

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Governance is widely used terminology in the analysis of state function. Some use the term 'governance' while the others like to qualify it with an adjective to 'good governance'.

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. In this sense, a commitment to the rule of law, human rights, social and political inclusions, legitimacy etc stands as the foundation of modern governance. While programs of social security, qualitative participation enhancement and development characterize the substance to be delivered by it. but in fact, in the various stages of governance functions from formulating policies and behavioral norms to prioritization of program, decision making and implementation, accountability and transparency and participation are the processes that are used by the state both to concede democratic rights to the people as well as have a leverage over them to solicit good governance features befitting the ideas of democracy of their choice. For the predominating significance of these processes over other factors lies in their potential to unleash the demand force of the people into the system. The impact of popular demand on governance would have an inescapable influence of shaping the government authority structures, policies, program management and the behavioral pattern of its officials in tune with public choice. This is broadly how governance in twenty first century democracy is crafted to work good for the women as well as all of the people (Raj Bhandari, Achyut 2004 :1).

Local governance is as the running of local governance by local representatives along with development activities according to the interest of the local people. It is related with local government which is an autonomous authority which has

responsibilities of determining and executing governance as well as developing the particular place.

Political inclusion is an integral process of modern governance. The term political inclusion mainly denotes the non-exclusionary right of citizens to take part in decisions and program that affect their lives and choose or change their representatives through election. Inclusion emanates from the right to organize and freedom of expression and hence the greater the capacity of the participants to exercise their rights the more participation will be happening.

The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal, 1990 has guaranteed the right of equality to enhance the women's status and empower them. The constitutional provisions related to the "Directive Principles and Policies of the State" have set guidelines for the state to pursue a policy of encouraging the woman to participate in national development by making special provision for their education, health, employment and welfare. The constitution also makes the mandatory reservation of 5 percent seats for woman in both houses of parliament. "The Local Representative Act 1996" makes the reservation of 20 percent seats for women in the grass- roots political units-the VDCs and municipalities.

In terms of national scenario, females constitute more than half population of total but their participation in national level as well as local level politics is not satisfactory. The percentage of female elected members in house of representative is 5.8 percent only (CBS, 2002). In local level, not more than 25 percent females are involved.

In this context, the research was held in Baglung which is a mountainous district of western development region. Baglung has 3 election constituents, 13 Ilakas, 59 VDCs and 1 municipality .Its headquarter is Baglung Bazar. Ilaka no.5 of this district is the study area where 5 VDCs named Narayanasthan, Paiyun-Pata, Amalachaour , Kushmisera and Binamare are located.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The world is in third millennium and the same time it is shrinking into a Global village. People who were excluded from the political, social and development main-streaming processes are increasingly including in development process globally. There is no national as well as international boundary in terms of development, But, Nepal is a country where the majority of the people are excluded from the political mainstreaming.

Woman's inclusion in various levels of decision making is an essential prerequisite 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 (Ghimire, 2001).

Nepalese women are related as the believable 'vote banks' by political forces and politicians but their real representation in Nepalese politics and governance is very poor, invisible and non-considerable socially and historically women has low representation in politics which is real figure. There are various provisions which have made by government to raise the level of women's inclusion in politics but all the efforts are in vain. The problem of women's inclusion in decision making process and political involvement is as it was. The social status of women has been improved day per day silently but their political inclusion has not been raised satisfactory.

Nevertheless, in spite of the dismal scenario at the national level, women's representation in the local level politics has under gone a dramatic expansion following the enactment of the Local Bodies Act-1996, which required the election of at least one woman from each ward committee of VDC and municipalities. As a result the elections to the local bodies held on 1997, returned more than 40,000 women representatives. It constitutes almost 20 percent of all elected office bearers. Without doubt, the representation of such a large number of women belonging to the heterogeneous socio-economic and

political background in grassroots units of the political system can be expected to have a long term catalytic import in the society and politics (Shrestha, 2001).

Women's inclusion in politics in both the national as well as local level is very low but it has been increased day to day. Though there is some how participation of women in some extent, but their role in decision making is not so satisfactory.

Baglung is underdeveloped district where most of people live in rural area. The political empowerment of Baglung is not satisfactory where political empowerment index is 0.591 whenever Nepal's national index is 0.646. Similarly, voter turn out in the national election 64.42 percent, candidates contested per post in local election 1.91 persons, voter turn-out index 0.665 contestants competition index 0.518 are the contemporary scenario of political empowerment in Baglung.(NHDR- 2004:169)

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to draw the major scenarios of women's political inclusion (status) at various level of local governance. The specific objectives are as follows:

- (i) To identify the political participation of women in political party and local bodies.
- (ii) To examine the major problems and constraints of women inclusion in local politics.
- (iii) To find the enhancement measures of women's inclusion in local governance.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Decentralization is the main motto of local self governance which is supposed to strengthen and empower local people. The purpose is bring them into mainstreaming of governance providing opportunities of access to all strata of the people.

The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal-1990 has emphasized to the inclusion of people in governance process. Similarly, Local Self Governance Act -1999 and the tenth five year plan has highly emphasized women participation in politics but the practices are not satisfactory. In this context, it is hoped that this study will help in formulating plans and program for the mainstreaming the excluded basically back warded women. This will also gives, ideas to construct the developed, equitable and inclusive society, which are the main present national commitment of Nepal. In my study area (Ilaka-5, Baglung) women's are backwardness due to back ward society. Probably such kind of study has not been done yet in this area. So, I think it has been a pioneering undertaking.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

This study is confined only in the situation of women's inclusion in political parties and local bodies of Ilaka-5, Baglung which covers 5 VDCs namely Narayansthan, Paiyunpata, Amalachaur , Kushmisera and Binamare. It has not included all the aspects of gender relation. The findings and conclusions are based on only one Ilaka of Baglung. Descriptive design has been another limitation of the study. The study has been included limited statistical tools and techniques like percentage, average and ratio. Data for the study have been collected with the limited tools such as questionnaire, interview, focus group discussion, and observation.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Concept of Local Governance

Local governance can be defined as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at local levels. It refers to a system to which fundamental functions, appropriate resources and clearly identified responsibilities are present at sub national levels with linkage between the levels.

However, there is no unique definition of local governance in which all the scholars are agreed. According to H.J. Laski "Local self governance offers the best opportunity to the people to bring local knowledge interest and enthusiasm to bear on the solution of their own local problems." (Dahal, 2056:3)

Local government is a world wide phenomenon today. It is generally found that in countries where local government is responsible only to the central government (Thapa, 1998:10).

Local government is an old institution with a new concept. Even in the past, local government was in existence in some forms or other in every point of the world, but the concept as such has been advanced afterwards (Paneru, 2000).

Inaugurating the first LSG Ministers conference in India in 1964, the Prime Minister J.L. Nehru stated "LSG is and must be basis of any true system for Democracy; we have got rather into the habit of thinking of democracy at the top and may not be a success unless you build on this foundation from below."

In short, local governance is related process of local government and local government locally formed autonomous authentic and elected political authority at local level.

2.2 Local Governance Practices in Nepal

Nepal has long history of local governance. It is agreed that local governance practices had evolved since Lichhavi regime where 'gram' was the grass root unit of the government. 'Panchali' was the upper level institution than 'gram' (Upadhyaya, 2052). 'Pradhan' was the head of Panchali who used to be respected in the society having close approach to king and performed development tasks along with maintaining rules and regulations in the village.

