

CHAPTER –I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Generally, the movement of people from one place to another is defined as migration. Migration is categorized as internal and external (international) on the basis of the characteristics of migration. People use to abandon their homeland in different circumstances and with different purposes. Especially, they leave their home-land in search of betterment of life. People move toward a new destination in search of better and sustainable livelihood. In other words, basically, such movement of people is found job-oriented or the people use to wander from one place to another in search of new occupation. The abandonment of their home and family may be temporary or permanent. This is a historical human phenomenon found throughout the world whether rural or urban and whether developed, developing or under-developed country.

Migration refers to movement of human-beings in the process of abandoning their original homeland toward some new destination across the boundary of the community or a country. A person who crosses the boundary of own country or places is called an out-migrant and the process is called out-migration. The factors that encourage a migrant to migrate are: demand-pull, supply-push and network factors. Normally, migration influences the employment opportunities of the migrants. People prefer to go to the places where there is possibility of having employment opportunity and availability of other facilities. Generally Migration can be categorized into four types:- (1) permanent (2) semi-permanent (3) temporary (4) seasonal.

Migration is a common phenomenon to Nepal and Nepalese people. It is said that the people of Hilly and Mountainous region of Nepal had started to migrate since the Sugauli treaty, at the first quarter of the 19th century. It is supposed that the beginning of out-migration of Nepalese people is 'Gurkha

Bharti', the recruitment in British army. Now, Most of Nepalese people go to India where as others to Malaysia, Hongkong, Singapore, Korea, Japan, most of the European countries, USA, Canada and Gulf countries for earning.

Generally, male members of our society use to go outside crossing the boundary of own country to earn money. Due to this common tradition the rest of the family members, especially females, have to live at home managing the household work. Such kind of responsibility affects the daily life of women, children and adults (elder persons) who are left at home. Especially, married women are affected by such migration when their males move out leaving them the whole responsibility of house and children. Male migration to abroad leaves positive and negative impacts on his households and women who are remained at home as a responsible person. In the absence of their husbands women have to carry out the whole burden of household management, the responsibility of upbringing and care-taking of their children and grown-ups. They lack trustworthy helping and sharing hands in earning livelihood and performing daily household works. These are some of the significant negative impacts of emigration on women.

The ever increasing out-flow of male members of the society has some positive aspects too. The earning of the migrated people helps to improve the economic condition of the family. They have enough money to spend on clothing, feeding and other necessities. The extra income automatically upgrades the living standard of the family. It brings a drastic change in the life style and living standard of the whole family members'. They can have better food and fine clothing. They can celebrate the festivals in better way. In the absence of the male partners the abandoned wives have to participate actively in so many socio-cultural and economic activities. In absence of their husbands the women have chances to play a role of host in traditional rituals and festivals. If they have enough money in hand they can spend freely on what they want. When their husbands have good earning women should not have to work so hard. That makes their life luxurious and leisuresome. They have to

come forward and take part in so many social works that help them to be social and active. Such changes occurred in women's life due to the absence of their husbands have a positive impacts on women and the family.

This study tries to focus on the impact of male migration on women in the remote village from where a huge number of male is migrating, leaving back the women and other family members at home. As a result of such migration, we can see so many changes occurring in the rural families. Socially the women are forwarded, culturally they are upgraded and economically they are sounded (prospered). To be played an important role by the women as an acting head of the family is a significant sign of structural changes occurred in a particular family, household authority and society. The major concern of this study is to examine and observe the phenomenon of structural changes in the traditional sex-roles (division of labour) and social organization of the rural families caused by migration. To achieve the goal it needs to select a special site and have to try to make a deep study on migration and its' impact on society. For this purpose I have selected a village, one of the remote area of Myagdi district from where a large number of male have been migrated.

" **Pulachour**", one of the remote VDC of Myagdi district, is situated in western hilly region of Nepal. It is populated with different caste and ethnic groups. Therefore, culturally it bears diversity in social composition. Most of the people of this VDC, traditionally, use to go out of the country for their livelihood because there is no other means of daily income available other than Agricultural work.

In this VDC, a major part of population is migrating day by day. Among them, almost all the numbers of migrants is of young and male. Many more of them are already married and as I mentioned above, this imposes extra responsibilities on women who have to maintain their households. The present study objects to discover and describe about what has happened or happening, specially in the life style of married women when the male have temporarily

abandoned them to rural areas leaving the household management responsibilities on the back of their life partners.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Nepalese women constitute 50.05% of total population (CBS-2001) but they are dominated by male and are given subordinate status which fixes their roles and responsibilities. Male dominated society gives status to married women as wives and daughter-in-laws, means the secondary status. In the Hinduism wives are considered as subordinate to male members. Nepali societies are traditionally dominated by the Hindu patrilineal ideology. In the familiar words of Manu, 'Her father protects her in childhood, her husband in youth and her son protects her in old age; a woman is never fits for her independence'. It is supposed that the women must be protected and controlled by their male kins.

In Nepal, the statuses of women are of two types: Patrifocal and Filiafocal. In Patrifocal model, male's status is higher and female status is lower and not valid, women are supposed as impure and the situation of women is reserved. In Filiafocal model, the status of women is higher; all members of house respect her as a daughter and worship as Goddess.

As I have mentioned above, the women population is higher in Nepal, though, they are facing many more problems. Female status is very low in every sector of social life and has less access to Education, Health, Politics, and Economy.

"Male-only" migration is a traditional feature of our societies. In the male dominated societies, the ratio of male migration is higher than female because of our social structure. A large number of male migrants are moving towards different urban centers of Nepal and of other different countries in search of job, leaving behind their wives and family members in the villages.

This process forces the women to bear the burden of managing the whole household and taking care of the subordinate member of the family.

There are several studies have been conducted by different research institutions and scholars. Most of them are concerned with inner Hill to Terai and rural to urban migration of Nepal. However, some of them are concerned with emigration. The studies conducted so far previously do not have well focused on the socio-cultural and economic impact of migration on women, especially, the women of Pulachour VDC of Myagdi district.

Because of the male migration female members have to take care of the children and carry out whole burdens of their household. Besides this women are also forced to participate actively in other additional outdoor works especially in agricultural management activities, sell the product and buy the required items, participate in social activities and local politics, take part in cultural and ritual activities and so on.

Traditionally, in Hinduism, women participation in death rituals (participating in funeral procession, performing last rites) and perform Kulpuja, Shradha etc. are strictly forbidden in the colour of culture and tradition. However, they are forced to perform such rituals also due to absence of their males at present. Therefore, the present study attempts to seek the answer of the following questions:-

-) What are the positive and negative impacts of migration on women, especially, socio-cultural and economic spheres of their lives ?
-) What are the impacts of migration on household management and how does a woman manage the household in the absence of her husband?
-) How the decision making process of society is affected due to male migration?

-) What are the impacts of male migration on public sphere of women's lives (Political, socio-cultural development, etc.)?
-) What are the impacts of migration on women's status?
-) What kinds of structural changes are brought in family and society by migration?

1.3. Objectives of the study

The present study, generally, focuses on the impacts of male migration on women, It is expected that this general objectives can be achieved with the fulfillment of the following specific objectives.

- a) To asses the socio-cultural and economic status of the migrant's Households.
- b) To analyze the impact of male migration on women and households.
- c) To examine the patterns of change in women's life due to male migration.

1.4. Rational of the study

The problem of male migration is serious one in the context of Nepalese society. Few studies have been done on migration at micro level in some other places, which can not be said sufficient. The trend of out migration has been increasing day by day. It is said that more than 30 million people are migrated from Nepal. The most number of migrant is of males. Due to male migration the whole burden of household works is imposed on women. So, a further study should have to be made on this context. Though this study is limited on a small area but it is hoped that this study may be able to investigate the impact of migration on different conditions of women as a sample.

This study will be useful for them who want to have further study in detail about migration.

1.5. Limitation of the study

This micro level study of emigration will be limited to Pulachour VDC of Myagdi district. This study includes only the male emigration of the study area. The study will be based on sample survey. Comparative and descriptive design is used in the study. The study also includes limited statistical tools and techniques. This study is the result of the idea of emigrant's wives. There is no any others' participation. This study is bounds to clarify the cause and consequence of bad or good impacts on society because of the long term absence of migrants'.

CHAPTER – II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Theoretical review

So many scholars and researchers have made different theoretical definition of migration. Their definition varies because they have studied the subject with different angle and different point of view. Generally, the abandonment of the respective home-land by the people for that or this cause, temporarily or permanently is known as "Migration".

Ravenstein (1885) has presented his view about migration through push- pull theory. According to him push factors are concerned with the place of origin and pull factors are related to the destination. Traditional land tenure system, rural poverty, division of paternal property and always decreasing size of land occupied by the family are supposed as push factors and new opportunities of employment, education and other facilities are described as pull factors. Likewise **Thompson**(1953) expresses his view on migration that the desire to improve the economic status is the main motive of migration. Freedom from political oppression, desire of religious freedom etc. are cited as secondary motive of migration, While as **Bouge** (1969) says that whenever one cannot satisfy his needs he migrates to other places where he may have relief from undesirable atmosphere, unpleasant and intolerable situation. According to his theory push factors are decline in natural resource, lack of employment, discrimination and alienation from a community and natural calamity. And the major pull factors are employment opportunities, facilities of education, preferable environment and living conditions. **Simon Kuznets'** (1964) theory of migration is mainly related to internal migration and economic development. He clarifies that only those people, who have high risk bearing capacity and can adjust themselves in new place, can migrate. Comparatively better educated and enterprising people expect higher income as well as consistency

of income source. Such motives lead them to migrate to urban areas where they can have such income generating opportunities.

An another re-known social researcher **Mobugunje** (1970) has focused on the economic, social, technological and government policy as the factors of migration and a study made by **Gurung** (1989) states that the increasing population pressure on limited land resources is found as the major push factor of out-migration.

I think, no one have any logistic reason to disagree with the push-pull theory of migration presented by Ravenstein. All of the thoughts, researches and theories are based on this theory. Uncomfortable situation of own origin land pushes the people towards a new destination. When the people feel necessity of abandoning their home land definitely they look for such a new destination where there is potentiality of desired facilities or necessity pushes people toward the availability of opportunity. So the push-pull theory is of universal acceptance and importance.

2.2. The social causes of ever increasing attraction of emigration in Nepalese society

Though we cannot disagree with the views of other scholars like Bough, Thompson and Mobugunje but they depict only one or another aspect of push-pull theory. They do not cover all and every causes of migration. In the context of present situation of Nepal Simon Kuznet's theory of migration does not work well. The problem of unemployment has been so worse that the people who do not have any skill, technological knowledge, higher education or entrepreneurship have to be migrated in search of better life and livelihood. Nepal has been a unskilled labour exporting country since last three decades. So Simon's thought of "only educated and enterprising people can venture to migrate" has been proved a false assumption.

Lal (2000) states that an individual who feels deprived of opportunities in his own community or homeland has an incentive to migrate. Migration of the population creates imbalance in the land of origin and that forces native people to migrate outside in search of jobs during the season of labour employment. In the same way **Dixit (1997)** says the seasonal migration usually occurs for a period of three to four months during the winter season. It is cold in the hills at that time of year, particularly at the high altitude and harvesting season is also over. But in the Terai zone the harvesting season does not end until February or March and hill people can find the work of harvesting and threshing rice and mustard. **Pokhrel (2000)** argues that seasonal migration is a coping strategy of rural poor. The causes of seasonal migration are insufficiency of land, poor crop yielding, rural indebtedness, economic hardship, drought and flood. He also writes that migrants are mostly related to the age group of 25-50 years and most of them are married.

Above mentioned description of the causes of migration do not cover all aspects on the seasonal migration. The people of Himalaya region like Mustang, Manang and Solu leave respected villages in winter season, but they do not involve in any agricultural labour. They prefer to indulge themselves in business. They carry the woolen product with them and wander about from place to place. Likewise the people of western region of Nepal also go to Indian territories to seek seasonal jobs like porter, watchman, Hotel boy and Houseboy. So many people who migrate seasonally to the urban areas also like to have manual jobs other than physically harder labour of agriculture. In the context of Nepal the seasonal migration is not limited in only internal but a large number of emigrants go to India for better job opportunities.

Dr. KC (1998) says that poor economy is the main factor of migration. Nepalese peasants leave the country either temporarily or permanently, leaving behind women, children and old people to take care of impoverished agriculture. **Hada (1981)** simply states that migration intensifies existing problem as well as creates new problems at the place of origin and destination.

