

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is one of the richest countries in the sense of natural resources. On the other hand it is known as one of the poorest country in terms of development. According to the census report 2001 women are 50.05% of total population. Although, the population of female is bigger than male, the status of females is subordinate to the male. Although the few women of the world are in the leading sector, women are the poorest of the power group all over the world. In this contest Nepal is not an exception with it. Nepal is the male dominated society we found deep gap between the status of male and female. Women are backward in every sector like education, health, decision-making process, leading sector etc. Nearly three fourth of adult women are still illiterate even in the 21st century. In context of higher education only a very few in the urban areas have this opportunity. Women are known as second-class citizen.

In most Nepalese families women have considerably less access to control over family resources than men. Most of the women devote their time in non-remunerative works such as washing, cooking, cleaning and childcare, which are not valued in monetary terms and merely considered as the mandatory duties of women. In Nepal women generally have less decision making power.

Talking about development it has crossed many more stages. Over the last there decade, from the 1960s to the 1980s the focus of development policies and objectives has shifted from being growth oriented to people oriented. Although, the main emphasis has given to the poor, the deprived and people from the lowest economic strata, however, women, have remained excluded from all development activates.

As Helen Hunt Jackson says; a women, who creates and sustains a home and through whose hands children grow up to be strong and pure men one women is a creator second only to God' (Sharma, 1991 cited in Singh 1996) when in

the above statement women comes at second place in creation after God she has very-very low status in Nepal as well as many countries of the world. A woman plays a very important role in setting up good family. She can make a house as a heaven. In fact women have very strong role in every household. They always seem busy in house hold activities but they have not right to decide in house expenditure too.

Decision-making is one of the important aspects, which measure the relative status of the household members. Still in most of the households women are excluded from the responsibility of decision-making process. Nepal is still suffering from superstition. According to Nepali belief birth of daughter is the bad luck. If a son is born the family rejoices but if a daughter born the family laments. There is the general belief that if a man is not blessed with a son the door to the heaven will not be open to him. They're saying that "let it take time but let a son born". In Nepalese society men worship of goddess in the temple in every morning but they don't respect of female in house hold.

Though men and women are equal in legal and constitutional terms, women are facing inequality and injustices in real life. If given equal opportunity to the women they can do what men can. Nepalese women are suffering lot from discrimination and the situation has not improved despite various campaigns to dismantle gender barrier. It is limited only paper and speech but not in practical.

Equality between women and man can only be achieved in both are equally in a position to participate in decision making processes at all level. In Nepal there are discriminations between men and women. The status of Nepalese women is very poor they have very less access to health, Education, security and other basic need of life. Women from different caste/ethnic groups have different social status in their respective communities and women from the ethnic groups seem to possess better status than the women from Hindu caste group. Still women are not allowed to go outside from the house in some communities of Terai. There is very little freedom in social movement for women in Terai

communities women have hardly any access to employment. There is lack of women participation in decision making from house to the executive level.

Women get early married with out their desire and interest they are considered as childbearing machine .Due to early age delivery there is high maternal mortality rate in Nepal. Higher rate of mortality and child mortality shows the lower social stats of women. They have lack of economic power and also have lack of decision-making role in their own life too. Women have measurable condition in every sector.

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands conflicts or through wishes and blessing along. Experience has also shown that laws and regulation are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all. Women are bonded by socio cultural norms. Even parents discriminate against the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awarness and education. The movement for women's status all over world has emphasizes the role of education. So, if the nation wants to gain something from women, their first duty should be to give equal opportunity of education, health empowerment etc. Then after drastic change will come in the nation automatically in status of women, women's decision making power etc.

Status is a multi dimensional concept and has many important indicators operation with in it. However; we have singled out decision making as a significant indicters of the strong gender bias existing with in the household spare. The decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour and input contribution and consultants but as active change agents at the concerned level. It does not mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders but the involvement of women and men in the same proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communities at large.

The majority of women live in rural areas where the choice for livelihoods is limited to agricultural work on the farms, which are owned in most cases either by their fathers, husbands, landlords or brothers. Since the daughters of Nepal are deprived of the inheritance of property rights which is the means of owning land. In the rural areas, they have to work in men's land from dawn to dusk for supporting themselves and their family members. This clearly shows how dependent they are made even for their livelihood or in other words we can say that the right for survival for women is laid on the hearts of men. They plant paddy but they have no right to choice of seed and fertilizer. Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources, but from the lack of power to use the available resources, lack of power to assert their own rights they are suffering from exploitation and injustice.

Discrimination between males and females starts in the family. Females are not included in the decision making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husbands/fathers/parents /male relatives.

The status of women is an important factor that affects the socio economic development of household, society as well as country. Without women's participation in decision making goals of development activities cannot be fully attained. So we can say that men and women are the pillars of development.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

To find the role of women in the communities, first of all we have to find the status of women in the society. Status is a multi dimensional concept and it has many factors or indicators, which measure the status of the male, and female among them, decision making in household is one of the major indicators. It is the bitter truth that most of the women are excluded from decision making not only in the leading sector even in household their role as the manager of the subsistence sector is shunned off as unproductive, their opinion in important

household matter is hardly considered, their freedom also with in the household sphere is restricted.

Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from the lack of power to use the available resource lack of power to assert their own rights. They are suffering from exploitation and injustice. The concept of housewife in Nepali society is that the women as a leisurely lady limiting her activities to the household and domestic chores, which are, categorized as reproductive and unproductive work.

Women's work mostly inside the household, their contribution remains invisible. Besides the agriculture activities they have to performed many other households activities too. Such as child care, cooking, Washing, cleaning etc. But these triple burden or working of women is not computed in monetary term. So, it is necessary do in –depth analysis of Nepalese situation women, in order to support to the planning of facilitating increased integration of women into the national development process. Women in Nepal, lag binds in all area such as health, education, and economic legal employment policies and especially in decision-making.

Women are not only deprived of cultural and social rituals, norms they also largely depend upon men. Women share much lower proportion of the total earned income at the household level. Although their works are highly admirable their contribution to their household are usually discounted. They deprived of house hold decision making as well as social opportunities the fact that, women are still oppressed and suppressed by the different factors such as social, cultural, economic political, educational, type of house hold etc. this reflected in almost all aspects of their lives (in side as well as hot side of the house) although this differs from community to community, the overall picture of Nepalese women remains more or less the same. Women should be encouraged participation in all level of decision-making.

1.3 Significance of the Study

This study will help to find our role of women in household decision making process as well as socio-economic status of them women are half of the total population. They are backbone of society. They have not equal roles and responsibilities in the social development. In spite of rational role, they are not participating in reality. The people perform all the development activities and they are the main focal point of development. However in most of the society men have major roles and responsibilities in development activities and females are not enjoying with equal rights and responsibilities. They are deprived from their tights as duties even though they work more than their male counterparts. Women should be the subject and also actors of development, because women have major duties to maintain household as well as society. If women are not treated equally in society it is impossible to achieve sustainable development it will certainly hinder national development

There should not be gender disparity in the society. It is essential to bring them into mainstream of social improvement and national development. People should be aware about gender issue, which is essential to protect the right and duties of female. Their roles in household in society and in nation have great significance in terms of social justices. Integrated approach should be implemented to improve the women's over all aspects.

This study will gave the importance to find out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio-economic status and their participation in household decision making process. This study will be very useful for those individuals and institutions, who are interested to know the role of women's in decision making it will also be use full even for planners, policy makers, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations to formulated and implement appropriate policies plans and programs focusing the issue of women mainly in decision making sector it may be helpful for the researcher students and the person who are interested in gender studies.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the participation of women in household decision-making process of the study area. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) To find out the socio –economic status of the respondents
- 2) To analyze decision making role of women in different activities at household level.
- 3) To evaluate the role of women in agriculture and management.
- 4) To find out the problems of women in decision-making.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study will be based on certain objectives related to women participation in household decision making. This study is confined to the Uralbari VDC of Morang district. The concluding analysis of this study may not be generalized in the context of national aggregate level because of some limitations:

- ❖ It has limited with the sample households of the Uralbari VDC that cannot be taken as a representative of the country.
- ❖ In this study, only one Ward of the VDC has chosen.
- ❖ The resource time and manpower are limited for the study so only 15% households of the study area have been chosen.
- ❖ This study is focused only to the participation of women in household decision-making process of the study area. Decision-making on other aspect has not included in this study.

1.6 Organizational of the Study

This thesis paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, objectives of the study and limitation of the study. The second chapters include review of the literature and conceptual framework as well. The third chapter deals about the methodology of the study. The fourth chapter describes about the presentation and analysis of the collected data. Summary, conclusions and recommendations have deals at the end five chapters.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section deals with literature regarding status of women and role of women in decision-making based on the review of available literature a conceptual framework has been developed to see the women's decision-making role in household level.

Women have very low participation in decision-making process, 70% of household related and external decision are entirely made by male member of house. (Acharya 1995)

Traditionally women's responsibilities have been restricted to home. cooking, cleaning child rearing and looking after the house. Women are considered to be weak vulnerable and dependent on men. (Gurung, 1999)

In spite of WIDGAD and progressive women's movements all around the globe, Nepal is slipping behind, unable to provide Nepali women their basic human rights. The country is obliged to insure equality of men and women under the principle of international law and universal declaration of human rights but in practice discrimination persists. (Subedi, 1997; Siwakoti and Karki 1996 cited, Gurung, 2004)

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Educated a man and you will have a person and educated a women and you will have a whole family educated."

Women in Nepal as elsewhere hold the work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is no considered as productive work. By government system women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education personal mobility, which is required among others for skill development and independent decision-making. (UNDP, 1995)

Though women have contributed significantly in every spare of life, yet for various historical, social, cultural religious and in spite of many constitutional guarantees and legislative measure women still remain back ward and short of their rightful place in the society. (Panthi & Panthi 2005)

Acharya and Bennett (1981) give a wider overview of women's status in their decision making power in household. Acharya and Bennett claim that economic factor affects women's role is decision madding both directly and indirectly. If a woman has a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making.

Specifically, the Ninth Plan had switched from Women in Development or Women and Development (DID/WID) perspective to gender perspective to women's promotion and adopted main streaming, eliminating gender inequality and empowerment as its major policies on women. Mainstreaming was further explained as clearly defined policies, target and programs in all sectors at national and region al levels, more scientific and realistic calculation therein, and development of more effective co-ordination and monitoring instruments and mechanism. With transformation from WID/WAD to gender approach in development, the data requirements have also expanded. It is not adequate to have a sex des-aggregated data but they must be meaningful for gender analysis, they must reflect cot only the male realities but also capture the female realities. (Population Monograph, 2003)

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources and political power and their personal autonomy in the process of decision-making. Women from different caste/ethnic groups, seems to possess better status than the women from Hindu caste group. The dominant Hindu culture and the patriarchal value system of the country have influenced the status of the women as their subordinate. (UNDP, 2005)

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reasons for abstracting women from participation fully in economic development, which results in low decision-making power in the women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision-making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, conception, delivery and upbringing of the child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal members of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to males is very low. Even political, social and cultural development follows the economic development of a country. In this context, the committee constituted by the United Nations in the status of women trying to gain equal rights for women in various fields of their social and economic life suggests the removal of gender inequalities in legal, economic, social and educational matters.

