

**Socio-Economic Status of Female Headed Households:
(A Case Study of Ashrang V.D.C, Gorkha District)**

A thesis submitted to central Department of Rural Development
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
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In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master
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SUBMITTED BY

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Ms. Sita Bhatta has completed her thesis entitled **“Socio-Economic Status of Female Headed Households: A Case Study of Ashrang VDC, Gorkha District”** under my supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Rural Development. To the best of my knowledge, this study carries useful information about the female headed household of Ashrang VDC. Therefore, I now recommend for its evaluation.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Sita Bhatta** entitled “**Socio-Economic Status of Female Headed Households: A case Study of Ashrang VDC, Gorkha District** ” has been prepared as approved by this Department in the prescribed format of the faculty of Humanities and social science. This thesis report is forwarded for the evaluation.

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ABSTRACT

Women are considered to be vital and productive worker in the society. Their access to productive resources remained limited. They have not become empowered to participate in the social development program in a fair way. Further Nepal is patriarchal Hindu kingdom and is among the countries of the world with highest son preference country. Sons are required to perform religious and functional activities after the death of parents. In the contract, Nepalese women are enjoining only supplementary role in the religious function. Women follow husband family name and enjoy only sentimental value for carrying parents.

This study was carried out at Ashrang VDC of Gorkha district. The general objective of the study is to analyze socio-economic condition of female headed households and the specific objects are as follows:

-) *To analyze the social status of female headed households in the study area.*
-) *To analyze the economic status of female headed households in the study area.*
-) *To analyze the perception of society towards the female headed households in the study area.*
-) *To explain the problems of female headed households in the study area.*

In each of the wards 5 households were purposively sampled. Total 45 households were included in the study. All together 45 households were taken

from Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar and so called lower caste. This is the descriptive cum analytical research study. The complete study report has been divided into six chapters.

Generally, female are behind than male. The role of female is not counted even in national gross domestic product (household works). But many studies have found positive change where women are leading. Many Programs managed by female is successfully run. Similarly, in the case of study area it is found that the economic status of female headed households is good. Out of three types (married, separated and widow) first one's socio-economic status is batter than two others owing to the income source from their husbands from out side employment. Social condition of widows' households is miserable than separated one. It is concluded from the study that female are capable to fulfill their responsibility towards their family and they are committed and confident to accept the challenges came in the family.

On the basis of findings some recommendations have been suggested for the improvement of female headed households in socio-economic aspect and to increase the participation in different development activities.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BPFA	-	The Beijing Plat Form for Action
CBS	-	Center Bureau of statistics
CEDA	-	Center for Economic Development Association
CDPS	-	Center Department of Population Studies
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
DFID	-	Department of Foreign Integrated Development
FHHs		Female Headed Households
FWCW	-	Fourth World Conference on Women
GAD	-	Gender and Development
HHs	-	Households
ICPS	-	International Conference on Population and Development
KII	-	Key Informant Interview
NGO	-	Non -Government Organization
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
UN	-	united Nation
VDC	-	Village development committee
WED	-	Women, Environment and Development
WIN	-	Women in Development