

CHAPTER-ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The cultural construction of Nepali society is shaped by Hindu theology, which advocated and promoted patriarchal attitudes and practices that exclude women from a variety of functions. This has resulted in gender stereotypes where women's role as unpaid productive and reproductive labour is assigned negligible power or control over economic resources. Therefore, the active and meaningful participation of women in all spheres of daily lives is the felt need of today as well as the rights and opportunities of women to fight against the poor plight of human life and society. So, the women should be empowered providing the appropriate rights and opportunities. Women's empowerment is the crucial aspects of the development process of society because until and unless the women are empowered the society cannot go ahead in a progressive way. There will be neither peace nor brotherhood. Therefore the empowerment process should be given top priority. A person or a society alone can't achieve such a miracle goal. This needs was realized by the international community years ago and many seminars and conferences were organized in international level.

According to Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011, total population of Nepal stands at 26,494,504 showing population growth rate of 1.35 per annum. Similarly, Total number of households in the country is 5,427,302 with 5,423,297 individual households and 4,005 institutional households (Barracks, Hostels, and Monasteries etc). Sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) at the national level has decreased from 99.8 in 2001 to 94.16 in 2011. The male population is recorded as 12,849,041(48.50 percent) while female stands at 13,645,463(51.50 percent). In abstract number, there are 796,422 more females than males in the country. The female literacy is 57.4 percent which is very low compared to male around 75.1 percent (CBS 2011). Literacy is a basic element for the formation of the progressive and cultural society, literacy is acknowledged as benefiting the individuals and the society is associated with a number of positive outcomes for health, nutrition and overall well being of both men and women. Similarly, health is another crucial indicator from which we can generalize the status of women. Due to the poor literacy

condition, in indicators of the qualitative development Such as gender equality and equity, freedom of expression, meaningful participation in social, cultural and political and decision making process are not in improved condition in Nepal. The unfair and unjust status of this half of the population has forced people to live a life of endless misery. On the same way, due to the lack of sufficient infrastructures and skilled human power the health status of Nepalese women is not satisfactory. According to the "State of the world population, 2003 Report," Published by the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA).

Women have not become empower to participate in the social and economic development in a full-fledged manner as they are excluded from the development process. The deep rotted gender/stereotyping in the socialization pattern and role models has consistently controlled women from coming out of their traditional cocoons.

Empowerment means transforming existing power relations in favour of those (women, disadvantaged group and more generally the poor) who faced severe limitations in exercising power and making voluntary choices. Empowerment concerns the transformative use of power, in which a dominant agent also exercises his power in such a way that the sub-ordinate agent learns certain skills that undercut the power differential between him/her and the dominant agent. In this sense, the notion of empowerment is inescapably bound up with the condition of disempowerment and refers to the processes by which these who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire such ability (UNDP, 2005)

Women empowerment is the process of generating an building capability of women to exercise control over one's own life. It is generating understand to mean the ability of women to make choices to improve their well beings that of their families and communities.

Empowered women take more active roles in the house and community. When women take active roles in the household and community decision-making, their families will be better equipped to confront the challenges of poverty, improve family health and well-being and increase household income. In this context, women's empowerment is helpful to reduce the current issues of poverty (Dhakal, 2001).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nepalese communities are heterogeneous in culture. Women are economically dependent of family husband and more members of the society. Women have less opportunity to enhance their own capacity and only big talks and plans cannot empower women. Empowerment process of women for one community may not be applicable to other community. The breaking barriers towards empowering women can't be possible with one single approach. The empowerment of community women is a complex process it needs a holistic approach to measure the desired level of empowerment from the specified climate. Women have less opportunity to enhance their own capacity and boost their won morals. Discriminatory socialization shapers women's lives. Women have a range of skills required to successfully introduce, manage implement and evaluate social changes.

Nepalese society assigns some strict gender rules for men and women that lead to the discriminatory practices against them. Studies have shown that Nepalese women are predominantly engaged in the professional, technical and managerial fields. Most of the Nepalese women are deprived from the decision making authority which is the major and decisive part of women's empowerment. It is an astonishing fact that still a daughter can not take decision about her life partner even in the socalled educated family. It clarifies the real social status of Nepalese women. Therefore, it is not difficult to understand about the gender discrimination and its impact to the development process of the society. That is why, current status of the gender discrimination is a serious threat to the society and the state itself.

The government and private sectors have made number of efforts to enhance the speed of women's empowerment since long time but until we haven't got the remarkable achievement. In fact it doesn't concern how much the programs are implemented but it concerns the achievements and its contribution to transform the society towards the modernity. So, the study is concerned to seek the appropriate answer of the following questions which keep deep concern over women's empowerment and its contribution of poverty reduction?

1. Are the people of study area conscious about women's empowerment?
2. What is the overall socio-economic status of women of the study area?

3. What are the inter linkage between women's empowerment and poverty reduction?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to analyze the impacts of women's empowerment in the poverty reduction of the study area. To meet the goals of the study, the specific objectives are as follows:

- To find out the level of awareness about women's empowerment.
- To explore the socio-economic status of women of the study area.
- To find out the affecting factors of women's empowerment.
- To find out the relation between women empowerment and poverty.

1.4 Rational of the Study

Generally, economic sphere is taken as a key indicator of development but until and unless the social infrastructures are well developed, we can't build a peaceful and progressive society. Therefore, the social infrastructures should give top priority. The gender equality and equity, provision of equal rights to son and daughter in parental property, equal opportunities of education and employment to the males and females, freedom in decision making authority are some of the important social indicators of the qualitative development of the society.

Nepal is considered as a poor country in the world not only in economic perspective but also in socio-cultural development. The current state of gender discrimination, domestic violence against women and deprivation from decision making authority may prove this vary fact. It points out that still the Nepalese women are forced to live in miserable condition. This condition exists in almost parts and each class of the country are the Rajahar VDC can't be its exception. Indeed, the study has tries to seek the rationalistic solution of the hindrances and obstacles of the process of women's empowerment. So, it helps to build a peaceful progressive and cultural society.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into five chapters. First chapter introduces the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, rational of the study and organization of the study. The chapter two deals review of related literature with respect to research title. Similarly, the third chapter is about the research methodology and the fourth chapter deals with data presentation and analysis. And the final chapter includes summary, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER-TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Review literature enables to explore the research problems on different variables. It may also guide to new researcher to gain the techniques of further researcher procedures. The review literature process can be helpful to plan and conduct the research systematically and scientifically.

2.1 Theoretical Literature

Empowerment / Women's Empowerment:

The term empowerment refers to arrange of activities from individual self-assertion to collective resistance, protest and mobilization that challenge basic power relations, for individuals and groups where class, caste, ethnicity and gender determine their access to resources and power, their empowerment begins when they not only recognize the systematic forces that oppress them, but act to change existing power relationships. Empowerment therefore, is a process aimed at changing the nature and direction of systemic forces which marginalize women and other disadvantaged sections in a given context.

Empower is a process of awakening and regenerating dormant potentials that are inherent in people/human. It is not arming them with weapons rather recognizing and respecting them as equal dignified human beings. Empowerment call for liberating them from the orthodox, superstitious and conservative constraints imposed on legislation for protection of equal legal rights, and abolition of gender inequalities are the tools of empowerment (UNDP, 2005).

World Bank, 2009 defined, "Empowerment is the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives"

Empowerment is about full participation of people in the decisions and processes that shape their lives. It is viewed in the context of politics and programs designed to strengthen people's capacity to respond to their needs and priorities and civil society organizations are viewed as mediators or catalytic agents for people's empowerment and focus on strengthening these mediating structures (UNDP, 2008).

It is process of gaining control over self ideology and the resources which determined power. Empowerment means sensitization to misbelieve and mal-practices and their rejection. It means recognizing that women's subordination and men's superior status are not part of natural order of things but is imposed by a system of discrimination which is socially constructed and can be altered.

In other word, empowerment indicates the sufficient provision of power to those who are powerless disadvantaged, marginalized to take control of their lives. It is also a state to be able to provide them and take care of their food, clothing and lodging. Poverty is on extremely complex issue. It encompasses not only poverty measured by lack of income but also human poverty characterized by deprivation in a long healthy life, in knowledge, in a decent standard of living and in participation of the development process that affects every day life. Hence, poverty and empowerment are also closely associated in enabling to make the choice of one's life.

Women's empowerment is the centerpiece of overall empowerment process, worldwide women are the most disadvantaged and excluded group of population. Women, by and large, are the first victim of social, economic, political, legal and cultural barriers. And women's empowerment is the process of mainstreaming women in all spheres of social, economic, political, legal and cultural activities. Women empowerment can be defined as building capabilities of women enriched by political, economic, social, legal and cultural power so that they utilize their potentiality for optimum well-being. (Acharya,2009).

The women empowerment have been very much emphasized by the international conference on population and development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 and suggested that it is a basic tool for a country's overall development and improving the quality of people's life. The ICPD has also declared that advancing gender and the empowerment of women is the major tool of national development (Nepal Population Report, 2007).

Women's empowerment means reinforcing their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural, social, economical and political system of a society; without empowering women, actual and effective development is impossible (Baral, 2007).

World bank (2002), advocates empowerment as "the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable institution that

affect their lives.” This definition has promoted the voice of those who are disadvantaged and marginalized.

The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are the matter of human rights and condition for social justice and should not be dealt in isolation as only related to women’s issue. These are the ways to build a sustainable, just and developed society and also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace in a country or territory (Acharya, 2009).