Rana period was a perfect model of absolute authority but there was a system which they followed previous settlement as 'manyajan kachahari." In B.S. 2006, Gram Panchayat Justice Act and Panchayat Act were enacted by Mohan Shamser. These acts delegated the Gram Panchayat the right to make certain expansion within a ceiling and also provide some special authority in terms of giving justice and penalizing the criminal (Bist, 2056; Paneru, 2002).

After the establishment of democracy in B.S.2007, Panchayat Act – 2013 was enforced but after collapsing the democracy in 2017 B.S., partyless Panchayat system was established. In this period, also, several efforts were acted to strengthen and improve the situation of local bodies but they could not be independent bodies at local levels.

After re-establishment of multi-party democracy, different provisions have been made to strengthen then and promote the local governance system as Local Bodies Act 1992, Local Self-Government Bill 1996, Local Self-Government Bill -1997 etc. The history of local self governance in Nepal is not long and thus it is not very fascinating. As we know, Nepal has had long history of highly centralized system of government and principle of local government had never been seriously thought over the past local bodies have been operating as agents or as branches of the central government performing its duties and executing policy measures designed by the central authority and relying heavily on it for administrative, functional and financial support (Thapa, 1998).

2.3 The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal -1990 and Local Self Government Act-1999

The new constitution after re-establishment of democracy. The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal -1990 has declared that the sovereignty is rested in the people. Although no detailed description of local bodies is made in the constitution. The following two provisions make it clear that local government bodies are conceive as a basis of participatory democracy in Nepal: (i) Article 25 (4) states that it will be the main responsibility of the state to create and maintain a system that provides the people with an opportunity to get maximum benefits from the fruits of democracy by associating them increasingly in the administrating of the state through the medium of decentralization (iii) Article 46 (1) states that the electron of members of National Assembly will be held by an electoral college consisting the chairmen deputy chairman and members of districts within each of the five development regions, mayors of the municipalities and members of village development committee within these district. Thus the constitution has directed the state to create local government bodies within decentralization of political authority (Sharma, 1998).

The preamble of Local Self Governance Act -1999 has stated that institutionalize the development process by enhancing the participation of all the local people. Some of the specific legal provision on representation of women, different tribe and caste, ethnic groups in VDC, municipality and VDCs are included.

2.4 Women in Political Inclusion

Women's inclusion in politics means that women take part in decision making and management of society and enjoy the same right as men to govern the political, economic and social life of the country (Yandong, 1993).

In Nepal, women have contributed greatly to the awakening of political consciousness from decades ago. As far back as 1814 Nepali women exhibited their strength in the historical battle of the Khalinga fort at Nalapani against the British and their cannons by using *khukuries* (knives) and stones. In 1971 the first women's organization "women's committee" was formed in Siraha District with the purpose of making people aware of their political and social condition. It was initiated by two very assertive women Yogmaya devi and Divya Devi Koirala, but it would survive for only one and a half years because the ruling authorities charged the organization with participating in undesirable activities (Subedi, 1997).

Women were represented at the national level in the election of 1958, when Dwarika Devi Thakurani won a seat in the house of representatives and Kamal Rana was nominated to the National Assembly. In 1960, the king established the autocratic panchayat system and put a sudden stop to all associations and their activities. Women however remained politically active (Subedi, 1997).

The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal has explicitly protected the fundamental rights of every Nepali citizen. Similarly according to the ordinance on local elections, each party contesting the ward level election must include at least one woman among the five contestants. In VDCs, DDCs and the municipality boards must have at least one woman among the nominated members along with some representative from the disadvantaged groups (Acharya, 2001).

2.5 Women's Inclusion in Local Governance

Women's representation in the local level politics has undergone a dramatic expansion following the enactment of the legislation requiring the election of at least one woman representative from each and every ward committee of village development committees, municipalities and metropolitan cities (Shrestha, 2001)

However, very few women have been elected to the executive position of the local institutions. Only 289 women have been elected as ward chair persons in a total of 3913 VDCs. Among nearly eight thousand chairpersons and vice-chairperson, only 26 women were elected. Their proportion declines progressively as one to higher decision making ladder. There is no women mayor, vice-mayors or DDC chairpersons. Only one woman has managed to be elected to the position of vice-chair person of DDC. Altogether, only three women had fought for DDC chairpersons and vice chair person. Among 26 women who had fought for DDC membership, only eight got elected. It is less than 9 percent of 924 members in the 57 VDCs to which election has been completed. There has been only marginal improvement in women's representation in the elected institutions except the grass root level (Acharya, 2001).

CHAPTER-III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study is mainly based on the micro level study about the women's inclusion in politics and governance process. The study has analyzed the existing political condition of women in a specific area as identified in the study area.

3.2 Selection of Study Area

The study area was Ilaka-5, Baglung district which constitutes 5 VDCs named Narayansthan, Paiyun-pata, Amalachaur, Kushmisera and Binamare. The total population of study area is 17,702 having 7829 males and 9873 females (CBS, 2001).

3.3 Sources of Data

This research has been based mainly on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data have been collected from the field survey through the semi-structured questionnaire that has conducted by researcher himself. Secondary data have been collected from NPC, CBS, National Women Commission and other published and unpublished publications available in central library, office of DDC Baglung, Concerned VDCs, NGO federation, NGOCC and other related sectors.

3.3.1 Questionnaire Survey

A sami-structured Questionnaire has been prepared to generate the data from the respondents. Some of the respondents have been requested to fill up the questionnaire. In case of the respondents who can not fill up the questionnaire have been interviewed by the researcher himself.

3.3.2 Sample Size

The population of this study have been taken sum total of women who were elected in local bodies as members of village council. This study has also included the women who were affiliated as the members of VDC level committee of local major or political parties. Such women are only 89 person. In this research, one third of the total population have been taken as respondent by using simple random sampling.

3.3.3 Key Informant Interview

The primary data have been collected from key informants using the semi-structured questions. The interview has been taken as cross checking for data obtained from the questionnaire survey.

3.4 Data Processing

The collected data have been processed by using computer. Then the outcomes are presented in different tabular form.

3.5 Data Analysis

By the help of computer programs, simple statistical tools like tables, average and ratio have been used for data analysis; descriptive method have been used for qualitative data.

CHAPTER -IV

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Setting of the Study Area

The research has been held in Ilaka-5 containing four VDCS named Narayansthan, Paiyun-Pata, Amalachaur and Kushmisera of Baglung district. All females are taken as respondent those who have been the elected members at the time of the latest poll. Similarly, women those who have been involved in local political parties as executive members of VDC level committee. Nepal communist party United Marxist and Leninist, Nepali Congress, and Janamorchha Nepal are the major local political parties. A comprehensive study has been done on political area as well as socio- economic of the females those who involved into election of local level in 1997 and political party as the local female leader.

4.2 District Overview

Baglung district is located in the bank of the Kali-Gandaki River of the western Development Region having area 1,784 km. The district is located between 28° 15' North- 28° 37' North longitude and 83° 00' East- 83° 36' East latitude. As concerned to political boundaries of the district; in the East-Parbat; West--Rukum and Rolpa; North-Myagdi and South- Gulmi and Pyuthan. Politically, Baglung is divided into two election constituencies. There is a municipality named Baglung which is the district headquarter too. There are 13 Ilaka and 59 VDCs. The total population of Baglung district is 2, 68,598 having 1, 45,176 women and 1, 23,442 males with 1.46 percent annual growth rate. The population density is 150.55 per km² and sex ratio is 0.85. The Number of household is 53,565 maintaining 5.02 persons per household. The literacy rate is 55.21 percent having 66.21 percent-males and 46.25 percent-females (District profile: 2062).

