Composition of the Households

Occupation	Male	Percent of (70)	Female	Percent of (80)
Agriculture	25	28.73	66	71.73
Services	36	41.37	6	6.52
Industry (Business)	11	12.64	6	6.52
Daily wage	13	14.94	14	15.22
Others	2	2.29	4	4.16

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

The total male respondents are 70 and female are 80 in a number. This table is intended to observe the occupational status of both male and female.

It was found that there is a comparatively higher rate of male in services 41.37 percent, Industry (Business) 12.64 percent, Daily wage 14.94 percent and other occupation 2.29 percent involved while the 71.73 percent women involved the agriculture occupation, services and industry are same 6.52 percent of women involved, 15.22 in Daily wage work in female involved and 4.16 percentage are involved others occupation.

Table No. 5.2.2: Male and Female Headed Households

Male	47	58.75
Female	33	41.25
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

58.75 percent of households are male headed and rest female headed representing majority of households head are male.

Table No. 5.2.3: Comparison of Work Load of Male and Female

Male						Female				
Hours	Domestic	Farm	Children	Self Rest	Total	Domestic	Farm	Children	Self Rest	Total
0-1	-	-	-	10		5	-	20	25	
1-2	10	5	10	15		5	5	15	15	
2-3	5	10	5	5	-	5	5	15	10	
3-4	5	5	3	-		8	5	20	5	
4-5	7	10	-	-		10	15	5	5	
5-6	5	15	2	-		10	10	3	-	
6-7	5	10	3	-		15	15	-	-	
7-8	5	15	-	-		10	25	-	-	
8-9	-	10	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Total	42	80	23	40	185	68	80	78	60	286
Percent	23	42	13	22		24	30	26	20	

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

In this table shows an average work load of male and female of the respondent households. Male gives highest percent in farm, that is 42 percent and lowest in children that is 13 percent. Female given the highest percent in farm that is 30 percent and lowest in self rest that is 20 percent. This shows compared to male, female gives few time in self rest. Female gives more time to children in comparison to male (i.e. male 13 percent, female 26 percent). Male

gives more time on farm in compared to female (i.e. male 42 percent female 30 percent)

In conclusion, the researcher found that workload for male and female are not vastly different in domestic, farm and self rest but in children female gives double time in compare to male. This shows the higher responsibility of mother on their children.

Table No. 5.2.4: Source of Income of Households

Source	No. of House holds	percent (of 133)	Percent of 80 House
Cash money	77	57.89	96.25
Paddy	5	3.75	6.25
Mize	10	7.52	12.5
Rice	5	5	12.5
Ginger	15	11.27	18.75
Coffee	15	11.27	18.75
Others	6	4.5	7.5
Total	133	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Multiple Responses are observed regarding source of income of the total 80 sample householdss, and received 133 responses. This indicates that households does not rely on only one source of income.

In this table shows the source of income in sample households. The cash money is the main source of income of 77 households. Another source of income is selling of crops like paddy, Maize, Ginger, Coffee etc. Among these crops, ginger and coffee as cash crop generate were income. Paddy gives very low contribution on income generation, it may be because rice is consumed at home itself.

5.3 Women's Ownership of Resources

Table No. 5.3.1: Women's Ownership of Resource

Resource	No. of Households	Percent
Land	10	9.25
House	11	10.18
Cash	24	22.22
Livestock	25	23.14
Ornaments	36	33.33
Others	2	1.85
Total	108	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

As this is also a multiple response questionnaire, the total response was 108. Ownership of land and house is low as compared to other resources, it is because of women in Nepal have very low access to fixed property like land and house. Ornament is the main resource of the women, 33.33 percent 23.1 percent women have livestock, 22.22 percent households have cash ownership.

Table No. 5.3.2: Personal Income of Women

Rs. Thousand	No. of Response	In Percent
0-1 (Thousand)	3	4.83
1-5	22	35.48
5-10	15	24.19
10-15	7	66.30
15-20	6	9.67
20-25	-	-
25-30	-	-
30-35	-	-
35 above	2	3.22
Few	7	11.29
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Out of 80 households, only 62 women responded about source of their income. Majority of them have expressed their income are between 1 to 10 thousand per annum. Two of the households respond that their income is above 35 thousand, but they did not disclose the source of income. Livestocks are considered as wealth of rural households.