Discrimination between males and females starts in the family. Females are not included in the decision-making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husband/father/parents/male relatives. (Human Rights in Nepal 2003:70)

Every time women's sorrow, tears and feelings are taken as weakness and disability of women. (Parjuli, Rajdhani 2058 Falgun 16th: 7)

According to Acharya M. and Bennett L. (1982) women's role in household decision-making is affected directly and indirectly by economic conditions. As women have a greater economic participation and will have a greater role in decision-making, similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women.

In spite of WID, GAD, and progressive women's movements all around the globe, Nepal is slipping behind, unable to provide Nepali women their basic human rights. The country is obliged to ensure equality of men and women under the principle of international law and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but in practice discrimination persists (Subedi, 1997; Siwakoti and Karki, 1996). The characteristics of patriarchal society in Nepal Hindu cultures and those of many other Nepali peoples have resulted in clear patterns and structures subordinating women. Religious and mythological beliefs and the structure of Nepal's many cultures and societies still define women's role while modern economic pressures increasingly modify their traditional picture (Subedi, 1997; Acharya, 1994).

Even where women have been successful at decision-making at the community level and at certain aspects of household decision-making, the overall control of household, land, capital, and other valuable resources is still male-dominant in much of South Asia. The grassroots women's groups create space for women to come together and discuss immediate problems, and to seek help. The local level organizations are more aware of the local social relations and social hierarchies that determine one's access to resources. Although patriarchal views and structures oppress women all over the world, there exists a class hierarchy even among the women and not all women share identical interests. Organizing women's groups at the grassroots level has been most effective for empowering women at the local level and for bottom-up development. (Gurung, 2004)

Nepal is the only country in the world where more than 90 percent of the population is Hindu. Nepali society is highly influenced by Hindu religion and culture, which also defines the role of women. Women are both glorified and degraded. In the Hindu scripture, "Manusmriti," we find lines like "the Gods rejoice where women are worshipped," and in another Hindu scripture, *Arthashastra*, women are described: "by nature a woman is deceitful and pushy, a liar foolish and greedy. She's impure and she is cruel" (Subedi, 1997:2).

These contradictory ideas about women have confused both men and women about her image. Unfortunately, negative stereotypes of women have prevailed. The Hindu scriptures have also provided the basis for patriarchal society. The belief that God created man and woman, and that man was given the responsibility of taking care of the women prevents any questions on male dominance.

The subordination of women has concealed women's contribution to their communities. Although women are active actors of development at the grassroots leveling many parts of Nepal, their contribution is either taken for granted or is not taken seriously. But an in-depth understanding of women's role in development paints a different picture. Women's active role in development has made a remarkable difference in some communities. However, limited decision-making power, mobility control over resources, and access to training and capital continue to restrict Nepali women. (Gurung, 2004)

Women who are victimized and have to live in constant fear cannot participate in development programmes designed to benefit them the mobility of women gets restricted by a vicious circle of threat to their 'Purity' and physical harm. The first step towards the empowerment of women will have to be the guaranteed security of a safe environment for them inside and outside the home as a basic human right. (SAATHI, 1997)

Nepal's 150 special measures for women regarding political and public participation, education, employment, health, violence against women, court procedure and gender justice, and marriage and family life are spread among 56 different laws, including the constitution. Despite several welcome outcomes, these special measures have been limited to discrete areas, such as political participation and maternity benefits. The approach has not been holistic. (UNDP, 2004)

The mainstream development policies treat women as second-class citizen and most development program are still based against women. This has further deteriorated women's positions in many societies. Poverty among women has increased even within the richest countries, resulting in "feminization of poverty". (Kabeer 1999:9)

Because of the existence of patriarchal corm throughout history, women have little access to resources and services, and their work goes unrecognized. Discrimination and violence exists at all levels and perpetuates continually. The low self-stem of women is based on gender, which is a social construct that can be reconstructed. (Bhadra, 1994)

Women comprised 50.1% of the total population of Nepal in 2001. Patriarchy pervades most of the country's castes and ethnic groups; Nepal has one of the highest indices of son preference in the world. Bys not only passon the family name, but represent "insurance" for parents in their old age can carry out important rituals when parents die. Girls generally work at home ad in the fields, considered too unimportant-and risky-to educate, given the high value attributed to virginity and the dangers that schooling in the company of boys and men outside the household might pose to virginity. By contrast, early marriage constitutes a kind of virginity insurance. (UNDP, 2004)

In spite of significant gains in female literacy –from a mere 12% in i981 to 43 % in 2001 –women lag far behind men in literacy and educational attainment. In, fact the difference between the male and female literacy rates between 1981 and 2001 remains the same: 22 percent. Only girls below 14 years seem to be catching up with boys of the same age cohort. The enrolment of girls decreases, as they get older; boys therefore predominate in secondary and higher education. (UNDP, 2004)

In many parts of the world, women are treated as second-class citizens whose value is often defined by their capacity to produce large families. Economic

necessities and socio-cultural norms have entrenched this view of women. In most developing countries, women Labour between twelve to eighteen hours a day caring for children, caring wood and water, growing and preparing food, maintaining the home, caring the old and sick family members. In the case of Nepal, women have to access to parental property right, they have access to property only in their husband's household. In addition, women are victims of ill health, malnutrition, inadequate education and illiteracy, poverty, unjust laws, landlessness and never ending duties of household and family. (Subedi, 2000)

A change in the status of women requires a change in both men's and women's attitude towards interpersonal relation and behavior. The harmonious partnerships between men and women improve the decision making power of women. An improved decision-making power results in higher gender equality and lower level of fertility .Min play a key role in bringing about gender equality. A better communication between men and women on all issues including sexuality and reproductive health ensues in the understanding of their joint responsibilities. Efforts to improve the state of equal partnership of men and women in public and private life would eventually improve the status of women resulting in desired demographic consequences. (UN, 1995)

During the United Nation's Decade for women (1976-1985), the economic role of women was suddenly "discovered," and in order to promote women's advancement, the WID approach was introduced. its purpose was to gain equity for women in the development process. The WID approach emphasizes participation and integration of women in development. It looks into women's role alone. In order to include women in development WID focused on women's projects, integrated projects, women's productivity and income, and women's ability to manage their household. Many feminists however rejected the goal of integration because they argued that women did not want to be integrated in an unequal and exploitative system, they wanted to change to prevailing system. (ICIMOD, 1997:4)

Women are given more priority in International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 1994. The ICPD emphasized the gender equality, equity and empowerment of women. The conference calls on countries to empower women and eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes 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 area of family and household responsibilities (Populi, 1994). Later Beijing Conference on Women held in China in 5-15 September 1995 also emphasized on the empowerment of women. Both conferences considered that uplift of women is a part of development and influence all section of development issues. In the 8th five ears plan of Nepal, programme was formulated to increase women's status (UNFPA), 1994). The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), an action plan adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), for gender equality and women empowerment, identified 12 areas of critical concern: women and poverty; education and training of women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child. Nepal expressed her full commitment to BPFA because these were, and still are, pertinent issues in the context of Nepal. (Baidya, 2000)

Education is the key to progress and unless women are educates, they will not be able to enjoy their rights. The education of women has been sadly neglected in the past. Though the percentage of literacy among women has increased from what it was 40 years ago. The disparity between boys education and girls education is still very high education is considered the most effective instrument of bringing about social and economic change. Our society particularly rural remained static and tradition bound is due to the fact that a vast majority of women in rural areas are not educated. (Kumar, 1990)

Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is causally related to the patriarchal social system, which confines them to subordinated position. Religion ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both sphere and culture worldview and governed in dividend self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, Management and decision making position. (Shtrii Shakti, 1995)

Economically, Nepalese women are deprived in property right. De to lack of property right women have no decision making power on their fertility regulation Ninety percent of all economically active women are engaged in agricultural sector in contrast to 75 percent are men (CBS: 1995) and women hold only 5.3 percent of land ownership. (CBS, 2001)

The decision-making is at the root of every human activity, which involves several stages to reach the final out point. In rural families, a large number of decisions used to be a routine type and did not require much deliberation, but with the changing circumstances, the need for decision-making is also increasing. The authority, which is an indicator of the status, wields power to take decisions not only pertaining to self but for others too. A king, a tribal chief and head of the traditional joint family were supreme in their authority to make decisions pertaining to their group. In this way, the participation indecision-making reflects the status of any individual, which increases with the growing participation up to the final decisions. Women were generally not involved in this social process even in the decisions pertaining to their own life and activities. Various studies have defined to as an indicator of their lower status. (Vidyu Lata, 1990)

2.2 Conceptual Frame Work of the Study Area

Based on the review of the available literature, an attempt has been made to develop a conceptual frame work for the present study by identifying possible factors affecting the decision making power of women. The framework includes religion, caste/ ethnicity, economic status of household, education of women, occupation of women etc. these have been taken as independent variables, which directly influence the dependent variable.

There are various factors that affect the decision making power of women, such as, social, cultural, religious economic etc. A conceptual framework has been developed to see the affecting factor in household decision-making power of the women. Especially there are three types of variables, which directly affect in women's decision-making power. Which is socio economic, religio- cultural and demographic.

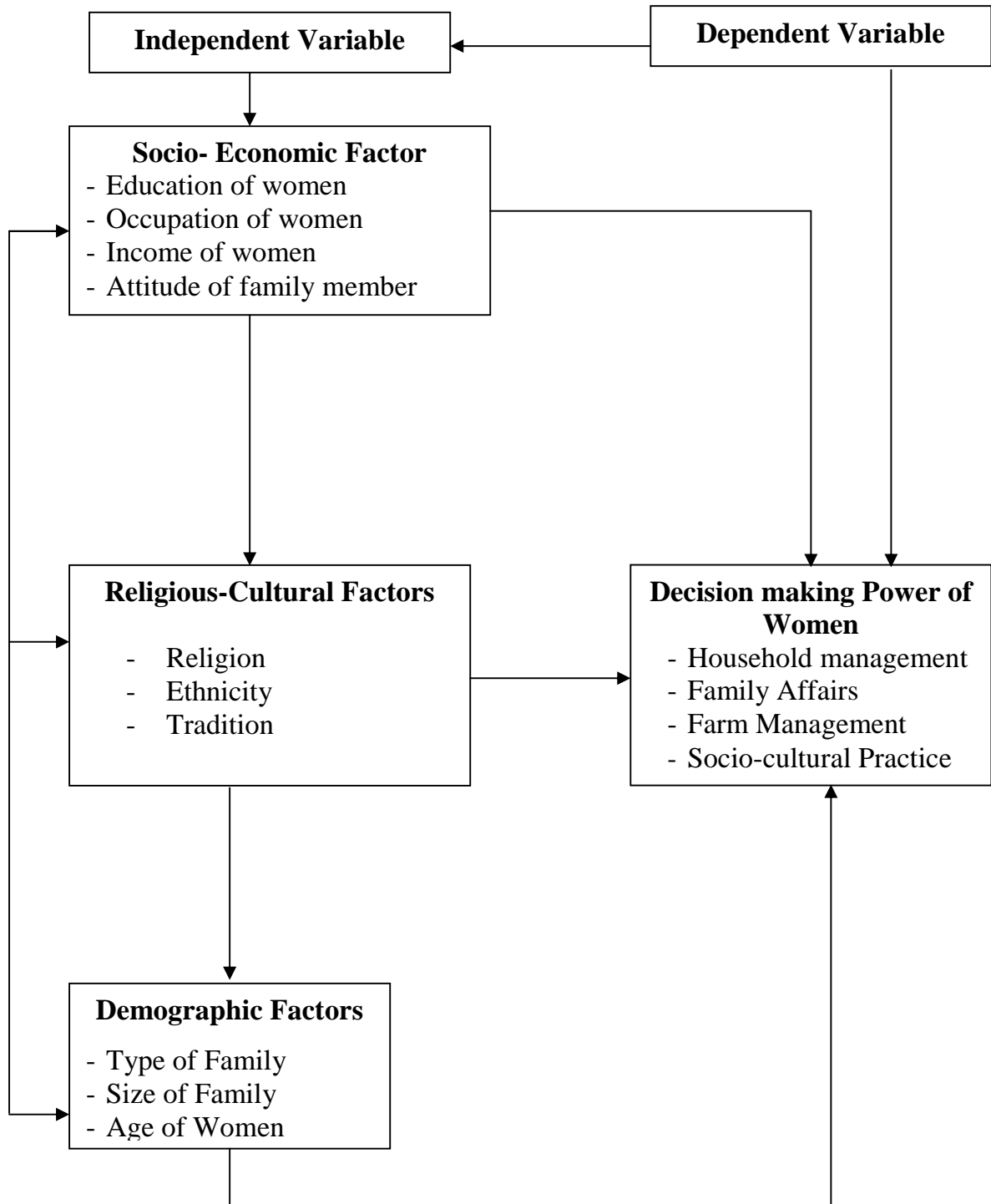
A Socio economic factor represents, education of women, occupation of women, income level of women, attitude of family and education of family member.