4.3 Geographical Setting of Study Area

The study area is located in the southern part of Baglung district. This area is situated in the constituency number two. This is attached with Parbat district in east, Arjewa VDC in south, Sankuwa and Damek in west and Rayadada and Bhakunde in the north. The average distance of study area is 9 km from the district headquarter.

4.4 Population of the Study Area

The following table shows the population details of the study areas:

Table 2: **Distribution of population of study Area**

| VDC | No.of HHs | Average HHs size | Growth rate | Population | | | sex ratio |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Total | |
| Amalachaur | 1103 | 4.7 | 0.39 | 2350 | 2908 | 5258 | 0.81 |
| Binamare | 560 | 4.6 | 1.31 | 1150 | 1459 | 2609 | 0.79 |
| Kushmisera | 719 | 4.6 | 1.28 | 1495 | 1851 | 3346 | 0.81 |
| Nareyansthan | 693 | 5.0 | 0.96 | 1596 | 1899 | 3495 | 0.84 |
| Paiyun-pata | 1246 | 4.5 | 1.75 | 2388 | 3215 | 5603 | 0.74 |
| Total | 4321 | 4.7 | 1.1 | 8979 | 11332 | 20311 | 0.80 |

Source: District profile, 2062.

Table 2 shows that the total population of the study area is 20,311 having 8,979 male and 11,332 females. The average annual growth rate is 1.1 and sex ratio is 0.80 percent. The total number of household of this area is 4321 and average household size is 4.7. There is the highest population in Paiyun-Pata VDC (5303) and the least population in Binamare (2609). The sex ration is lower in all VDCS.

4.5 Caste and Ethnicity

The following table shows the caste and ethnicity scenario of study area.

Table: 3 Castes and Ethnicity of Study Area

| S.N | caste/ethnicity | Population | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Amalachaur | Binamare | Kusmi | Nanyansthan | Paiyun | Total |
| 1 | Brahmin | 3151 | 1027 | 2128 | 1309 | 2841 | 10,436 |
| 2 | Kshetri | 504 | 422 | 137 | 1102 | 1300 | 3,465 |
| 3 | Magar | 13 | 200 | 465 | 9 | 93 | 780 |
| 4 | Newar | 9 | 33 | 12 | 392 | 8 | 454 |
| 5 | Muslim | 46 | 0 | 46 | 14 | 0 | 106 |
| 6 | Kami | 460 | 215 | 20 | 39 | 92 | 826 |
| 7 | Rai | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 18 |
| 8 | Gurung | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | Damai | 248 | 158 | 9 | 36 | 459 | 910 |
| 10 | Thakun | 83 | 83 | 207 | 0 | 14 | 387 |
| 11 | Sami | 265 | 270 | 118 | 348 | 0 | 1,001 |
| 12 | Teli | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 11 |
| 13 | Chamar | 280 | 60 | 10 | 82 | 34 | 4,66 |
| 14 | Sherpa | 15 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 25 |
| 15 | Sunwar | 12 | 93 | 9 | 118 | 677 | 909 |
| 16 | Majhi | 56 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 104 |
| 17 | Gaine | 79 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79 |
| 18 | Non identified | 32 | 0 | 175 | 43 | 54 | 304 |
| Total | | 5,258 | 2,609 | 3,346 | 3,495 | 5,603 | 20,311 |

Source: District profile, 2062

Table 3 shows that Brahmins is the caste having highest population (10,456) which is 51.5 percent of total population in the study area. The second highest caste is *Kshetri* (3,465) which holds 17 percent and the third large group is *Sarki* (1,001).

4.6 Mother Tongue and Religion

More than 97 percent people speak Nepali language as mother tongue along with local language and only about 2.2 percent people speak Newari language. The people except 106 Muslims, are Hindu people in the study area(District Profile, 2062).

4.7 Education

Education is an important social indicator in society which plays dominant role in creating well-off society. It helps to create consciousness, awareness and analytic capability. The following tables shows the educational status i.e. literacy rate of study area.

Table 4: **Population 6 years and above by literacy rate**

| VDC | Literate | | | Percent | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Amalachaur | 1423 | 1296 | 2611 | 71.04 | 49.64 | 58.93 |
| Binamare | 641 | 621 | 1262 | 67.97 | 47.37 | 55.99 |
| Kushmisera | 1030 | 939 | 1999 | 82.33 | 59.30 | 69.29 |
| Narayansthan | 1199 | 1017 | 2216 | 81.01 | 59.96 | 69.80 |
| Paiyun-pata | 1661 | 1685 | 3346 | 79.02 | 59.04 | 67.51 |
| Total | 5954 | 5558 | 11434 | 76.27 | 55.06 | 64.3 |

Source: District profile, 2062.

Table 4 shows that the literacy rate of this area is 64.3 percent. Out of literate population 76.27 percent are male but only 55.06 percent are female. The female literacy rate is lower in each VDC in comparison to male literacy. Narayansthan is a VDC having the highest female literacy rate (59.96 percent) and Binamare is the least (47.37 percent).

CHAPTER- V

POSITIONAL SCENARIO OF WOMEN INCLUSION

5.1 Women's Inclusion in Politics

It deals with the various issues related with women those who were either elected on the local election 1997 or the women those who got the position as the one culture member of the major local political parties, i.e. CPN (UML), Nepali congress and *Janamorchha*, Nepal of the study area. This includes the details of Ilaka-5 of Baglung such as caste/ethnicity, literacy, age etc of the politically active women leaders at the local governance level.

5.1.1 Composition of Representatives of the Study Area.

The research area consist five VDCs. Since each VDC council had 47 elected members, 235 members were elected in study area. Similarly each VEC council 6 nominated members. The following table shows the details about representatives.

Table 5: **Composition of Representatives**

| VDC Post | Amalachaur | | Binamare | | Kushmi sera | | Narayasthan | | Paiyanpata | | Total |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| Chairperson | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Vice-chairperson | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| VDC member | 9 | - | 9 | - | 9 | - | 9 | - | 9 | - | 45 |
| ward member | 27 | 9 | 26 | 10 | 27 | 9 | 27 | *9 | 27 | 9 | 180 |
| Nominated member | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 30 |
| Total | 43 | 10 | 41 | 12 | 43 | 10 | 42 | 11 | 42 | 11 | 265 |

Source: Field survey, 2063.

Table 5 shows that the female representation in local bodies is not qualitative as well as quantitative. None VDC had women chairperson, vice-chairperson and ward person. Only 54 females were elected/nominated as the member of VDC council. This is only nearly 20% of the total elected and nominated members which is the nearly mandatory position.

5.1.2 Composition of local political party of ilaka-5

The study area has three major political parties at local level, i.e. CPN (UML), NC and Janamorchha. The following table shows the detail about representative.

Table-6: **Composition of VDCE Level Committee**

| VDCs | CPN (UML) | | | NC | | | Janamorchha | | | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | M | F | T | M | F | T | M | F | T | |
| Amalachour | 10 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 2 | 13 | 43 |
| Binamare | 13 | 2 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 15 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 41 |
| Kushmisera | 11 | 2 | 13 | 16 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 45 |
| Narayansthan | 8 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 37 |
| Paiyun-Pata | 13 | 4 | 17 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 11 | 43 |
| Total | 55 | 14 | 69 | 69 | 8 | 77 | 51 | 13 | 63 | 209 |

Source: Field Survey, 2062.