Table No. 5.3.3: Livestock Holding of Households

Livestock	No. of Households	Ethnic groups			
		B/C	S/K	N/M	GSD
Cow	25 (31.25)	10	5	5	5
Ox	36 (45)	15	10	2	9
Buffalo	76 (95)	50	10	5	15
Goats	43 (54)	25	10	5	3
Chicken	45 (56)	–	30	5	10
Others	5 (6)	–	–	–	5

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Note: the figures in the parenthesis refer to percentage out of 80.

* [B - Brahmin, C - Chhetri, S - Sarki, K - Kami, N - Newar, M - Magar, G - Gharti, S - Sunar, D - Damai]

Buffalo is found as maximum 95 percent, among the livestock holding of the 80 households with chicken as second 56 percent, goats third 54 percent, ox fourth 45 percent, cow fifth 31.25 percent and last others 6 Percent. The table also shows a greater livestock holding among the B/C community and the lower among the others occupational groups in this respect.

Table No. 5.3.4: Landholding of Households

Area (Ropani)	Khet No.	Percent	Area (Ropani)	Bari No.	Percent
0	25	31	0	-	-
1-5	15	19	1-5	20	25
6-10	10	13	6-10	15	19
11-15	15	19	11-15	15	19
16-20	5	6	16-20	10	13
21-25	5	6	21-25	10	13
26-30	5	6	26-30	5	6
31-35	-	-	31-35	5	6
Total	80	100	Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Among the 80 households a majority of 31 percent are found to have no paddy field land in their land holding while 19 percent has 1-5 /11-15 ropanis and 13 percent has 6-10 ropanis of paddy fieldland, a much lower number of householdss own greater ropanies of paddy field land. Not a single households has claimed having more than 31 Ropanies of paddy field.

The same pattern applies for the Bari landholding of the householdss. A highest of 25 percent households owned 1-5 ropanis and 19 percent owned same 6-10/11-15 ropanis of Bari land. Nevertheless, almost all house holds owned some bari land as compared to the households who did not own any paddy field land.

Enrolment of Children in Schools.

According to the field survey, it revealed that 100 percent children of the sample households are attaining school. This shows that villagers are aware about education of their children.

Discrimination between boys and girls is seen very rarely. Only 5 households say that, they give first priority to boys and less priority for girls. Other 75 households says that they give same priority to boys and girls. The above analysis of the selected area of the study presents that Thanpati VDC is a typical Nepali village of Hill. This reveals that the study area is heading towards modernization in a modest scale. It is neither truly advanced nor backward.

CHAPTER SIX

ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISIONS MAKING

Decision making process has great role to enhance social status. Thus, it plays vital role in people's participation in household as well as in social life. In this chapter, efforts have been made to analyze women's status within the household with special emphasis on their decision making process as compared to their male counterpart. The information included in consonance with the methodology used which has been collected from women of different ethnic communities in sample. Accordingly, women's decision-making role especially in the following areas has been analyzed.

1. Farm management.
2. Resource procurement.
3. Labour utilization pattern.
4. Miscellaneous pattern.

Further, the concept of decision making has been divided into three distinct stages in the study namely;

- i. Initiator who initiates the idea.
- ii. Consular who are being consulted
- iii. Final decision makers, who usually decide and execute the idea.

6.1 Women's Role in Farm Management

6.1.1 Farm Management

Table No. 6.1.1: Food Items

Decision Maker	Who First Initiated	Percent	Who was Consulted	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	12	15	35	44	25	31
Female	50	62	25	44	35	45
Both	18	23	10	12	20	25
Total	80	100	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Farm management in the rural areas, is crucial, as it is the source of livelihood. Management of food and crop production is an important source within the households, that has to be consulted among the family members. The decision-making process for all sections of food item is presented in table 6.1.1.

The female members appear to have a greater input as initiators (62 percentage) and as final decision-makers (45 percentage) for the expenditure on food items as compared to the other member of the households. While in the process of consulting in their food items, decision making, 44 percent male are being consulted where as it is only 31 percent in case of female and 12 percent are mutually consulted.

Female plays as the major final decision makers that is 45 percent and only 31 percent male give his final decision regarding food such as 25 percent decide mutually. This shows that women have work decision making role in food items, it is because, women manage household food.

Table No. 6.1.2: Crop Production Sufficiency for The Whole Year

Sufficiency of crop for the whole year	No. of House hold	Percent
Yes	15	18.75
No	45	56.25
Surplus	20	25
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Although Nepalese economy is an aggression economy and about 66 percent of population depends upon agriculture. But most of the household do not produce sufficient food for the whole year. In this context, survey is being done whether, there is sufficient crop for the whole year or not.