Definition of women’s empowerment and autonomy appear thus to coverage as far as the end is concerned: gaining control over their own lives vis-à-vis family, community, society and markets. Empowerment, however, is a more dynamic term, encompassing both process and the result of that process (Bhattarai, M. 2009). What is also emphasized in the centrality of empowerments as a collective or group process as well as an individual one (Dhakal, 2001).

Cutler, (1984) is concerned that “empowerment” matters in state of “disempowerment”. She argues that “empowerment is inescapably bound with the condition of disempowerment and refers the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire such ability.”

Economic empowerment is defined as ‘economic change\ material gain plus increased bargaining power and\ or structural change which enables women to secure economic gains on an on gaining and sustained basis’ (Cutler P.,1984).

According to Bhattarai M. (2009), those who promote women’s empowerment through integrated rural development programmed ascribe women’s disempowerment to their lack of education, low economic status, lack of access to resources’ and low decision making power; those who promote women’s empowerment through economic interventions see women’s disempowerment as stemming from their low economic status (and consequent dependence) and their lack of decision making power; and those who promote women’s empowerment through

awareness building and organizing women see women's disempowerment as stemming from a complex interplay of factors- historical, cultural, social, economic and political.

Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of individuals and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities. Empowerment is a social action process that promotes participation of people, organization, and communities in gaining control over their lives in community and larger society. With this perspective, empowerment is not characterized as achieving power to dominate others, but rather power to act with others to effect change.

Empowerment is to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of individuals and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities (<http://www.selfgrowth.com/articals-women-empowerment.html/>).

Women empowerment refers to the ability of women to transform economic and social development when empowered to fully participate in the decisions that affect their lives through leadership training, coaching, consulting, and the provision of enabling tools for women lead within their communities, regions and countries (<http://www.wiserearth.org/aof/346>).

Poverty Reduction:

The word 'poverty' has been defined by different writers, scholars and institutions in different ways. There is no universally acceptable definition of poverty. However some commonalities are found in their views and definitions. Poverty is, in fact, a state of not getting the minimum basic needs and perceived as undesirable by the persons or the people.

Poverty is defined on the basis of availability of basic needs. Those who fall to acquire those needs are led to poverty. Basic needs can include food, shelter, cloth, health, lighting and security of both life and property-Cutler (1984).

Poverty is a state of economic, social and psychological deprivation occurring among people or countries lacking sufficient ownership control or access to resources to maintain minimal

acceptable standards of living it represents an exclusionary relationship where individuals or states are denied access to an adequate package of resources -World Bank (1998),.

2.2 Empirical Literature

In many parts of the world, women are treated as second class citizen, which value is often defined by their capacity to produce large families. Economic necessities and socio-culture mores have entrenched this view of women. In most developing countries, women labor between twelve to eighteen hours in a day like carrying for children, carrying wood and water, growing and preparing food, maintaining the home, caring the old and sick family members. In the case of Nepal, women have no access to parental property right, their access to property in their husband's household. In addition, women are victims of ill health, malnutrition, inadequate education and illiteracy, poverty, unjust laws, landlessness, and never ending duties of household and families (Pantha N., 2007).

Based on an empirical analysis of Egyptian data, Baskota S. (2008) finds that empowerment relating to women's family environment affects infant survival, whereas empowerment relating to women's exposure to non-traditional ideas and behavior and their ability to manipulate the modern sector are more relevant determinants of child immunization.

In the context of empowerment, Nepalese women have made limited gains in the last couple of decades. Women's educational status and visible economic participation have improved in absolute terms. But on the other hand, gender disparity in access to modern resources and power structure is also increasing (Acharya, 2009).

Women constitute the disadvantaged and powerless half of the world's population "the forgotten majority". Though they perform 67 per cent of the world working hours, they earn only 10 per cent of the world's income and own less than 1 per cent of the world's property. Two- thirds of the world's illiterates are women (UNFPA, 2003).

2.2.1. Women's Empowerment in the Context of Nepal

It is included that economic, employment, educational, health and political empowerment in this review.

2.2.1.1 In Economy and Employment

In Nepal only 25.73 percent of female are household head and 19.71 percent of women ownership in house and land (CBS, 2011). Large proportions of the women are engaged in agriculture. In Nepal, women make up 62 percent of the agricultural workforce. As per the action-research done by TNW, it has been found that women-farmers lack knowledge, skill, resources, technology, quality agriculture inputs and access to market (TNW Nepal, 2010). And labor force participation rate, female in 50 percent (CODEFORNEPAL, 2015). The 15.8 percent women are work in administration, 20 percent women are in technology work and 25.7 percent women are in the field of services and business (CBS, 2010).

In teaching profession, the participation of women is better than other. There are 37.5 percent of women in primary level, 20.1 percent of women are in lower secondary level, and 13.1 percent in secondary level (Education Division, 2015). Similarly in the judiciary, women judges all out for only 1.3 per cent of the total no. of judge. The Supreme Court has only 2 women-judges among 22 judges, the Appeal court has only 1 women-judge among 78 and among 218 governmental advocates only 2 women advocates (Supreme Court, 2065 and National women Commission, 2065). In other constitutional bodies women occupy some position at the middle management level, leaving all decision making position for men. Poor representation of women can also be observed in the Cabinet.

2.2.1.2 In Education and Health

The female literacy is 57.4 percent which is very low compared to male around 75.1 percent (CBS, 2011). Women ratio is in pre primary education 46.2 percent, in higher secondary education 43.3 percent and in higher education 32.6 percent (2062/63). And it is in primary education 48.0 percent, in lower secondary education 46.6 percent and in secondary 46.6 percent (2063/64). According to Census 2011, the life expectancy of Nepalese people is 71 year and female is 67.82 year. Total births attended by skilled health staff in 2011: 36 percent. And

maternal mortality rate per (100,000)-170 (2010). It has found out that Nepal has an adult literacy rate of 56.6 percent with a huge variation between men and women. While male literacy rate is 71.6 percent it is only 44.5 for women. This shows that there is still a belief among Nepalese people that girls are limited to go to schools. Women receive only about 16 percent of undergraduate and 11 percent of doctorate degrees in engineering, less than 22 percent of doctorate degrees in math and physical sciences, 28 percent of undergraduate and 15 percent of doctorate degrees in computer and information science. By contrast, women continue to earn the largest proportion of degrees at all levels (associate through doctoral degrees) in the fields they have traditionally dominated, such as health professions which includes nursing, physical therapy and health administration(83percent) and education (77percent) according to recent reports, the Nepal living standards survey 2010-2011 (NLSS-III)-.

2.2.1.3 In Politics

Nepalese society is male dominated society. In the past, women have not voting and standing for election rights still 1951s. Only in 1951 B.S., Nepalese women have got the voting rights as well as stand of election. After then women started to participate in politics. Now women's participation in central level of political parties is 28.7 percent and in district level, 25.88percent. In Constitution Assembly 2064, participation of women are 197 (32.8 percent) among 601 members. Among 601 CA members 30, (12.5 percent) of women members are elected by direct election system, among 335 members, 161(48.1percent) of women members are elected by proportionate election system and among 26 members, 6(23.1percent) women members are nominated by cabinet (Punarjagaran Samaj, 2065).

In the election of Parliament 2048, there are 8 women members in total among 205 members. In 2051, there are 7 women members in total among 205. In 2056, there are 12 (5.9 percent) women members and The Interim Parliament 2063, 57(17.3 percent) women members (Punarjagaran Samaj, 2065).

Proportion of seats held by women in parliament in Nepal-Recently, Nepal has made progress in electing more women to parliament. In 2006, only 5.6 percent of seats in parliaments were held

by women. In 2008, it reached 33.8 percent. Wasn't that great new?. But in 2014, it fell to 29.9 percent. Let's hope there will be an increase in the near future (CODEFORNEPAL, 2015).

2.2.2 Women rights: From the Draft of Constitution

Under women rights all sort of human rights achieved by the male like own physical or right to independence, franchise or political rights, rights to deserve the public position /post, rights to property, rights to work, rights to equal wages for same work, rights to education, rights to participate in military service, rights to legal compromise, rights to marriage, parental or religions rights including all the additional rights biologically availed to female or children come.

In USA, the struggle for achievement of the women's political rights was begun in 1820 AD, after the 19th amendment of the Constitution of America in 1920; the women seem to have achieved political rights all over the country. In 1918, women received franchise rights (rights to vote) in Great Britain, similarly, New Zealand in 1893, Australia in 1902, Finland in 1906 and Switzerland in 1959. But in some of the countries of Middle East the women are not able to achieve political rights.

The attempt of protecting the women's human rights was commenced from mainly 20th century. In 1946 the 'Commission on the status of women' was established as the executive commission of economic and social organization. It was handed over the responsibilities of preparing report or recommendation on economic, social, cultural and educational rights of women and steps to be taken regarding equality between male and female.

In 1993, The General Assembly of UN, declared to end all sort of crime against women which occur in their private and public life like physical, sexual or mental crime.

In 1995, the 4th convention has appealed the government, national or international organization and private sectors to pay attention on poverty, education, health, crime against women, access of women to means and resources, women in strength, gender inequality, female and environment and children emphasizing on gender equality and women empowerment with identifying 12 sector.

In 2000, 23rd special summit on women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century have declared 'Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action'. Such declaration has also emphasized on gender equality, development and peace dragging the attention of member countries on those 12 sectors.

2.2.3 Management in International Law: From the Draft of Constitution

The article-1 of UN charter has described the one objectives of UN origin is to support for the promotion and development of human rights internationally without discriminating on the basis of caste, gender, language or religion. Similarly article-8 has guaranteed that the gender shall not become the matter of discrimination to work in any of the organs of UN. Article 13, 55, 62 and 76 have emphasized on equal consumption/ utilization of human rights and fundamental rights of all.