Table 6 shows that the women's inclusion in local political parties is not satisfactory. In total, party affiliated people, hardly 17 percent members' are female. Janamorchha/Nepal has higher percentage of 10. Woman's inclusion in local level committed (20.6 percent) and the NC had only 10.3 percent. Similarly CPN (UML) had 20.2 percent women who were affiliated in the VDC level committee.

5.1.3 Caste/Ethnicity

Nepal is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious nation exhibiting cultural diversity. Each caste/ ethnic group has their own language and own culture. The following table shows the distribution of respondent by caste/ethnicity.

Table: 7 Distribution of Respondent by Caste/Ethnicity

| S.N | Caste/Ethnicity | Respondents | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Brahmins | 12 | 40.00 |
| 2 | Kshetri | 9 | 30.00 |
| 3 | Magar | 3 | 10.00 |
| 4 | Kami | 1 | 6.67 |
| 5 | Damai | 1 | 3.33 |
| 6 | Sunar | 1 | 3.33 |
| 7 | Sarki | 1 | 3.33 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Table 7 shows that the Brahmins has dominance than other groups. Brahmin contains 41.57 percent which is followed by Kshetri (29.21 percent). Dalits and Ethnic groups have low participation in local bodies and political parties. The third largest group of study area is *Sarki* which is a Dalit caste but the political participation is nearly negligible.

5.1.4 Age Composition

Age is an ascribed status is related to prestige, roles and responsibility from individual to society. Some roles and responsibilities are achieved on the basis of age. In the content of election, there is minimum age limitation for being the candidate to the election which is 21 years old. Although there is not the minimum age limitation formally for the participation to the political party but they seem to be as adult in practice. The following table shows the age distribution of women at the time of interview those who were elected in the local election-1997 as the representatives and local women leaders.

Table: 8 Distribution of Age of Female Respondent

| S.N | Age group | Respondent | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| | | No | Percent |
| 1 | 21-25 | 1 | 3.33 |
| 2 | 26-30 | 4 | 13.33 |
| 3 | 31-35 | 12 | 40.00 |
| 4 | 36-40 | 7 | 23.33 |
| 5 | 41-45 | 2 | 6.66 |
| 6 | 46-50 | 1 | 3.33 |
| 7 | 51-55 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 56-60 | 2 | 6.66 |
| 9 | 60+..... | 1 | 3.33 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

The age distribution is categorized into nine groups. The minimum age limitation is 21 years to be candidate due to which limit is started from 21 years of age. The age interval is 5.

The table shows that the group 31-35 years has highest percent of respondent which contains 40 percent and it is followed by age group 36-40 having 23.33 percent. The third position is occupied by the age group 26-30 having 13.33 percent. The respondent more than 60 years old, are only 3.33 percent which shows that young age-group is women are the active political participants in the local bodies as well as local political parties.

There is highest percentage of female inclusion into politics is 31-35 years. This may be due to the females are little bit free from household burden due to their grown up children. In higher aged people become lazy and illness and their involvement in politics becomes low.

5.1.5 Educational Status

Educational status is one of the most crucial indications of development of the people as well as society. The higher literacy status and educational attainment affects the people's inclusion in socioeconomic process as well as politics. Education enhances the ability and capacity of human being to judge for right and wrong. It plays the vital role in the society to make social prosperous. The following table shows the literacy status of the politically active women.

Table: 9 **Literacy Status of the Respondent**

| S.N | Status | Candidates | |
|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Literate | 15 | 50.00 |
| 2 | Illiterate | 11 | 36.66 |
| 3 | Not-stated | 4 | 13.33 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

The table shows that out of the total female elected members and total Executive party female members, 50.00 percent are literate 36.66 percent are illiterate and 13.33 percent are not stated.

5.1.6 Marital Status

Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. It is essential to give legitimate birth in our society. Pre-marital sex is considered illegal to Hindu system. It is essential to marry both sexes for family formation. Marital status also determines the role and responsibilities of people in the society.

The following table shows the marital status of the female candidates.

Table 10: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

| S.N | Status | Candidates | |
|-----|--------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Unmarried | 2 | 6.66 |
| 2 | Married | 24 | 80.00 |
| 3 | Widow | 3 | 10.00 |
| 4 | Divorced | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Not stated | 1 | 3.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062.

Table 10 shows that the most of the women (80 percent) are married. There are 6.66 percent are unmarried and 10 percent are widows. There are no divorced women in politics. 3.37 percent women are not stated status. The most of the respondents are in married status because they are included into politics due to other influence either their family members or their relatives. Most of the unmarried women who are involved in politics are also initiated by their parents and relatives. Therefore, the political inclusion of unmarried women is low due to social values and norms.

5.1.7 Party Affiliation

In multiparty democracy, political parties are backbones of the political system. They have great role in politics. Each and every people are related with any party except few cases. There is no political existence without party affiliation. The following table shows the party affiliation of the respondents.

Table 11: Party Affiliation of the Respondents

| S.N | Party | Respondent | |
|-----|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | CPN (UML) | 9 | 30.0 |
| 2 | Nepali Congress | 10 | 33.33 |
| 3 | Janamorchha | 11 | 36.66 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |

Table 11 shows that the highest proportion is occupied by Janamorcha Nepal (36.66 percent) which is followed by Nepali congress (33.33 percent). CPN (UML) has occupied only 30 percent. The Janamorcha Nepal has highest number of women politician because it has occupied more seats in local election 1997.

5.2 Women's Inclusion in Local Governance

The local election ordinance 1997 became a landmark for women's inclusion in politics. Local election 1997 under this ordinance had played the crucial role to uplift the women's political status. The ordinance had made 20 percent reservation seat for women for the enhancement of women's inclusion in decision making process. The reservation system in local level governance broke out the conservative feelings towards women's participation in politics. This provision had made grate influence in terms of women's involvement in politics due to which more women were involved into Local Self Governance before then.

5.2.1 Issues Analysis of Elected Female Representative in Local Governance

It deals with the various issues related with women representative in VDC council of Ilaka 5 of Baglung district which includes 5 VDC named Amalachaur, Binamare, Kushmisera, Narayansthan and Paiyun-Pata. These women were elected as the member of village in the local election 1997.

5.2.1 (i) Age composition of representatives

Age is a crucial factor of human being and society because it helps people to aware of about their roles and responsibilities. In Nepal, there is age bound for becoming voters. Age, citizenship, and other disciplines should be eligible for becoming the candidate in the election. According to the existing laws, the minimum age limitation to be candidate in local election is 21 years. The

following table shows the age composition of the representative at the time of election 1997 and at the time of interview as.

Table 12: Age Composition of Representatives

| S.N | Age group | At the time of election | | At the time of interview | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 1 | 21-25 | 1 | 5.26 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 26-30 | 2 | 10.52 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 31-35 | 8 | 42.10 | 3 | 15.78 |
| 4 | 36-40 | 4 | 21.05 | 3 | 15.78 |
| 5 | 41-45 | 1 | 5.26 | 9 | 47.36 |
| 6 | 46-50 | 1 | 5.26 | 1 | 5.26 |
| 7 | 51-55 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5.26 |
| 8 | 56-60 | 2 | 10.52 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | 60+ | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10.52 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

The age distribution is categorized into nine groups. The minimum age bound is 21 years to be candidate in the election and the age interval is taking of 5 years.

The table shows that the highest political involvement age group was (31-35). 42.10 percent women are from this age group at the time of local election 1997. But in the time of interview taking the scenario is changed. The highest political involvement age group is (41-45) due to the age -growth of representatives in 1997. The second highest group was (36-40). 21.05 percent women are from this age group at the time of local election 1997 but at present, the group (31-35) and (36-40) are becoming the second largest group. Above the age of 50, there are few women are participated in governance.