Table No. 18 shows that 56.3 percent household have no sufficient food production for whole year and only 25 percent have surplus crops. Only 18.75 percent of households have sufficient crop for the whole year. It reveals that the sample do not produce sufficient crop, thus have to rely on other source of income to meet the food need for the whole year.

Table No. 6.1.3: Use of Surplus Product

Use	No. of H.H.	Percent
Sell market	15	42.85
Saving for future use	5	14.28
Friends (loan)	15	42.85
Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

It is observed that only 35 households have surplus product in the total sample size. One of the 42.85 percent of these households either sell in the market or give loans to neighbours and only 14.28 percent saved for future.

Table No. 6.1.4: Deficit Production

Fulfillment	No. of H.H.	Percent
Bari Labour (agriculture)	15	33.33
Construction labour	12	26.66
Income generating	8	17.77
Others	10	22.22
Total	45	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

The field study revealed that almost all the households did not have enough crop production to sustain them throughout the entire year. Therefore, their means of compensation for deficit production arranged from agri-labour, construction labour, income generating

activities and other activities. As already been mentioned that only 43.75 percent of households have sufficient food production, therefore, only 35 household respondents that they have surplus produces.

Fulfillment of deficit production from agriculture labour is 33.33 percent 26.66 percent from construction labour, 17.77 percent from income generating activities and 22.22 percent from other works.

Table No. 6.1.5: Decision Making

Decision maker	Surplus Product		Deficit Product	
	No. of H.H.	Percent	No. of H.H.	Percent
Male	10	28.57	12	27
Female	15	42.85	20	44
Both	10	28.57	13	29
Total	35	100	45	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Table 6.1.5 shows that, female's major role in decision making regarding Surplus and deficit products, where 42.85 percent female decide about their surplus product and 44 percent female decide on deficit products. Then both male and female decide of the female's decision. This shows that female are the main manager of household especially of food need.

Table No. 6.1.6: Investments

Decision Maker	Who First Initiator percent	Percent	Who was Consulted	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	15	19	20	25	25	31
Female	35	44	40	50	35	44
Both	30	37	20	25	20	25
Total	80	100	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Although female have some kinds of contribution in all three stages of decision making process. They as initiators and final decision maker are on 44 percent households and male take advice from 50 percent female. Role of male in decision making in all three stages seems lower position than women.

Table No. 6.1.7: Economic Management of Households

	Use of Money No. of H.H.	Percent	Keeping Money No. of H.H.	Percent
Male	20	25	15	19
Female	56	70	42	52
Both	4	5	23	29
Total	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Economic management of households plays vital role for the maintenance of family. In this context, use and savings of money within the household is one of the prominent factor, where female is

the main decision maker about the control of money that is 70 percent. Generally money keeping for household management, female are in first rank, that is 52 percent. In few household male also controls of money which is 25 percent. In some households, these decision, decided by both.

6.2. Women Role in Resource Procurement

Table No. 6.2.1: Cropping Pattern

Major Summer Crops

(Production In Muri)

Maize	No. of H.H.	Percent	Paddy	No. of H.H.	Percent	Millet	No. of H.H.	Percent
0-5	10	12	0-1	5	10	0-1	20	45
6-10	20	26	2-3	10	20	2-3	15	33
11-15	15	19	4-5	20	40	4-5	10	22
16-20	15	19	6-7	5	12	—	—	—
21-25	10	12	8-9	5	11	—	—	—
26-30	5	6	10-15	2	4	—	—	—
31-35	5	6	16-20	3	6	—	—	—
36 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	80	100	Total	50	100	Total	45	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

The cropping pattern depends upon the situation of land, climate and other factors, Maize, Paddy and Millets are the major crops of the study area.

Therefore, Paddy and Maize are seen as the two major summer crops of the area. The households which has 6-10 muri of Maize production, constitute the highest 25 percentage among others. In the same way 20 households which fall in the category of 4-5 muri of Paddy production. They constitute 40 percent of the total. The number of households that produce the higher ranges of Paddy production have more production of both Paddy and Maize.

All households grow Maize as summer crop, where as 50 households grow Paddy and 45 households grow Millet in the sample.