Religious –cultural factors represents religion, ethnicity, and tradition.

Demographic factors represent type of family, e.g. nuclear and. joint size of family and age of women.

As stated above factors directly affect the women's decision-making power. If these factors will be positive the decision making power of women become the high and if these factors become negative the decision making power of women become low. These are the interrelated with each other so increase the decision making power of the women it is need to develop the independent variable.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Frame Work for Analysis of Women’s Decision Making Power



CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a systematic way to solve the research problem. In other words, research methodology deals with the methodology adopted in the study it contains the research design, selection of the study area, nature and sources of data, method of data collection, sample size, processing and data analysis etc.

3.1 Introduction of the Study Area

Morang is one of the districts in the eastern development region. The district is limited with Dhankuta in the north, Sunsari in the west India in the south and Jhapa in the east. It covers 1855 square kilometers area. The Mahendra Highway crosses the district from east to west. According to the latest census 2001, the total population of the district is 843220 with 42895 male and 420325 female and the household size is 5.02. There are 65 VDCs and one sub-metropolitan city. This study conducted in Urlabari VDC, which situated in north eastern part of the district. Its political boundaries are Jhapa District in the east, Pathari VDCs and Char Koshe Jhandi in the west, Madhumalla and Jantee VDC in the north and Rajhghat, VDCs in the south. The study covers ward no. 8 of Urlabari VDC, according to CBS 2001, the total population of this study are is 1337 among them 658 are male and 679 are female and total household is 268.

3.1 Research Design

A descriptive as well as analytical research design has adopted in order to analyze and interpret the quantitative and qualitative data, collected from the concerned field. Such a research design helps to fulfill the above mention target. It has tried to explore and investigate the socio-economic status and familier issues of the study area in terms of decision-making process of women

as compared to their counter part man. Such a research design will help to fulfill the above-mentioned targets.

3.2 Sampling Procedure

It is not possible to include all women of the study area there fore; systematic random sampling has been applied. There are total 268 households in study area having different cast and ethnic groups. Out of them 40 houses hold has taken as sample, which is 15 percent of the total households, in this way sampling interval has become 6.7 and first random number has been selected no.6, in this way data has collected and all of the respondents were female.

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

The present study mainly based on primary data. However secondary source or data also used for required information. The primary data has obtained from the field survey with the help of questionnaire, observation the secondary data were obtained from CBS, District Profile, different books, journals, and research report relevant documents and so on.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

Each and every successful result of study always depends upon its methods, which are used for data collection. Therefore for each study the data collection methods always play the very significant role to occur reliable information present study adopted fieldwork method and the techniques for data collection are interview and observation. Tools and techniques of data collection are as follows:

3.5.1 Household Survey

Primary data have been collected from the field by conducting household survey. The tools used for household survey is questionnaire

3.5.1.1 Questionnaire

The structured, semi structure and open questionnaire has been used to get detail information about the participation of women in household decision-making process. The questionnaire has been focused on the objective of the study.

3.5.2 Observation

Some information was collected by the means of observation. At the time of survey different activities were observed, which was related with participation of women in household decision-making process. Such as farm activities, expenditure, treatment of sickness etc

3.5.2 Secondary Data Collection

The necessary data has been collected from CBS, village profile, district profile, organization's documents, different books, journals, research reports and other relevant documents literature and publications related of the study topic.

3.6 Analyses and Presentation of Data

Analysis is the careful study of available facts. So that one can understand and draw conclusion from them on the basis of established principle and sound logic. Using quantitative as well as qualitative tools has done the systematic analysis and technique .the quantitative data obtained from structured questionnaire are processed firstly, then processed data have been presented in tabular form. Finally, the data interpreted with additional information. Simple statistical tools such as, percentage, average has been used to present the findings. Besides this, bar diagram, and pie chart are used to supplement the presentation of the findings of study.

CHAPTER –IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 Socio Economic Status of the Respondents

The study area is Uralbari VDC; ward no 8 of Morang district, which is situated far eastern development region. According to census 2001, the population of this study area is 1337. Among the total population 658 are male and 679 are the female.

This chapter deals with the socio-economic as well as demographic aspects of respondents of the study area. Out of the total 268 households 40 household were taken as sample. In this chapter, age sex composition, ethnic composition, education, land distribution occupation and other activities are included.

4.1.2 Age and sex Composition of the Study Area

The age is most important factor in demographic study and it makes difference in working hours, type of work, decision-making roles. Social relation and responsibilities .age determines the social status of people. Age has great influence in terms of decision-making and taking part in social activities. The age has been group divided as 0-5, 6-14, 15-59 and 60 and above year of age.

Table 4.1: Age and Sex Composition of the Sample Households

| Age group | Male | Percentage | Female | Percentage | Total no. of population | Total percentage |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 0-5 | 15 | 6.5 | 15 | 6.5 | 30 | 13 |
| 6-14 | 17 | 7.3 | 20 | 8.6 | 37 | 15.9 |
| 15-69 | 62 | 26.7 | 76 | 52.6 | 138 | 59.5 |
| Above, 60 | 12 | 5.2 | 15 | 6.5 | 27 | 11.6 |
| Total | 106 | 45.7 | 126 | 54.3 | 232 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Table 1 shows the age distribution of the study households by sex and age. Out of total 40 households 45.7 percent are male and 54.3 percent are females. Among the total population 59.5 percent of population is in 15-59 year of age group, 15.9 percent population in 6-14 years, 11.6 percent are 60 and above years and 13 percent are in 0-5 years. There is highest proportion of the respondents in age group 15-59 years. In our society age factor plays dominant role in decision-making and other responsibilities

4.1.2.1 Age Composition of the Respondent

Table 4.2: Age Composition of the Respondent

| Age group of respondent | No of respondent | Percentage |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 16-20 | 1 | 1.5 |
| 21-25 | 6 | 15 |
| 26-30 | 7 | 17.5 |
| 31-35 | 6 | 15 |
| 36-40 | 6 | 15 |
| 41-45 | 8 | 20 |
| 56-50 | 4 | 10 |
| 51-55 | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows the age composition of the respondent. Among the total respondents 20 percent are in 41-45 year of age group and least respondent are in 16-20 years of age group, which is 2.5 percent .In our society age plays an important role in decision making. Generally no body wants to listen voice of the younger age group.

4.1.3 Family Size of the Study Area

Family is the basic unit of the society and it is an institution, which plays important role in building society. Family size has dominant role in decision-making process. There were found female of small family or nuclear family has higher responsibilities for decision making than big or joint family. From field survey it is found that the average family size of the study is 5.8, which are given as below:

Table 4.3: Family Size of the Study Area

| Family size | No of household | Percentage |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | 1 | 2.5 |
| 4 | 7 | 17.5 |
| 5 | 14 | 35 |
| 6 | 8 | 20 |
| 7 | 4 | 10 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 10 | 1 | 2.5 |
| 12 | 1 | 2.5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that among all 40 households, highest 35 percent households have 5 family members and lowest 2.5 percent of has 2 family members. The average family member of the household is 5.8 which is higher than the national average family member of Nepal (5.45) CBS, 2001.

4.1.4 Ethnic Composition

Nepal is multi-ethnic country where there are different caste/ethnic group. Each caste and ethnic group has their own language, culture and tradition. Nepal is full of cultural diversity caste is also main factors in society and if plays important role in terms of social activities. In neap, Brahmin and Chhetri have played dominant role than other castes.

Decision-making is also influenced by ethnicity. We find variation in different communities; women decision-making power is relatively high in Rai, Gurung and Mongolian communities in Brahmin and Chhetri. The following table reveals ethnic composition of the study area.

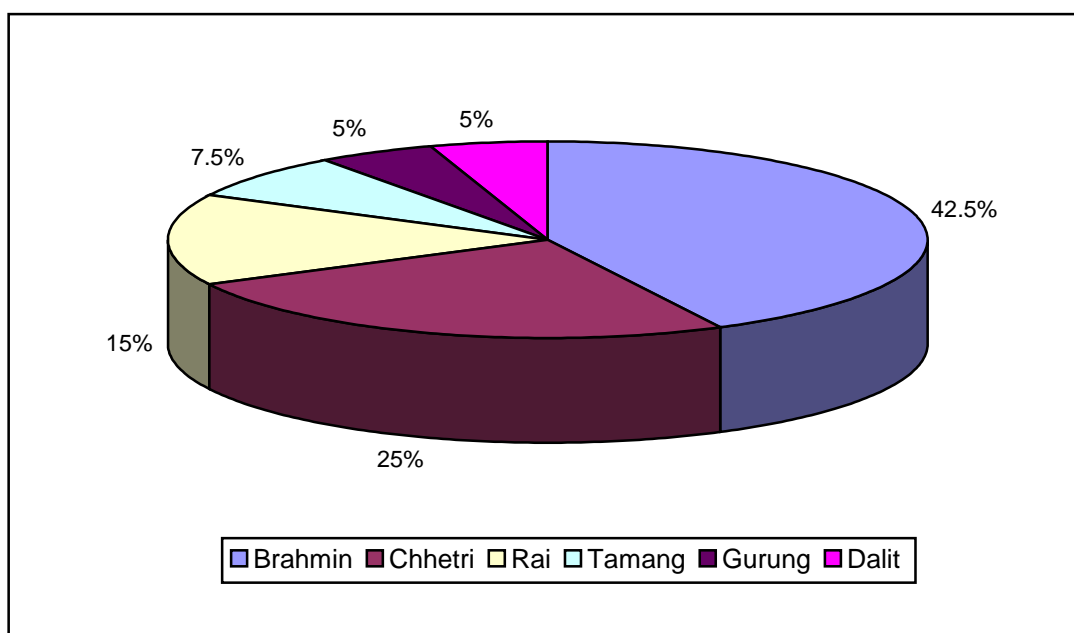
Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity

| Caste | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| Brahmin | 17 | 42.5 |
| Chhetri | 10 | 25 |
| Rai | 6 | 15 |
| Tamang | 3 | 7.5 |
| Gurung | 2 | 5 |
| Dalit | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that ethnic distribution of respondent. Among the total respondent, Brahmin is the highest. Brahmin constitutes 42.5 percent followed by Chhetri 25 percent. Rai 15 percent occupies the third position, Tamang is 7.5, Gurung and Dalit has same proportion 5 percent.