5.2.1(ii) Literacy status of representatives

Education is an important factor of human society which determines the social status of the people. It affects the people's inclusion in the socioeconomic development as well as Justifiable political inclusion for all the classes of the people.

The following table shows the educational status of politically participated women in local level governance of the study area.

Table 13: Literacy Status of Female Representatives

| S.N | Status | Representative | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | No | Percent |
| 1 | Literate | 10 | 52.63 |
| 2 | Illiterate | 8 | 42.10 |
| 3 | Not-stated | 1 | 5.26 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above tables shows the literacy status of female representatives of VDC council of study areas. Out of total representatives, 52.26 are not stated. Yet, now there is large proportion of women under illiteracy.

5.2.1 (iii) Marital status of representative

It is essential to give legitimate birth in our society. Pre-marital sex is considered illegal to Hindu system. It is essential to marry both sexes for family formation. Marital status also determines the role and responsibilities of people in the society.

The following table shows the marital status of women representative in the local Election women -1997.

Table: 14 Marital of Representatives

| S.N | Status | Respondent | |
|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| | | No | Percent |
| 1 | Unmarried | 1 | 5.26 |
| 2 | Married | 16 | 84.21 |
| 3 | Widow | 2 | 10.52 |
| 4 | Divorced | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Not stated | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that of the most of the representatives are married which constitutes 84.21 percent of the total. This is followed by widow who constitutes 10.52 percent. The unmarried women have least participation in local governance.

5.2.1 (iv) Caste/Ethnicity

Nepal is multi-ethnic and multi-religious nation exhibiting cultural diversity. Each caste/ethnic group has their own language and own culture. The participation of females into politics differs from one caste to another.

The following table shows the variation in terms of participation of females into politics by caste/ethnicity.

Table 15: Distribution of Representatives by Caste/Ethnicity.

| S.N | Caste/Ethnicity | Respondent | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Brahmins | 7 | 36.84 |
| 2 | Kshetri | 5 | 26.31 |
| 3 | Magar | 3 | 15.78 |
| 4 | Kami | 2 | 10.52 |
| 5 | Damai | 1 | 5.26 |
| 6 | Sunar | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7 | Sarki | 1 | 5.26 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field Survey, 2063

Above table shows that Brahman has domination in the political participation in local governance. Brahman consists 36.84 percent of the local representatives. This is followed by kshetry which consists 27.31 percent. Magar, an ethnic group, has only 15.78 percent which is very poor scenario. Similarly, Dalit groups has also namely 15 percent whenever their population is higher. The higher participation of Brahmins and kshetry is due to the higher number of population and the higher political consciousness.

5.2.1. (v) Health status

It is said 'Health is wealth'. Health is very crucial factory for human being. Without good health, no body can do anythings. Only healthy people are able to do individual as well social and political activities. It also determines the social status. The following table shows the normal health status of the representatives.

Table: 16 **Distribution of Representative by Health Status**

| S.N | Status | Representative | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Healthy | 9 | 47.36 |
| 2 | Partially healthy | 7 | 36.84 |
| 3 | Unhealthy | 3 | 15.78 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that 47.36 percent women representatives are healthy. As said by respondent, 36.84 percent are partially healthy and 15.78 percent are unhealthy. They are unhealthy due to the age factor and other reasons. They are higher in age than other respondents.

5.2.1 (vi) Economic status

Economic condition is the crucial factor of human being which determines the social class of the people in the society. It also represents the people's prosperity. It is also an important factor for the development of the society as

will as the nation. Here economic status is categorized only two status: dependent and independent. It refers that either female representatives are dependent upon their family member or not. The following table shows the economic status of representatives in local governance.

Table 17: Distribution of Representatives by Economic status

| S.N | Status | Representatives | |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | Number | percent |
| 1 | Dependent | 12 | 63.15 |
| 2 | Independent | 4 | 21.05 |
| 3 | Not stated | 3 | 15.78 |
| | Total | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that the higher proportion of women representatives are economically dependent upon others. It is 63.15 percent. 21.05 percent women representatives only are independent economically and 15.78 percent are not stated. More females are dependent upon their male members of the family or other family members in Nepal. Due to this reason more females are dependent.

5.3 Women's Inclusion in Political Party

The reestablishment of the multiparty democracy after the mass -movement of 1990 opened the door to participate all the people in the state building process. The constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1991 has stated that the main responsibility of the state is to ensure the maximum participation of people in the governance system for the enjoyment of the benefits of democracy. But women's inclusion in the political mainstream is very poor. Women's participation in political party is low and it is not qualitative.

5.3.1 Issues Analysis of Women Who Are Participated in the Party's VDC Level Committee:

It deals with the various issues related with women who are involved in the VDC level committee of major local political parties in study area i.e. Amalachaur, Binamare, Kushmisera, Narayanathan and Paiyun-Pata.

5.3.1 (i) Age composition

Age is an important factor of human being and society because it helps people to aware of about their roles and responsibility. There is not age boundary to participate to the political party as a general and executive member. But in practice, young and elder persons are included as the member of VDC level committee of major local political parties. The following table shows the age composition of such women who are involved in political parties.

Table 18: Age composition of party included women

| S.N | Age group | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | 21-25 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 26-30 | 2 | 18.18 |
| 3 | 31-35 | 4 | 36.36 |
| 4 | 36-40 | 3 | 27.27 |
| 5 | 41-45 | 1 | 9.09 |
| 6 | 46-50 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 51-55 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8 | 56-60 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9 | 60+ | 1 | 9.09 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

The age distribution is categorized into nine groups. The age interval is taking of 5 years.

The table shows that the highest political involvement age group is (31-35). 36.36 percent women are from this age group. The second highest political involvement age group is 36.40. But the women below 25 years and the women above 45 years have very few involvements in the politics.

5.3.1 (ii) Literacy status

Literacy represents the level of human development. It determines the social status of the people. It affects the people's inclusion in the socioeconomic developments as well as justifiable political inclusion for all the classes of the people.

The following table shows the literacy status of politically participated women in local level political parties.

Table 19: Literacy Status of Party Included Women.

| S.N | Status | Number | Percent |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Literate | 5 | 45.45 |
| 2 | Illiterate | 3 | 27.27 |
| 3 | Not stated | 3 | 27.27 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062.

Table 19 shows that the literacy status of women who are included in VDC level committee of major local political Parties. Out of total, 45.45 percent are literate, 27.27 percent are illiterate and 27.27 percent are not stated though large portion of women are under illiteracy.

5.3.1 (iv) Marital status

Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. It is essential to give legitimate birth in our society. Pre-marital sex is considered illegal to Hindu system. It is essential to marry both sexes for family formation. Marital status also determines the role and responsibilities of people in the society.

The following table shows the marital status of women who are included in political party as the executive member.

Table 20: Marital status of party-included women

| S.N | Status | Number | Percent |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Unmarried | 1 | 9.09 |
| 2 | Married | 8 | 72.72 |
| 3 | Widow | 1 | 9.09 |
| 4 | Divorced | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Non stated | 1 | 9.09 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that the most of the women, who are participated in the VDC level committee of local political parties, are married. It has taken 72.72 percent. Unmarried, widows and not stated are same proportion with 9.09 percent. It is shown that there is none women, who have been divorced, are not participated in local political party. Similarly, the table indicates that very much fewer unmarried women are included at the level of executive body of local political parties.

