

**WOMEN'S POLITICAL INCLUSION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE:
A Study of Ilaka-5 of Baglung District**

A Project Work Report

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts**

Submitted to:

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By

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RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that this project work entitled "Women's Political Inclusion in Local Governance: A Study of Ilaka-5 of Baglung District" is an independent work of Mr. Shalika Ram Sharma Completed under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of requirements of Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development. To the best of my knowledge, this study is an original and carries useful information about women's political inclusion to politics. I, therefore, forward this report for the final evaluation.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This project work entitled "Women's Political Inclusion in Local Governance: A Study of Ilaka-5 of Baglung District" submitted by Mr. Shalik Ram Sharma has been accepted as a partial fulfillment for the requirements of the master Degree of Arts in Rural Development.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governance means the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources to fulfill the interest of people. Similarly, local governance can be defined as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage country's affairs at local levels. In this context, women's political inclusion in local governance means that women's taking part in decision making and management of society as well as enjoying the same right as men to govern the political economic and social life of the country at the local governance level.

Women's inclusion in various levels of decision making is an essential pre-requisite for the establishment of higher level of political system. Women constitute more than 50 percent of the total population in Nepal but yet their political inclusion in the various levels of decision making is nearly negligible.

Baglung is underdeveloped district where most of the people live in rural area. The political empowerment of Baglung is not so satisfactory where political empowerment index is 0.591 whenever Nepal's national index is 0.646. In this context, the research has been launched in five VDCs of Baglung district. This research is justifiable because such kind of study has not been done yet in this area and it is hoped that this study is helpful in formulating plans and programmes for the mainstreaming the excluded basically backwarded women.

Identifying the major scenarios of women's political inclusion at various level of local governance is the general objective. Identifying the political participation of women in political party and local bodies as well as examining problems and constraints are the specific objectives.

The research is mainly based on the micro level study about the women's inclusion in politics and governance process at Ilaka-5 of Baglung district which constitutes of 5 VDCs namely Amalachaur, Binamare, Kushmisera, Narayansthan and Paiyun-pata. The research has based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data have collected from field survey through semi-structured questionnaire. Similarly secondary data have collected from CBS,

NPC, National Women Commission etc. The sampling size is one-third of the total population where the population has taken as sum total of women who have been elected in local bodies as members of VDCs and women who are affiliated as the members of VDC level committee of major local political parties. Different tables are used to process data. Similarly, average, ratio and percentage are used to analyze data.

There is weak political participation of women. Most of the females were engaged into politics due to mandatory provision in study area. There is no leadership of women representatives in any VDCs. At the study area, Brahmins and Kshetry domination in politics. Till now, the large portions of politically active women are illiterate (36.66 percent). 63.63 percent representatives and 63.63 percent party included women are economically dependent. Almost of women are included into politics due to the motivation of either their husband or their family members. Only 3.33 percent women are actively involved in politics for the time period more than 15 years. Unworthy attitude of men and fear of social stigma are the main causes of negative perception for working with male.

Social barriers, lack of political awareness, male domination in politics, house-work load, insecurity lack of co-operation from males etc. are the problems and constraints of women's political inclusion in local governance. In this context, there should provide qualitative education and sufficient security for women's inclusion in governance. Political awareness and decision making capability of women should be enhanced. Provision for reservation, equal participation in development activities, equal rights for paternal property, social security, co-operation from males and equitable distribution of opportunities and benefits the pre-requisites of political inclusion of women. Therefore, we should aware and empower the women to develop their capacity and increase the socio-economic, political and decision making status and bring them into the main stream of national affairs.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATION

CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDRD	-	Central Department of Rural Development
CPN (UML)	-	Communist party of Nepal (United Marxist & Leninist)
DC	-	District Council
DDC	-	District Development Committee
HDR	-	Human Development Report
HHs	-	Households
INGO	-	International Non-Governmental Organization
LSG	-	Local Self Governance
NC	-	Nepali Congress
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
NGOCC	-	Non Governmental Organization Co-ordination Committee
NHDR	-	Nepal Human Development Report
NLSS	-	Nepal Living Standard Survey
No.	-	Number
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
UNDP	-	United Nation Development Program
VC	-	Village Committee
VDC	-	Village Development Committee