

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis entitled “Role of Women’s Empowerment in Poverty Reduction: A Case Study of Rajahar VDC of Nawalparasi District” has been prepared by Mr. Tek Bahadur Pun under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for the final approval by the thesis evaluation committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

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APPROVAL SHEET

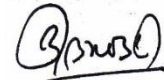
The thesis entitled "Role of Women's Empowerment in Poverty Reduction: A Case Study of Rajahar VDC of Nawalparasi District" is prepared and submitted by Mr. Tek Bahadur Pun for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master Degree of Arts in Sociology.

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ABSTRACT

The study on the "Role of women's Empowerment in poverty Reduction", a general study about the women's empowerment and its role in poverty reduction, was conducted in Rajahar VDC of Nawalparasi district. It present the general status of women in the study area.

The government and private sectors in Nepal have been engaged in relentless promotion of Nepalese women's empowerment through education, training and various other programs and research since long, but still most of the women's social status seems awfully poor. Their representation in social, economic and political life has been minimal. As a result, they are living in wretched condition. It is national scenario of the country which seems in the study area too. Educational attainment one of the most crucial factors of development, was not found satisfactory in the study area. Among total respondents, only the 25 percent respondents' educational status was found above SLC. Similarly, women's access on health services was also found poor. 64.28 percent respondents' replied that they have access on Health services.

On the other hand, most of the women of the study area were found heavily engaged in agricultural and other household chores mostly of unproductive works. The data reveals that women contribute more than men in household activities but these are not counted in monetary value. Women work 11 hours in an average in day in Nepal and the same scenario seems in the study area. The excessive workload has badly affected their daily life. In fact, It has created various types of obstacles in the empowerment process of women. Women's access and control over resources was also found poor. The data shows that 60.71 percent respondents replied that women have not personal assets such as land, bank balance, and cottage industry.

Awareness about women's rights to reproduction was also not found satisfactory in the study area. Among total respondents, still 42.85 percent were found not properly aware about women's right to reproduction which is quaranteed by the constitution of Nepal, 2073. On the other hand, one interesting fact was found that 46.42 percent respondents express their view over the provision of women's right in parental property that is does not solve the problems faced by women in a sustainable way. The emphasized to provide better education and Opportunities rather than parental property. Likewise, most of the people were found positive about the increased involvement of women in politics which is a good sign of increased awareness. But the response about women's role in decision making was found awfully poor because among total respondents 50 percent total decisions were made by male alone while the percent of female in the same work found only 21 percent. It shows a real picture of male dominated society.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CA	Constitution Assembly
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all kinds Discriminations against Women
DDC	District Development Committee
GDI	Gender Development Index
GoN	Government of Nepal
HHs	Households
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
MA	Masters in Arts
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLSS	Nepal Living Standards Survey
NPC	National Planning Commission
NWC	National Women Commission
PAF	Poverty Alleviation Fund
SAARC	South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation
SSNCC	Social Service National Coordination Council
TNW	Team for Nature and Wildlife
TU	Tribhuvan University
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
VOL	Volume
WE	Women Empowerment
WAD	Women and Development
WID	Women in Development
WSCC	Women Service Coordination Council

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ROLE OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN POVERTY REDUCTION
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