Table No. 6.2.2: Major Winter Corps

(Production In Muri)

Wheat (muri)	No. of H.H.	Percent	Mustard (muri)	No. of H.H.	Percent	Dall	No. of H.H.	Percent
0-1	15	29	1-5	20	67	0-1	25	46
2-3	10	19	5-10	10	33	1-2	20	36
4-5	15	29				3-5	10	18
6-7	7	13						
8-9	5	10						
10 +	-	-						
Total	52	100	Total	30	100	Total	55	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

- b. Wheat, Mustard are the most popular winter crops. While 29 percent of households have 0-1 and 4-5 muri of Wheat production. The highest number of households for Mustard production amounts

to 20 household respectively 67 Percentage. They have 1-5 (muri) of Mustard production and small categories Dall production.

Table No. 6.2.3 : Women Access to Information

Source of information	No. of H.H.	Percentage of H.H.
Radio	70	88
T.V	25	31
Newspapers	15	19
Doctors	50	62
Friends	25	31
School	20	25
Others	10	12
Total	215	

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Information plays vital role in decision making process. Thus, knowledge about family planning is considered as one of the indicator of decision making. It is observed that 88 percentage respondent have idea of family planning. The respondents gave multiple answers. Table No. 21 presents that 88 percentage are informed through radio, where as 62 percentage are informed by the doctor, 31 percent responded that it is through T.V., and similarly 19 percent, it is through newspaper. This shows that the source of information such as T.V. and newspaper, have less effect as compared to radio, because, the radio is the mostly used source of information in the rural areas of the country.

Table No. 6.2.4: Use of Energy

Fuel	No. of Household	Percent
Fire wood	80	100
Kerosene's	80	100
L.P.G.	8	10
Gober-gas	7	8.75
Solar	4	5
Others	23	28.75

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Energy is essential for the household management as women are directly affected by energy: Above table shows the types of fuel used by sample households where fuel wood and Kerosene's are the dominant energy that used as 100 percent by sample households. The modern source of energy such as LPG, Solar and Gobar Gas are also found in the shifted household. This shows that women are not ignorant about these sources of energy.

Table No. 6.2.5: Use of Energy Decision

Decision maker	No. of H.H.	Percent
Male	9	11.25
Female	55	68.75
Both	16	20
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Female play main role on energy management in household, where more than 50 percent female decide about energy use. Male rarely decide about energy used, that is only 9 percent.

Table No. 6.2.6: Involvement of Women in Forest Management

Answer	No. of Household	Percent
Yes	8	10
No	72	90
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Forest management being out door activity, women are rarely involved. Only 10 percent women are involved in forest management in the sample. Ninety percent are not involved in forest management. It is really surprising to note that it is the women who collect fuel and fodder from forest are not included in the forest management activity of the VDC. This indicates decision making power of women is only restricted to the household activity.

Table No. 6.2.7: Source of Water Management in Household

Source	No. of Household	Percent	Resource management	No. of Household	Percent
Pipe water	72	54	Male	12	15
Stream water/spot well	60	46	Female	40	50
Community tubwell	-	-	both	28	35
Total	132	100	Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

In the sample, 72 households use pipe water and 60 households use stream water. From these sources of water male manage only in 12 households and female manage in 40 households and both male and female manage in 28 households. The table 6.2.7 reveals that female gives more time in water management than male. In the women who spends much time and energy to collect water, and use for household purposes.

Table No. 6.2.8: Collection of Grass and Overall Maintenance for the Live stocks

Collects grass and Maintenance	No. of H.H. Collection of grass	Percent	No. of H.H. Maintenance of livestock	Percent
Male	5	6.25	10	12
Female	30	37.5	48	60
Both	45	56.25	22	28
Total	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

From field survey, only 80 households are found to keep livestock. Among them the both male and females are seen as the major grass collectors that is 56.25 percent, 37.5 percent female and 6.25 percent male are involved in grass collection activities.

Data shows that female gives more time for overall maintenance for the livestock, that is 60 percent. But male and female gives 28 percent time in overall maintenance for the livestock. It reveals that

the job inside household as for example, to look after livestock is found to be mainly the responsibility of women.

6.3. Women's Role in Utilization Pattern Labour

Table No. 6.3.1: Exchange Labour

Decision Maker	Who First Initiators	Percent	Consultate	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	25	31	30	37	35	44
Female	35	44	25	31	30	37
Both	20	25	25	32	15	19
Total	80	100	80	100	80	100

Source: Field, Survey 2004.