Peet (1978) mentions that it is entirely not clear that what effect migration might have on the point of origin of the migrants and further states that out-migration is very important either directly or indirectly for everyone in the village. Likewise **Caplan's** study (1970) is particularly concerns with struggle for control over land between Limbu and Brahmin/chhetri and expenditure pattern of migrant's income. **Gaige** (1975) concentrates his study on migration from Hill to Terai and its' impact on national integration **Gurung** (1971) focuses on the changes of regional population due to migration. The study made by **CEDA** in 1973 has extensively discussed the census data in order to analyze the volume, nature, magnitude, causes and consequences of migration in Nepal. A Study of out-migration of western Nepal made by **Dahal** (1977) lightly mentions about the migrants family stating that wives and economically inactive children continue to live in the village supported by the local agriculture, with only a small added income from those working outside.

Karki (1998) states that the male migration has increased work burden on women. The women, specially the wives of absentees, have faced various problems managing household activities, agricultural activities, social activities etc. However it has some positive impacts, too. By the male migration women are empowered by the circumstances to handle every activity freely. They are prominent decision maker in every step of life, from agricultural decision making to the more important economic decision making. They have, for the first time in their life, had opportunities to handle their household freely and with own decision.

These all literature concerning Nepal ignores various aspects and repercussions felt on family members of migrants and society as a whole. With reference to Nepal, literature concerning migration and its impacts on the female is almost absent. **Connell (1980)** states that the absence of predominantly male labour is also likely to a changing sexual division of labour as traditional male job becomes partly female's job. With the migration, the migrants' wives become money earner and for the first time they become the

part of decision making process. Likewise **Karki (1998)** states that the male migration has increased work burden on women. The women, specially the wives of absentees, have faced various problems i.e. managing household activities, agricultural activities, social activities etc. However it has some positive impacts, too. Because of the male migration women are empowered by the circumstances to handle every activity freely. They are prominent decision maker in every step of life, from agricultural decision making to the more important economic decision making. They have got for the first time in their life, has opportunities to handle their household freely and with own decision.

Perhaps, the above argument made by Karki reveals the real picture of the consequence of male migration in general. I have no any disagreement with Karki's statement. But what I can say that during my study, observation, interview and research procedure based on the respondent's households, I have snapped a real but different picture of the society where the emigration has been a common tradition and I found that the women are accustomed to handle their household normally. Now they do not feel it as burdensome task.

In conclusion it can be said that various researches and studies have been done by various institutions and independent scholars regarding migration. The causes, effects, patterns, destinations, characteristics, problems etc. of migration have been well studied. Thus availability of literature concerning the impacts of migration, in general, is not absent however a deep and wholesome study to the "Impact of male migration on women" is rear.

CHAPTER – III

METHODOLOGY

3.1. Study site and reason of selection

This study has been carried out in Pulachour VDC of Myagdi district, one of the mid-hilly districts of western Nepal. The main reason of the selection of this site for the study is:

- a). the outstanding number of migrants,
- b). relatively dense population size of the village,
- c). the composition of society where there is pretty mix-up of different caste and ethnic groups,
- d). it is the nearest native village of researcher and
- e). the location of the village attracted me as it is the nearest destination from the district headquarter of Myagdi.

Moreover, from almost all of the households of this VDC at least one of the male member is out-migrated. Generally, people from this VDC had started to move towards Assam, Sikkim, Burma after Sugauli treaty of 1816. Lack of enough land to cultivate, lack of employment opportunities other than farming, ever increasing population pressure, low productivity of land etc. were the causes of migration. This trend of emigration has been increased after 1950s. It has already produced a serious and significant impact on household activities, agricultural activities, economic activities and social activities of the society. Though, the society as a whole is affected from out migration, above all this the impact of male migration on women has been a special case. That is why this study has been conducted on this area.

3.2. Research design

The present study has been based on exploratory and descriptive research design. To achieve the objectives of this study the exploratory research design tries to find out historical, socio-cultural and economic reasons of migration and also stresses on the impact of migration on women. The descriptive research design tries to describe socio-cultural and economic reasons of migration and its' impact on women.

3.3. Universe and sampling

To collect Primary data, the information of total households of Pulachour VDC has been obtained from VDC office. The total population of the VDC has been supposed as the universe of this study.

For this study, purposive sampling technique has been used. In the first stage, **Kumaldihin**, a densely populated village of Pulchour VDC was selected purposively. In the second stage, from a list of 150 households (Total household numbers of the village), only such households were selected purposively from where at least one male was absent for more than six months. In the third stage, from the list of households 20 percent households were selected as the sample to be studied.

The households of each ward were numbered separately with the help of VDC profile. Firstly systematic quota sampling was adopted for the proportionate representation of caste group. Then random sampling method was adopted for the process of identifying sample households.

3.4. Nature and sources of data

To achieve the objectives of the present study a qualitative and quantitative data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data (sex, age, households, number of absentee, land, occupation, population size of absentees' household, family structure, authority structure,

headship of household, division of labour, economic condition) has been collected through field work, using different methods such as household survey, interview, observation, case study etc. The secondary data (Total population, total household, per person land availability, major occupation, educational status, caste composition of household, economically active and inactive population) has been gathered from already collected records and profiles of relevant VDC and DDC.

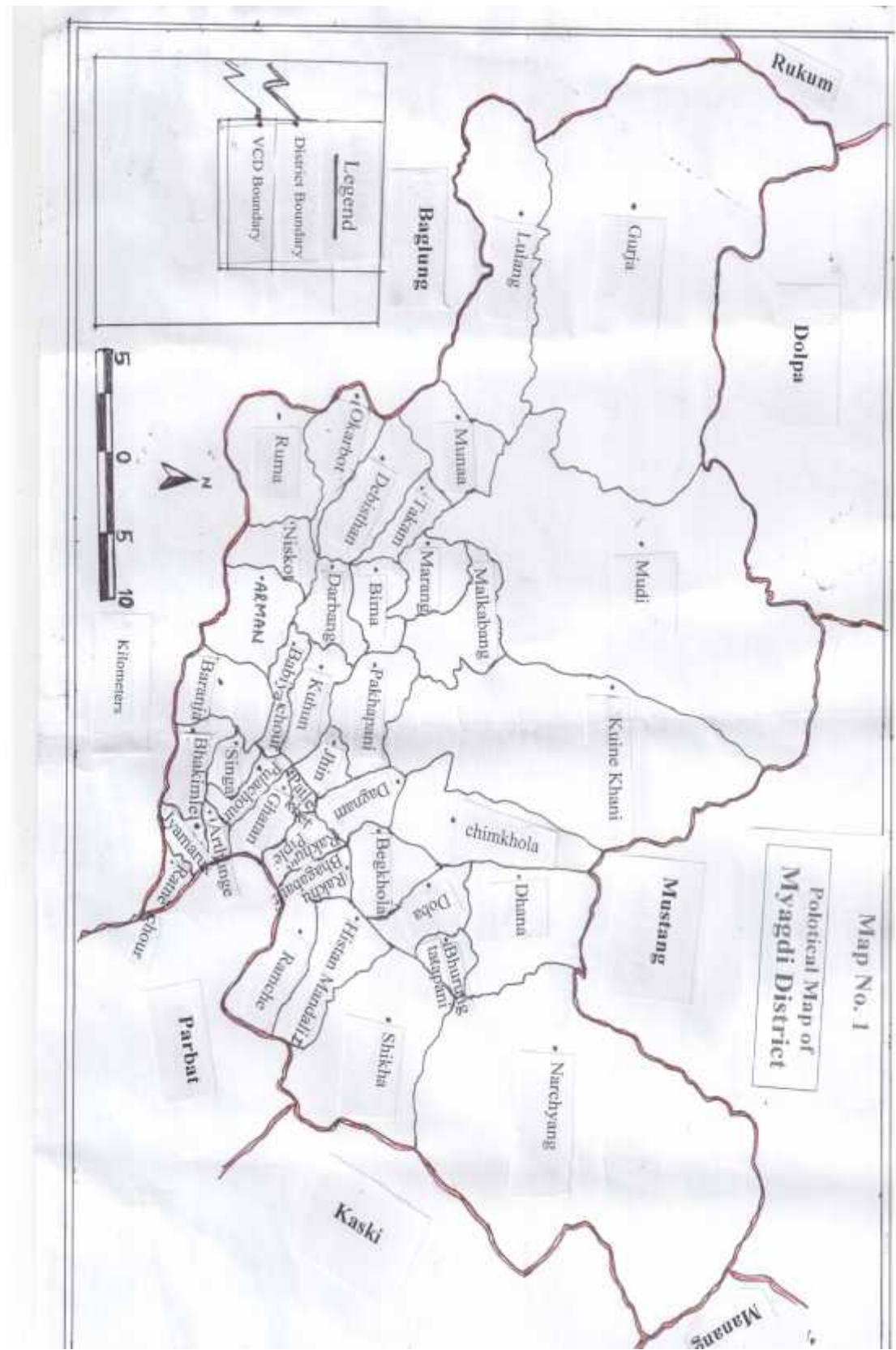
3.5. Techniques of data collection:

- a) **Household survey questionnaires:-** Through the household survey, a primary data of sex, age, households, number of migrants, land, occupation, population, family structure, leadership of household, division of labour, economic condition of the family, was collected. To achieve this goal a series of household questionnaires, based on the objectives of the study was used. Demographic information, economic information, emigration years, emigration reasons etc. were collected.
- b) **Key in format interview:-**This instrument was used to snap the scenes as others saw it with their eyes and their perception about the situation. Some of the information of emigration was collected through interview with teachers, local leaders, social workers and others.
- c) **Observation:-**Some of the information was also collected from observation. Observations were made in the field with the involvement of researcher myself in regard to understand behavior, co-operation, household management, social activities, rituals etc.
- d) **Case study:-** For a deeper understanding of family and communal lives of emigrant's wives, special case study has been made. By describing actual cases, one can gain insight into how a wife and her family cope with the problem caused by the emigration of husband and what kind of

significant changes has been occurred in their lives as a consequences of male emigration.

e) Data presentation and analysis:-The nature of data is qualitative and quantitative. Both types of data have been collected through the field work and some others are depicted from other related literature to meet the objectives. So the information collected from primary sources as well as secondary sources have been arranged in the concerning subject matter so as to match them with the relevant impacts of migration which has been applied in the relevant context.

The qualitative data have been presented and analyzed in numerical way and the quantitative data have been presented in the simple tabulation and some of them are put into different diagrams and bars. Simple statistical method is used to analyze the collected data.



CHAPTER – IV

THE STUDY AREA: AN OVERVIEW

4.1. Location

"Pulachour" is one of the village development committees of Myagdi district. Myagdi is one of the mid-hilly district of western development region, which is surrounded by Manang, Kaski and Parbat district in the east, Baglung and Rukum in the west, Dolpa and Mustang in the north and Baglung in the south. Beni Bazar is the headquarter of this district. Pulachour Village Development Committee lies in the west direction of Beni Bazar. This village development committee is surrounded by Arthunge and Ghatan VDC in the east, Ghatan and Patleket in the north and Kuhun and Babiyachour in the west and Singa and Bhakimli VDC in the south. Most important business center of the VDC is Beni Bazar where all of the people go to sell local products and buy other essential items. Major settlements of this VDC are Daduwa, Bhirmuni, Kumaldihin, Nayagaun, Purundhin, chipleti, Abechour, Puladanda, Pulachour, Phurkesalla, kotsangu villages.

"Kumaldihin" is a most densely populated village that lies in the southern part of pulachour village development committee. According to village profile prepared in 2059 by the VDC authorities, the total household number of this village is 150 and the total population of this village is 1017. Especially, this study intends to reveal the fact of the impacts of male migration on women. That is why the only 30 households from where at least one of the males has been out migrated, are included in this study purposively and a all round study of socio-economic condition of the wives who are abandoned by their husbands and they are compelled to carry out the wholesome burden of the household.

4.2 Distribution of population

In the village profile of Pulachour VDC prepared by the authority in 2059 BS, it is stated that according to the CBS of 2058 the total Population of this village development committee is 4121. Among them the total number of male and female is 2023 and 2098 respectively. Most densely populated ward is 8, where the population is 688 and least population is in ward No. 1 where the population is only 279. The caste-wise distribution is chhetri 40.9176%, Damai 23.76%, Brahman 16.45%, Kami 10.27%, magar 4.68% , Newar 2.89%, and the least population is of sarki that is only 1.04%.

Table 4.1.

Ward-wise population of Pulachour VDC

Ward No.	Total population	Female Number	Total percentage	Male Number	Total percentage
1	279	145	3.45	134	3.24
2	468	251	6.10	217	5.25
3	248	141	3.45	143	3.40
4	546	249	6.05	297	7.20
5	532	281	7.00	251	6.10
6	353	185	4.45	168	4.10
7	472	236	6.00	237	6.00
8	688	362	9.00	326	7.10
9	498	248	6.02	250	6.10
Total	4121	2098	50.90	2023	49.10

Source: VDC profile, 2059

This table shows that ward no.8 has highest population. This table also shows that in the ward no. 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, female population is higher than males. And in the ward no. 3, 4, 7, 9 male population is higher. And ward no. 1 and 3 have lowest population respectively. Female are out-numbered over male by 75

persons in the total population. In caste group of chhetri, Damai and Sarki the population of female is larger than male where as in Bhrahman, Newar and Magar communities the number of male is larger than women.