The article-1 of Universal Human Rights Declaration has declared that everyone is independent, respectful and has got equal rights from birth and article-2 has guaranteed distinguished rights are available for everyone without discrimination.

The article-2 of The Convention on the Political Rights of Women guaranteed the political rights like franchise rights (rights to vote), rights to contest in the election, rights to deserve public post and so on.

2.2.4 Constitutional Practices in Nepal

The Rana Regime introduced the first ever written law, The Country Code in 1853. The Code was discriminatory in the application of law on the ground of religion, race, sex, caste and tribe. There was difference in punishment for men and women and for the person of "lower caste" and "upper caste". Nepal Government, Legal Act, 2004 has guaranteed everyone shall be treated equally.

Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 has stated that equal rights for male and female for the consumption of resources in their lives, equal payment to equal work, laborers, male and female health, they shall not be forced to work if their age is not suitable, equal to law, no discrimination on the basis of gender.

Constitution of Nepal, 2015 has stated that all the citizens have rights to equal protection/preservation. In the use of general law no citizen would be discriminated and both male and female would not be discriminated on the basis of gender.

Constitution of Nepal, 2019 has stated every citizen shall be equal in law, in the use of general law and public post, not shall be discriminated.

Constitution of Nepal, 2047 has managed non-discriminatory activities on the basis of gender in the use of general use of law through its fundamental rights. But it was likely to manage new provision for the preservation or development of women through law. The nation had adopted the policy for female for maximum participation in nation building task through instructive principle.

Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063 has stated that no citizen shall be discriminated on the basis of gender in the use of general law of the country with managing equality and equal preservation of law. But there is the management of women protection, empowerment and development through law. In this constitution no women shall be discriminated in the form of female/ women, every women shall have reproductive health and reproductive rights, no crime or disparity shall be done against physical and mental aspects of women, rights of women for parental property and under directive principle single (widow) female shall be protected and social security shall be managed for their development. Though private disparity disables and unemployed women shall be given allowances. Interim Constitution of Nepal has managed article 20 for women rights.

Under the new constitution, women are considered equal with that of their male counterparts. But it has added one more discriminatory brick wall for marginalized and deprived women. In Article 84(1) (b), under PR in the lower house, there's a provision for the representation of eight groups - Women, Dalits, Janajatis, Khasa-Aryas, Madhesis, Tharus, Muslims and Underprivileged. As only Khasa-Aryas defined in constitution seem to keep the opportunities around their family and kinship. The clause discourages the deprived women to get access to the

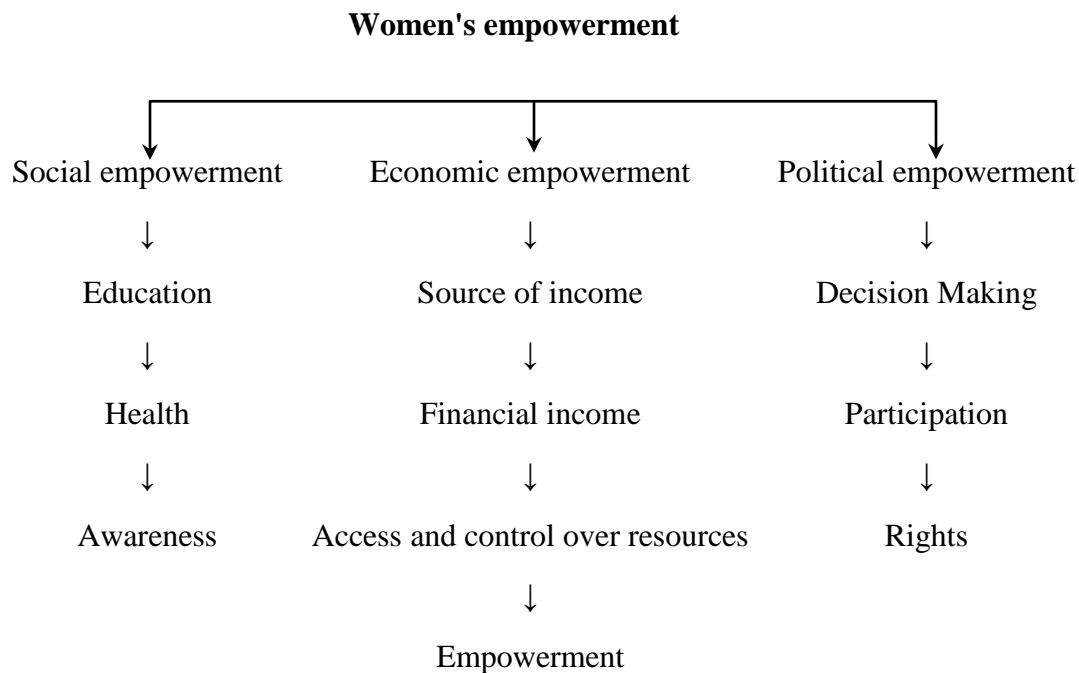
opportunity with well competent Khas-Aryas women. Thus affirmative action to uplift those deprived women will not bring positive impact in their life through equality rather than equity. After 70 years of struggle, what the constitution of Nepal, 2072 has to offer are maintenance of patriarchal essence and regressive provisions for Nepali women. Even in pre-historical society women had right to give her child's identity but Nepali women are still struggling for her identity and equal citizen's right (Constitution of Nepal, 2072).

2.2.5 Government Policies for Women Development

Planned development in Nepal begin in 1956 and special focus on WID, WAD and GAD since the 1970s. It was only in 1980 that the Women's Developments section (WAD) was established under the Ministry of Local Developments. The Plan of Action for Women in Development was prepared in 1982 and subsequently production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) program was introduced. With the restoration of multi-party political system in 1990, His Majesty's Government of Nepal ratified the UN Convention on Elimination of ALL Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) IN 1991 without reservation. After the Beijing Conference in 1995, the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare was established and thus His Majesty's Government of Nepal committed itself to ending discrimination against women.

In recent times, women's empowerment is increasing trend. The participation of women is slightly increased in every sector when the state formed a policy of positive discrimination but which is not in a satisfactory condition. The Constitution of Nepal 2072 has provided 33 percent reservation in all mechanism based on the caste/ethnic composition of women through the amendment of relevant laws and policies.

2.3 Conceptual Framework



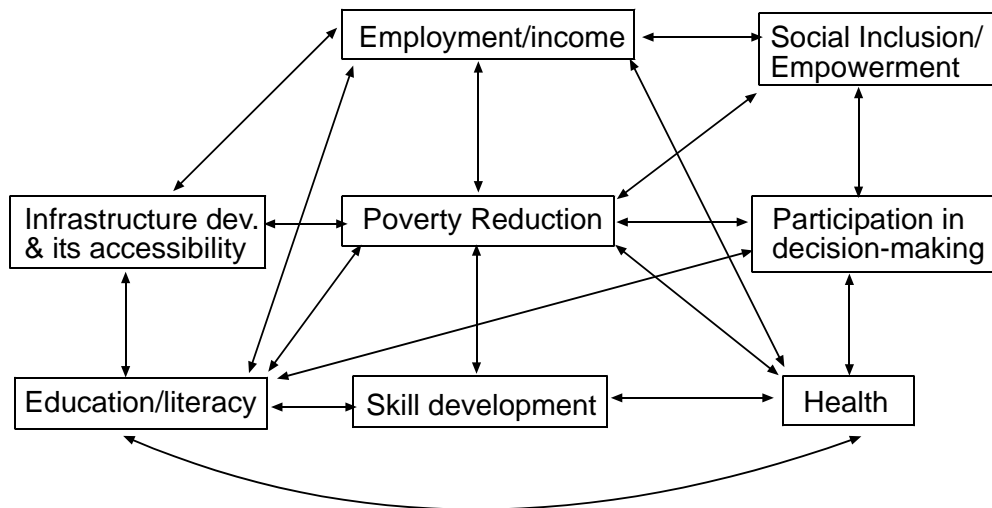
Women empowerment is one of the most influential factors of poverty reduction of the present globalized era. It has direct and indirect impact over development process. The meaning and definition of it varies according to socio-cultural norms and values, and economic condition of the society. It is study, the term women's empowerment has been viewed through the three basic components of empowerment. These are social empowerment, economic empowerment and political empowerment (Bhattarai, 2009).

Social Empowerment: Meaningful access on education and health are basic factors of social empowerment because when women are properly educated and got health facilities, they will be able to compete with others and women's empowerment gives us positive result. Moreover, awareness is another crucial factor of social empowerment which covers a wide range of consciousness not only of the people of illiterate and poor class but also of the people of educated and high ranked classes. It motivates them to provide on environment to women where women can get opportunities to empower themselves.

Economic Empowerment: It denotes women's access and control over economic sectors such as sources of income, financial authority etc. Economic empowerment is the most influential opportunities to boost up the whole empowerment process of women.

Political Empowerment: Political Empowerment is another factor of empowerment process. Conceptually, both negative (freedom from arbitrary arrest, exclusion) as well as positive/freedom to vote, participate in political life) aspects of political freedom should be captured by focusing on both the formal availability and actual exercise of political freedom by the people. It advocates about the meaningful participation of women in decision making process and social activities. Moreover, it advocates about the provision of rights to women (Sharma, 2061).

Dimensions of Poverty Reduction



Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. It is the bundle of different socio economic problems caused by many factors. Poverty is not only the state of having low income but also having low level of living followed by poor health and lack of sanitation, low level of education, poor/low level of development infrastructures and less or no access of people on these resources. Therefore, all these factors are the dimensions poverty reduction. Improvement and growth on these reflect reduction of poverty (Karki, 2005).