The exchange of labour is the most common community lifestyle in most of the rural areas of Nepal. The concept of "Parma" therefore encourages households to participate in community activities. It is women who initiated of labour exchange 44 is percent within the community but finally male are the decision makers (44 percent). Similarly 37 percent of male are being consulted and for labour exchange practice, 37 percent female are decision maker as well.

The table 6.3.1, presents both male and female more or less equally participate in labour utilization pattern, But the domination of male is still prevalent.

Table No. 6.3.2: Voluntary Labour

Decision Maker	Who First Initiated	Percent	Who was Consulate	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	10	20	10	20	10	20
Female	15	30	15	30	15	30
Both	25	50	25	50	25	50
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100

Source: Field, Survey 2004.

Voluntary labour refers to community activities like constructing schools, canals and roads for which the member's of household spontaneously use their labour. Both male and female appear as the main initiators (50 percent) and final decision makers (50 percent) of such activity. The table presents that female are more active regarding voluntary labour for community activities than male.

Table No. 6.3.3: Hired Labour

Decision Maker	Who First Initiated	Percent	Who was Consulate	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	20	44	15	34	25	56
Female	10	22	20	44	10	22
Both	15	34	10	22	10	22
Total	45	100	45		45	100

Source: Field, Survey 2004.

This type of labour is strictly restricted to agricultural activities where households higher people to work in their land and gives wages either in cash or in kind. Such labour is an alternative source of income to compensate deficit household production, 45 households are engaged as hired labour. It is observed from that Table 30, the final decision making to engage as hired labour is being decided by male that is 56 percent but, it is being consulted to women (44 percent).

Table No. 6.3.4: Utilization of Women's Ownership

Concept	No. of H.H.	Percent
No	18	22.5
Self	20	25
Household	15	18.75
Children	20	25
Income generating	7	8.75
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Women's ownership is the personal wealth of women popularly division as 'Pewa' which can be used according to the interest of the women herself. Where 22.5 percent women have no knowledge about this, 25 percent use for herself and 25 percent women use their ownership for their children and 18.75 percent women use their ownership for their household and 8.75 percent women use for the income generating activities. This shows that women use almost 75 percent of their ownership to the children and household.

6.4. Miscellaneous

Table No. 6.4.1: Type of Family Planning Measures Used

Type	No. of Household	Percentage
Permanent	14	41
Temporary	20	59
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Table No. 6.4.2: Decision Making for the use of family planning Measures

Decision maker	No. of Household	Percent
Male	10	29
Female	10	29
Both	14	42
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Out of 79 respondents, 57 percent do not use family planning methods this shows that there is a significant difference in idea of family planning and implementation of family planning method.

In the sample, 34 households, accepted that they used family planning measures. 41 percent has already used permanent measures. Among them decision regarding use of family planning measure are being decided both 10 male and 10 female. Similarly 14 of them

decided jointly. It reveals that the decision making of women are given due importance in the sample survey.

Table No. 6.4.3: Decision Making in Sending Children to School

Decision Maker	No. of Household	Percent
Male	15	19
Female	25	31
Both	40	50
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Thirty one percent of women decided to send their children to school, where as only 19 percent of male took initiative. Similarly, joint decision was made by 50 percent of them. It shows the strong decision making of women to make their children literate.

Table No. 6.4.4: Women's Involvement in Literacy Program

Responds	No. of H.H.	Percent
Yes	20	25
No	60	75
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

Women not only were aware of sending the children to school, but they themselves were aware of importance of education. But the Table 6.4.3 shows that women of only 20 households involved in Literacy program in VDC, Sixty of them could not make it, because

they did not have time to attend class or they were not given permission. It shows that women's decision making in other activities seems to be positive to some extent. But, women have least decision making power to enhance their own status, by educating themselves.

Table No. 6.4.5: Visit to Maitighar (Parent's House)

Goes to Maitighar (yes/no)	No. of Household	Percent
Yes	75	94
No	5	6
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Maitighar is the most desired place to visit for women 94 percent women visit occasionally to their respective Maitighar but 6 percent women showed their reluctance to visit, due to many problems of their own. This shows that women have inclination to visit to their parent's house and have opportunities to visit also. In this regard they have given opportunities to visit Maitighar.

Table No. 6.4.6: Clothing (Buying Clothes)

Decision Maker	Who First Initiated	Percent	Who was Consulted	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	30	38	32	52	30	38
Female	30	38	30	48	30	38
Both	20	24	-	-	20	25
Total	80	100	62	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Decision to buy cloth in our Nepalese society is a common activity of every household. Usually, a person does not buy cloths without consultation to family members especially in rural household. People spend on cloths on socio-cultural functions, such as Dasai, Tihar, Teej, Marriage. In the process of buying cloth to the family, both male and female initiated and made final decision (38 percent). This reveals that opinion of women are given due importance in household to buy clothes.