4.3. Economically active and inactive population

In this VDC economically active population is 2290 (VDC profile 2059, page-29). Including children, elders and disabled the number of economically inactive percentage of the total population is 44.43%.The record of the village development committee shows that the main occupation of the people is Agriculture and some of the villagers depend on foreign employment, Business and manual labour as main occupation.

Table 4.2.
Economically Active and Inactive population by ward

Ward no.	(15-59) Eco-active population	(0-14) Eco-Inactive population	(60-above) population
1	120	149	10
2	293	151	24
3	162	108	14
4	321	199	26
5	282	208	42
6	192	140	21
7	253	191	29
8	379	245	64
9	288	178	32
Total	2290	1569	262

Source: VDC office, 2059

Table 4.2 presents population structure on the basis of economically active and in-active population. The economically active population (15-59yrs) is 2290 which is 55.56 percent of the total population.

While 1831 persons are economically inactive, among them 1569 people are of below the age of 15 and 262 persons are above 59.

4.4. Caste-ethnic composition

In Pulachour VDC there is mixed composition of different caste groups, There is no even distribution of castes by wards and villages. The largest number is of Chhetries that constitutes 40.91% of total population and in the second position is of Dalits (Damai, Kami and Sarki). Their total number constitutes 35.7%, and among them the greatest number is of Darjees (Tailors) and the population of Sarkis (cobblers) is nominal. It is only 1.4% of total population.

Table 4.3
Caste-Ethnic Composition of pulachour VDC

Caste	Numbers	%of total population
Brahman	678	16.45
Chhetri	1686	40.91
Kami	423	10.26
Damai	979	23.76
Sarki	43	1.04
Magar	193	4.68
Newar	119	2.89
Total	4121	100

Source: VDC profile 2059

Pulachour is the third most populated VDC of Myagdi district. There dwell the people of more than seven different castes. Among them the largest group is of Chhetri and the smallest one is Sarki. There are so many villages and sub-villages namely: Phurkesalla, Kothesangu, Kumaldihin, Bhirramuni, Abechour, pulachour, nayangoun, Gajane, chipleti and pula danda where the existence of all the caste, less or more in number is found. But Purundihin is

the only village where single community of Damai is in existence. According to the village profile of the VDC prepared in 2059 v.s. by the authorities, the population of Pulachour is 4121 in total. Among them 2098 are females and 2023 are males. This data shows that 49.10% population is of males and 50.90% population is of females.

4.5. Educational status of the VDC

The head count population of below 5yrs' age group is 535 that constitute 13% of total population and that cannot be counted from the educational point of view. Therefore it can be said that total illiterate population is 905 that is 25.24 in percentage. Total literate population is 2681, 74.76 in percentage. This is the highest literacy rate of Myagdi district as a whole.

Table 4.4

Educational status of population by sex

Educational status	Male	Female	Total	
	Number	Number	Number	Literacy % of 6 yrs' above population
Illiterate	302	603	905	
Literate	604	643	1247	35.2
Primary	328	298	626	17.7
Lower secondary	387	179	566	16
Secondary	143	34	177	5
Higher	53	12	65	1.8
Total	1515	1166	2681	74.76

Source: VDC profile 2059.

There is no vast difference in total literacy rate between male and female in this VDC. The male literacy rate is 42.2% and female literacy is 32.55%. 604 males are literate and the number of literate female is 643. In the number of Primary school goers' male and female there is no vast difference. In the

Primary level the number of male student is 328 where the number of female students is 298. But in the High school level the numbers of female students decrease surprisingly. There is very low percentage of the female students in Higher education.

4.6 Facilities of public services

Pulachour VDC is the nearest neighbour of Arthunge village development committee, where lies the district head Quarter. So the people of pulachour VDC take advantage of different public services like shopping, health service, Public security etc. from the market of district headquarter. This VDC has highest literacy rate and naturally the number of schools is also greater than other VDCs' of Myagdi district.

Table 4.5
Available facilities in Pulachour VDC

Services	Government	Private	Population/ Services	Remarks
Primary school	9	0	626	
Lower secondary school	1	0	387	
Secondary school	2	0	180	
Post office	1		200	
Health post	1		500	
Tea shop		15	300	
Agricultural input shop		1	250	
Groceries		10	500	
Clothes shop		3	150	
Telecom. centre	4		!000	

Source: VDC office

The study of above table shows that there are 14 schools in 9 wards. Among of them 1 is Lower secondary, 2 Secondary and 11 primary level schools. One health post and a post office are also in existence. But the number of shops is very low that is because the nearness of Beni Bazaar, the head-arter of Myagdi district. A large portion of the population of Pulachour VDC prefers to have facilities of public services from the relatively larger market of Beni Bazaar.

4.7 Major occupations

Directly or indirectly the rural population is involved in agricultural activities. Naturally the main occupation of this VDC is agriculture. Besides this, some of the villagers have adopted so many side jobs i.e. Internal and external employment, manual labour and business as their main livelihood.

Table 4.6
Major occupation and Economically active Population

Occupation	Person Involved	% of total Economically Active population
Agriculture	1318	57.56
External Migrant	109	4.8
Internal Migrant	327	14.3
Tailoring	185	19.4
Carpentry	74	3.2
Masonry	185	8.0
Blacksmith	50	2.1
Business	43	1.8
Total	2291	100.00

Source: VDC profile, 2059

According to the above given data 57.5% out of the total population depends on agriculture. In the Governmental services like Police, Army, public

service, Teaching 14.3% people are involved, 4.8% people are earning their living by foreign employment and only 1.9% people are found involved in business. Including Hali, Gothala, Khetala (agricultural labour), carpentry, Masonry and tailoring 19.4% people are earning their living through daily wages.

4.8. Distribution of land

In the rural areas the main component of public wealth is Land. In pulachour VDC there is 7191 Ropanies of cultivated land. Cultivable land popularly known as Khet (irrigated land) is 3451 Ropani or 172.6 hector and Pakhobari (un-irrigated land) is 4281 Ropani or 214.05 hector and total households that occupy the total land is 728.

Table 4.7
Distribution of Land by ward

Ward No.	Households	Total Land			Land occupied by family
		Khet	Pakhobari	Kharbari	
1	66	209	267	21	7.3
2	66	210	258	31	7.3
3	65	317	184	40	10.8
4	65	500	441	24	10.8
5	98	361	633	76	11
6	65	385	511	64	14.7
7	84	261	662	84	12
8	124	700	430	116	10.4
9	96	508	365	74	9.8
Total	729	3451	3751	530	10 Rpn per HH

Source: VDC profile 2059

The distribution of land and Household is not even by ward and village. The largest household number is in ward No. 8 (Bhiramuni) and the total

number of cultivated land (Ropani) is also larger. In average per Household land holding is 10.4 Ropani.

4.9. Distribution of Live-stocks

No one of this VDC has adopted livestock keeping as their main occupation but more or less number of one or another live-stocks is found in each and every households. Now these days the pastures (traditional grasslands) are defined as community forest. The authorities of such lands are transferred to the community consumers and there is no open land left. This new system has forced people to lessen the numbers of live-stocks like cows, Buffaloes, Goats, Sheep's etc.

Table 4.8
Ward-wise distribution of live-stocks

Ward No.	Cow/bullock	Buffaloes	Sheep/goats	Cocks/ducks	Remarks
1	1102	56	43	995	
2	1103	55	43	101	
3	85	70	84	114	
4	98	73	90	120	
5	229	123	61	223	
6	167	100	87	279	
7	214	136	162	276	
8	127	127	196	541	
9	110	117	76	287	
Total	3235	857	842	2936	
% of Total Live-stocks	41.01	10.8	10.6	37.03	

Source: VDC office

According to the above given table, the total number of live-stocks in pulachour VDC is 7870 including cows, calves, Bullocks, Buffaloes, Bull

Buffaloes, Goats, kids, Sheeps, Lambs, chickens and Ducks. 41.1% is of cows and Bullocks, 37.3% is of chickens and Ducks, 10.8% is of Buffaloes and 10.6% is of Sheeps/Goats out of total live-stocks. For a hilly and agriculture dependent area like Pulachour VDC above given number of live-stocks cannot be said sufficient and satisfactory.

4.10. Situation of male migration

From each and every household of this VDC who do not have any other extra income source other than agricultural activities at least one family member has been found involved in employment. The number of out migrants covers about half of the total households. The number of female migrants is very rear.

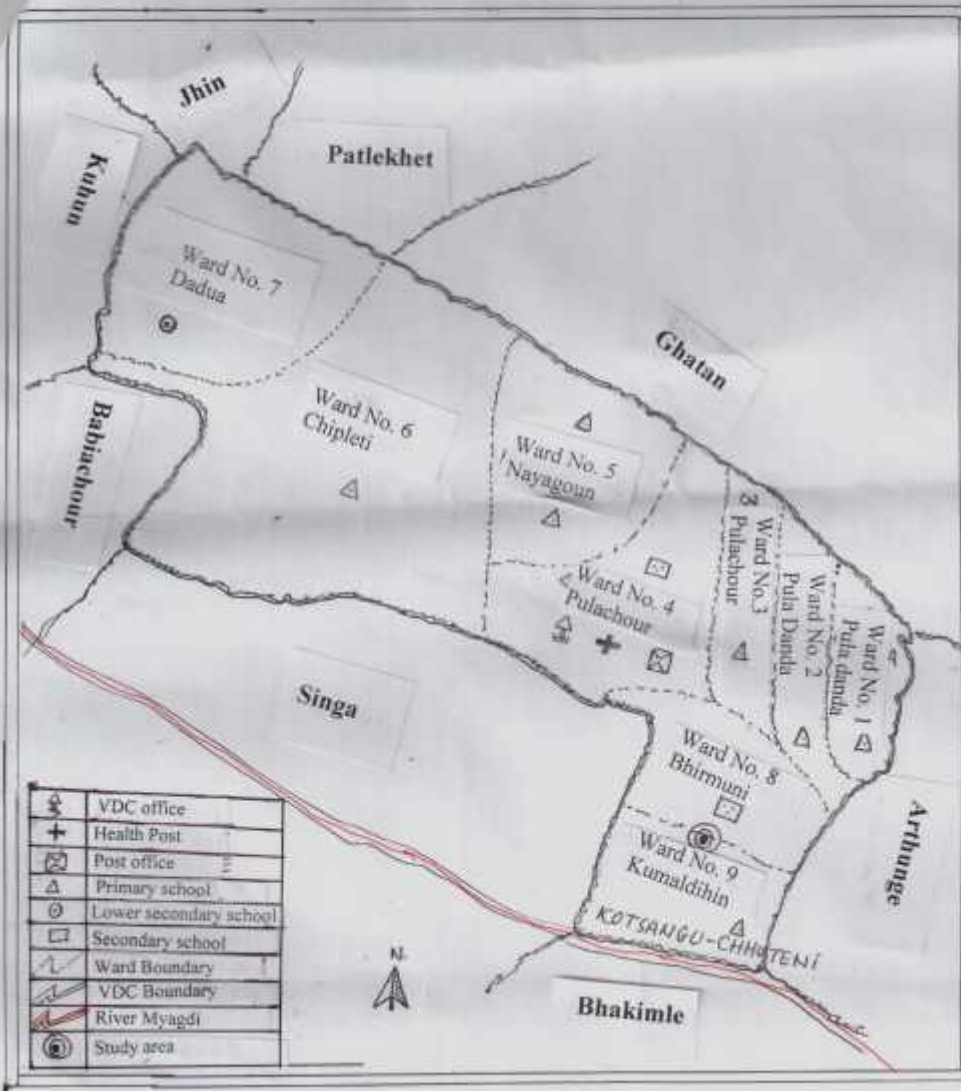
Table 4.9
Ward-wise Picture of migration

Ward	Tot. households	Numbers of migrants			Total % of Male migrants
		Total No. of migrants	Male	Female	
1	66	52	50	2	
2	66	45	35	10	
3	65	10	10	0	
4	65	55	50	5	
5	98	55	55	0	
6	65	30	28	2	
7	84	21	20	1	
8	128	50	40	10	
9	90	40	35	5	
Total	7296	358	323	35	90.2

Source: VDC profile

Out of the total household numbers of this VDC 358 persons are migrated and the number covers about one third households. Amongst the total migrants almost over than 90% is of male.