Figure 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity



4.1.5 Educational Status of the Respondents

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision-making process in household as well as in the society role in decision-making field. Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher educational background.

Table 4.5: Educational Status of Respondent

| Educational Status | No. of Respondent | Percentage |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Illiterate | 9 | 22.5 |
| Literate | 10 | 25 |
| Primary | 3 | 7.5 |
| Lower Secondary | 5 | 12.5 |
| Secondary Under S.L.C. | 10 | 25 |
| Higher Education | 3 | 7.5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

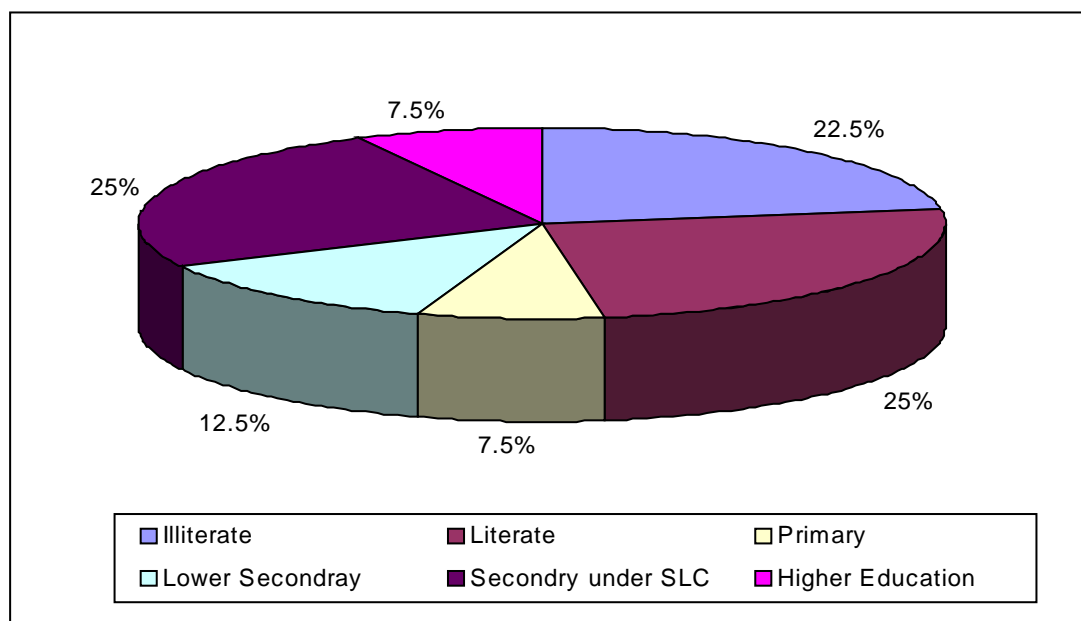
Source: Field survey, 2006

The educational status is divided into 6 categories, which are illiterate, literate, primary, lower secondary, secondary, and higher education. Those who only can read and write but not having school education are kept in literate. Primary education represents form having educational background of one class to five classes. In the same way secondary represents those who pass the S.L.C. and Higher education represents are all who have attained all the levels above SLC level education.

Above table 4.5 shows that educational status of the respondents. Out of the 40 respondents, 22.5 percent are illiterate. It was found that 25 percent only were literate. Only 7.5 percentages have attained higher education. From this table

we came to know educational status of respondent is not good. This table shows that higher proportions of respondent are illiterate.

Figure 4.2: Educational Status of Respondent



4.1.6 Marital Status of the Respondents

Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. Marriage is also one of the physical and natural needs. In our society, marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of people. It is essential for legitimate relationship of man and women given birth to the children. A man's life is not considered complete with out a wife and a woman has no option but to get married. Female's role also increases in family only after marriage. It enhances their decision making power. Following table shows the marital status of the respondents as:

Table 4.6: Marital Status of Respondent

| Marital Status | No of Respondent | Percentage |
|----------------|------------------|------------|
| Married | 37 | 92.5 |
| Widow | 3 | 7.5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows the marital status of respondents. Out of 40 respondent 37 are married. 3 are widow. Unmarried divorced and separated were not found. It is on of the positive aspect of study area from this we came to know relationship of wife and husband is well.

4.1.7 Occupational Status of the Respondents

Occupation is one of the main indicators of the economic status. It is also a determinant factor of decision-making process. Decision making power automatically becomes high of those women who are engage in any income generating activities. The economy of Nepal is largely dependent on agriculture sector. The CBS report has shown that 81% people are still dependent on agriculture. In the study area the main occupation of the household is agriculture. Some of them were engaged in teaching and business the actual occupation of the respondent shows the table 4.7.

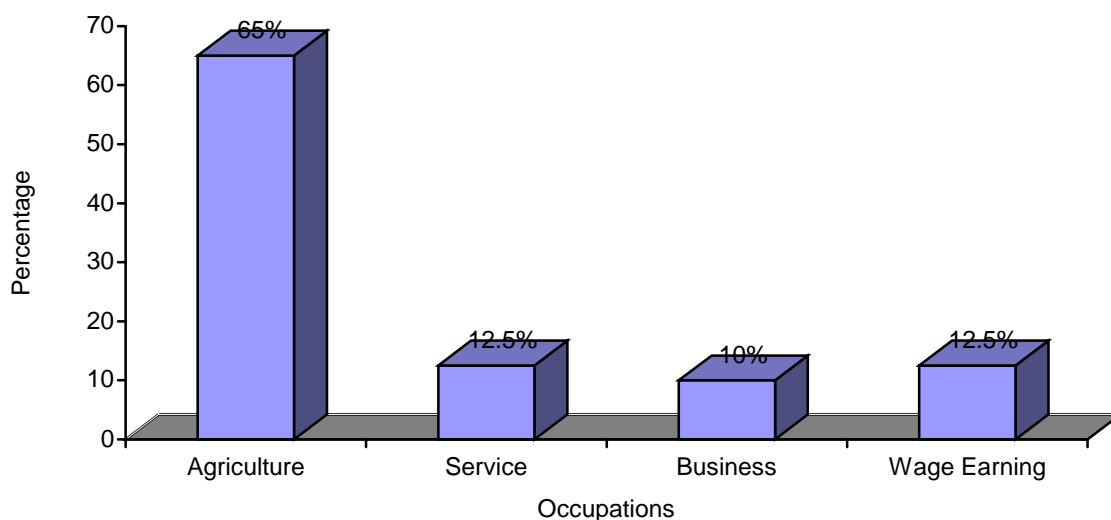
Table 4.7: Occupational Status of the Respondent

| S.N. | Occupation | Respondent | Percentage |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Agriculture | 26 | 65 |
| 2 | Service | 5 | 12.5 |
| 3 | Business | 4 | 10 |
| 4 | Wage earning | 5 | 12.5 |
| Total | | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that among 40 respondents, 26 respondents (65%) are engaged in agriculture. Out of them 5 respondent are in business and 5(12.5 %) respondent's occupation is wage earning. Those who have not sufficient land to cultivate and low educational background were engaged in this occupation. So wage earning is their compulsion to solve the hand to mouth problem.

Figure 4.3: Occupational Status of the Respondent



4.1.8 Landholding Size

Nepal is an agricultural country, where more than 80 percent people are dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great value in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. As stated above most of the respondents main occupation is agriculture. Land holding structure of the study area is as shown below.

Table 4.8: Land Holding Size of Household

| Size of land (in Katha) | No of house hold | Percentage |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 0-10 | 23 | 57.5 |
| 11-20 | 12 | 30 |
| 21-30 | 2 | 5 |
| 31-40 | 3 | 7.5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey: 2006

Above table 4.8 shows that out of the total 40 house hold most of the house holds have less than 10 *Kattha* of land.out of the total 23 house holds have only 0-10 *Katth* of land. 12-house holds have 11to 30 *Kattha* and only 3-house hold

have 31 to 40 or 2 *Bigha* land. It can be concluded from the findings that most of the respondent have small land holding. They have not enough land for cultivation.

4.1.9 Food Production

As stated above most of the respondent's occupation is agriculture. It was found that 65 percent people are dependent upon agriculture in the study area. But only few families have sufficient food for the whole year. People are facing the problem of food deficit in the study area. As the study area lies in Tarai their land is fertile but they have not enough land for cultivation so agricultural production is low. Thus they have to buy food grains.

According to field study, out of the total 40 sampled household only 65 people have food sufficiency. It is because of the low agricultural land. Those who have food deficiency; fulfill their food requirements form other income sources as business, service, wage earning and so on.

4.1.10 Alternative Sources for Fulfillment of Food Deficit

From the study it has found that out of 40 households, 14 house hold have food deficit. Food is the most necessary for living. With out food no body can alive. But these households have to face the food problem. They fulfill their need for food by different alternative as service, business and wage earning. Following table shows the sources to fulfill the deficiency of food.