Table No. 6.4.7 : Small Gifts and Loans Friends

Decision Maker	Who First Initiator	Percent	Who was Consulted	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	20	25	30	37.5	25	30
Female	30	37	25	32	35	44
Both	30	38	25	32	20	25
Total	80	100	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Similarly, when the question of buying small gifts and giving small loans to friends are concerned, the role of women seems to be active Table 6.4.6 depicts the fact, but it is positive altitude of women that they consult to their male counterparts.

Table 6.4.8: Medical Treatments

Decision Maker	Who First Initiator	Percent	Who was Consulted	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	20	25	40	50	30	38
Female	50	62	20	25	35	43
Both	10	13	20	25	15	19
Total	80	100	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

So far the medical treatment for the family members are concerned, women initiate for that, Sixty percent of women takes initiative, and 50 percent of male and being consulted. Only 38 percent male gave final decision, and rest by women only (43 percent) or jointly (19 percent). This shows that it is the women who take attention of the health situation of family members, they take short initiative, at the same time their decision is also given due importance.

Table No. 6.4.9: Religion Ceremonies

Decision Maker	Who First Initiator	Percent	Who was Consulted	Percent	Final Decision Maker	Percent
Male	15	19	35	44	20	25
Female	50	62	25	31	25	31
Both	15	19	20	25	35	44
Total	80	100	80	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

Performing religious ceremonies are usually considered as the domain of women. The same attitude is reflected in the sample. In Table 6.4.8, 62 percent of women first takes initiative to perform religious ceremonies, then males are consulted. But the study fund we find that final decision is performed with joint agreement, 44 percent of households give final decision.

Table No. 6.4.10: Dowry System and Neglected Attitude

Dowry System	No. of H.H	Percent	Negative Attitudes dowry	No. of H.H.	On less Dowry Percent
Yes	71	89	Yes	48	60
No	9	11	No	52	40
Total	80	100	Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2004

During the course of the sample survey. It was found that still dowry is taken as positive practice the attitude towards dowry system is being that forward. Surprisingly, 89 percent forward for dowry system, because they think it is the culture and tradition of Nepalese society. Moreover, 52 households seem to have negative altitude towards dowry. This reveals that, even if dowry system is prevalent is our society, but the negative attitude towards less dowry should be completely erased out, otherwise it will take unfair serial system is our rural society of hilly areas too.

The findings of the above analysis confirm that women have, generally less decision working power than men. At the same time, it is observed that the status of women in the study area is not women

lower than it is expected, because Thanpati is not a remote VDC. As far as decision making outside the household is concerned, Women are for behind than their male counterparts.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Summary

This study attempts to highlight the women's role in household decision making in Thanpati VDC of Gulmi District. The main ethnic groups of Thanpati VDC are Newar, Magar, Kami, Sarki, Damai, Brahman, Chhetri and others.

The general objective of the study is to identify the status of women of Thanpati VDC and the specific objectives are to describe women's role in different activities and to identify the role of women in decision-making process in the household management.

The study is based on descriptive and analytical research design. Nine wards with the largest women households were chosen for the study. Altogether 80 households were selected on the basis of systematic random sampling. The data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The major findings of the study, are as follows.

A. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics:

- i. The main ethnic groups of "Thanpati VDC" are Newar, Kami, Sarki, Damai, Brahman, Chhetri and other.
- ii. The total households of VDC are 639 and 80 households are taken a sample size.

- iii. Majority of women are found to be illiterate, 36 percent, of 80 percent respondents are literate, which are negligible.
- iv. Majority of women are found to be married.
- v. The women work much longer hours, the (higher) percent of the respondent had to work 10 hours per day in agriculture season.
- vi. While 31 percent of the households do not have their Khet land almost all of them own some Bari (Pakho) land.
- vii. All the households use firewood and Kerosene as their main sources of energy. Use of LPG gas and Solar energy are also found in the sampled households.
- viii. The summer crops are maize and paddy, and wheat/kodo as winter crops.
- ix. To compensate deficit, food about 57 percent, rely on loans, pension and services, 43 percent on sell in the market, 27 percent construction labour, and rely cow, ox, buffalo, goat and others major livestock as alternative source of income.