Map No. 2
PULACHOUR VDC



CHAPTER – V

SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE STUDY

POPULATION

The previous chapter discussed in brief, the Demography of Pulachour VDC as a whole. This chapter is going to describe about the socio-economic activities of the absentees and their families. This chapter deals with only the description (account) of the selected households, population, age group of respondents, Family structure, caste/ethnic composition, land holding, food production, home returning interval of the migrants, earning details of the migrants and their family, duration period at home and relationship between the migrants and their family. Here we will discuss the matter under two sub-tittles i.e. Socio-cultural status and Economic status.

5.1. Socio-Cultural Status

The relative socio-cultural relation of one person or party with other person or community in a family, in a community or nation is defined as the socio-cultural status. Status is such a social condition that defines the relation, contribution, socio-cultural service, grading of respect, dignity and impact of a person. Here it has been tried to display the socio-cultural status of the Emigrant's household.

(a) Population size

Out of total households of pulachour VDC only 30 households from where at least one male has been migrated, are selected for this study. In pulachour VDC total population is 4121 and total household number is 729. There are 5.6. members per household in average and the population size of the selected sample site is not so different.

Table 5.1.
Total population of sample Households

Age group	Male	Female	Total	% of total population
0-4	4	13	17	10.24
5-9	11	14	25	15.06
10-14	4	8	12	7.23
15-19	5	7	12	7.23
20-24	7	20	27	16.27
25-29	12	3	15	9.04
30-34	9	6	15	9.04
35-39	4	4	8	4.82
40-44	5	5	10	6.02
45-49	3	1	4	2.41
50-54	3	2	5	3.01
55-59	1	2	3	1.80
60 above	8	5	13	7.83
Grand total	76	90	166	100

Source: Field survey 2007.

Table 5.1 shows the population composition of the sample household. This data shows that the children under 14 constitute major portion of the total population which is 32.53 percent. Likewise over 60 years or above aged (economically inactive) population constitute 7.83 percent of the total population. The average number of family by household is 5.1.

(b) Age structure of the Respondents:

In this study, it is intended to focus on affected women of Pulachour VDC from emigration and purposively chosen 30 house holds from 'Kumaldihin' village. Each and every wife of the emigrant people are

considered as the respondents and their age structure is given here on the table no.11.

Table 5.2.
Age structure of respondents

Age group	Numbers of respondent	% of total respondent
15-19	1	3.33
20-24	13	43.33
25-29	2	6.66
30-34	5	16.66
35-39	5	16.66
40-44	3	10
45-49	0	0
50-54	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2007

Table No.5.2.shows the age structure of the respondents. More respondents are of 20-24 age groups. In the rural areas girls are married at early age and they have to perform a lot of hard works. The age group of the respondents is found 3.33 percent between 15-19 years of age, 43.33 percent of 20-24 age group, 25-29 age group represent 6.66 percent of the total respondents. 16.66 percent found 30-34 and 35-39 or 10 percent found 40-44, 0 percent found 45-49 and 3.33 percent found between the age group of 50-54.

(c) Caste/Ethnic Composition:

According to CBS 2001, there are 97 ethnic/caste groups in Nepal. While on survey in our selected site it is found that not only of any particular castes but the women from different caste like Bramhan, Chhetri, Kami, Damai, Magar are equally affected by the male migration.

Table 5.3.

Caste/Ethnicity composition of the respondents

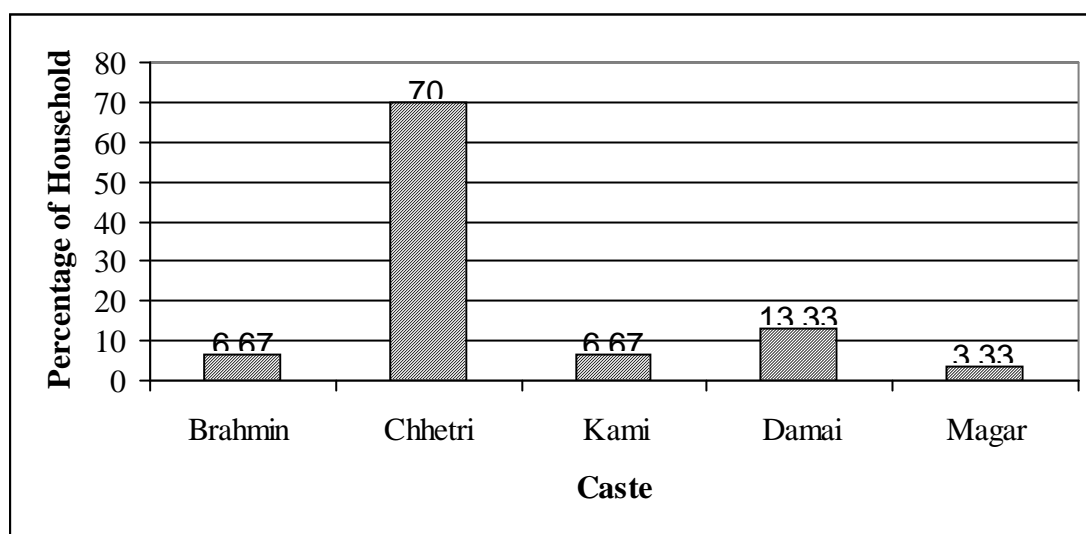
Caste	No. of households	Percentage
Brahmin	2	6.67
Chhetri	21	70
Kami	2	6.67
Damai	4	13.33
Magar	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey 200

The sample population is composed of 5 major castes i.e. Brahman, Chhetri, Kami, Damai and Magar. According to my survey, Out of 30 women, 70 percent were followed by the Chhetri, 6.67 percent were followed by the Bramhin and Kami respectively, 13.33 percent were followed by the Damai, and 3.33 percent were followed by the Magar. This table shows that the population of Kumaldihin is mostly dominated by the caste group of Chhetri, followed by Bramhan, and Kami, Damai and Magar, respectively.

Figure No. 1

Caste/Ethnicity composition of the respondents



(d) Structure of family

There, in our sample area only two kinds of family structures are found; the family where there are only their kids and couple is defined as Simple family and the family including the parents and sister and brothers of the male member (Head of the family) is called as Simple with adhesion structure of the family.

Table. 5.4.
Family structure

Type of family	Head of family	Other members	No. of households
Complete simple family	Husband	Wife	1
		Wi. So.dau.	12
		Wife, son	1
		Wife, daughter	4
Simple with adhesion	Husband	Wi. So.da.fa.mo.	1
		Wi.so. da. Mo.	1
		Wi.so.da. br.Sis. Mo.fa.	8
		Wi. Fa. Mo.	2
Disintegrated	Husband	Both of the family of Husband and wife	0

Source: Field survey of 2007

In my field survey it revealed that 12 out of 30 households were complete simple families and 18 families were of simple with adhesion category. In the families of first category there are only mothers and sons/daughters and in the families of second category some of them have father in laws and mother in laws of the respondents. Exceptionally one of them has

no father in law and some of the families are getting disintegrated and converting into simple families.

(e) Family size:

In our sample area there are found the family with single couple to the family with large number of eleven members are found and I have divided them in five categories on the basis of the number of the family members that have been tabulated as below.

Table 5.5.
Family size of the households

No of family members	Households
0-2	0
2-4	3
4-6	11
6-8	10
8-10	5
Over 10	1
Total	30

Source: House hold survey-2007

Table 5.5 shows that out of 30 there are 10 and 11 households that have 4-6 and 6-8 members respectively. The largest family of over than 10 members is only one. Third largest family Group is of 8-10 family members and the number of such households is 5. The group of the family that is comparatively least in number of family members is of 3 where there are only 2-4 members exist.

(f) Kinship:

Generally in this sample area there has been found only two kinds of kinships have been found i.e. consanguinal and affinal kinship. The family relationship developed through born is called blood relation where includes parents, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers and uncle and niece-nephews. All the relations based on blood relation and dynasties are under this category. Relationship like wife and husband, brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws, mother-in-laws and daughter-in-laws etc. developed through the marital relation are called affinal kinship.

In this study the respondents are supposed the nucleus of the family. Not only children but also the father-in-laws, mother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws and even her husband are put under her. All of these relations are built on the base of the respondents. Both of the consanguinal and affinal kinship are rounded up to the respondent, the abandoned but acting head of the family.

(g) Marital Network:

Marriage is a social system that is developed in the human society on the basis of the relation between two opposite gender. The meaning, definition and activities of the marriage differ according to the change and development of the society. Marriage is a legal institution that conducts the family. There are so many systems of marriage in practice in our society. But in the course of my survey in my selected sample area I found only five different kinds of marriage system in practice. The following table shows the real picture of marriage system practiced in my sample households.

Table 5.6
Marital network of sample households

Serial N0.	Typs of marriages	No. of married couple
1	Endogamy (sajaatiya)	30
2	Exogamy (vijaatiya)	2
3	Causin marriage (Naataagata)	12
4	Hypergamy (Kulin)	1
5	Sorate marriage (saali)	1
Total		46

Source: Field survey-2007

In my study area 46 couples within 30 households are found. This table shows that Sorate, Hypergamy and Exogamy are practiced in less number than causin marriage and Endigamy. Emdigamy is popular among Bhramin and Chhetris where as causin marriage is more common among Magar, Darjee, Kami and Thakuri.

(h) Marriage tradition

To continue the social system man has developed different units in the society. Among such units marriage is one of the social institutions that helps the continuity of creation. Marriage system develops the family and kinship like social institution. The marriage is the first institution that played most important role in organizing the primitive society. In the long run of time the kinds and systems of the marriage are changed and developed. Some of such marriage systems have been out of practice, some of them are alive even today and so many new systems are being developed. Marriage system differs from country to country, community to community, society to society and acaste to caste. There is diversity in our country by region, caste, religion and so on. In different caste group the different marriage system is found in practice. One or

another system of marriage is common in each and every caste group. The following tabulation shows the picture.

Table 5.7.
Caste-ethnic marriage tradition

Castes	Kinds of marriage				
	Endogamy	Exogamy	Causin	Hypergamy	Sorate
Bhramin	2			1	
Chhetri	28	2			1
Magar			1		
Darjee			4		
Kami			2		
Thakuri			5		
Total	30	2	12	1	1

Source: Field survey-2007

Among the 30 households there exist 46 married couples in our sample site. More than 65 percentage of the marriage is found under endogamy and secondly the causin system is found in practice. Endogamy is found most popular among the Chhetris and Bhramins where as causin marriage system is commonly popular among Thakuris, Kamis, Darjees and Magars. Out of 31 married couples of Chhetri community 2 of them are Exogamy and one is sorate that is only and one of such marriage sample of the whole society of my study. Hypergamy is common in Bhramin society and in my study area there is found one of such marriage though it is 1/3 (one third) of the community.

5.2. Economic status

Nepal is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the backbone of National economy. Maximum numbers of family members are engaged in agricultural work for the whole year. Joint family system is completely vanishing from our society. To be converted the traditional joint family into simple and nuclear family means the division of farm land into small pieces. Division and

subdivision of land has created the situation worse for utilization of modern agricultural system. Specially, in the hilly area like our study sample the people could not produce enough food grain to maintain their family. Some of the families who have enough land for the fulfillment of their food necessities they also lack extra income to fulfill their other needs. That is why the numbers of migrating people is increasing day by day. Our sample area does not differ from this common condition of the country. The economic condition is the main cause of the ever increasing tradition of out migration. Landholding, food sufficiency, business, side jobs, services shows the real picture of economic status of the family. Economic status is the push factor of male migration. So, under this sub-title we should have to draw a real picture of economic status of each and every family of our selected site.

(a) Land Holding:

Table 5.8 shows the figure of landholding of the respondents. The land in given table is divided into three categories namely: non-irrigated, irrigated and grassland (kharbari). So many respondents of our survey area have no irrigated land. So many respondents have no own grass land also. Each and every respondent have live-stocks more or less in number. In the absence of own grass land they should have to manage fodder from other means as public forest or community forest that means they are compelled to spend more time in searching and collecting grass for their live-stocks.

Table 5.8.