Table 4.9: Source of Deficit Food

| Source | No of household | Percentage |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Wage earning | 5 | 35.7 |
| Service | 5 | 35.7 |
| Business | 4 | 28.6 |
| Total | 14 | 100 |

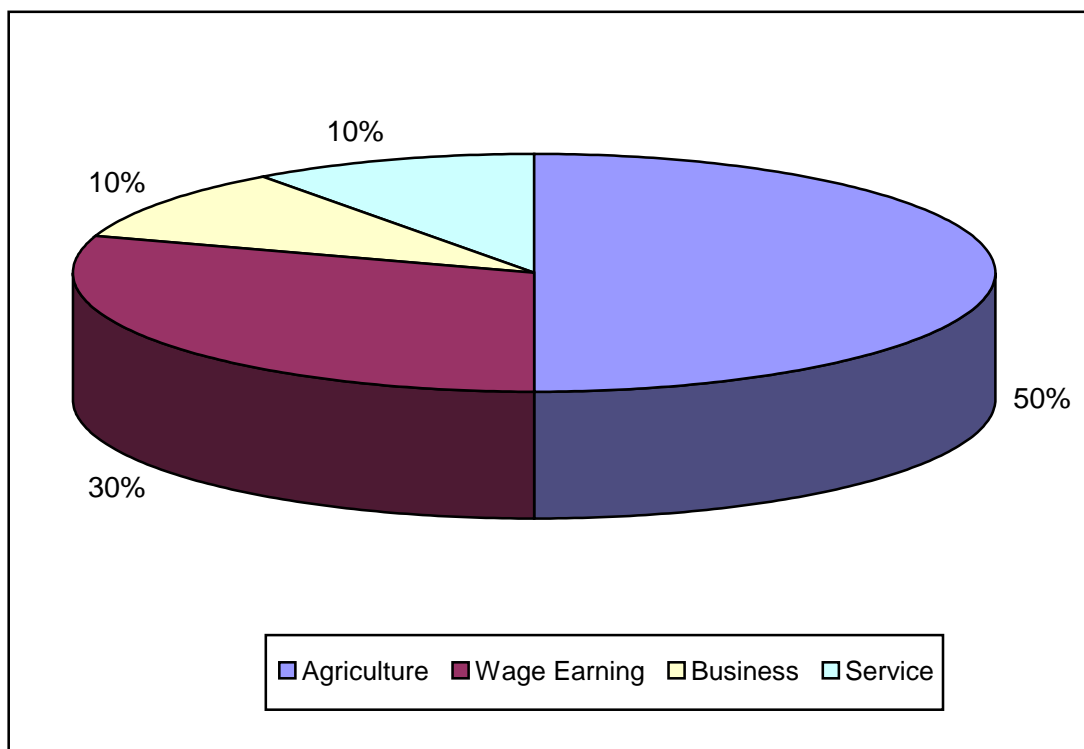
Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows the various alternative sources of fulfilling the food deficiency .The main means of compensation for deficit production is wage earning which covers 35.7 percent, service also occupied same proportion and business occupied 28.6 percent.

4.1.11 Main Source of Income

Sources of income represent the economic status of people. In the study area out of the 40 households agriculture has occupied the first position as the source of income of the total, the main source of income for 50 percent households are agriculture. It is followed by wage earning 30 percent, the wage-earning category has higher proportion as main source of income because most of the respondents don't have higher education and they have not sufficient land for cultivation so they have no other alternative way besides wage earning. Similarly 10 percent people's income source is business especially their business is vegetable and small shop and 10 percent people's income source is service.

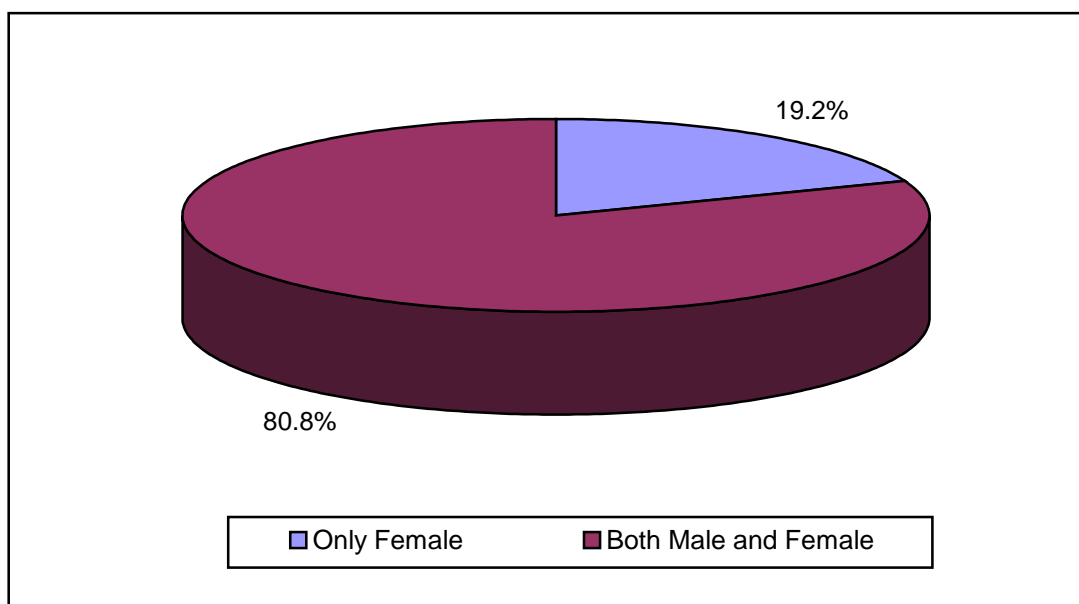
Figure 4.4: Main Source of Income



4.1.12 Involvement in Cultivation

As stated above most of the households occupation and income source is agriculture and they have spend there most of the time in land cultivation. The survey result shows that in most of household land is cultivated by both male and female. Which is 80.8 percent. In some cases only female members cultivated the land, which is 19.2 percent. But no response provided as male members as cultivators. It shows that, female is active in farming compared to male members. And male members are engaged in other activities than agriculture.

Figure 4.5: Involvement in Cultivation



4.1.13 Energy Use Pattern

Now a days energy consumption is considered as an indicator of development. The development status is measure in energy consumption; developed countries have higher energy consumption than developing countries. So there per capita income is high Nepal has very low energy consumption. In Nepal near about 78 percent energy source is traditional e.g. fire wood, agriculture residue dung cake. Following table shows the source of energy of the study area:

Table 4.10: Source of Energy

| Source of energy | No of household | Percentage |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Fire wood | 33 | 82.5 |
| Biogas | 4 | 10 |
| LP gas | 2 | 5 |
| Kerosene | 1 | 2.5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that out of the 40 sampled household 82.5 percent used firewood for cooking. Similarly 10 percent used biogas, 5 percent used LP gas and 2.5 percent used kerosene. It has found that very few proportion use modern energy for cooking, in the study area

4.1.14 Knowledge of Family Planning

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present, in most of the developing countries. Rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of life as well as environment. The family planning is getting popular recently to maintain the small family. People don't like to create burden having large family. So they are attracted towards family planning (FP) use of family planning devices in one of the main indicator for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people in developing countries. The food production is low and there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly.

The question had asked to the respondents regarding the knowledge about FP, the total 92.5 percent respondents gave in positive answer 7.5 percent in negative answer. Either they hesitated to talk about FP or they did not hear about FP so they can not react about it most of the respondents have knowledge

about family planning method and they have heard either about temporary or permanent method.

4.1.14.1 Users of Family Planning Devices

Though respondent have knowledge about family planning, they may not use family-planning device properly. Among 40 respondents 92.5 percent have knowledge about family planning but among them only 54.15% are using contraceptive or done vasectomy and minilap and 45.9 percent respondent were not using family planning.

Mainly there are two types of family planning devices: permanent and temporary the permanent consists two-type family planning, vasectomy for male and minilap or laproscopy for women. And temporary method consists different devices of contraceptives. Among 92.5 percent respondents, who had knowledge about permanent family planning. Only 54% percent used family planning devices. Among them majority are females and only 15 percent are male. Table 4.11 shows the user family planning by methods:

Table 4.11: Distribution of User Households by Family Planning Method

| Adopting Person | Method of Family Planning | | Total | Percentage |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Temporary | Permanent | | |
| Male | 0 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| Female | 14 | 3 | 17 | 85 |
| Total | 14 | 6 | 20 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that out of 20, males are only three (15percent) and they had practiced permanent method. Females are 17. Among the 17 females 14 had used temporary method 3 had practiced permanent method. Out of the total family planning users 85 percent are females and only 15 percent are males.

4.1.15 Keeping of Households Income

Both males and females need to have equal responsibility for household activities and right to share equal benefits in family. Principally both are equal having equal rights and duties but in our society males have dominant roles. Females have only supportive roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision-making. Females are engaged in household activities; livestock rearing, agricultural activities, child caring etc and males go outside and earn. Males have more opportunity to keep their property and played dominant role in keeping household income. Following table shows the fact of the study area. However in the study area, the findings is different.

Table 4.12: Distribution of Household by Keeping of Household Income

| Member of Households | No. of Household | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 16 | 40 |
| Female | 16 | 40 |
| Both | 8 | 20 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that out of 40 samples household male and female members are equal in keeping household income. It is one of the positive aspects in gender and development. In 20 percent household, both males and female keep jointly. However male can use the income according to his will but female have to get permission to use income.

4.2 Participation of Women in Decision Making Process

Greater participation of women in decision-making will be a great step towards ensuring women of their right and improve their status. The decision-making is at the root of every human activity, which involves several stages to reach the final out put. In rural families, a large number of decisions used to be a routine

type and did not require much deliberation but with the changing circumstances, the need for decision-making in various activities is also increasing.

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural areas. Rural women as elsewhere play multiple roles. In the domestic sphere they are household managers, mothers and wives: in community they maintain social and cultural services. Predominately on a voluntary basis and in economy, if they are not formally engaged as employees or entrepreneurs; they are active in family business and farms. But they have low access or no access to income, wealth and paid employment, which are the main causes of their low economic status. It directly and indirectly affects their decision making power.

Decision has great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role in terms of people's participation in different activities. In Nepalese society, man has dominant role and female has to support their male counter parts. This section of the study deals with the women's status in terms of decision making on different aspects of household as well as other activities. It reveals women's participation in decision making household thing, cropping pattern, selling surplus food, borrowing and lending money, household expenditure, expenditure in children education, seeking treatment, family planning etc.

There is gender disparity in terms of decision-making process. Improvement in women's decision-making power minimizes the gap between males and females are deprived in decision-making process due to low educational and economic status in the society. However, women play a dominant role in decision in female-headed households or in nuclear family. The ability and capacity of females in decision-making is affected by various factors as education age factors, employment occupation type of family education of family members' attitude of the family member towards women etc.

4.2.1 Decision for Seed Selection

Females are engaged in agricultural activities more than male. Though, females' contribution in agricultural production is high their participation in seed selection is low. Seed selection is the most essential part of cultivation so cultivator should be participates in this process. Following table shows the participation in seed selection of the study area.

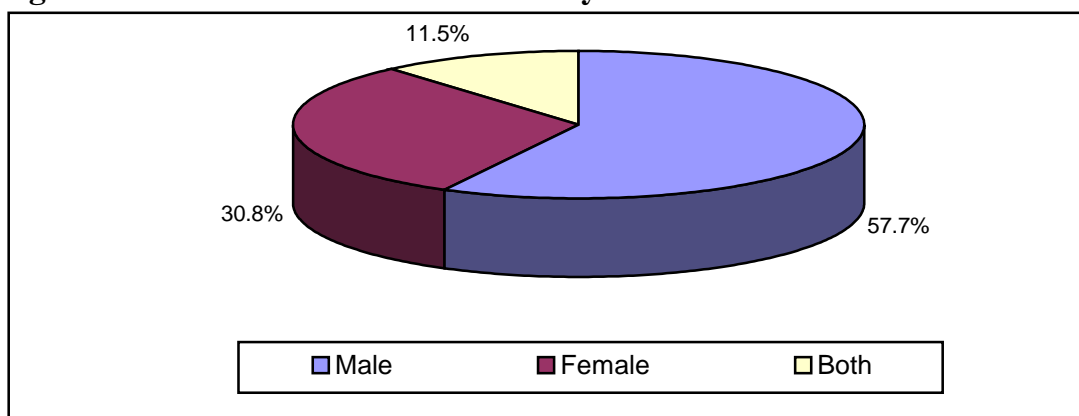
Table 4.13: Distribution of Household by Decision on Selection of Seed

| Decision makers | No of household | Percentage |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Male | 15 | 57.7 |
| Female | 8 | 30.8 |
| Both | 3 | 11.5 |
| Total | 26 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows out of the total 40 household only 26 household have agriculture as primary or main occupation. Among these 26 households, male made 57.7 percent of the decision for seed selection process, while 30.8 percent female makes decision. Similarly, Both males and females occupy slightly lower. However, in 11.5 percent households both males and females jointly take decision in seed selection. It clearly shows that, the access of women in seed selection is low. Where as women have engaged more in farm activities than male.