B. The women's Role in Household decision-making:

- i. The women have a greater input in the decision-making of the cropping pattern.
- ii. The women have a greater input in the decision to purchase of livestock while the men are initiators and final decision makers for its sale.

- iii. The women have the highest powers in the decision-making regarding fuel energy use. This may be due to the responsibility of the women to utilize energy/fuel.
- iv. The majority of women, 52 percent control the household money.
- v. Regarding family expenditures, the women are as the main initiators and final decision makers unlike food and non-food items. (thing medical treatment, social, religious ceremonies and gift/ loans, ornaments etc). The women rely upon the approval of their husbands as the main persons to be consulted regarding all these expenditures. But the husbands are the final decision makers for a crucial issue like investments.

This clearly indicates that these female members are thought incapable of making any effective decisions. And joint decisions are found to be very low among the households.

- vi. The labour utilization pattern is subdivided in to three aspects viz. exchange labour, wage labour on non-agricultural and voluntary labour. The women are main initiators for the labour utilization pattern, while the husbands appear as the main final decision makers. Regarding the persons to be consulted, husbands score the highest in few cases while the women do the same in other.

The other male members appear in most of the decision-making, however, they show a low input in them. On the other hand, the other female members have contribution at all in any of the decision making of the entire labour utilization patterns.

- vii. The women are decision makers regarding the use of family planning methods while the joint decision of both husband and wife also appears to be quite strong. The same trend occurs in the selection of the family size.
- viii. The women have a greater contribution regarding the decisions in sending the children to school. This can be associated with their greater concern for the children's education.

7.2 Conclusion

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

With in these prescribed limits, the women's role in decision making have been perceived mainly from three different aspects of household affairs, viz. farm management, household resources procurement and its use and the labour utilization pattern.

A distinct pattern of women as the main initiators and final decision makers of many aspects of the household affair and manager of the domestic sector is observed. Women might also have significant contribution in the decision making of important issues, but wives heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husbands for the execution of both important as well as unimportant matters. On the other hand, the husbands are found to be the final decision makers

regarding only crucial issues, such as household investment the labour utilization pattern and so forth.

The literate women showed greater confidence in their approach and seemed to command a greater power within household as compared to the illiterate female household head. In short, the women power of decision making is more prominent than men in household sphere.

7.3 Recommendation

The recommendations based upon the findings and conclusion of the research work are as follows. The main purpose is to make important steps towards raising the decision making power of women within the household.

- (i) Provide formal and non-formal education to increase the participation of women decision-making and other matters they need to be made aware. It is almost impossible without educating them. So, it is essential to educate them by launching non-formal programmes, such as female adult literacy classes, Cheli-Beti class, etc. Besides these non-formal education, the government should also open school and provide funds for formal education, moreover it should be well convinced about daughters education so that they will send their daughters in schools.
- (ii) Primary health care programme, is another necessity if the mother of the house is conscious of health then all the members of the house will be healthy. So, it is essential to make mothers

conscious about the health care. In order to do so, short-term health awareness programmes should be launched time and again.

- (iii) Provide credit programme: Women into the market economy credit programmes such as production credit for Rural women (PCRW) and small farmers Development Programme (SFDP) should be promoted in the study area. Such credit facilities aimed at women, would act as incentives for income generating activities will eventually make the women self-reliant.
- (iv) Income generating activities: Weaving, poultry, farming small scale tea install should also be introduced to the women of the VDC, so that they can be economically secure and independent. This will help to uplift their standard of living at status.
- (v) Late marriage: Women should encouraged with aim of reducing their child bearing age and consequently lesser confinement to their reproduction role. Such a demographic factors indirectly implies encouragement of their productivity roles via greater economic participation and consequently a greater status in terms of decision making within the household.
- vi) Family planning programmes should be promoted for greater practice and adoption of these measures by both men and women. The domestic sector and encouragement of economic participation among them.
- vii) The village should also be made aware of "Small family is happy family". For these the different programmes should be launched to illiterate and encourage the villagers about the use of different

means of birth control and limiting the number of children. Different means of birth control and limiting the number of children should be introduced in the villagers.

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The Structure Questionnaire: Women's Role in Household Decision Making General Information:

Name Age:

Cast: Marital Status

1) Education of status

- (a) Literate (b) Illiterate (c) Primary
(d) Lower Secondary (e) Secondary (f) Higher Education

2) Occupation

- (a) Agriculture (b) Service (c) Industry
(d) Daily wage (e) Others

3) Husband's education

- (a) Literate (b) illiterate (c) Primary
(d) Lower secondary (e) Secondary (f) Higher education

4) Husband's occupation.