Land distribution pattern of the Emigrant's Household

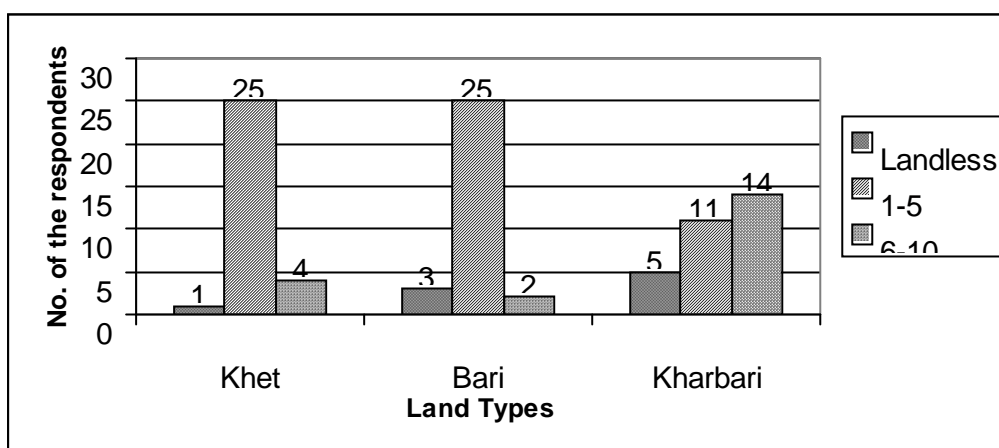
Land size	Numbers of the respondents		
	Khet	Bari	Kharbari
Landless	1	3	5
1-5	25	25	11
6-10	4	2	14

Source: Field survey, 2007

With the point of view of land holdings our selected area is a poorer sample that is why the tradition of out migration has been a must. Table 5.8 reveals the fact that 83.33% respondents hold less than 6 Ropanies of un-irrigated land and 83.33% households have less than 6 Ropanies of irrigated land and the people of this group only 36.67% have own grassland. The number of respondents who have 6-10 Ropanies of un-irrigated land is 6.67% and 13.34% household have irrigated land. Likewise 46.67% respondents hold 6-10 Ropanies of grassland (Kharbari).

Figure No. 2

Land Holdings of Absentees' Households by Type of Land



(b) Food sufficiency

Table 5.9 provides a look about the food crisis of the respondent's household. This data shows that a large number of respondents have no enough food production from their own land that may last for whole year. 26.67 percent respondents have production from their land only enough for less than 3 months and 33.33 percent have food production sufficient only for 3-6 months. Only 16.67 percents have enough food production and 13.33 percent respondent gets sufficient food grain from their own land for 6-12 months. The study of below given table shows that only 10 percent of the total respondents have enough land to make a small surplus.

Table 5.9.

Distribution of respondents according to month-wise food sufficiency

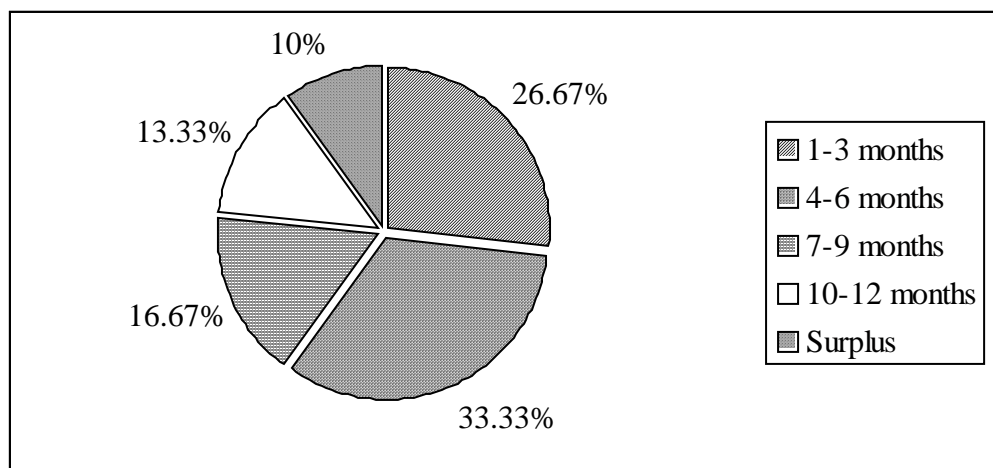
Number of months	Number of respondent	Total percentage
1-3 months	8	26.67
4-6 months	10	33.33
7-9 months	5	16.67
10-12 months	4	13.33
Surplus	3	10
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2007

In total a large number of respondents of about 76 percent faces food scarcity every year. First of all they have no enough land for cultivation, secondly they lack the knowledge of modern technology of agriculture and thirdly there is no enough irrigation facilities. On the other hand they could not spend enough time for their crops because they have to look for other means of extra income to maintain their households. Beside this they have to spent time on caring children and elder family members as well as looking after live stocks Due to less numbers of livestock they could not produce enough compost manure and they could not have sufficient chemical fertilizers in time also. That is why all most all the respondents could not be able to exploit the full yielding capacity of their land and they could not have a good harvesting.

Figure No. 3.

Distribution of respondents according to month-wise food sufficiency



(c) Extra income source

Now these days people are earning extra money from jobs other than tradition agricultural works. Such employment might be categorized as governmental or non-governmental. Such jobs might be permanent or temporary. Jobs like military, police or public services are permanent and jobs under NGOs and both skilled and unskilled jobs of foreign countries are called temporary jobs. Among the residents of our selected households very few of them have permanent jobs. The following tabulation reveals the real picture.

Table 5.10.

Account of service holders

Nation	Kinds of services		Total
	Permanent	Temporary	
Abroad	2	28	30
Countries of Asia	0	0	0
Europe and America	0	0	0

Source: Field survey-2007

In our study area there are total 30 households and at least one male from each household has been migrated. 2 out of 30 migrants hold permanent job in Indian army and 28 out migrants work temporarily. In the time of leisure some of the people use to work as porters, masons, carpenters and farm labourers for extra income. Such kinds of works are as pastime jobs. There is no regularity of work opportunities.

(d). Earning:

The study of land distribution in our sample area shows that the families of the migrants face food scarcity in average. So the remittance earned by the migrants plays an important role in the management of household expenditure. Minimum one member of each and every family has been to abroad in search of employment. It is very difficult to find a single household that do not have at least a single member involved in foreign employment.

Table- 5.11.
Amount of remittance receiving per year

Household number	Receiving remittance	Percentage
4	1,00,000	13.3
6	1,50,000	20
8	2,00,000	26.6
12	2,50,000	40
30	46,00,000	100%

Source: field survey 2007

It is already mentioned in above Paragraph that food scarcity is a common trend of our study area and the received remittance plays a important role in every household. Accidentally the respondents could not receive the remittance in time they use to take credits and short-termed loan from neighbours and professional moneylenders.

The table shows that a certain amount is received by the respondents in certain months but it is only a general trend. Sometimes the interval of time of receiving remittance may be changed. A respondent who is receiving 10 thousands per month regularly sometimes she may receive more amount and sometimes vice versa. The most positive and encouraging aspect of the out migration of our sample area is that each of the family receives in average, a round figure of remittance of about 1,50,000/-annually.

(e) Expenditure pattern of the respondents:

In absence of their husbands so many economic decision should be made independently by the respondents themselves. Most of the respondents independently decide that how much and from where the scarce food grain and other goods for household use should be purchased. Some of them are also supposed to be authorized in making decision of investing money on land and cattle purchasing.

When I interviewed with respondents 11 out of 30 claimed that they take independent decision in using the remittance received, 9 of them are found consulting with their husbands and 10 of them with their elderly members like mother-in-laws in the absence of father-in-laws in taking major decision of expending surplus remittance. All of the respondents are independent in household expenditure like feeding, clothing, child education, festivals and medicines. When they have to purchase live-stocks and land they consult with their seniors. Most part of the remittance is expended in purchasing goods of daily uses. Very few of them who save a certain portion of remittance they use to buy live stocks and lands. Some of them have to deposit the surplus in Bank.

Table 5.12.
Trend of using remittance

Se. No	Particulars	No. of respondents Family	Amount percentage
1	Feeding Clothing Education Medicines Festivals Miscellaneous	15	100%
2	Purchasing Live stocks	10	5%
3	Purchasing lands	5	50%
4	Bank balance	5	15%

Source: field survey-2007

In course of my field survey I found 15 out of 30 (50%) households of the migrants spend 50% of the earning in household usage. 10 families save 5% of remittance and purchase live stocks, three families spend 50% of the migrant's earning in purchasing land and only 2 families have Bank deposit of 15%, the surplus of the total earning.

CHAPTER – VI

CONSEQUENCE OF MALE MIGRATION ON HOUSEHOLDS

In the last chapter we have already given an account of the absentees, their families and economic conditions. In this chapter we will try to discuss and describe how an abandoned housewife performs and manage her day to day household activities and handles her responsibilities in absence of her husband. In other words this chapter will try to identify the impact occurred in the life of respondents and her family due to male migration.

6.1. Impact on household activities

From the group discussion and interaction during my visit with the respondents of the sample area it is found that all of the household work from cooking foods to caring children and animals, collection of grass, fertilizing, weeding of land are supposed to be women's work and outdoor activities like managing Khetala (field labour), cutting grass from trees, threshing rice and carry crops and collecting fodders from the field are regarded as the jobs of male members of the family before their out migration. But now this demarcation in sex roles supposed as the division of labour between male and female do not materialise in practice. It is a common tradition that responsibilities and sex roles may be changed according to the situation and circumstances. Sometimes men have to perform the indoor household activities like cooking food, taking care of children and animals when the women members are busy in other works. Evenly women also do each and every outdoor activity supposed to be the duty of men in absence of male or according to the necessity of the family. Now the case has been different and in the absence of male all of the respondents are compelled to perform each and every activities related to the household management. It is rarely seen the female member ploughing land. It can be said an exception of the society.

According to my observation it can be said, without any hesitation, that major portion of the household work is performed by women. In other sense

almost all the household activities are supposed to be the women's responsibilities. That is why even in the absence of male partner, woman do not feel the household activities as a burden. Socially they are taught that such kinds of work are their natural duty and responsibilities from the very beginning of their social life (childhood) and whole of the respondents agree that they have been doing such activities even in the presence of the males. Therefore, in this regard, it can be said that the absence of male does not affect woman so remarkably. Even though it is necessary to mention here about the household work, supposed to be the work of male member, because, it may helps us to understand and evaluate the burden on women in conducting and performing the other activities i.e. agricultural, economic, cultural, traditional etc.

According to the respondents of those households where the husbands are already present women have to do outdoor works but they do not need to worry about economic and other household problems. Even more they may have supports and friendly helping hands in performing household activities. But some of the housewives are so unlucky that from the presence of their husbands at home do not have any support in their work. In spite of this some of them get a little help from the children and other family members.

Generally, women (respondents) perform the house holds works as cooking food, cleaning house, fetching water, washing pots and clothes and collecting green grass in season. But in absence of her male partner, her household work burden is increased and she has to perform extra work like cleaning cattle shed, milk cow and buffaloes, putting fodder, cutting grass from tree and taking care of cattle with her children.

Comparatively, the daily routine work-schedule of the respondent increases in the absence of her husband. The working hours of the respondents in off-farm season starts from 4 am. morning to 7 pm evening. The children and other family members help her in performing so many household works. In those houses where the husbands are present the wives do not have to worry

about economic or other household problems as well as the respondents have a supporting hand in daily routine. The working hour of a respondent in the presence and absence of her husband differs by more than 5 hours daily.

Those households who have no own grasslands they are compelled to go to nearest forests to collect grass for their cattle. In such circumstances the daughters are most helpful to her mothers. Those respondents who do not have daughters the sons also, sometimes use to extend their helping hands toward their mothers. Though the household works like caring small child, animals etc. is supposed to be the responsibilities of the mothers' but where there is absence of the father, the grown up children also are found involved in such household works occasionally.

6.2 Impact on agricultural activities

The female members of the family of Nepalese society play a significant role in agricultural Activities. Except ploughing land almost all of the other agricultural works are traditionally done by females. The females perform more responsibility in agricultural productivities than male members especially in hilly regions. A most significant role of female in agriculture sector unquestionable but our concern in this study is that what kinds of changes has been occurred in agricultural activities and how much work burden has been increased on women because of the emigration of the male members.

Our sample study area is a hilly village. The major agricultural productions of this area are paddy, maize, wheat, soybean, millet etc. In my observation clearly revealed the fact that in the absence of main male member too young or old people are left at home who are not able to plough land themselves. Traditionally women do not do ploughing. So they have to depend on hired person. Some of the families have their own bullocks but do not have able person to plough and some of them have no both bullock and Hali. So in the season of ploughing land the wives of the emigrants have to rush from door to door to manage bullocks and labour for the purpose of ploughing their land. Each and every family of our study area holds a small piece of land to cultivate.

So, the farmers have to make a maximum use of their land. For a single month the land is not left barren. One after another crops are planted and harvested. Therefore a piece of land is ploughed many more times in a year. The management of harvesting crops and ploughing land is found the most difficult and painful task for the wives who are abandoned from their husbands.