CHAPTER-THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Research methodology is a most to achieved objective of the study. The researcher has used descriptive type of research design for this study, “Role of Women’s Empowerment in Poverty Reduction” of Rajahar VDC in Nawalparasi District.

3.2 Site Selection and it’s Rational

The study were site selection of Rajahar VDC ward no. 8 in Nawalparasi District. Rajahar VDC has been developing a comparatively others VDC of Nawalparasi. Generally, Women empowerment can be defined as building capabilities of women enriched by political, economic, social, legal and cultural power so that they utilize their potentiality for optimum well-being. Therefore, it’s rational of the study find out the situation of empowerment and women empowerment as well as it is role of poverty reduction in this study area. And the study provided the important new awareness of that particular village.

3.3 Universe and Sampling

The universe of the population is the people of Rajahar VDC ward No. 8 in Nawalparasi District. There are 71 total households with 296 population in this study area. Where, 114 are males and 182 are females in total population at selected ward. Among this who women are aged of between 20-59 years population is 85 of the ward. And selected population from only 28 women respondents is taken by using random sampling method.

3.4 Data Collection Technique

The information is collected from the respondents of only one ward of Rajahar VDC by using the interview schedule and key informant interview tools and technique. The nature of interview schedule both from close and open types and key informant interview were taken with

knowledgeable person, old men, leader, teacher, social worker etc. Key informants interview checklist were prepared.

3.5 Sources of Data

The research was mainly based on the both primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through interview schedule and secondary data were collected from VDC, Annual reports, NGOS, INGOS, records book, published and unpublished document of the government as well as other official reports.

3.6 Analysis and Interpretation of Data

After collected necessary information with help of interview schedule collected were carefully checked and verified to remove the possible error an inconsistencies in the raw data. The data were recorded and compute it if necessary. Then the data were code, tabulated under the different heading and sub-heading. And the tabulated data systematically presented and analyzed with the help of pie-charts, charts, bar diagrams, tables and figures from developed. And finalized the data were interpreted according to need to the research.

3.7 Limitations of the Study

- The study is done within the geographical boundary of the Rajahar VDC ward No. 8 Nawalparasi district. Only one ward of Rajahar VDC has been selected as sample.
- The researcher doesn't have any purpose of financial benefit in this study. It is done only for the academic purpose.
- Basically, It is focused to study about the role of women's empowerment to reduce the poverty of the society.
- The findings of the research cannot be generalized in the national context.

CHAPTER-FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

Socio-economic information of the respondents represents the socioeconomic status of a particular community, society and a geographical locality. Different socioeconomic characteristics represent the different socio-cultural norms, values and tradition of the society which have been carrying a community, society or a geographical area with a guidance of the certain ethics and system approaches. In this research study, the researcher is being focused on women empowerment and its inter connection with the poverty reduction. So, have the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents are explored to interconnect women's empowerment and its role in poverty reduction of Rajahar VDC in Nawalparasi district.

4.1.1 Age Composition of the Respondents

The age composition of a population is important in demographic analysis. A population's age composition is considered as a map of its demographic history. If age composition is destroyed, all age-specific information of vital events is eventually destroyed. The various demographic events differ in different age. Therefore, age composition has significant implications.

Table 4.1.1: Composition of Respondents by Age

Age of Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
20-30	12	42.90	
31-40	8	28.57	
41-50	5	17.85	
51-59	3	10.68	
Total	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The majority of the population was found in age group 20-30 years (42.90%) and lowest in age group 51-59 and above years (10.68%). If we examine the age composition in economic term, people below 15 years and 60 years above are supposed to be economically inactive that means “Dependent population” and age of 15-59 years is economically active population.

4.1.2 Composition of Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity

During the study, different types of cast and ethnic groups were found so, there is diversity in caste, ethnicity, language, culture and tradition in a community, society or a geographical location. All the system of socio-economic living varies according to the norms and values of every distinct nature of a community. In the study area majority of the respondents represents from Magar, Brahmin and Chhetri. One most appreciable matter of the area is that there is no any domination of particular community instead, there is a harmony amongst the Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar community but still these is a domination of them to the so called marginalize dalits who are socio-economically, culturally and politically backward.

Table 4.1.2: Composition of Respondents by Cast & Ethnicity

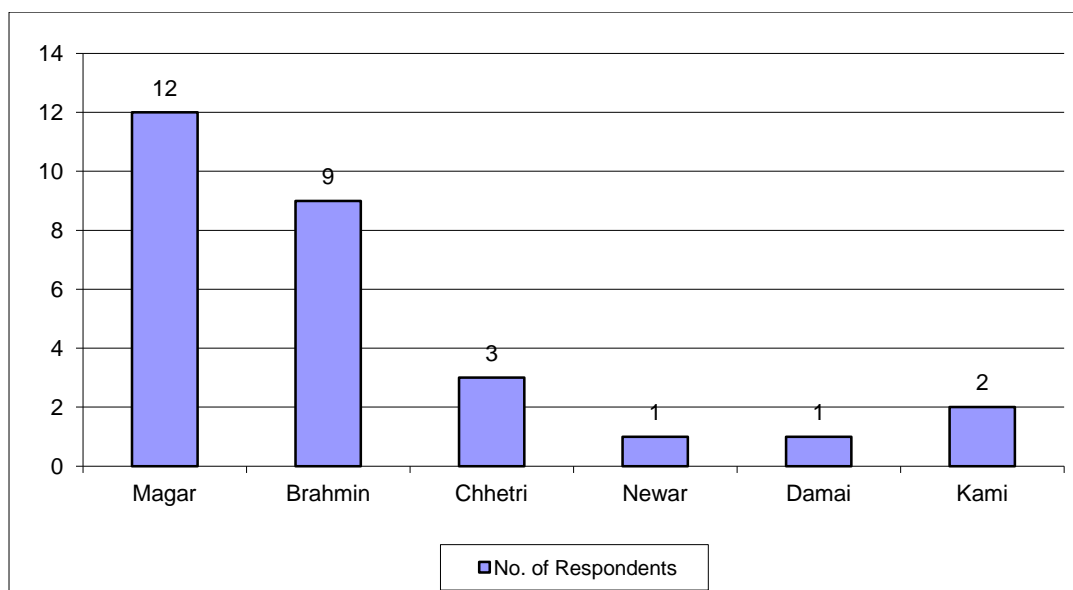
Cast/Ethnicity	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Magar	12	42.35	
Brahmin	9	32.14	
Chhetri	3	10.71	
Newar	1	3.57	
Damai	1	3.57	
Kami	2	7.14	
	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Cast/Ethnicity	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Brahmin/Chhetri	12	42.85
Janjati	13	46.42
Dalits	3	10.71
	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.1.2: Composition of Respondents by Cast & Ethnicity



The table 4.1.2 shows the composition of the respondents by cast ethnicity where 13 households are of Janajati that possess 46.42 percent of the total respondent, 12 are of Brahmins, Chhetri which possess 42.85 percent, similarly, 3 households are of Dalits which cover 10.71 percent of the total respondents.

4.2 Social Empowerment:

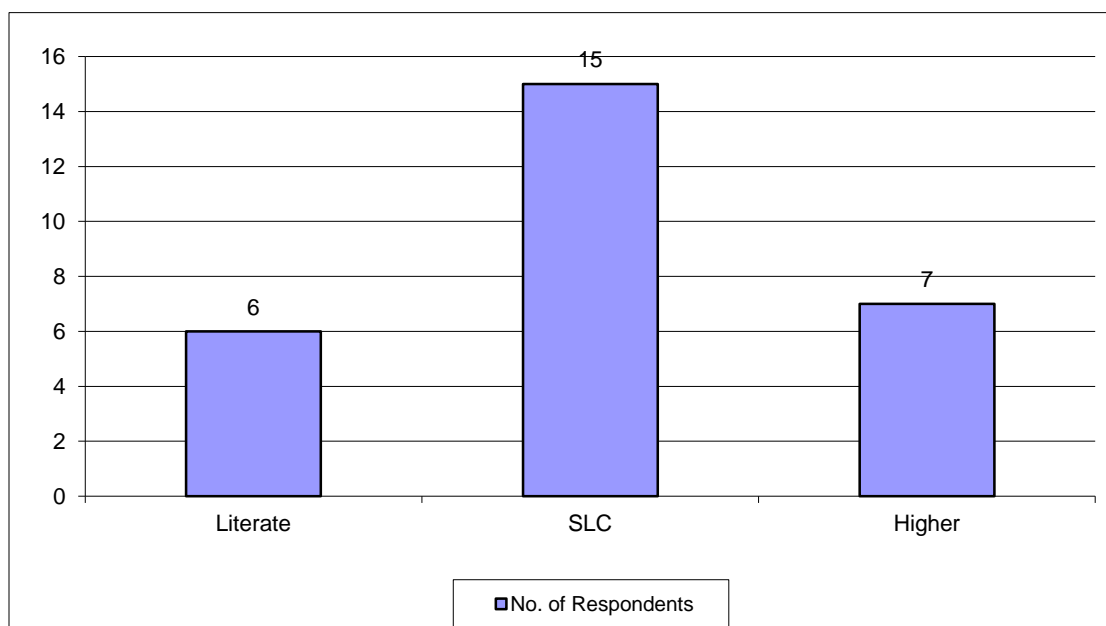
To find out the social empowerment of women in the study area, the study was focused on the following topics.