- (a) Agricultural (b) Service (c) Industry
(d) Daily wage (e) Other

5) Type of the house

- (a) Mud (b) Wooden House (c) Pakki House
(d) Living at others

6) How many children do you have?

- (a) Sons (b) Daughters

7) Number of family members

8) Age at first marriage

9) Head of family

- (a) Male (.....) (b) Female (.....)

Group 'B' (Labour Utilization)

10) Working hours (daily)

- (a) Domestic (b) Farm (c) Children (d)

Self Rest

- 11) Husband's working hours (daily)
 (a) Domestic (b) Farm (c) Children (d) Self Rest

Group 'C' (Farm Management)

- 12) Source of household income
 (a) Cash money (b) Paddy (c) Mize
 (d) Rice (e) Ginger (f) Coffee
 (g) Others
- 13) Who decides to sell product if any?
 (a) Male (b) Female
- 14) Cropping pattern Summer Winter
 Area
 Crop
 Production
- 15) Who decides this cropping pattern?
 (a) Male (b) Female
- 16) Is the crop production sufficient for the whole year?
 (a) Yes (b) No. (c) Surplus
- 17) What do you do with the surplus Product ?
 (a) Sell (Market) (b) Saving for future use
 (d) Friends (loan)
- 18) Who Decide to sell ?
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
- 19) If there is deficit production, how do you cope with the problem?
 (a) Bari labour (b) construction labour
 (c) Income generating activities (Damlo, Namlo, Doko, mat, Weaving etc.) (d) Other

Group 'C' (Resource management)

- 20) Private property self.
(a) Land (b) House (c) Cash
(d) livestock (e) Ornaments (f) Others
- 21) Do you have your personal income?
.....
- 22) Where do you utilize your income?
.....
- 23) What type of energy do you use at you house.
(a) fire wood (b) Kerosene's (c) LPG
(d) Govergas (e) Dung (f) Solar (g) Others
- 24) Who collects those firewood from forest?
(a) Male (b) Female
- 25) Are you involved in such forest management ?
(a) Yes (b) No.
- 26) What source of drinking water do you use?
(a) Pipe water (b) Stream water / spout water
(c) Well (d) Community tube well
- 27) Who manages use of water in household ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
- 28) How many live stock do you have in your house?
(a) Cow (b) Ox (c) Buffalo (d) Goats/sheep (e)
Chicken/ hen (f) Others
- 29) Who collects grass for the live stock ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
- 30) Who looks after the overall maintenance of the live stock ?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
- 31) Who controls money in household?
(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

- 32) Who generally keeps the house hold money
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
- 33) Decision initiators , Persons consulted, final decision maker
1. Food
 2. Small gifts / loans to friend
 3. Clothing
 4. Medical treatment
 5. Religious
 6. Investment

Group 'D' (Socio Economics Status)

- 34) Do you still practices dowry system?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 35) If yes, who decides who much dowry to give away ?
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
- 36) If in case of less dowry are women looked neglected
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 37) Polygamy practiced with in the family ?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 38) Are you consulted in these matters?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 39) How did you feel?

- 40) Have you herd about family planning measures?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 41) If yes Thought what source?
 (a) Radio (b) T.V. /Cinema (c) News papers
 (d) Doctor (e) Friends / Neighbour (f) School
 (g) Other

- 42) Have you used family planning Methods?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 43) If yes , what type of family planning have you used
 (a) Permanent (b) temporary
- 44) Who decide to use this method?
 (a) Male (b) Female
- 45) Do you believe in doctors or faith health
 (a) Doctor (b) Dhami/jhakri (c) Both
- 46) Do you children go to school?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 47) Are boys given priority over girls to go to school?
 (a) Yes (b) No. (c) Equal
- 48) Do you think girls should go to school?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 49) Who decides, whether you children should go to school
- 50) (a) Male (b) female (c) Both
- 51) Are there any local traditional female solidity groups?
 (a) No. (b) labour exchange / workgroup
 (c) voluntary labour activities (d) income generating Activities
 (e) Others
- 52) Do the village women involve themselves in community decision
 / literacy program ?
 (a) Yes (b) No.
- 53) Do you have any chance MAITI CHAR?
 (a) Yes (b) No.