Table 6.1
Agricultural calendar of study area

Month	Cropping activities in Baari (non-irrigated land)	Cropping activities in Khet (irrigated land)
Chaitra	Put compost fertilizers and plough land at least three times	Reaping and threshing the winter crops
Baisakh	Sowing seeds and dispersing manure	Ploughing the land and sowing the maize and bean
Jestha	First weeding of maize with other crops and put seed bed of millet	Preparing seed bed of paddy
Ashad	Second weeding of maize and millet seedling are transplanted where the maize is broadcasted previously	Ploughing and manuring the land and the paddy seedling is transplanted
Shrawana	Weeding of millet	
Bhadra	Maize is harvested	Weeding of paddy
Ashwin	Harvesting of soybean	Harvesting of soybean
Kartik	Reaping millet, junelo, Seltung	Reaping and threshing paddy
Marga	Cutting the hey(Nal)of millet, ploughing and preparing land for planting mustard (Tori)and wheat	Preparing land for sowing wheat by ploughing and digging
Paush	Threshing cereals	Wheat seed sowing and transplanting vegetables
Magh		Prepare the barren land for maize sowing by ploughing, digging and manuring
Falgun	Threshing and processing crops	Maize seed sowing

Field survey 2007

This table has been prepared with help of the villagers of our sample area. The table shows that the land has to be ploughed so many times in a year. According to my study of the sample area all of the respondents do not keep

bullocks. They borrow the bullocks from their neighbours or kins. But sometimes they cannot pay the labour cost of bullocks in Rupees. The labour cost of bullocks can be paid only through 'Parima', a local dialect that used for exchange of labour. In the village none of the farmer can complete their farming without exchanging labour (Parimaa). Hiring a pair of bullocks and Hali (Plougher) is very difficult, because of the absence of young male. I found that as the result of abandonment of village by the workable male to hire the labour in Pay-off basis has become more difficult.

Ploughing, digging, weeding, harvesting and threshing needs a large number of labours. The demand of agricultural labour can be well fulfilled only by Parima that must be paid back in the form of manual work. Thus the respondents' life is busy all over the year. They perform household works and agricultural activities at the same time, parallely. From this picture of work burden shouldered by respondents one can easily imagine that how many more burdens are carried by wives of the absentees.

6.3. Impact on decision making

Actual role and position in the household is the indication of economic activities of the women. Both, direct participation in money earning activities and participation in managing household economic activities should be counted as the economic activities of the women. But the household and agricultural works are not regarded as economic activities in society. All of these household works how can be performed in the absence of the respondents'? The answer of this question reveals the economic value of women's household activities.

In the course of my observation of the sample site I found that in the absence of their husband so many economic decisions should be made independently by the respondents themselves. The respondents independently decides that how much and from where the scares food grain and other goods be borrowed or purchased. They also make decision in taking loans and investing surplus money on land and cattle purchasing.

Table 6.2
Sector by independent decision making

Decision regarding	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Borrowing credits from markets	30	100%
Borrowing goods from neighbours	30	100%
Managing workers and other means of agricultural activities	30	100%
Taking and repaying loans	20	66.6%
Selling and buying land and cattle	15	50%
Selling surplus of food products	30	100%

Source: field survey 2007

The table 6.2 shows that in borrowing goods and credits from neighbours and markets, performing agricultural activities and selling surplus agricultural products, 100% of the respondents are quite independent. In taking loans and buying and selling land and cattle over than 15% respondents take independent decision. The major reason of freedom in decision making process of the respondents is the long absence of their male partners. In other words the migrants are departed from day to day household activities and that keeps them out of direct contact with other neighbours and they lack the intimacy with their kin and neighbours. This makes the female to come forward to solve the households' economic activities. In the family structure where the elder family members like father-in-law, mother-in-law are absent the headship of the family goes to the respondents and they are independent in decision making.

6.4. Impact on social activities

In this topic, we deal with the relationship of the respondents with their neighbours, Patrilineal and matrilineal kin groups and their involvement in social activities.

Ever increasing tradition of male migration has dramatically improved the relationships among the neighbours. when they are in any problems such as illness of family members, necessity of labour (Parima), immediate urgency of some cash or goods the respondents firstly use to ask their neighbours for help. In the absence of male member the rest members of the family become more dependent on each others and that makes them more closer and friendly.

The respondents have to participate in every sort of activities as the representative of her husband but there is a common fact that there is no so good relationship and intimacy with the kin of the respondents' husband in comparison with the neighbourings. Externally they shows more harmonious relationship than before migration of their husbands because even a small up and down in the relation with them may cause sever trouble.

Due to the emigration of their husbands even nearer natal houses of the respondents have been "**Akaa lanka**" (very far) for them because they are overloaded by extra household responsibility. Even when they are called from their natal homes in various occasion i.e. in pooja and festival ceremonies they could not attend the function because there is no any other responsible person behind her to handle the household works. Though they are physically far from their natal home psychologically they become more nearer (attached) than before.

In the long absence of the male members, female have to be involved in different co-operative and social works like water users' group, forest users group, small credit group and even other social institutions. such participation has made them more forward and conscious.

Table 6.3
Involvements in social activities

Institutions	Female status	No. of respondents
Forest users group	Secretary	1
Small credits group	President	1
"	Treasurer	1
School management	Members	2
Water users group	President	1
"	Treasurer	1
"	Member	4

Source: field survey 2007

Out of 30 respondents of my survey area 11 members are involved in one or other social activities. It may be counted as a encouraging condition of women. As the consequence of male migration females are forced to come forward in social activities. Consciousness on women circle is improved and this has helped to develop and increase the status of women in the society.

6.5 Participation on public affairs

According to the respondents, now, they are performing so many strictly prohibited rites and ritual for women in the past. In the absence of male member they play the role of main host in Shraddha, Kulpuja and so many other traditional rituals. Exceptionally, they go to the funerals and take part in wedding procession also.

6.6. Impact on relationship between the migrant and his family

Ever increasing tradition of out migration has also affected the relation between the migrant and his family. It will better to describe and discuss briefly on some of the major factors that affects the family relation.

(a) Returning Interval of Absentee

People leave their home in search of livelihood. Especially for the foreign employment opportunities people have to spend a lot of money. They have to pay a huge amount of their income on transportation and air fair. So the absentees have to abandon their home and families for a longer period. They could not be able to come home time and again when they want. Table.6.4 shows the time period in which emigrants return home.

Table 6.4.
Home - return Interval of Emigrant

Interval of return	Number of emigrant	% of total emigrant
6months-1 year	7	23.33
2-3 years	15	50
4-5 years	7	23.33
6 years and above	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Field survey, 2007

This table shows that 50 percent of total emigrant return in an interval of 2-3 years which is highest percentage in our sample size. 23.33 percent emigrants return between 6 month to 1 years' interval and 23.33% emigrants return home between 4 to 5 years of interval. Likewise 3.33 percent of absentees return after 6 and above years.

(b). Emigrants' duration of stay at home:

Duration of emigrants' home stay differs from person to person according to their jobs. The emigrants who hold the Governmental job they have definite yearly leaves in grant. But who hold the temporary jobs of private companies and home security or home services they have no guarantee of job as well as leave time bound. Now a days a large number of employees use to go to the Gulf countries and they use to stay there two years or above in

average. Table 6.5. shows the duration of stay of Emigrant at their homes when they return from different countries.

Table 6.5
Duration of Home Stay of Emigrants

Duration of stay (in month)	No. of Emigrant	% of total Emigrant
Less than 1 month	1	3.33
1-2 months	9	30
3-4 months	8	26.66
5 and above	12	40
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field survey 2007.

The table shows that 3.33 percent of emigrants stay at home for less than one month, 30 percent of them stay 1-2 months and 26.66 use to live at home for 3-4 months. Likewise 40%, which is highest percentage of our sample size is found usually staying at home for 5 months and above.

(c) Co-operation of Absentees in household activity

Though, emigrants' stay at their home is of very short period, their co-operation and helping hand plays a significant role. It is not a matter of helping their wives only but that makes the household burden less heavy and helps the thing to be easier. Some of the emigrants spend their leisure time fully in household affairs. They participate their time with their family in cleaning house, cooking food, collecting and fetching grass for livestock and caring children and grown ups. They join their hands in agricultural works like: ploughing land, dispersing seed and fertilizers, irrigating and harvesting the ripen crops.

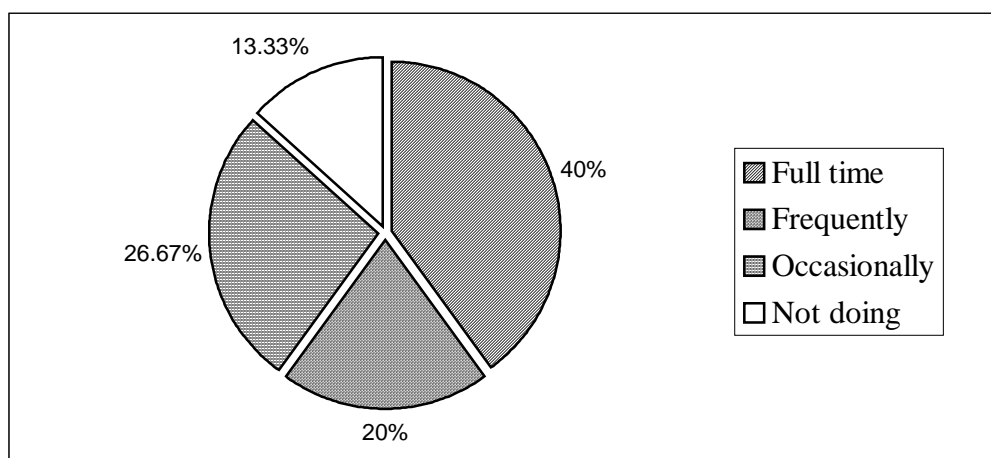
Table 6.6
Participation of absentees in family works

Degree of Participation	No. of absentees	% of total absentees
Full time	12	40
Frequently	6	20
Occasionally	8	26.67
Not doing	4	13.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field survey 2007.

Above table shows that 40% of total emigrants give their full time on household affairs. They participate in each and every activities of the family. 20% of the total emigrants frequently take part in household activities. Likewise 26.675 only occasionally involve in household work. 13.33% of emigrated people do not do any kinds of work. They spend their time in visiting kin and villagers, gossiping, Playing and merrymakings. The emigrants help their family, in agricultural work more than in household works like cooking, sweeping and cleaning.

Figure No. 4
Participation of absentees in family works



Long absence of the male migrant causes the coolness in the relationship with his kin. The respondents gradually develop close relation with neighbours. They usually prefer to take help from their neighbours than from the close kin of her husband. When the income increases of the migrant his wife like to live separately. Thus joint family is converted into nuclear one. Though separation from the family kin for a long period of time attraction and affection among themselves increase many more times than before, but untimely and un-willing separation of family creates bitterness in family relation. Sometimes illegal and unsocial relation of the respondents with her neighbours causes the destruction of family relation.

Almost all the respondents of our sample household, who is playing acting leading role in the absence of their husbands, are literate. So the postal contact with the absentees is not a problem for them. Beside this, at present the respondents use telephone facilities. So, to make a direct and immediate contact with absentees has been common and easier. These facilities have been proved as better instrument of making family relation lively, closer and harmonious.

CHAPTER – VII

PATTERNS OF CHANGES OCCURRED IN WOMEN'S LIFE DUE TO MALE MIGRATION

Common tradition of migrating people is increasing day by day because of the scarcity of livelihood in their own homeland. This tradition has compelled the women to bear and handle the whole household burden themselves alone. Male migration has increased the responsibilities of female members. The additional responsibilities and extra burden of household has made the life of respondents more complex and leisure-less. In the absence of her male partner the life style of the respondents has also been changed. The impacts of male migration on women have both positive and negative aspects. Here, in this chapter, we will try to define and discuss both sides of the subjects.

7.1 Changes in authority structure

To maintain the basic structure and regulate the household activities, in every family wholesome authority is given to one or other family member. In extended family the most elderly person holds the authority and power. In the absence of father, if the elder son of the family is not supposed to be matured enough to handle the household, the mother exercises the authority. In a simple family the husband have to take all responsibilities of the family and play a subordinate role.

The migration of male has caused the disintegration of families. The larger families have been converted into smaller. In absence of the male women have to take the position of her husband and exercise power of controlling and performing all of the household activities. Especially the families where there is no existence of migrant's father the respondents have to take the wholesome responsibility of the household management. 28 out of 30

respondents interviewed have been shouldering the additional responsibilities in absence of their husbands. Their work burden has been doubled.

Over than 50 percent of the respondents take major financial decision of selling and purchasing of land and cattle as well as taking loans and investing surplus money. It can be said that the absence of male from household has changed the traditional authority structure, giving more power and freedom to women to exercise in their day-to-day life.

7.2 Headship of the family

Traditionally the role of the women in household activities is supposed to be secondary or complimentary. But now the time has taken a big leap because of long-term absence of the chief, the male member of the family. The social perception is that the household head have primary authority and responsibility for household, but now, that responsibilities have been transferred and well fulfilled by the respondents in practice. Though, almost all of the respondents, when talking to me, showed a due hesitation to claim the headship of the family and they prefer to keep their position reserved for their husbands, practically, the structure of house-headship has changed and the respondents have already occupied that key position of the family. Even the alive father and mother of the emigrants, according to the respondents, do not interfere in any household activities but they allow the respondents to conduct the family as they like.