Table 4.2.1: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status

Response	No of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Literate	6	21.43	
SLC	15	53.57	
Higher	7	25	
Total	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Fig. 4.2.1: Distribution of Respondents by Education Status



The table presents the educational status of the respondents. Here, Literate indicates to the people who can read newspaper. As shown in the table, 6 respondents who have passed SLC is 15 and the number of respondents of higher education is 7. Education is the fundamental rights of the

people and without education the development can't be possible. The data shows that people haven't get easy access as higher education. There can be many factors in the poor educational attainment of the people. It is clear that until and unless the people can get on opportunity of higher education, the qualitative development of society can't be possible. Without development no poverty reduction. Due to the illiteracy, a number of socio-cultural norms and values art in existence which has created lots of hinderness and obstacles in the process of women's empowerment. It is national scenario of Nepal and same scenario seems in the study area also.

**Table 4.2.2: Distribution of Respondents by their access
on Health Services**

Response	No of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Yes	18	64.28	
No	10	35.71	
Total	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table shows the people's access about health service. As indicated in the above table 18 respondents out of 28 replied. They have got health facility which is 35.71 percent. When the people have easy access on health facility and benefitted, real development takes place. But the data shows that still 35.71 percent people have no access to health services. During the study, it was found that still many people can't be go hospital and private clinics for serious types of operations and other disease due to the poverty. Some of the respondents told they can't pay the bills. On the other hand, there is no proper provision of health facility by the government in the area. Such scenario clarifies that health facility is still too far from the access of poor people of the study area. Their social status was also found poor. Due to the poor health, it was also found that people where suffering from different diseases resulting heavy expenditure of their hard earned income.

Table 4.2.3: Involvement in Social Organization

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Aama Samuha	10	35.71	
Micro Credit	14	50	
Co-Operative	2	7.14	
Others	2	7.14	
	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

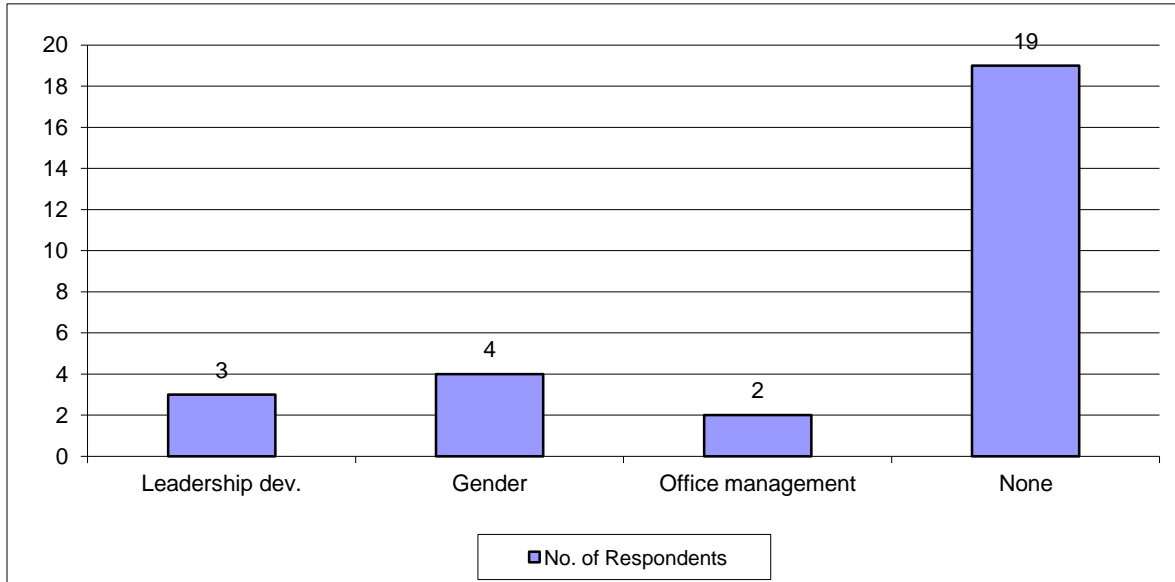
The above mentioned table shows that the majority of the respondents are involved in Micro credit, which constitutes 50 percent. Similarly, there are 35.71 percent respondents involved in Aama Samuha. It is found that 7.14 percent respondents replied to involve in co-operative and 7.14 percent respondents said that they are involved in others organizations. All respondents said that after involve in organization. Their economical status has been changed. Which helps to empowerment and the poverty reduction.

Table 4.2.4: Personality Development Training

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Leadership dev.	3	10.71
Gender	4	14.28
Office management	2	7.14
None	19	67.85
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.2.4: Personality Development Training



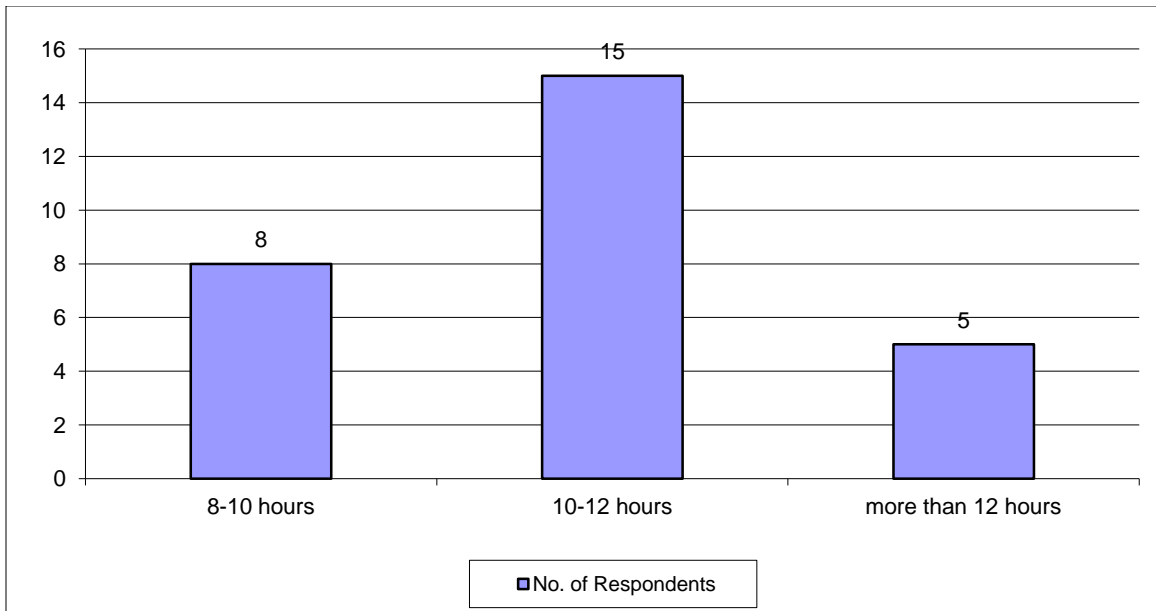
The total number of women who have taken personality development training is less than that of total respondent. As shown in the table, 10.71 percent have taken leadership development training, 14.28 percent have taken gender and 7.14 replied they had taken the training of office management. Similarly, 67.85 percent women found they had not taken any type of trainings. Training is importance for personality development. It increases confidence level of a person. So, it plays a vital role to enhance empowerment process. But it was found that most of the women had not taken personality development training. During the survey, those women who had not taken trainings were found passive in financial transactions, and also found their poor presence; in decision making process. Actually, these women were excluded from important matters of house. The women who have taken leadership development training they are in respected positions not only in house but also in offices.

Table 4.2.5: Women's Work Load

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
8-10 hours	8	28.57	
10-12 hours	15	53.57	
More than 12 hours	5	17.85	
Total	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.2.5: Women's Work Load



The table presents the daily working hours of women in the study area. As shown in the table 8 respondents replied women works 8-10 hours in a day. One the same way, 15 replied 10-12 hours, 5 replied women works more than 12 hours as the daily working hours of women. It shows a heavy work load to women. The scenario of women's work load seems executively that of national data. In average, women work more than 11 hours a day in Nepal. Women's work is more physical. In addition, they have to take care of their children and family too. The daily life

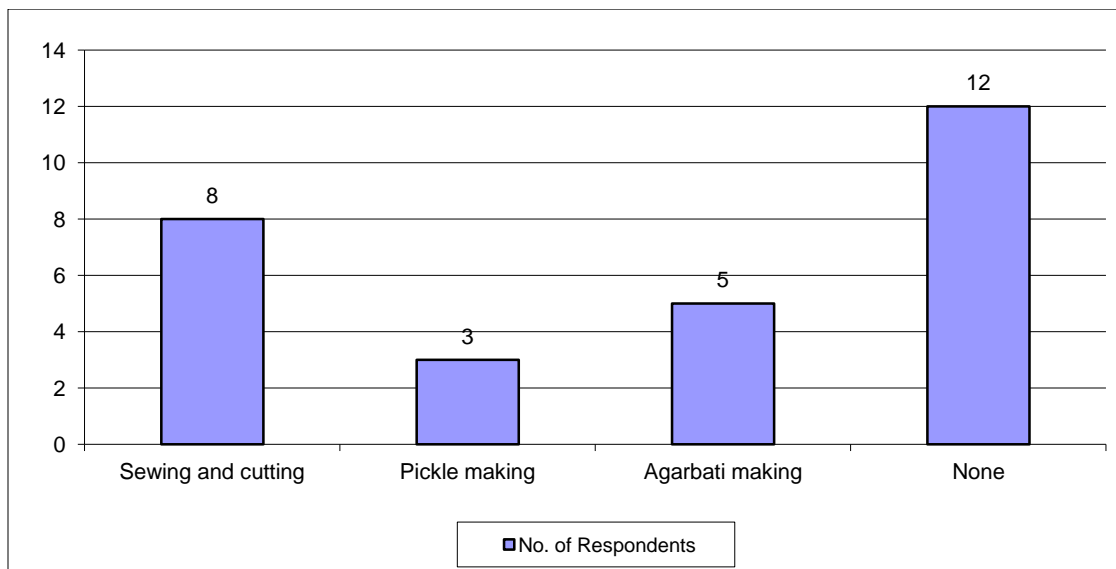
of these women work more than 11 hours a day in household is really miserable. It was found that due to the excessive work load women of the study area hadn't get appropriate environment and time to involve into capacity building activities so the empowerment process of them didn't seem satisfactory. That is why, if we have to make our society prosperous, we have to empower these women who are bearing necessary burden household work.