Figure 4.6: Distribution of Household by Decision on Selection of Seed



4.2.2 Decision Making in Selling of Surplus Agricultural Products

In the study area out of the total 40 sampled households only 20 households had surplus agricultural products to sell. As regards, female members made selling of these surplus products mostly 50 percent of decision and 40 percent was made by male members to sell such type of surplus products and in some households, 10 percents joint decision were made jointly by male and female in selling surplus food of the household. Following table shows the decision made by males and females.

Table 4.14: Distribution of Household by Decision on Selling Surplus Agricultural Products

| Decision maker | No. of Household | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Female | 10 | 50 |
| Male | 8 | 40 |
| Both | 2 | 10 |
| Total | 20 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that in the study area female have dominance role in selling surplus food. It is one of the positive aspects of the study area. But the fact is that especially their selling items are milk, vegetables, eggs and some times they sell rice. All of the respondents have no surplus food for sell, they are facing food deficit.

4.2.3 Decision Making on Fulfillment of Food Deficit

Most of the women are engaged in household chores and they spend more time for agriculture and household activities. Male plays dominant role in household expenditure. Though most of the households' occupation is agriculture their production is not sufficient due to lack enough agricultural land. So they are facing food deficiency. Most of the household female used to cook food, but in

the case of food deficiency they can't decide, from where to fulfill the food deficiency. In means that male members control over the house hold activities too. Female have to get permission to use household income. In the study area it was found that 35 percent household has problem of food deficit. Among them 42.8 percent male decision for fulfilling deficit food. While 28.6 percent female made decisions. However, there were 28.6 percent household, in which decision were made by both male and female jointly. It shows the low decision making power of female in household with regard to household expenditure. But positive point is that at least system of joint decision has started in the study area.

4.2.4 Decision Making In Livestock Farming

The livestock farming is an alternative source of income of the rural people. In study area people are engaged in livestock farming except agriculture. Grass/fodder collection is considered as the female's main responsibility. Most of the females engage in this activity and very few proportion of male share in caring livestock. Though, the large proportion of female are involved in taking care of the livestock, males have dominance role in decision making about the livestock rearing, such as, selection of breed number, buying or selling of livestock production etc.

In the study area, it was found out that among the total sampled household, 57.7 percent household's decision on livestock farming was make by male member. Females did only 26.9% household's decisions. Where as, both male and female member makes 15.4 percent household's decision jointly.

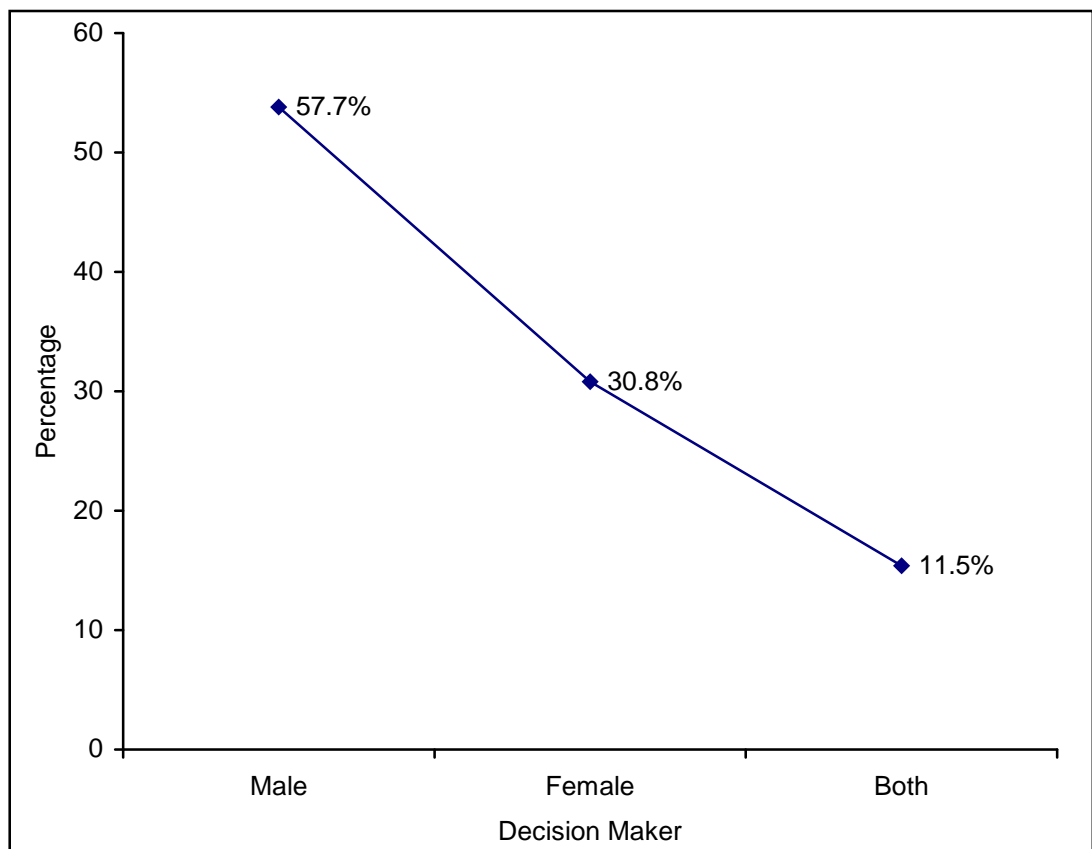
4.2.5 Decision Making on Use of Fertilizer

Nepal is an agricultural country and most of the females are engaged in agricultural activities. They have less access to education and other employment opportunities. So they compelled to work in farm. They spend their most of the time in agricultural activities. To increase agricultural

production use of fertilizer is necessary; there are various types of chemical fertilizer now a days and practice of chemical fertilizer use is increasing. Though women are engaged in cultivation more than male, male have dominant role in using fertilizer. They decide about using the fertilizer, such as quality and quantity of fertilizer.

In the study area, has been found out that, of the total sampled household, male member made 53.8 household's decisions on fertilizer use. Females made only 30.8 percent household's decisions, where as 15.4 percent household's decision were made by both male and female jointly.

Figure 4.7: Decision Making on Use of Fertilizer



4.2.6 Decision on Purchasing Household Goods

It is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal roles and responsibilities. But males have dominance in decision making

process and other social activities. Male alone decides over the purchasing of household goods/commodities. Following table shows the decision on purchasing household goods of male and female.

Table 4.15: Distribution of Households by Decision on Purchasing Households' Goods

| Decision Makers | Households | Percent |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Male | 18 | 45 |
| Female | 10 | 25 |
| Both | 12 | 30 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that among the 40 sampled households males were playing dominant role in decision on purchasing households goods as T.V. Radio etc. In 45 percent households decision is made by males while only in 25 percent household females decide for it. However there are 30 percent household in which decision is held by both males and females jointly. This shows male's domination in family.

4.2.7 Decision on Education of Children

Education is the basic need of the every human being. Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its social and economic status. In the same way education is the right of every child. They have to go school. According to the field survey, out of the total sampled household, all children have not getting opportunity to go to school. Due to the economic problem among total household 82.5 percent household's children go the school, 3.75 percent household's children go to the school, 3.75 percent household's only son go to the school and 10 percent children do not go to school.

In the study area it was found that, out of total sampled households male members have dominant rode in deciding children's education. Males in most

cases made the decision about children's education and expenditure for them. Out of total 40, it was found that male made decision for education children in 52.5 percent and 27.5 percent household's decision was made by female. Similarly, 20 household's decisions were made by both male and female jointly. The following table shows the decision making on children's education and expenditure.

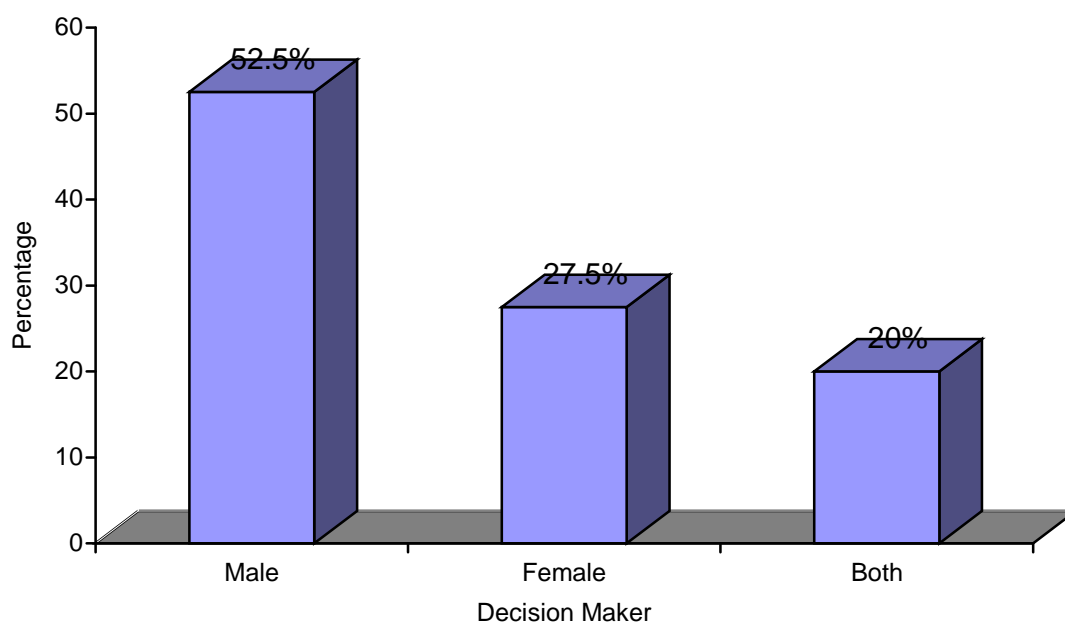
Table 4.16: Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education

| Decision Maker | No. of Households | Percentage |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Male | 21 | 52.5 |
| Female | 11 | 27.5 |
| Both | 8 | 20 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: field survey, 2006

Above table shows that male have dominance role in children's education and expenditure. Though both males and females are equally responsible for the children's future but only male members decide in most of the case. It may be due to the low educational status of female and their economic dependency.

Figure 4.8: Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education



4.2.8 Decision on Medical Treatment

With the modernization, medical science has developed lots of method and medicine for treatment. However, in under developed countries like Nepal, people are even depending upon the traditional method for treatment of diseases. In our country people have no easy access to modern medical facilities but recently, the proportion of people are getting treatment with doctor due to increase in literacy and getting awareness about their health.