7.3 Division of labour by gender:

In general no clear demarcation of division of labour between male and female has been found. Ploughing, threshing of paddy, transportation of crops and fodder that are traditionally supposed as the responsibilities of men are now carried by women and cooking, feeding and caretaking of the child is also performed equally by the male. In the absence of male both responsibilities have been found already and largely performed by the women. Now it is

clearly seen that the main responsibilities left for male is to earn money or in other words, they have to manage economic resources for necessary goods and services needed to household. Though the economic activities that are mainly conducted by the male, women have taken over all kinds of work except generating economic resource, which is considered to be the most important has gone to male. It shows that in one way or the other the division of labour already exists between two genders, but it has changed in structural level only. In my interview 28 out of 30 respondents clearly expressed their strong opinion for the continuity of their male partner's out migration. Moreover the traditionally defined and imposed roles of female has been subverted due to the reversal of gender roles.

7.4 Improvement in self reliance and confidence:

In the absence of their respected husbands women are well performing all household activities. They are taking care of children and cattle, they are managing the agricultural works as well as they are managing the financial problems by taking loan and borrowing. Now they are coming forward to perform social services as well as rituals like **shraddha** and **poojas**. In practice they are leading and conducting the whole household activities. They have developed the confidence to maintain and regulate the household by themselves. Their confidence and efficiency has encouraged their husbands to engage full heartedly in earning. This has not only helped in the betterment of respective family, but also helping in increasing the amount of remittance.

7.5 Upgrading social status of the respondents

Because of the migration of male the women have to come out of the narrow circle of family and traditional barricade of so called social rules and regulations. Now they are actively participating in social activities. Table 6.4 shows that 11 respondents out of 30 (the total number of respondents) are involved in one or other social institution and organizations. Some of the organizations are even headed by women themselves. They have put their legs

forward in local politics also. In the past they were supposed as junior and inferior members of the family as well as society, but now they have been able to secure and establish a respectful position on society. The social status of women is upgrading day by day, indirectly it is backed up by the migration of the male.

During my field survey it is found that out of 30 respondents more than half of them are involved in one or other kinds of social activities. The respondents who do not have elder family member (especially the father-in-law or brother-in-laws) at home, are accustomed to perform and take active part in religious rituals and traditional rites too.

7.6 Improving living standard

From almost all of the households of our sample area at least one of the male of the family is migrated and earning foreign currency regularly. The table No. 5.9 of previous chapter, shows that each and every family receives minimum amount of one and half million in a year. The extra income of the migrants has helped in improving the living standard of the family. Now, for the good clothing and better food none of the family head have to wander about to the door of moneylenders and Bankers.

7.7 Physical burden:

In the underdeveloped country like Nepal, the agriculture is the most important sector of livelihood and that demands more physical labour. When the male partner is migrated the extra burden of household work is loaded on women. In the season of farming the respondents have to spend 10 to 15 hours in the field. At home they have to perform their regular duties i.e. cooking, feeding and caring the children, old-ones and cattle, with the help of the little hands of her children, if they exist.

In absence of male partner the respondents have to take care about farming and hired workers and prepare foods for them. They have to manage

Khetalas (a Nepali word that denotes workers hired on daily wages) herself, manage necessary agricultural tools and go to the field with labourers to work. Transporting crops and fodder up to the home is supposed as the jobs of male members but in the absence of them the women have to do that task with the helps of her children and neighbourings. To perform all these works there needs a lot of labour which can be fulfilled by taking **Parima** (a Nepali word denoting the sharing of work physically) that should be repaid whenever it is called to be refund physically. Because of labour shortage due to the male migration Parima cannot be returned in cash or crops. Whenever the respondents have to go to return the parima they have to perform each and every regular duty as early as possible in the morning ever than before.

When I interviewed them personally, almost of them answered in one voice that besides the agricultural works, they have to collect grass, clean the cattle-shed, collect milk, prepare lunch and serve fodder to the cattle and clean house. If the respondents have infant child, more problems are created. In absence of caretaker they should be taken with herself carrying in own back as a mother monkey does. In the evening also they have so many manual works to perform themselves. Thus the migration of the male the physical burden on women has been increased many times.

7.8 Economic burden:

From their childhood women are taught and trained to perform household works like, washing clothes, floors and dishes, fetching water and firewood, caring younger ones and cattle, cooking foods and collecting grass etc. They do not have opportunities to practice in sharing their hands with their parents in economic activities. After marriage also they do not involved in any economic activities and decision making. They are supposed as a mere tool of house holds works which have no direct economic value. Their rearing, bearing and training makes them to suppose themselves born to perform some Physical

work. But after her marriage when her husband leaves (abandon) her at home to handle all of the household responsibilities, along with traditional physical works she has to actively participate in economic activities. Women who are not entrusted with economic responsibilities of the family the migration of her husband naturally pushes her forward to carry out the new burden of economic management of the family. Therefore so many respondents have to take loans in their own risk to perform different household purposes. Such loans and borrowings may be in the form of goods or in cash.

The following data collected by me during the observation and study of the sample area clearly shows the economic problems and solution often used by the respondents.

Table 7.1
Major means of solving different household problems

Particular	Numbers of respondents			
	In goods	In cash	Total	% of total respondents
Food	15	10	25	83.33
Clothing	5	15	20	66.66
Education	0	20	20	66.66
Medicine	5	10	15	50
Festival	15	10	25	83.33
Miscellaneous	4	5	9	30

Source: field survey 2007

The table 7.1 shows that the respondents of our sample area have to manage different problems. It is not only a burden for them but also a new responsibility for them. In absence of their husbands they have to carry out the whole responsibility of the household is a burden itself and to solve the problems by any means is much greater burden.

7.9 Social burden

As in the economic activities traditionally the women are prepared to be excluded from different social affairs like, going funeral, performing main role in last rituals, performing Shraddha, kulpuja. From such discriminatory practices of the society they have a feeling of inferiority complex.

The social status of the married women is so lower that they have to respect even junior member of the family like Nanda (sister in law) and Dewar (brother in law) who are junior and inferior in age and kinship relations than herself. To perform due respect and taking care of the guests is also the duty of the women. In absence of her male partner she has to take responsibilities of the representative of her husband being a key person of the family. She should maintain harmonious and friendly relations with the neighbours and relatives. So in the absence of her husband a load of social burden is added on woman.

7.10. Child rearing

Even now a days, so many mothers deliver their child, not in a maternity hospital bed. They are accustomed to deliver a child at home. They do not have a balanced and nutritious diet and they do not care about rest. Therefore, so many children are delivered outside the home, in forest while cutting firewood and collecting grass, some others are born at field when the mothers are involved in farming. Some children are delivered near by well and public tape when the mothers are going to fetch water. Due to overload of work and lack of the knowledge of preservation of premature baby so many cases of miscarriage are found and so many premature babies take birth. Such incidents are the causes of heavy physical burden on women.

Not only bearing a baby but also rearing is a burden on woman. In the village, only after three weeks of delivery the women usually start their regular duties of household work. Not only at the time of working at home, even in the field work of agriculture they carry their baby in back that may affects the

health of the child, more over it loads more physical burden on women. Only and single positive aspect of such events is to keep their child close to their mother.

Almost of the respondents told me that the women of village can give more time to her child only in off-farm season. The breast-feeding becomes so rare for the baby in farming season that the mothers leave their child early in the morning and meet them in the late evening. So the child rearing is the most burdensome task for the respondents in the absence of her male partner.

7.11. Psychological Problems

To conduct different agricultural and social activities, women have to think about managing all the necessary things needed. Managing bullocks, labourer, Manure, seeds and tools for the agricultural work is so teasing and tiresome work that causes so many psychological problems. Feeding and caring kids and cattle also create a lot of mental tension for them. But they do not feel bored because they regard such works as their regular routine as well as compulsory duty.

In addition to the domestic tension the respondents face so many psychological problems day and night. They feel insecured themselves in the absence of her husband. They suffer loneliness and feel sever insecurity of their husbands' life who are faraway abroad and naturally that makes them worrisome and anxious about their health, work and even their lives.

Table 7.2
Psychological problems faced by respondents

Major problems	No. of respondents	% of total respondents
Feeling loneliness	12	40
Feeling of self insecurity	10	33.33
Feelings of migrants' insecurity	5	16.66
Tension of domestic working	3	10
Total	30	100.00

Source: field survey 2007

Table 7.2 shows that 40% of the respondents feel loneliness in the absence of their husbands. 33.33% express their fear about the life security of their husbands. Likewise 16.66% respondents feel insecurity themselves. This shows that they suffer a psychological burden. Moreover they have to think about the management of household, economic problems, taking care of children and cattle, managing Khetala (farm labour) and food grains. These all activities create and impose a lot of mental tension on them.

CHAPTER – VIII

MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

8.1. Major finding of the study

In the context of Nepal, it cannot be said that exactly when the tradition of migration was started. After Sugauli treaty of 1816, people started to go out migration, frequently. The first attraction of emigration in Nepalese society was "**Gorkha Bharti**" (Recruitment in British and Indian army). Secondly people use to go abroad for "**Phaltu Nokari**" (Private employment or Labour work). The people with sound health and physical fitness got opportunity of joining army and who were physically unfit for recruitment they started private work (Labour). The emigration is defined as external and internal. Male migration, apart from its various implications in the urban areas, results as the dislocation of people from the rural family. Several studies have been made about the impact of male migration in the urban setting, however, comparatively a very few studies have focused on the family that remains behind in the village.

The ratio of population has been started to increase after 1930 and it started to increase rapidly from 1952/1954 onward. One of the major causes of emigration is scarcity and low productivity of land. And the other causes are, lack of education, unavailability of employment, lack of modern facilities, political instability etc. The Nepalese history of emigration has traveled a long way since its first beginning. So in the context of Nepal, emigration does not remain as a new Phenomenon.

The traditional feature of external as well as internal migration has been only "Male migration". In the absence of male, how does a Patrilineal family-system re-organize its authority structure and economic activities? Does it provide greater freedom in decision making to women?. These questions have not appropriately been answered yet. So many studies conducted in this regard

show that the work-load on women has increased proportionately. They have to face and encounter different kinds of problems in the absence of males. This study intends to look at the impact of emigration on women, mainly wives of the emigrants, left behind in rural families.

This micro level study about male emigration has been made in one of the remote village that is situated in the Western Development Region of Nepal, '**Kumaldihin**' (a residence of kumals (clay pot makers) but now there is no single person of that community in existence) by name. This village is located in **Pulachour** VDC of **Myagdi** district, **Dhawalagiri** zone. According to the census of 2059, the population of the VDC was 4121 in total. This VDC consist of various ethnic groups and among them **Chhetris** have highest population. The majority of the population depends upon agriculture for their primary source of livelihood since the emigration consists of the most important source of employment.

Here in this study, we have taken 30 households as our sample population on the basis of their family structure and wives of the emigrants' as respondents. The majority of the respondents are in their early middle ages and almost all of them are literate. Most of them confined a small land and a home of their own. The respondents who have not sufficient land to work for the whole year they use to work outside their home. Some of the respondents have enough food production from their own land sufficient for the whole year. Remittance earned by emigrants is one of the main sources of their cash income.

Due to the emigration of the male partner his wife has to take over all responsibilities of his family. In the farming seasons the women spend over than 12 hours in the agricultural fields. In off-farm season also they spend their time in collecting firewood, fodder and water, looking after cattle and children as well as other household chores.

90% of the decisions regarding economic and other household works are taken by the respondents themselves. They have to face different economic and socio-cultural problems: they have to manage food grain, they have to take credit or loan from different sources that prove equally burdensome responsibilities for them. Being the acting representative of emigrant males, the society demands some more roles and responsibilities to be carried out from the abandoned wives. Such particular demands of the society add more social burden on them. They have to face so many difficulties on rearing children and taking care of adults. With so many socio-cultural burdens they have to face different psychological problems also.

There exist some positive aspects of the male migration in the society. Specially, the women get economic support from the earning of their husbands. They have an opportunity to play an important role in decision making of the household management. They have a chance of involving and taking active participation in different social organizations. The absence of their husbands they have to take part in so many religious and rituals as a main host, which were strictly forbidden previously in the conservative society. In the context of respondents, these are some of the positive aspects of male emigration.

The reasoning factors of emigration are defined as **push** and **pull** factors. Always deteriorating conditions of peace and social security, lack of vocational education, food-deficiency, unemployment and so many other causes related to the family are supposed as **push-factors**. To be found the solutions of these problems in other countries, hence, they become the **pull-factors** of emigration. In the absence of job-oriented training and vocational education (technical knowledge) our country does not produce skilled-labour. Because of excessive availability of un-skilled work (job) and socio-friendly environment attracts the emigrants towards the other countries. That is why people use to go out-migration to earn money and a small part of their earning which they can save, bring back to their home.