Table 4.2.6: Income Generation Training

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Sewing and cutting	8	28.57
Pickle making	3	10.71
Agarbati making	5	17.85
None	12	42.85
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.2.6: Income Generation Training



The table shows the status of skill development training that women have taken in the study area. As shown in the above table among 28 respondents 28.57 percent respondents replied they have taken sewing and cutting training, 10.71 percent pickle making and 17.85 percent Agarbati making. Similarly 42.85 percent of women found who had not taken any types of training. The

number of women in pickle making and Agarbati making is relatively lower than sewing and cutting. During the survey. Some of the respondents who are engaged in sewing and cutting said they have managed their household properly and to do so their profession has helped them. Likewise, the women who are engaged in pickle making said they sell their products in local markets and it has become a reliable source of income for them. Similarly, the women who have taken the training of Agarbati making also replied of a reliable source of income. In fact, the skill development training has helped women to manage the daily expenditure of house, to pay children's fee and to manage their own personal expenditure. During the research, it was also found that the women who manage their own expenses, are more confident and have played an effective role in household affairs specially in decision making process than others women who depend up on others for personal expenses and who have no any source of income. It also shows that skill development training is necessary to empower women. Therefore, all women should be given various types of skill development trainings.

4.3 Economic Empowerment

Economic condition is an important indicator of empowerment. It determines the people's status in the society. Therefore, to examine the economic empowerment of the women of the study area, the study was mainly focused on the following questions.

Table 4.3.1: Land holding pattern of Respondents

Amount of Land	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 1 kattha	3	10.71
1-5 kattha	6	21.42
6-10 kattha	11	39.29
11 kattha and above	8	28.57
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table shows the status of landholding patterns of the respondents. The authorized landholder respondents of the study area are shown in the table. Among 28 respondents 10.71 percent respondents (do) have less than 1kattha of land, 21.42 percent respondents occupy 1-5 kattha of land. Similarly, 39-29 percent respondents have 6-10 kattha of land and 11 kattha and above of land holder respondents are 28.57 percent. The land holding pattern of the respondents later mine the status of production and economic status of them which represents the social status and affects in living standard.

Table 4.3.2: Food sufficiency of Respondents

Response	No. of respondents	Percentage
0-3 months	4	14.28
3-6 months	12	42.85
6-9 months	4	14.28
9-1 years	8	14.28
1 years above	8	14.28
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table reveals that majority of household (42.85%) can consume food up to only 6 months from their own production. Similarly, 14.28 percent household's agricultural production is sufficient for 6-9 months. It is found that 14.28 percent household's food production lasts only up to 3 months. Likewise, 14.28 percent households have food adequacy for 9 to 12 months. The households which agricultural production lasts for more than 12 months is 14.28 percent.

Table 4.3.3: Distribution of Respondents by Income

Annual Income Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Less than 30,000	5	17.85	
Rs.31,000-40,000	3	10.71	
Rs. 41,000-50,000	12	43	
Rs. 51,000 above	8	28.57	
Total	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.3.3 depicts the situation of annual income of the respondent on the basis of their all efforts regarding their daily practices of economic activities as production of field and other services what they possesses in additional work of economic activities. As we set, 17.85 percent respondents have the income of up to Rs. 30000 and per year, 10.71 percent people earn Rs. 31000-40000 per year. Similarly, 43 percent respondents earn Rs. 41000 - 50000 per years 28.57 percent respondents have annual income of Rs. 51000 and above per year.

Table 4.3.4: Distribution of Respondents according to the sources of income

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Services	3	10.71
Business	7	25
Agriculture	11	39.28
Daily wage	4	14.28
Others	3	10.71
	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

As indicated in the table 3 respondents responded service as their main source of income and of replied as business, while 11 and 4 respondents replied as agriculture art. Daily wage respectively as their main source of income. 3 respondents replied as other services are main their income source (abroad, Land, etc) Here, among 28, only three respondents are found to be engaged in service so we can easily assume that service, a reliable and increative source of income is to for from the access of Nepalese women. Similarly, there is high number of women who replied agriculture and daily wages as their main sources of income. It seems that female have poor access in government service and most of them are involved in low graded sectors such as agriculture and daily wages which is the national scenario of the country. Main occupations of Nepalese women are agricultural works and the household choose and the same scenario seems in the study area too. Due to over age old socio-cultural norms and values, women are still considered as inferior comparing to men. So, they cannot get an appropriate environment to boost up their life.

Table 4.3.5: Status of financial Authority of women in family

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	8	28.57
No	20	71.42
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table shows the general status of females in financial transaction of their income. It disclose a hidden fact of male supremacy over female where females are compelled to ask their male counterparts even to expand of their own income. According to the table, 20 respondents out of 28 replied women ask their husbands before spending it. It is 71.42 percent. Similarly, 8 respondents replied they do not ask to their husband before spending it. Analyzing the data, it can be said that women are not able to make financial transaction even of their own income. They have to ask their husband to spend it. It can be explained that women earn money but they

have not right to spend it. So, women are highly dependent on their male counterparts for financial transactions. The females are tied up with the chain of slavery by the male dominated social structure since centuries ago which is still in existence in various forms in our society and the compulsion to ask to others to expand own income is an example of it.

**Table 4.3.6: Distribution of Respondents by the management of
Women's personal expense**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
With the help of family	19	67.85
From her own work	9	32.15
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Among 28 respondents, 19 replied women manage their personal expenses from support of their family which is 67.85 percent. Similarly, 9 respondents replied women manage it from their own work. The data shows that still most of the women depend upon that husband or the family members to make their personal expense which shows that women are dependent to others. It is definitely not a good sign in the field of women's empowerment. From the above data it can be said that women are very weak in the case of financial sector. So, they are not economically empowered. The vast dependency prove this very fact. In this context, the economic empowerment should be focused and a sound environment should be created to make empowerment process effective.

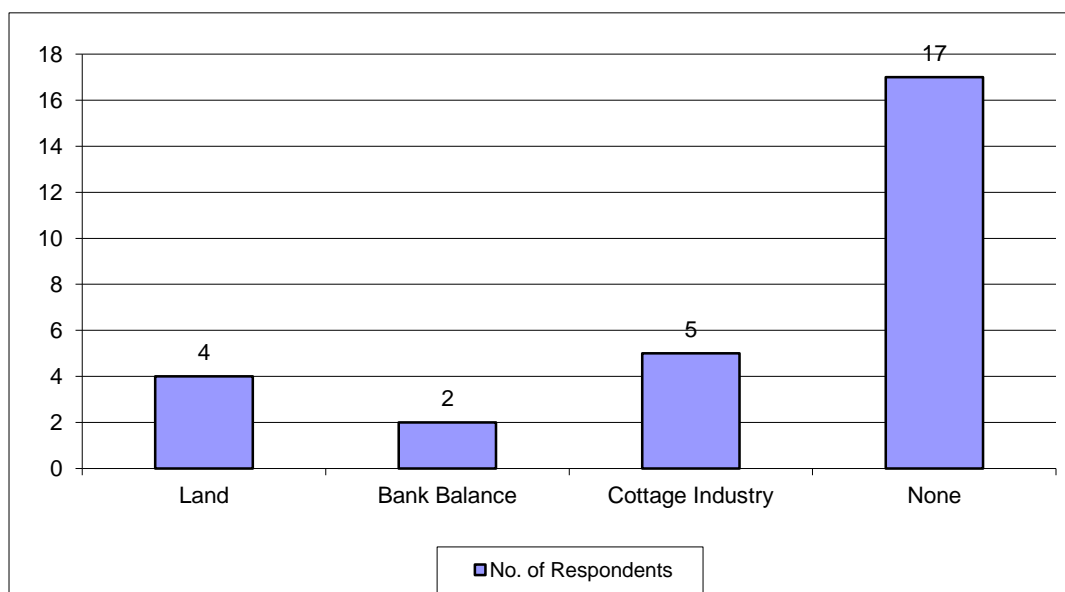
Table 4.3.7: Distribution of Respondents by women's Personal Assets

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Land	4	14.28
Bank Balance	2	7.14
Cottage Industry	5	17.87
None	17	60.71
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.3.7: Distribution of Respondents by women's

Personal Assets



The table depicts the status of women's personal assets. Among the total respondents, 14.28 percent replied land as personal assets and 7.14 percent replied as bank balance. 17.87 percent replied cottage industry as the assets of women. Most interesting thing is that among total respondents 60.71 percent replied that women don't have personal assets. The table shows that still a large portion of women of the study area has no real access and control over resources. It

presents a common scenario of most of the Nepalese women where they have access to property but have no right to utilize it as per their interest. Women contribute more than men in agricultural sector, they produce crops but they have to ask to their male counterparts to sell it even to manage the household activities. Similarly, most of Nepalese women wear ornaments like ear ring, nose pin and others. But they have not right to sell or purchase it. They have to consult to their husband to do so. It clarifies the status of Nepalese women over assets. It can be explained from the above data that only 14.28 percent of the respondents replied that women have land. On the same way, women's presence regarded to bank balance and cottage industry is also nominal. As a result, the overall status of empowerment of women in the study area found poor. It is clear that without women's access and control over resources, women's empowerment can't meet its goal. Therefore, to empower women, it is necessary to provide equal rights over resources.