Health is very sensitive for human being and it affects all the other activities. There is a proverb, which says health is wealth. Medical science has developed many kinds of medicine and injection for treatment of diseases. The life expectancy of people has been increased due to modern medical facilities. In terms of decision related to treatment for sickness of family members males have dominant role. Mostly, male members decide the type of treatment to be practiced to care to disease. Following table shows the male domination in decision for treatment.

Table 4.17: Decision on Medical Treatment

| Decision Maker | No. of Households | Percentage |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 18 | 45 |
| Female | 10 | 25 |
| Both | 12 | 30 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table males and 25 percent households by females make shows 45 percent household's decision on treatment on sickness. Similarly, 30% household's decisions are made by both male and female jointly.

4.2.9 Decision on Given or Taken Loan

In the study area it was found that most of the household have given or taken loan. In this behavior most of the male have dominance role. Only those female has engaged in this behavior who are widow or male has gone out of country. Following table shows the situation on decision for given or taken loan.

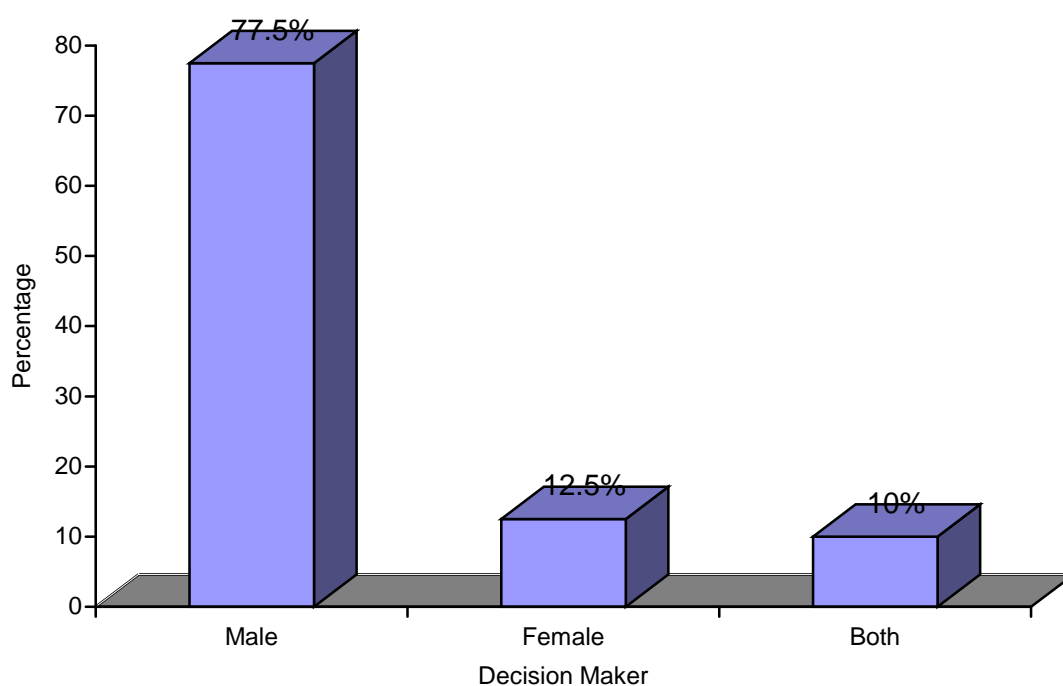
Table 4.18: Decision on Given or Taken Money

| Decision makers | No of House hold | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| Male | 31 | 77.5 |
| Female | 5 | 12.5 |
| Both | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that, in the study area male have dominant in the case of given or taken loan which is 77.7 percent. Only 12.5 percent female have in deciding about this matter. It shows the poor condition of female, they have no access in resources and they have not right to decide about money matters.

Figure 4.9: Decision on Given or Taken Money



4.2.10 Decision Making in Energy Use Pattern

Most of the Nepalese females are engaged in household chores. They are surrounded by household activities. They have less access to education and hence lower proportions are involved in gainful economic activities. In most of the household women used to cook but they have not full right to choose energy type. In the study area it has been found that 75 percent females have made their own decision on energy use pattern. And rest 25 percent males decide in using energy. But they never engage in cooking activities. This study shows the miserable condition of women in decision-making process. Not only in out of house hold but also in energy use with in house hold which is minor thing.

4.2.11 Decision Making on Buying Clothes for Family

Though the male and female have equal responsibilities and duties in the family's wellbeing and prosperity women are always dominant and male are superior. In the every activity males have dominance role in household as well as society. Females have lack of education, awareness and opportunities. They are always depending upon males even they do not have right in household expenditure because they are not engage in earning activities.

In the study area, there have been found that only 25 percent decision on buying clothes for family were made by female and 30 percent household's decision were made by males. Similarly, 45 percent household's decisions were made by both male and female jointly.

4.2.12 Decision Making on Family Planning

Now a day each and everywhere the concept of family planning has developed. Population is rapidly growing day by day. Resources are limited so use of family planning is burning issue in the present world and it is considered to be the main factors for reducing rapid population growth. Rapid population

growths degrades the quality of life of the people and by this resulted different kinds of problems as food deficit, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, health hazards, sanitation, miss managed urbanization. High fertility rate directly affects on women's health.

Reduce the rte and control the population is the most need thing. At preset various type of family planning devices are available for both males and females. Family planning measures are available for females than males. But male played dominate role in deciding to practice family planning methods.

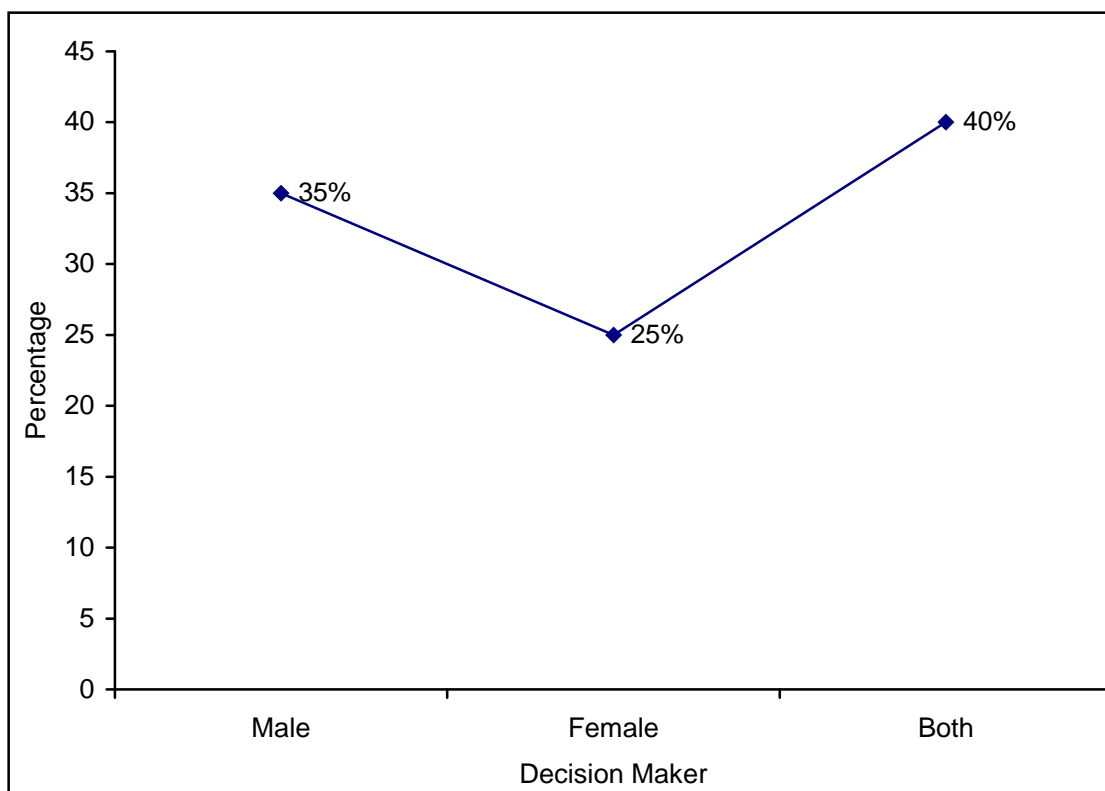
Table 4.19: Decision Making for Using Family Planning Devices

| Decision Maker | No. of household | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 7 | 35 |
| Female | 5 | 25 |
| Both | 8 | 40 |
| Total | 20 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that out of totals sampled household 50 percent respondents are using family planning devices. Among them, 35 percent decisions were made by males only 25 percent decisions were made by females and 40 percent decision were made by both male and female members jointly. From this result it becomes clear that females are lag in deciding using family planning devices/method. Though the females used family planning devices rather than male, they have low decision making power in using family planning, due to lack of knowledge and education.

Figure 4.10: Decision Making for Using Family Planning



4.2.13 Decision Making for Social and Religious Ceremony

Due to distinct cultural and religious feature, Nepal is known as the richest country in the cultural and religious aspect. Every cast and ethnic group has their own life cycle ceremony. They celebrate the ceremony with each other. They have religious harmony with each other and they also equally participate in others ceremony. in the study area it was found that out of total sampled household 30 percent male has participated in religious ceremony. Similarly 40 percent female has participated and both male and female participation was 30 percent.

In the case of decision making on celebrating these ceremony there has found that male and female both have dominance role. Out of total sampled household 25 percent decision were made by male. Female made 35 percent decisions and 40 percent decision were made by both male and female jointly. It is presented in the following table.

Table 4.20: Decision on Celebrating Ceremony

| Decision Maker | No. of Household | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 10 | 25 |
| Female | 14 | 35 |
| Both | 16 | 40 |
| Total | 40 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that, in the case of celebrating social and religious ceremony women have slightly dominance role which is 35 percent in comparison of 25 percent male. In various household activities male played dominance but in this case they are back.

4.2.14 Problems of Females in Household Decision Making

In the study area there was found that in most of the households males make decision. Females are back in decision making actually they want to decide but lack of education, low income status, social norms and values, tradition, cultural practice etc are seen as the barriers. So they are not being able to make decision. The respondent were asked “whether is they are facing any difficulties in decision-making?” most of the respondent replied they are facing difficulties and some of the respondent replied they are not facing any difficulties in decision-making process. Of the total maximum 70 percent respondent replied they are facing difficulties and only 30 percent respondent replied they are free to decide in household activities. Who replied, they are free to decide they are either widow or their husband has gone out for the earning. But other cases women are not free for decide themselves.

According to them they are facing different type of difficulties such as; they have to work according to desire of male. They have to work, whatever male want. Males do not agree with female’s advice. If they give any suggestion,

males said that, they don't want to listen the voice of female in the case of decision making.

Females have low access to resources, education and economic activity. They are considering as the supporter to the males and they have to follow their male counterparts. Husband is considered as god for wife and she has to respect him in every step of life. Females have low status in the society. There is vast gender disparity in socio-economic status as well as decision-making power. Decision-making is one of the major indicators of status of human being. In our society male have dominant role in society as well as household decision making by this situation status of women becomes clear.