5.3.1 (v) Caste/ Ethnicity

Our country is a multi-cultural and multi-religious nation exhibiting cultural diversity. Each caste/ethnic group has their own language and own culture. The inclusion of women into political parties differs from one caste/ethnic groups. The following table shows that the variation in terms of inclusion of women into political parties.

Table 21: Distribution of Women by Caste/Ethnic Groups

| S.N | Caste/Ethnicity | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Brahmins | 5 | 45.45 |
| 2 | Kshetry | 4 | 36.36 |
| 3 | Magar | 0 | 0.00 |
| 4 | Kami | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Damai | 0 | 0.00 |
| 6 | Sunar | 1 | 9.09 |
| 7 | Sarki | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8 | Others | 1 | 9.09 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that Brahmins has domination in the women's political inclusion in the local parties. This caste consists of 45.45 percent and it is followed by *Kshetry*. Which consists 36.36 percent though, there is large number of *Magars* but none women are included in the major local political parties. Similarly, there is very low participation of Dalit's community in the political parties. The higher political inclusion of *Brahmins* and *Kshetry* is due to the higher number of population and the higher political consciousness.

5.3.1 (vi) Health status

Health is an important factor for human being. Without good health nobody can do anything. Only healthy people are able to do individual as well as social and political activities. It also determines the social status. The following table shows the normal health status of the representatives.

Table 22: Health status of party-included women

| S.N | Status | Number | percent |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Healthy | 5 | 45.45 |
| 2 | Partially | 4 | 36.36 |
| 3 | Unhealthy | 2 | 18.18 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that 45.45 percent women, who are included as the executive member of VDC level committee of major local political parties, are healthy. As filled up the questionnaire by respondent, 36.36 percent are partially healthy and 18.18 percent are unhealthy. The table indicates that the large numbers of party-included women are unhealthy.

5.3.1. (vii) Economic status

Economic factor is the determinant factor of all sectors. This also determines the class of people in the society. The economic prosperity indicates the people's prosperity. Here, economic status is categorized into two: dependent and independent. The following table shows the economic status of party included women as executive member at the VDC level committee.

Table 23: Economic status of party-included women

| S.N | Status | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Dependent | 7 | 63.63 |
| 2 | Independent | 3 | 27.27 |
| 3 | Not stated | 1 | 9.09 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Above table shows that most of the women are dependent on their family. This includes 63.63 percent. Only 27.27 percent women are economically independent and 9.09 percent are not-stated what they are. This indicates that

the women, who are involved in party-politics, can not decide independently. This is due to the backwarded and male dominated social values and norms.

5.4 Political Analysis

5.4.1 Party Affiliation

In multi-party democracy, party has great role in terms of politics. Political parties are the main pillars of multiparty system. Political parties have great role to enhance the status of women in the society. Most of the political persons are engaged in any one ideology i.e. a party.

5.4.1 (i) Party affiliation of women representatives in local governance.

As the central level politics, party based politics is existing in local level. All of the VDCs of study area have mainly three political parties: CPN (UML), Nepali Congress and Janamorchha Nepal. The representation at local governance according to political parties is as following table:

Table: 24 Party Affiliation of Local Women Representation

| S.N | Parties | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | CPN(UML) | 5 | 26.31 |
| 2 | Nepali Congress | 6 | 31.57 |
| 3 | Janamorcha | 8 | 42.10 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field Survey, 2062

According to above table, 42.10 percent women representative respondents were from Janamorcha. Similarly, 31.57 percent from Nepali Congress and 26.31 percent respondent from CPN (UML) in local election-1997. This also indicates that there was no any representative elected as the party-less candidate. Janamorcha Nepal had the highest proportion of women representatives due to the largest party in the study area.

5.4.1 (ii) party affiliation of women as the executive member of VDC level party-committee.

After reestablishment of multiparty democracy, the political consciousness has been increased. The political empowerment is higher than economic and social empowerment of women in Nepal.

The participation of women in political parties is necessary. but the participation was not so qualitative. The women's inclusion in political parties at the study area can be as follows:

Table 25: Party Affiliation of Women as the Executive Member of VDC Party Committee

| S.N | Parties | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | CPN(UML) | 4 | 36.36 |
| 2 | Nepali Congress | 4 | 36.36 |
| 3 | Janamorchha Nepal | 3 | 27.27 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that 11 females are included as the executive member of VDC level committee of major political parties. Out of them 36.36 percent women are involved in CPN (UML). similarly, Nepali congress has same percent and Janamorchha Nepal has 27.27 percent only.

5.4.2 Motivative Factors for Women Involvement into Local Politics

Human being is the rational animal, who has mind. So, he understands, thinks and reacts. He has many interest and expectation. So many factors affect him due to various needs and interest. According to human behavior and needs, motivation factor differ. Motivation is great factor which transfers the people's behaviour. Some people do oneself while other do by next inspiration.

The following table shows the motivate factor of women's involvement in politics.

Table 26: Motivative Factor for Involvement into politics of women

| S.N | Motivative factor | Respondent | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Husband | 11 | 36.67 |
| 2 | Other family member | 9 | 30.00 |
| 3 | Relatives | 3 | 10.00 |
| 4 | Party leader | 5 | 16.66 |
| 5 | Not stated | 2 | 6.67 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that the most of the women are motivated by their husband (36.67 percent) to participate into politics which is following by other family members (30 percent). Party leader have also roles to bring women into politics which consists 16.66 percent. 10 percent women are motivated by their relatives and 6.67 women did not want to state their motive factor of political involvement. Most of the women are involved into politics due to the motivation of their husband because they are dependent upon their husband and they cannot decide freely in politics.

5.4.3 Time Period in Politics.

Time period of involving into the politics determines the level of political inclusion. The following table shows the period of involvement in politics of the respondent.

Table 27: **Number of years in political activities**

| S.N | Time period (yrs) | Respondent | |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| | | No | percent |
| 1 | Less than 5 yrs | 2 | 6.67 |
| 2 | 5-10 | 17 | 56.66 |
| 3 | 10-15 | 10 | 33.33 |
| 4 | 15+ | 1 | 3.33 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that the most of the respondents (56.66 percent) have fallen into the duration (5-10) years of participation in politics which indicates that their inclusion in politics only after the restoration of multi-party system. The second largest number (33.33percent) has (10-15) years experience in politics. There is only 6.67 percent women has less than 5 yrs experience. There is only one respondent (3.33 percent) which has been taking part for last 15 years.

5.4.4 Family or Relatives' Involved in politics

People are affected by social and cultural norms and values. They cannot break these values and norms immediately. Family members or neighbours are motivated from one to another. They work together and decide most of the aspects jointly. Family or neighborhood environment and relative's environment influence the people and they are inspired by their behavior. The following table shows the environment of family or relative's environment in the politics of the respondents.

Table 28: Distribution of Respondents by Inclusion of Family or Relatives' into Politics

| S.N | Family or relatives' involvement | Respondents | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | No. | percent |
| 1 | Yes | 22 | 73.33 |
| 2 | No | 35 | 16.66 |
| 3 | Not stated | 3 | 10.00 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Out of the total respondents, 73.33 present respondents' family member or closed relatives are involved into politics. Only 16.66 percent respondent's family member or closed relatives are out of politics. There is 10 percent respondents do not like to state the condition. It indicates that family members and close relatives have great roles to bring female into political inclusion.

5.4.5 Family Member's Attitude into Political Inclusion.

Our society is driven by traditional norms and values. Hindu society neglects to the women's inclusion in politics. So, only few women have access to decide freely in Nepal. Family has to follow the males' superiority in Hindu society. They have to work according to their family's interest women can to anything if

their family members have positive attitude otherwise they are not allowed to do such things.