8.2 Conclusion

The ever increasing over-load on land promotes the out-migration from the rural areas of the underdeveloped country like ours'. The lower marginal landlords migrate without any skill to earn marginal gain that may be counted as their compulsion. There exist so many factors to disrupt the social balance and one of them is the movement of population from one place to another. The tradition of migration has been a serious problem for the under-developed countries.

The ever increasing trend of migration creates problems not only on destinations but also in the places of origin. It has increased work burden on women. The women, specially, wives of absentees' have to face so many problems in managing household activities, agricultural activities, social activities etc. There are some positive impacts, too. Because of the male migration, the women are empowered to handle every activities freely and bravely related to the household. From agricultural to more important economic decision making they have to practice as professionals. For the first time in their life they have had golden opportunities to handle and encounter each and every household problem with their own independent decisions.

In conclusion we can say that male migration has been a must in rural areas and it bears not only good aspects but has imposed a lot of burdens and difficulties on woman who are compelled to live alone and accustomed to perform each and every household activities. The real picture of impact of emigration on women can be seen inside the small huts of the rural areas.

The tradition of migration has not only been a matter of inclination but a must and inevitable compulsion of the rural areas. So the ever increasing number of emigrants may affect the development works of the country. The attraction of better income and luxurious life, not only causing brain-drain but it also proved itself a pulling factor of skilled and unskilled labour. Later or sooner it should be checked.

It is clear that in the last decade, remittance has been the backbone of our national economy. Immediately we can not avoid and deny this source of national income. Local sources of extra income are not sufficient to quench the thrust of earning quick and easy money by means of out migrations. To create sufficient employment opportunities in the county has been a must to check the out flow of emigration. Nepal is locked between two emerging huge economy of the world. We can not compete with their large scaled industries with our small scaled capital. So, we have to find out something new to survive. The development of tourism industry is the only means of our economical survival and creating so many employment opportunities, which is needed to our ever increasing labour market.

Willingly or unwillingly, one should have to agree that creation of many more employment opportunities is not an easy and simple task. It takes a long time. So, the industrial development efforts and international employment should be dragged forward together for the time being until we can provide employment to the whole population in our own country. Therefore, the government should discover and manage well the emigration in such a way that each and every employee may have an easy and safe access in good, sustainable and reliable job

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QUESTIONNAIRES FOR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Household Survey on Migration-2007.

Respodent's name:

Age:

Numbers of emigrants:

Religion:

Relationship to the emigrant:

House No.:

Head of the house:

A.

S.No.	Name	Relation	Age/Sex	Marital Status	Education	Main Occupation

B. From how long have you been living in the village?

.....

C. Respondent's condition :

- In which situation do you feel the absence of your husband?
-
- In the absence of your husband, who do you most call for help? Do they help you in solving your Problems?
-
- What medium does the Emigrant use to send remittance?
.....
- Who receives the amount?
.....

- Once at a time, what amount does he send? (in Rs.)
.....
- How do you solve your food scarcity Problems?
.....
- Do you need to take loans to maintain households?
.....
- How do you manage to repay loans?
.....
- Do you repay loan through other means except Emigrant's income?
.....
- For which purpose do you mostly take loans? (cash) (food)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
- How do you manage land farming?
.....
- During farming season, who conduct other household work i.e. care of animal, water fetching, cooking etc.?
.....

D. Economic condition.

- Could you provide me information about your land?

Type	In Ropani
Irrigated land (Khet)	
Unirrigated land (Baari)	
Grass land (Kharbaari)	
Others	

➤ Could you give me information about your livestock?

Type	Number
Cow	
Ox	
Buffalo	
Goat	
Others	

➤ Is the production of land enough to feed your family for a whole year?

➤ If not, then how much it does last?

In Months	
Less than 3 months	
3-6	
6-9	
9-12	
Surplus	

➤ **Production:**

Items	In muri
Maize	
Millet	
Paddy	
Pulses	
Wheat	
Barley	
Soybean	
Bean	
Potato	
Others	

➤ Do you earn extra income with your own efforts? If yes,

Type	Amount	Total	

If not, why?

➤ Expenditure:

Items	Actual	Expenses
Food		
Spices		
Clothes		
Schooling		
Vegetable		
Kerosene		

E. Respondent and decision making:

➤ In taking any decisions by emigrant or by other family members, do they inform you?

.....

➤ Who decides to buy and sell agricultural Production in your household?

.....

➤ How does he/she decides?

.....

➤ Do you also Participate in decision making? If yes, how?.....

➤ If No, why?

.....

F .About Emigrant :

- When did your husband start to migrate?
.....
- When did he last visit home?
.....
- Generally, in what interval does he visit home?
➤
- How long does he stay at home?
.....
- Does he help you in doing household and other works during his stay? If yes, how?
.....
- Do you want anything else the migrant must do?
 - a. Stay at home
 - b. Continue to migrate:
If he should stay at home, why?
If he should continue to migrate, why?
.....
 - c. Do you feel loneliness in absence of your husband?
.....
 - d. Do you feel self insecurity?
.....
 - e. Do you feel your husbands' insecurity?
.....
 - f. Do you feel any kind of tension in performing household activities?
.....

G. Socio- cultural activities:

- In the absence of your husband what kinds of changes in socio-cultural activities have occurred?
.....

- What kinds of religious activities do you take part in as a host?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
- Name the social organizations that you have a active participation.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
- What post do you occupy (what do you do?)

.....

.....

.....

.....

SAMPLE CASE STUDIES

(Note : All names used in this section are factious)

Case I

Emigrant: **Ravi Bahadur Thapa, Age: 40, Literate**

Wife: **Sumitra Kumari Thapa, Age; 34, Literate**

Son: **two, 12 and 9 years, in school**

Daughter: **one, 14 years, in school**

Land holding: **10 Ropani**

Sumitra Kumari's husband emigrated at the age of 30. She entered this family at the age of 18 and she departed from her husband for a long period of 10 years, though he visits her in an interval of at least 2 years. All of her sons and daughter are studying at school. She has 3 Ropanis of khet (irrigated land), 2 Ropanis of Pakho Bari (Un irrigated land) and 6 Ropanis of Kharbari. She has one cow, one Bullock, one Buffalo and one goat. Her agricultural production lasts for only about 3-6 months. In the absence of her husband she faces a great difficulty in managing the food problem of the family. She feels that there is no one at home to assist her at the time of need but her children help her to handle household works to some extent. In farming season she does have to face much more troubles. Managing the labours, tools and irrigation become a hard task for her. However her sons and daughter share her hands in collecting firewood, cutting grass, cooking foods etc. In the morning till at 9.30 the children help her in household works and they go to school around 9.45.

Still in the off-farm season she faces troubles in the household works. Being the household head she has to manage all of her household works and has to manage every household economic need. She should make her own decision in all works. Not only as the helping hands in household works she misses her husband on the eve of festivals like Dashain and Tihar and at the time of her childrens' illness. Her husband visits her only at the interval of 2-3 years.

The agricultural production of her own land is not enough to feed her family for a whole year. So she use to borrow or takes loans from others to purchase food grains. She repays loans then when her husband sends money from abroad. Accidentally if her husband fails to send money on time she pays loans by selling cattle and other goods. Sometimes she is compelled to deposit her land as collateral. Loans taking purpose use to be for managing food, medicine, children's education fees and other household expenses. She solves all of her problems, including food scarcity by borrowing loans because her husband used to send remittance through Bank or money transfer companies once at a time per year. Once, at a time, her husband had sent 40,000 (forty thousands), that was not a small amount for her but she had received it herself.

She manages to farm her land by taking Parima (a kind of borrowing labour from others' to be returned in the form of labour when they needed and that cannot be paid in money).In the farming season she has to spend more than 12 hours in the field. In the absence of her husband, she calls her neighbours for help and they also use to help her in solving problems of any sort of agricultural works. In farming season her children help her in conducting other household works i.e. caring animals, fetching water, cooking foods etc. She herself makes decision about buying and selling of agricultural products in her household. How long her husband stays at home, he shares hands in all household works.

In the absence of her husband she takes part actively in so many social works. In some of the social organizations she holds some important positions also. In one of the organization she has actively participating as a treasurer. In the absence of her husband she faces so many problems of household works and sometimes she feels loneliness and a kind of insecurity but in her opinion, it is a most to continue her husband migrating for a long period because it is the only way of earning enough money that fulfills the needs of household expenditure. Moreover, she feels that it is better to be out of the country in the current always deteriorating condition of peace and security problems as well as scarcity of employment.

Case II

Emigrant: Surat Bahadur Poudel, age: 30. Literate

Wife: Nitu Poudel, Age: 24, Literate

Emigrant's father: Bel Bahadur, Age; 64,

Emigrant's mother: Nara Kumari, Age: 63

Emigrant's daughter: one, Age: 1 years

Emigrant's sister: Two, 32 and 24 years, unmarried

Emigrant's brother: one, 34 years, married

Emigrant's sister in law: one, 25 years

Sons of emigrants' brother: Two, 3 and 1years.

Land holding: 18 Ropani.

Nitu's husband was already migrated at the age of 20 and had joined in Indian army. she entered this family at the age of 21. she has a pair of bullocks, two buffaloes and three she-goats with 6 kids. She occupies 7 Ropanis of irrigated land (khet), ½ Ropami of un irrigated land (pakho baari) and 10 Ropanis of Kharbaari. Even then her agricultural products lasts for (-11 months. so she does not feel so much burden in her lonely shoulders in the absence of her husband because there are enough family members at home to assist her in handling the household works. In the farming season also she does not have to face much trouble as she has her own bullocks and so many members of her family are able to handle every sorts of farming works. They help her in fetching fodder and grass as well as transporting crops. Her sister in laws and mother in law collect firewood, collect grass, cook food and take care of children and cattle.

Even though, she has several helping hands available a home, she still faces so many troubles in many aspects of family life. Her father-in-law is the head as well as manager of the household. He takes suggestions from family members in all aspects of household activities, but he makes final decisions independently. Sometimes it hurts her. She did not need to take loans to

maintain household. With help of borrowed Parimas and hired Khetalas she manages the farming of her land. In the farming season she has to spend about 12 hours in the field works. At that time her mother-in-law conducts the other household works i.e. caring animals, water fetching, cooking, taking care of children etc. Her family do not need to take loans because the production of land is enough to feed the family all about the whole year. She does not earn extra income with her own efforts because the Production through farming own land and the earning of her husband is enough to manage her family.

She is informed beforehand in taking every kind of decisions by the emigrant and other family members. Her father-in-law and mother-in-law decide about buying and selling agricultural products. They use to receive the amount that her husband sends time and again.

Her husband visits home in the interval of more than 1 year. He stays at home for 1-2 months. At the period of home stay he helps her in her daily household works. In the absence of her husband she takes part in many more religious activities as a host but she does not have active participation in any social organizations. Though all of the members of her family love her and always extend their hand toward her to help her in need but when the children fall ill she feels the absence of her husbands. She could not enjoy the festivals and rituals with happiness. Time and again she feels loneliness and wishes her husband stay at home with her.

Case III

Emigrant: Ram Bahadur Chhetri, Age: 50, Literate

❖ *Wife: Jyoti chhetri, Age: 47, Literate*

Son: one, 25, Cooege student

Daughter: Two, one already married and another one unmarried, 20 years, a college student.

Jyoti's husband has emigrated at the age of 20 years. When she entered this family at 20 that was joint (extended) family. They have been separated from the 'Mulghar' since 12 years. In the time of disintegration of the family they received 2 Ropamis of khet, ½ Ropani of pakho baari and 2 Ropanis of kharbaari as the share division among brothers. After one year of the separation, they managed to build a new house. Then after some years' interval they bought some additional Ropanis of khet and baari with a house. Now they own 9 Ropamis of irrigated land (Khet), 2 Ropanis of pakhobaari and 3 Ropanis of kharbaari with two houses. They have a pairs of bullock, one buffaloes, a goat with two kids and some of chickens and ducks.

Every year, her husband visits her for a short period of 2 or 3 weeks. She has managed the whole household activities alone. She has to manage the farming alone. Every year she makes surplus of food grain to some extent. Her husband's income is also good enough. The children are studying well. She does not lack of anything. She holds enough land, cattle, well grown up child, good income of the husband, a large amount of Bank balance and she is supposed a richer and happier woman of the village. But she is not so happy as other neighbours think about her. Because of the absence of her husband she always feels the life lonely, troublesome and burdensome.

Now the children are grown up and they do what they want. She could not control them. Their disobedience pinches her. She has a good and trustworthy husband, she bears an honourable status in the society, her children

are well educated but she had a feeling of dissatisfaction. Feeling of loneliness causes some kind of torture and mental tension. She feels that there is developing mental depression on her. The one and only cause of such feelings is the migration of her life partner. So, she wishes to pass her future days along with her husband. She misses her husband very much.



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