CHAPTER –V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

This study is based upon the primary data, collected from the field survey. There are 268 households in this ward, among these household 40 household are taken as sampled household to collect information. This study is an attempt to analyze the socio- economic status of females and their roles and participation in decision-making process. Summary of this study are as follows:

- Total population of the studied household is 232 including 45.7 percent males and 54.3 percent females.
- Among the 40 respondents all are married
- Majority of the respondents are Brahmin and Chhettri in percentage 42.5 percent Brahmin and 25 percent are Chhettri
- Among the total respondent 22.5 percent are illiterate and only 7.5 percent have attained higher education.
- Average size of family is 5.8, minimum numbers of family member is 2 and maximum is 14.
- Out of total, 35 percent household are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfilled their food deficiency by involving in wage earning 35.7 percent, service 35.7 percent and business 28.6 percent.
- Most of the households have small size of land ,out of total 57.5 percent house holds have only 0- 10 Kattha , only 7.5 household have 31 – 40 Kattha . nobody has more than 40 Kattha or 2 Bighas of land.
- Most of the households' occupation is agriculture, which is 62.5 percent.
- Female cultivators are 19.2 percent and both male and female cultivators are 80.8 percent.
- Both male and female have equal participation in keeping household income, which is 40 percent, and 20 percent keep by both male and female.

- Fire wood is the major source of energy, 82.5 percent use fire wood, 10 percent biogas and 5 percent LPgas and 2.5 percent use kerosene.
- Out of total, 92.5 percent respondents have knowledge about family planning and out of them only 54.1 percent are in using.
- Most of the family planning user use temporary method, which is 70 percent and remaining 30 percent, have practiced permanent method.

Participation of Women in Decision-making Process

From the study it was found that, males have dominant role and females have low decision-making power with compared to their male counterparts. Following are the main summary with regard to participation of women in household decision-making process.

- Males have higher decision-making power for selecting seed or cropping pattern, which is 57.7 percent with, compared to 30.8 percent female.
- Males play dominant role in purchasing household goods which is 45 percent in comparison to 25 percent female
- Females have dominance role in selling surplus food which is 50 percent with compared to 40 percent male
- In the case of fulfillment of deficit food 42.8 percent male make the decision as compared to 28.6 percent female
- In the case of livestock rearing 57.7 percent decision makers are male and only 26.9 percent decision makers are female.
- In using fertilizer 53.8 percent decision maker are male and only 30.8 percent decision maker are female.
- In the case of energy use 75 percent decision maker are female and 25 percent male.
- Regarding expenditure on children's education 52.5 percent decision are made by males and only 27.5 percent by female.
- Forty five percent decisions are made by males for medical treatment of sickness while only 25percent decision by female.

- Decision of males has dominant in giving or taking loan, which is 77.5 percent, compared to 12.5 percent.
- In decision making for buying cloth for family is not very different between male and female. Male decision makers are 30 percent and female decision makers are 25 percent.
- In the case of using family planning devices 35 percent decision makers are male and 25 percent decision makers are females.
- In the case of celebrating the social and religious ceremony female have dominant role indecision making which is 35 percent with compared to male 25 percent.
- Seventy percent respondents are facing the different type of problems in decision-making process.

5.2 Conclusion

In view of the objectives of the study, Uralbari VDC of the Morang district was selected as the site for the study. Only 15 percent household has been taken as a sample. Out of total respondent 20 percent are 41 to 45 of age group The educational status of respondents are not good, only few percent have higher education .it also indicates the status of women. The family size is bigger than national average size of census 2001 (5.45-5.8) most of the respondent's occupation is agriculture. Among them some are engage in business, some are service and some of them engage in wage earning. Most of the respondents have small land holding size, 57.5 percent have only 0-10 Kattha, only 7.5 percent have one to two Bigha. By this reason they are facing the problem of food deficiency, which is 35 percent. They fulfill their deficit food from the wage earning service and business. They are engaged more time in agriculture than male. Most of the respondents are using firewood for energy. Over 90 percent respondents have knowledge about the family planning. About half of them are using family planning devices. One of the positive aspects is that there was not very difference in keeping household income.

Males play dominant role in purchasing household good. In case of purchasing in children's education, female have less access in decision in comparison to male. In the same way most of the cases male have dominant role. In the case of medical treatment decision maker are male. Male have highly dominance role in giving or taking loan from other. In rare cases female have access in decision-making. Although, female used to cook in all households, they have not full right to choose the energy. Only 75 percent have this right. Family planning users are female but in using family planning, devices, decision maker are male. There is one thing where the Female have more access than male, in decision-making that is celebrating social and religious ceremony.

Women have many times engage in agricultural activities but they have less access to the selection of seeds, agricultural pattern and using fertilizer. Female are giving more time in looking after of livestock but males have dominant role in decision making about the livestock rearing such as: selection of breed, number of cattle selling of livestock production etc. female have more access in selling surplus food but they have low access in fulfilling the food deficiency, where as most of the female engage in cooking.

Most of the women of the study area are, facing the problems in decision-making. They want to decide them self about their personal matters as well as in household activities which are related with them. But they have no right to decide freely with out the permission in each and every activity. They have to work whatever male want. Male don't listen the suggestion or voice of female in the case of decision-making process. There is vast discrimination between male and female in the sense of decision-making.

5.3 Recommendations

Some recommendations have been given with the intention of raising women's status in terms of their decision making power. These suggestions as the research hopes would initiate policy makers and local development

practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programs regarding the upliftment of women and their status within the households, especially in household decision-making process. On the basis of the findings of the study the following recommendation can be given to improve the status of females and to increase their participation in decision-making process.

- ☞ Unless and until females are brought into the main stream of development process it is impossible to develop society as well as nation, so government should give first priority to females in any developing activities.
- ☞ Education can play a key role in the decision making of women so literacy rate should be increased with special emphasis for the special education for female.
- ☞ Economic status may play a vital role in decision-making process of human being so it is needed to increase the access of female in income generating activities.
- ☞ Existed gender discrimination should be eliminated from the society.
- ☞ Female's role in farm management is significant. So, they should be trained for adopting new agricultural technology.
- ☞ Females have to encourage to participate in different activities such as political, economic, social, educational etc.
- ☞ Women should be given opportunities to decide freely in house hold economic activities.
- ☞ It is needed to listen and respect their voice in the society.
- ☞ Different type of tradition, values and customs, which are against the development of women, should be eliminated from the society.
- ☞ Women should not be bounded in household and agricultural area only, they have to encourage to participate in development activities.
- ☞ Most needed thing is that concept of equity between male and female should be developed in local level as well as national level.

- ☞ Women's right decision should be respected and they have to encourage to decide.
- ☞ It is needed to increase the educational status of women as well as man in rural areas.
- ☞ Different programme should be launched about the right of women
- ☞ It is need to aware women for their right and responsibilities
- ☞ Appropriate plan policy should be made from the national level for development of women.
- ☞ Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women, which would encourage their economic participation and hence evaluate her status with in the household.
- ☞ Culture is one of the important affecting factors of decision-making so emphasis on culture is needed.
- ☞ Women should be the subject and center of development, because historically and even today women take care of the basic needs of the society like food, fodder, fuel, shelter etc.
- ☞ Gender awareness is a must in Nepal it should be integrated into the whole system of policy making, planning and programming.
- ☞ There is a need of a new approach to study the social organization, i.e. families and household in a clearer perspective. Better knowledge of women both in the past and present can bring a lot of change to these perception.
- ☞ Discrimination between male and female starts from the family so awareness programme should be started from the family.
- ☞ Root cause of the backwardness is poverty so poverty should be alleviated.
- ☞ Access to resources and control over resources is necessary.

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ANNEX-I

Questionnaire for Household Survey for the Study on the participation of women in household decision making process

This questionnaire has prepared only for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

Date:.....

Name of respondent: Age:

Gender: Male..... Female

Caste/Ethnicity:Religion Education:.....

Marital Status: Married Unmarried.....

1. How many members are there in your family?

| S.N. | Relation of respondent | Gen. | Age | Literate | Illiterate | Level of Education | Remarks |
|------|------------------------|------|-----|----------|------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | |

2. What is your primary occupation?

Agriculture ... Business Service
 Livestock Labour Others

3. What is your secondary occupation

4. How much land do you have in your ownership?

Khet: Dhur Katha Bigha
Bari: Dhur Katha Bigha .

5. Food production in your land is sufficient for consumption for a whole year?

(1) Yes No.

6. If no where from do you fulfill food deficit?

(I) Service (ii) Business (iii) Livestock
 (iv) Wage earning (v) Borrowing (vi) Others.....

7. Who decides where from fulfill?

(I) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
 (iv) Daughter (v) Others

8. Do you sell any of the surplus food?

(i) Yes (ii) No

9. If yes, who decides to sell?

(i) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
(iv) Daughter (v) Both Male and female

10. What is your main source of income?

(I) Agriculture and live stock (ii) Service
(iii) Business (iv) Others.....

11. Who keeps household income or money?

(i) Male Members (ii) Female Members
(iv) Both male and female (v) Others.....

12. Do you have following things in your house?

(i) Radio (ii) T.V (iii) Separate
Kitchen
(iv) Electricity (v) Toilet
(vi) Gas cylinder (vii) Others.....

13. If you have any, who decides to purchase above items?

(i) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
(iv) Daughter (v) Others.....

14. Who decides the cropping pattern in your family?

(i) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
(iv) Daughter (v) Others.....

15. Who involve many times in the agriculture production?

(i) Only male (ii) Only female
(iii) Both male and (iv) Others.....

16. Who decide seed selection?

(i) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
(iv) Daughter (v) Others.....

17. Who decides on fertilizer use? (i) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
(iv) Daughter (v) others.....

18. Who decides livestock farming?

- (i) Fathers (ii) Mothers (iii) Son
(iv) Daughter (v) Others

19. Do you have send all your children school? (i) Yes (ii) No

20. If no who have you not send school?

- (i) Son (ii) Daughter

Why.....

21. Who decides whether your children should go to school?

- (i) Fathers (ii) Mothers
(iii) Others.....

22. If you have business who is engaged in business activities?

- (i) Only of male members (ii) Only female members
(iii) Both male and female (v) Others

23. In your business who decided to invest (only for business family)

- (i) Male members (ii) Female members

24. Have you given and taken any loan from others?

- (i) Yes (ii) No.

25. If yes, who decides to give or take loan?

- (i) Male member (ii) Female members

26. Who decides to by the clothes for the family?

- (I) Male members (ii) Females members

27. Who decides to spend the money and goods for medical treatment?

- (i) Male members (ii) Females members

28. Do you have heard about any family planning?

- (i) Yes (ii) No

29. have you ever use the family planning device?

- (i) Yes (ii) No

30. If yes, what kind of means do you use?

(i) Permanent (ii) Temporary

31. If permanent who has adopted?

(i) Male (ii) Female

32. Who has decided to adopt family planning device?

(i) Male (ii) Female

33. Who take initiation for celebrating the social and religious ceremony?

(i) Male members (ii) Females members

34. Who decides to spend money in social and religious ceremony?

(i) Male members (ii) Females members

35. what type of energy do you use for cooking purpose?

(i) Firewood (ii) kerosene (iii) Biogas
(iv) Cow dung (v) LPgas

36 who decides the use of energy pattern? (i) Self (ii)
member

37. Do you face any difficulties in household decision making or daily activities?

(i) Yes (ii) No

If yes what type of difficulties?

.....

38. Do you have to say any thing about the role of women in household decision making process?

.....

Thank you, for your kind co-operation