Table 29: Distribution of Respondent by Family's Attitude Toward Their Political Inclusion

| S.N | Attitude | Respondent | |
|--------------|----------|------------|---------------|
| | | No | Percent |
| 1 | Positive | 19 | 63.33 |
| 2 | Negative | 4 | 13.33 |
| 3 | Neither | 7 | 23.33 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field Survey, 2062

5.4.6 Women's perception in political Activities with Male.

Our society is male dominated. In this society, women hesitate to work or talk freely with other male persons except their own husband or family members. They are hardly accepted to work with others. Females may feel uneasy and uncomfortable work with outsider. But now a day, there are no such types of difficulties. The following table shows the women's participation towards the uncomfortable ness working with males in politics.

Table 30: Women's perception Political Activities with Male Colleagues

| S.N | perception | Respondent | |
|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Positive | 12 | 40.00 |
| 2 | Negative | 16 | 53.33 |
| 3 | Not stated | 2 | 6.66. |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that the most of the women have negative perception to political activities with male. 53.93 percent women respondent has negative perception while only 40 percent women have positive perception. 6.66 percent women respondents have neither negative nor positive perception. Most of the women have negative perception due to male dominated and inequitable social norms and values.

5.4.7 Causes of Negative Perception Working with Male Colleagues in Political Activities

Various causes are responsible for negative perception for working with male colleagues in political activities. The following table indicates some causes:

Table 31: Causes of Negative Participation for Working with Male

| S.N | Causes | Respondents | |
|--------------|---|-------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Unworthy attitude of men | 6 | 37.50 |
| 2 | Physical attraction and fear of social stigma | 4 | 25.00 |
| 3 | Traditional mental make-up of male and female | 3 | 18.75 |
| 4 | Unsafe physical condition at work place | 2 | 12.50 |
| 5 | Not stated | 1 | 6.25 |
| Total | | 16 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that 37.50 percent respondent women have negative perception for working with male due to unworthy attitude of men while 25 percent have due to physical attraction and fear of social stigma. Similarly, 18.75 percent have negative perception because of traditional mental make-up of male and female, 12.50 percent due to unsafe physical condition at work place and 6.25 percent have neither positive nor negative perception towards politics with male.

5.4.8. Permission to Stay Outside Home by Family

Women have to be guided by their family for almost activities. They are not free for doing anything according to their own interest. The following table shows the existing condition of women to stay outside own home: -

Table 32: Distribution of Respondents According to Stay Overnight Outside Home for political Activities

| S.N | Permission | Respondents | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Permitted | 16 | 53.33 |
| 2 | Not permitted | 12 | 40.00 |
| 3 | Not stated | 2 | 6.66 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that the permission granted to the women respondent to stay outside the home overnight for political activities. Most of the societies do not allow the women to leave home without family members or relatives.

According to above table, 53.33 percent women are granted permission by their families to stay overnight outside the home for their political activities while 40 percent were not allowed to stay outside. Only 6.66 percent respondent have recorded that they do not like to stay about this issue.

5.4.9 Causes for not permitting to stay overnight outside own home.

Various causes are responsible for not permitting to stay overnight outside the home in the contact of political activities. Stated some causes by respondents are as follows:

Table 33: Causes for not Permitting to Stay Overnight Outside the Home

| S.N | Causes | Respondents | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Lack of confidence in respondent | 3 | 25.00 |
| 2 | Lack of faith in male politicians | 2 | 16.66 |
| 3 | Unsafe site | 2 | 16.66 |
| 4 | Social stigma | 4 | 33.33 |
| 5 | Others | 1 | 8.33 |
| Total | | 12 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

According to above table 25 percent women respondents are not permitted to stay overnight outside home due to the lack of confidence while 16.66 percent women are not permitted due to lack of faith in male politicians. Similarly, unsafe site is a cause for 16.66 percent women and 33.33 percent are not permitted due to social stigma.

5.4.10 VDC Council Meeting Attended by Women Members.

VDC council is held twice a year and in totality. They were 10 VDC council meetings for five years. The following table shows the attendance of women member in VDC council.

Table 34: Distribution of members by Meeting Attendance

| S.N | No. of meeting | Representatives | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | < 6 | 5 | 26.31 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 15.78 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 21.05 |
| 4 | 9 | 4 | 12.05 |
| 5 | 10 | 3 | 15.78 |
| Total | | 19 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

According to above table, only 15.78 percent women are attended in all meeting of the VDC council for five years. Women representatives not attending more than 6 meetings are 26.31 percent while 7 meeting attending representatives are only 15.78 percent. 21.05 percent women representatives have attended 8 meetings and same percent have attended 9 meetings. The low participation in VDC council meeting is due to the house workload and lack of awareness about politics.

5.4.11 Party Committee Meeting Attended by Women Members

Major local political parties usually hold a meeting for each month. There were 12 meetings for a year. The following table shows the attendance of women in party committee of last one year: -

| S.N | No. of Meeting | Members | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | No. | Percent |
| 1 | <8 | 3 | 27.27 |
| 2 | 9 | 2 | 18.18 |
| 3 | 10 | 3 | 27.27 |
| 4 | 11 | 2 | 18.18 |
| 5 | 12 | 1 | 9.09 |
| Total | | 11 | 100.00 |

Source: field Survey, 2062

According to above table very few women have attended all of the meeting holding at every month. Only 9.09 percent executive women member of VDC level committee have attended the meeting. The members not attending more than 8 meetings are 27.27 percent and the members attending 10 meetings are same percent. The low attendance of party-committee meeting is due to the lack of political consciousness and the lack of the strong political commitment.

5.4.12 Attitude of Males Towards Women's Voice in Politically Involved Meeting.

After the reestablishment of multi-party democracy in 1990, women's political inclusion has been increased. They are awarded about their right and started to take part in different meetings as well as social and political activities. They have also raised issues about their own problems as well as social and political problems. The following table shows the attitudes of male representatives towards the voice of women in local politics.

Table 36: Distribution of Male's Attitude Toward Women's Voice in Politics

| S.N | Attitude | Respondent | |
|--------------|----------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Positive | 23 | 76.66 |
| 2 | Negative | 5 | 16.66 |
| 3 | Neutral | 2 | 6.66 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

Above table shows that most of the males have cooperative behavior towards women's voices in the meetings. An overwhelming majority (76.66 percent) have positive attitude towards their voices in political forum, while 16.66 percent have negative attitude and 6.66 percent are categorized as neutrals. Few males have negative attitude towards females' voice in meeting because our society is deeply rooted as male dominated. The women's decision is hardly accepted in our society.

5.4.13 Self Evaluation of Respondents' Own Activities

The respondents were asked a question "Are you satisfied with your political activities?" The following table shows the evaluation of women respondent toward their own political activities.

Table: 37 Distribution of Respondent by Their Self Evaluation Toward Their Own Political Activities

| S.N | Evaluation | Respondent | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Satisfy | 17 | 56.66 |
| 2 | Dis-Satisfy | 11 | 36.66 |
| 3 | Not Stated | 2 | 6.66 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Field survey, 2062

According to above table, 56.66 percent women respondents are satisfied with their own political activities. While 36.66 percent are dissatisfied from their own activities and 6.66 percent are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Most of women are satisfied with their activities. It may be due to the human behavior of favoring own activities.