4.4 Political Empowerment

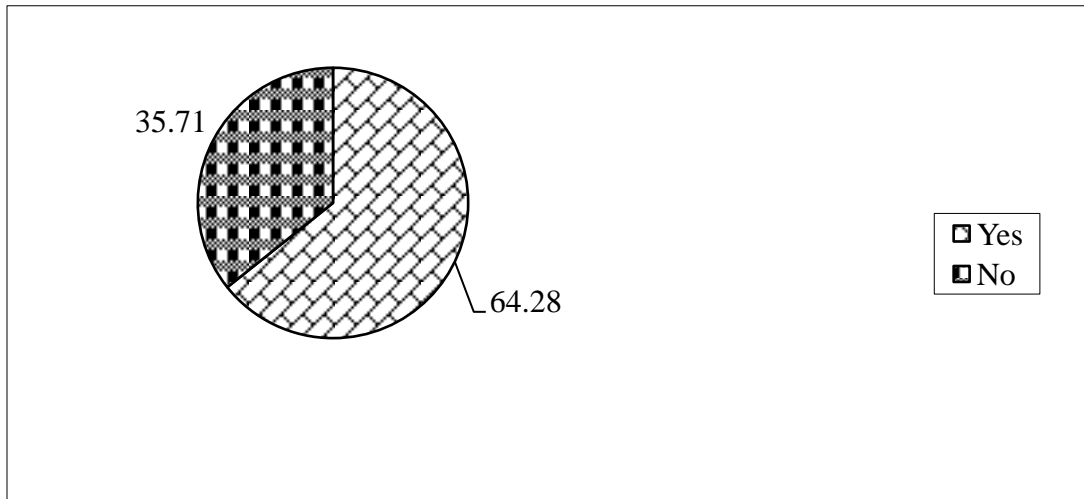
Politics is one of the most influential factors of women's empowerment. It also helps women to raise voices against exploitation, and also encourage fighting for rights. Moreover, it helps to identify the social status of women, their representation on national politics, their present in decision making level etc.

**Table 4.4.1: View of Respondents in women's involvement
in politics**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Yes	18	64.28	
No	10	35.71	
Total	28	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.4.1: View of Respondents in women's involvement in politics



While asking the questions whether women should take part or not in politics 18 out of 28 replied yes and 10 replied no. Majority of the people replied women should take part in politics while nearly 35.71 percent people are against of it. Still many people are not aware about the importance of women's participation in politics and do not take it seriously. Such scenario can be seen in the above table. As a result, they are always logging behind men to achieve the socio-economic benefits. Now-a-days there is gradual increase of women's involvement in politics but still their presence is nominal. Until and unless women makes a strong presence in decision making process they cannot get rid from discriminations and exploitations. Politics generates awareness among the people which is very significant to empower them and to change their daily life. But it doesn't seem in the study area where the people have poor level of awareness and they do not think women's participation in politics necessary. As a result, their overall living standard is also very low. It can be proved with the fact that women's involvement in civil service, upper level political sphere and in other important fields is minimal. Therefore, to distribute the fruits of development, it is inevitable to make women able to compete with men in every field of daily life. To do so, women's empowerment is must. That is way, the participation of women in politics is not only necessary but also inevitable. And now it is the turn of women to load the national politics and to maintain peace and harmony in the country.

**Table 4.4.2: Distribution of Respondents by their view about
Female Right in Parental Property**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	12	42.85
No	3	10.72
It is not the solution of the problem	13	46.42
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table shows that 12 respondents out of 28 replied women should be provided parental property which is 42.85. Similarly, 3 respondents replied women should not be provided parental property and 13 respondents expressed their view as it is not the solution of the problem which is 10.71 and 46.42 percent respectively. The table present the general view of the people of the study area about the parental property where most of them said that only the provision of right over parental property doesn't give a proper solution of the current problems faced by Nepalese women. They told it doesn't solve problems in a sustainable way. During the survey, some of the respondents told they were really afraid because the provision of right to parental property is no more than the legalization of dowry system. They said that is creates unnecessary tension in the society rather than solution of the problems. They emphasized to create a sound environment such a higher education, job opportunities, vocational training etc to empower women instead of giving the parental property.

**Table 4.4.3: Distribution of Respondents by their knowledge
about women's Right to Reproduction**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	16	57.15
No	12	42.85
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

An indicated in the above table, 16 respondents out of 28 responded they know the new provision made by the constitution of Nepal, 2072 which is 57.15 percent. Similarly, the remaining 12 respondents replied they do not know about this. Reproduction health is really a serious issue but the people have little knowledge about it. According to the table, nearly half of the people are not aware about women's right to reproduction. In this context, women can't decide about the children they want to give birth instead they are forced to give birth children according to the desire of their husband and family which causes negative effects in their health. The data disclose a fact that still the government's programs are too far from the access of most of the people.

**Table 4.4.4: Distribution of Respondents according to Decision
Making Authority**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	14	50
Female	6	21.42
Both	8	28.57
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Although there should be equal participation of both male and female in decision making process to make a prosperous family, it doesn't seem like this in the study area. There is higher degree of male dominance in decision making process. As shown in the table, 14 respondents told males alone make decisions while the number of female in the same work is only 6. Similarly, 8 respondents replied both participate in the decision making process. It shows that females aren't equally participating in the decision process. They are excluded from decision making process and such exclusion restricts women to participate in different community works too. This data discloses a hidden fact that still women are considered as inferior to men because women are not easily permitted to do work they want to do. To do some new work, they have to ask their guardians, especially to their husbands but they are not easily permitted. Asking permissions restricts women's mobility and makes her dependent to others. A husband, who is the nearest and dearest person of a married women's, rarely permits her to involve into extra activities such as applying for a job, to involve in social work etc. During the research, some of the respondents, who were educated, said their husbands but they are not easily permitted. Asking permissions restricts women's mobility and makes her depends to others. A husband, who is the nearest and dearest person of a married women, rarely permits her to involve into extra activities such as applying for a job, to involve in social works etc. During the research, some of the respondents, who were educated, said their husbands did not permit them to engage in jobs saying earning is of men's work not of women. It makes us clear that still the women are living as bonded labor. They can not take decisions themselves because the lay of decision making authority is in the clutch of men. It again shows the male supremacy over female. It raise questions to personal freedom. Freedom and mobility are bases of human rights. But as long as women have subordinate status to their male counterparts, the empowerment process of women can not go ahead properly. Therefore, freedom, mobility and meaningful participation in decision making process are key elements of empowerment and these can play a crucial role to grant power and to make equal social status of women to men.

4.5 Factors Affecting Women's Empowerment on the Basis of Data Analysis

Women's empowerment is a very broad and vague topic which covers a wide range of social cultural and economic spheres of daily life. There is no single worldwide accepted definition of women's empowerment because the meaning and definition of it differ from one community to another. Necessary steps to be taken to enhance the empowerment process also vary from one community to another community. Similarly, the factors affecting women's empowerment also differ according to socio-cultural, economic as well as family environment. Some of the important factors affecting women's empowerment on the basis of data analysis are as follows:

- ▶ Income is an important factor of women's empowerment because if women have a decent income they do not have to depend to others for financial transactions. But during the study, it was found that most of the respondents were not engaged to the government service and business, which are considered as lucrative source of income.
- ▶ Access and control over to resources is another significant factor of women's empowerment. When a women gets rights to utilize the resources as per to her interests she definitely utilizes it to fulfill her needs. But the study shows that women are forced to ask her husband before spending their hard earned income. Similarly, the dependency culture for financial transaction is another affecting factor of women's empowerment.
- ▶ Women's workload also disturbs their empowerment process. The data shows that women have to work at least 11 hours a day. In this condition, women do not have enough time to involve in extra activities. They are confided into household chores. Therefore, women's empowerment can't go ahead smoothly.
- ▶ Among many factors, awareness comes as the most important factor affecting women's empowerment process. The awareness is not satisfactory in the study area. Because still 35.71 percent expressed their view as women shouldn't take part in politics.
- ▶ Involvement in decision making process is another important affecting factor of women's empowerment. As shown in table 4.4.4, 50 percent have replied that decisions are made by male alone female's involvement in decision making process is in poor condition

which has affected freedom and mobility of women. So, personal freedom is inevitable to empower women.

4.6 Contribution of Women Empowerment in rural poverty reduction

Table 4.6: Contribution of Women Empowerment in Rural

Poverty Reduction

Annual Income before Women Empowerment	No. of Respondents	Annual Income After Women Empowerment	No. of Respondents
Less than Rs. 30000	14	Less than Rs. 30000	5
Rs. 31000-40000	8	Rs. 31000-40000	3
Rs. 41000-50000	4	Rs. 41000-50000	12
Rs. 51000 Above	2	Rs. 51000 Above	8
Total	28	Total	28

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Economy factor is important factor of poverty. So increase income level of respondents help to reduce poverty. After women empowerment only 28.57 percent respondents income have less than 40000 and other 20 respondents income level have more than before women empowerment. It shows, without women empowerment can't be reduce poverty. Women empowerment not only help to increase income level also, it's help to develop social and political condition of society.

Half of the total population are women in Nepal. Development programmes are not possible in the absence of women's contribution. So, It is necessary to empower women. Condition of empowered women is better than those who are not empowered and which help and to reduce poverty.

Social Contribution

Social condition is very good where the empowered women live. The condition of their family is also good because their family members are educated as well as health aware due to the empowered women members. They are aware about their social status. It is shown that the

involvement of women in different activities from my field study and it is true that the improved social condition helps in poverty reduction.

Economic Contribution

Empowered women are in better economic condition than the others who are not empowered. They improve their income by using their skills in production works. Economic condition is the main thing for the development of society. Empowered women are economically strong than before so, their contribution in economic field is invaluable.

Political Contribution

It is also necessary to involve the women in politics because the politics is a governing power of the nation. Political freedom is necessary to improve social status of women. Role of women is very important in decision making process. Empowered women are aware about their voting right so that there are many women leader in representative level of the nation. Therefore, role of the empowered women is very important in poverty reduction.

CHAPTER-FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter presents the summary of the findings of the study and it also includes conclusions and recommendations of the study.

5.1. Summary of the Findings

- ▶ This study was conducted in the Rajahar VDC of Nawalparasi District where 28 respondents is selected by using random sampling method .
- ▶ Education status doesn't seem satisfactory in the study area. As shown in table, 21.43 percent are literate, 53.57 percent have passed SLC and 25 percent have passed higher level of education.
- ▶ Women's work load seems higher still more than 17.85 percent women of the study area work more than 12 hours in a day. Similarly, 53.57 percent work 10-12 hours, and 28.57 percent work 8-10 hours in a day. It shows miserable condition of women.
- ▶ The status of personality development training seems poor in the study area. Because it was found that among total respondents 10.71 percent had taken leadership development training. 14.28 percent had taken gender and 7.14 percent had taken the training of office management. Similarly, 67.85 percent women had not taken any type of trainings.
- ▶ Regarding food adequacy, majority of the household's production lasts only up to six months. Dalits are found to have least food sufficiency.
- ▶ Since Brahmins and Chhetri own larger land size, majority of them are engaged in farming profession, majority of Dalits and other ethnic minorities are found involved in wage labor. Dalit population are not found having service (Jagir) and business profession. It is found that because of the low income, poverty is widespread among these castes.
- ▶ During the study, it was found that females were not free to make expenses to their own income. As shown in the table, 67.85 percent respondents have to ask their husband

before spending it. Similarly, 32.15 percent respondents replied they don't ask to their husband before spending it.

- ▶ Most of the women of the study area have no personal assets. Out of total respondents, 14.28 percent have land as personal asset, 7.14 percent have bank balance, and 17.89 percent have cottage industry most interesting fact is that among total respondents, 60.71 percent women have no personal assets.
- ▶ People are not well conscious about female role in the society because 35-71 percent respondents replied women should not take part in politics.
- ▶ Most of the people are seemed against to the provision of female rights in potential property. As shown in the table, 46.42 percent expressed their view that the right to parental property does not solve the current problems faced by Nepalese women. They had suggested, providing opportunities rather than property.
- ▶ Male supremacy over female seems in higher degree in the study area. It can be explained from the table 4.4.4 where women's participation in decision making process seems poor comparing to male. According to it, 50 percent respondents replied that male alone take decision while the percentage of female in the same job in only 21.42.
- ▶ Empowered women family's condition is improved, their annual income level, social, political awareness also increase. But too, 28.57 respondents income have less than Rs. 40000.

5.2 Conclusion

Gender disparities are wide in Nepal. Government efforts have been focused on empowering women, but gender-based social exclusion remains strong. Women are other groups who are deprived and left behind in terms of access to resources. It is not limited to any particular caste or area but to overall sectors of society. Nature has created only biological difference between these two opposite sexes but the century old patriarchal culture has determined the fixed gender roles and responsibilities to male and female, and these gender roles and responsibilities have created a wide gap between male and female, actually, such gender roles have formed a socio-cultural

chain which prohibits women to move into the outer world from household chores. There are some specific norms and values for both men and women. A men is supposed to be outgoing, aggressive, brave, independent and intelligent while a women in expected to be shy, motherly fragile, emotional, courteous, and dependent. Such format of gender roles since birth leads women to an endless discrimination that women's place is home and dearth. Due to such social environment, Nepalese women are forced to live a measurable life. It is the national scenario of the country which is also reflected in the study area.

It was found comparatively poor status of women comparing to men in terms of education, health, access in Job opportunities, decision making process, access and control over resources etc. Still most of the women are not aware about their rights and duties. The women have no right over their own body while the government has granted women right to reproduction but most of the people are not aware about this. And the females are facing a number of physical problems due to this condition. Various forms of violence against women exist in Nepal, among them the following.

- ▶ Traditional violence (deuki, Jhuma, Baadi, chhoupadi)
- ▶ Violence based on superstition, such as torture for alleged witchcraft,
- ▶ Sexual violence (trafficking and sexual harassments)
- ▶ Family violence (domestic violence, polygamy, child marriage, and
- ▶ Dowry-related violence (torture, both mental and physical).

The violence and exploitation against women vary with religion, caste, class and geographical location. Likewise, many women's are facing different violence in the study area. Which cause, women are always backwards and empowerment process aren't successful launched. Without women participation the development process aren't success in the study area. Many people of the study area do not take women's involvement in politics as positive. It was found that still most of the people specially the male show the "boss mentality" which has badly affected the daily life of women. Due to such behaviour, the women are deprived from decision making authority, as a result, they can't take decision about their earnings because such scenes were seen

during the research in the study area. On the otherhand, the economic condition of women is not satisfactory in the study area because their presence in service, business seems very low. Similarly, their status in financial authority is also not satisfactory. The table no 4.3.5 shows that 60.71 percent have no financial authority in their own income. Likewise, most of the women have no access on the lucrative source of income such as services, business etc. instead they are engaged in agriculture, daily wage labour and other seasonal labour so, their economic empowerment seems poor. Women, who are involved in different services, take training their social, economically and political conduction is changed so that they help to reduce poverty.

To conclude, actually women empowerment means to make women capable to compete with men in every sectors of human life either it is in household level or in the fields of national importance such as services, legislature, politics, entrepreneurship etc. until and unless women get a conducive environment to equally participate in there sectors, their life style cannot be changed. Therefore, to change the living standard of Nepalese women, it is necessary to make them capable to grab opportunities which is possible only through the proper implementation of women's empowerment. Most of the problems faced by women can be solved through women's empowerment. Most of problems faced by women can be solved through women's empowerment. In this context, women's empowerment is one important part to reduce poverty and empowered women know about their role in development process.

5.3 Recommendations

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources and political power, as well as their personal autonomy in the process of decision making. When Nepalese women's status is analyzed in this light, the picture is generally bleak. In the early 1990s, Nepal was a rigidly patriarchal society, in virtually every aspect of life, women were generally subordinate to men.

At the policy level, Government of Nepal GoN has included international concerns and accepted that women as half of the nation's population need to be empowered in their own right, and not only for increasing the efficiency of development programs and projects. The government and private sectors have made a number of efforts to uplift the living standard of Nepalese women,

the overall socio-economic condition of them still remains awfully poor. It is not only in remote and rural areas but also in the so called urban areas and cities. Due to the meaningless representation of women in social, economic and political spheres, they are suffering from backwardness, extreme poverty, discrimination and prejudices. The main reason behind such condition of Nepalese women is the poor empowerment process. Because the different activities carried out to empower women are not properly managed. So, the social status of Nepalese women is not satisfactory. In this context, it is necessary to enhance the speed of women's empowerment in rampant way including the women of all sectors and classes, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized rural women. If we make such a rationalistic effort, the empowerment process of Nepalese women really gets an appropriate way which ultimately leads the traditional and superstition Nepalese society towards the modernity and civilization of 21st century. The half of total population are covered by women population so, women are necessary to involve development process. Women participation determine the development, with out development no poverty reduction. That is why, to ensure the bright future of Nepal. It is necessary to adopt and implement following recommendations honestly.

- ▶ To reduce income based poverty, which is rampant in the study area, the following initiatives and arrangements are necessary.
- ▶ Poverty should not be considered a solely economic phenomenon rather it should be re-envisioned in terms of access and control over resources, education, health, nutrition etc.
- ▶ Income generation programs (vegetable farming, mushroom farming, poultry farming, sewing and cutting, etc) should be enhanced and expanded in order to uplift the daily life of disadvantaged women of the study area.
- ▶ Programs based on practical based and productive based should be launched to the needy women in the study area. These programs can address the women for the access practical needs (exposure, rights, leadership) and productive needs (income generation).
- ▶ Compulsory primary education must be accomplished and all textbooks must be revised to eliminate gender bias and include positive portrayals of women.

- ▶ Women should be given technical education and vocational training so that they themselves can create employment opportunities.
- ▶ Gender specific and Gender sensitive policies should be developed and implemented practically to reduce the gap between men and women.
- ▶ Special program of awareness about the significance of gender equality should be launched to make equal participation of both male and female in decision making process and other household activities.
- ▶ To extent of poverty is high among dalits. Therefore, the concerned agency/institutions should focus on these groups with special/targeted programs to uplift their condition and bring in the main stream of development.
- ▶ Female should get right to decide about reproduction. Strict laws should be formulated and instantly implemented to guarantee females rights in reproduction.
- ▶ An extensive program related to female rights should be launched to create awareness among people.
- ▶ Our country is mainly agricultural and women are mainly involved in agriculture. However, we lack facilities. The government should provide irrigation facilities, and they should get training.