5.4.14 Problems and Constraints of Women Inclusion in Local Politics.

Women are backwarded till now in Nepal. Their political status is low in our society. Particular women are included in central as well as local politics. The following table shows the problems and constraints of women's political inclusion in local politics.

Table: 38 Problems and Constraints of Women's Political Inclusion

| S.N | Causes | Respondent | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 1 | Social barriers | 6 | 20.00 |
| 2 | Lack of political awareness | 10 | 33.33 |
| 3 | House-hold workload | 3 | 10.00 |
| 4 | Lack of co-operation from males | 2 | 6.66 |
| 5 | Male domination in politics | 4 | 13.33 |
| 6 | Insecurity | 3 | 10.00 |
| 7 | Others | 2 | 6.66 |
| Total | | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: field survey, 2062

According to above table, the most of the respondents (33.33 percent) believe that the lack of political awareness among women is the main cause for the weak political inclusion in local as well as central level. Out of total respondent, 20 percent women believe that social barrier is the main cause of weak inclusion. 13.33 percent believe that the male domination in politics is the cause of weak inclusion. Similarly, household work load, lack of co-operation from males, insecurity and other causes are stated by respondents.

5.5 Suggestion by Respondents for Women's Inclusion

Lastly, an open question had been asked to all the women respondents "What is your suggestion to enhance the political inclusion of women". All the respondents had replied in their own ways according to their views. All the replies are concluded as following.

- To provide qualitative education to women
- To enhance the political awareness for women.
- To provide essential security.
- To Improve the decision making power
- Provision for reservation.
- Equal participation in development activities.
- Equal rights for paternal property.
- Social security.
- Co-operation from male.
- Change of social obstacles.
- Empower the women.
- Equitable distribution of opportunities and benefits.

CHAPTER-VI

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of the Findings

Women's political inclusion is a crucial issue of modern governance system. Inequitable inclusion in political forum leads inequality in the society. In Nepal, inequitable political inclusion has been affecting the development process. The political inclusion in local governance is not also satisfactory though some women are included in local bodies at the last moment. In this context the research has been launched in five VDCs of Baglung district. The summaries of major finding of this research are as follows:

-) There is weak political participation of women. Most of the females are engaged in politics due to mandatory provision in local level.
-) There is no leadership of women representatives in any VDCs as chairperson and vice- chairperson.
-) *Brahmins* and *Kshetry* domination in politics.
-) The large portion of politically active women is illiterate (36.66 percent).
-) The most of politically included women are married.
-) The most of the representatives (63.15 percent) and party included women (63.6. percent) are economically dependent.
-) Almost women are included into politics due to the motivation of either their husband or their family members.
-) Very few women are actively involved in politics for the time period more than 15 years (3.33 percent).

-) Women's perception in political activities with male in negative (53.33 percent).
-) Unworthy attitude of men and fear of social stigma are the main causes of negative perception for working with male.
-) Some women are feeling uneasy work with male counter parts and they are not allowed to stay outside overnight for political activities.
-) Lack of confidence and lack of faith in male politicians are the main causes for not permitting to stay overnight outside the home.
-) Very few women members have participated all of the meetings in VDC council and party committees.

6.2 Conclusion

This study indicates that women's political inclusion in local governance has been increased due to the mandatory provision in local bodies. However, their role in local level is not so satisfactory. Their representation beyond reservation seat is nearly negligible in the study area. Women in local bodies and local parties are only for fulfilling the quota not for proper functioning according to their own interest and capacity. The large portion of included woman in local politics is illiterate due to which they cannot express their view strongly in meetings. They have to sign that document with knowing nothing. They have burden of household chores due to which they have no time to attend meetings and other social and political activities.

Politically active women have not also decision making power. They even do not know how the Programs are prioritized and development fund is allocated for different development activities in local bodies. They have to follow the males' decision in development as well as political activities. It is due to the male domination in Nepalese Politics.

6.3 Recommendations

This research indicates the women's political inclusion in local level politics. The local level politics includes the politics of local governance, i.e. VDC, DDC, and Municipalities and party-politics in local level. This research is useful to make politically conscious and to make women able to include in the political mainstream of the nation. Though women's quantitative participation at local level has been increased but they have not qualitative participation in politics as well as developmental activities. They are included into politics not by their own initiation but by family members' or relatives' impression. They are enjoying political activities but they are unknown about politics which is very miserable condition of woman in local governance and local politics. It is necessary to aware and empower them politically and about their role and responsibilities toward politics.

To empower the women politically as well as socially and economically, government, local government, non- government sectors and private sector should have contribution in mainstreaming process. It is needed to start the efforts to empower and to build the capacity of women due to which they have to power for dealing with others.

According to my study the following recommendations have been suggested to improve and enhance the ability and capacity of women at grassroot level of politics.

- © Provide education to women.
- © Increase the legal literacy of women.
- © Empower women politically as well as socio-economically.
- © Encourage them to participate in political and social activities.
- © Make them independent economically.
- © Bring women into mainstream of local development activities.
- © Include them in decision making process.

- © Remove social and cultural barrier.
- © Remove their household boundaries.
- © Reduce overload of household activities.
- © Provide continuous training them about political and social awareness.
- © Political parties should be committed for women's political inclusion in various level of party channel.
- © Government should enact proper laws to enhance the women's inclusion in governance sectors.

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APPENDIX

Questionnaire

1. Personal Information

Name: Age: Sex: Marital Status:
Ethnicity: Education: Occupation:
VDC: Ward: Position:

2. What is your family member's attitude towards your participation in political activities?

☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neither

3. If you have to stay overnight over the business, does your family allow you?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can not say

4. If no, what are the causes?

☐ Lack of confidence ☐ Social Stigma
☐ Lack of faith in male politicians ☐ Others
☐ Unsafe site

5. Are you economically dependent upon your family members?

☐ Independent ☐ Dependent ☐ not stated

6. Who encourage you to participate in political party?

☐ Husband ☐ Family members
☐ Relatives ☐ Party Leader
☐ Not stated

7. How long have you been actively associated with political party?

☐ Less than 5 years ☐ 5 – 10 years
☐ 10 – 15 years ☐ 15 + . . .

8. When you have to interact with referee male person in the context of political issues, what do you feel ?

- ☐ Comfortable ☐ Uneasy
☐ uneasy ☐ hesitate

9. What are the causes of negative perception for working with male ?

- ☐ Unworthy attitude of men
☐ Fear of social stigma
☐ Traditional mental make up of male and female
☐ Unsafe physical condition of work place
☐ Not stated

10. Is any of your family members or close relatives involved in active politics?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. What is your opinion in terms of low participation of women in politics?

- ☐ Lack of awareness ☐ Social taboos
☐ Illiteracy ☐ Others
☐ Male domination

12. Do you know your role and responsibility as an elected number of the VDC body?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

13. How many did you attend in VDC meeting?

- ☐ TM6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9
☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

14. Did you have pre-determined agenda for meeting?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

15. Are you satisfied for your role?

☐ Yes

☐ No

16. Do you feel that VDC team had been working well?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Can not say

17. Do you think any changes in your status after being elected/nominated in this VDC?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. Do you think local bodies are capable to mobilize and include women in governance?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. What do you feel about males attitude towards women's voice in politics?

☐ Positive

☐ Negative

☐ Neutral

20. In you opinion, what are the main problems and constraints of women inclusion in politics?

☐ Social barriers

☐ Male domination in politics

☐ Lack of political awareness

☐ Insecurity

☐ House work load

☐ Others

☐ Lack of cooperation from males

21. Give some suggestion to enhance the political inclusion of women.

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