

## **CHAPTER - ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Nepal is a land of diversity with marked multiethnic, multi-religious and multi-linguistic country. The census 2068 has listed 123 different languages and 125 castes. As reported by the census 2011; women cover 51.50 percent of the total population.(CBS, 2011).

Decision making is the process by which individuals or groups and organizations, decide actions or determine policies.. Decision making covers a wide area, involving virtually the whole of human action. Sociologists, psychologists and political scientists, among others, have interested in decision making in different ways, though there are overlapping interests (Kaur, 2010).

In male dominated country like Nepal, females were considered of low standard and less value traditionally. But in recent years people have started realizing the importance of women participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio economic standards of women greatly enhances the progressive development of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Men and women have now started participating on equal footing in development activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "Muscles with the nail of the finger" (Acharya, 1987). This mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic changes in the socio-economic status of a nation.

According to census 2011, more than 80 percent of Nepalese women live in rural areas; Nepal is the male dominated society. Women's works are regarded as unproductive and considered as wifely duties and women's opinions are hardly sought for the household's decision making process. Women's work in rural areas is strenuous and time consuming. Besides farm activities, they are also responsible for household chores. In our Hindu dominated society Manu mandates, for instance, women were required to function within the framework of three obedience's.

“Before marriage, obey your father. After marriage, obey your husband. After your husband death, obey your son.”(Bennett Lynn 1983).

Gender egalitarian has existed in many countries, ruling elite since the unification of Nepal in late 1700s had always been from Indo-Aryan groups. This has resulted in state mechanism being controlled by their patriarchal values, norms and beliefs, where the status of women remained low making her weaker with the decision making process. As the patriarchal culture prevailed over time, gender egalitarian communities also become co-opted to patriarchal values and norms through educational and legal systems. This has resulted in pervasive discrimination of women in spite of such cultural and ethnical diversity (Pradhan, 2000).

Decision making is the process of recognizing and selecting alternatives based on the standards and preferences of the decision-maker. Decision making is associated with various aspects of human life such as households work, public and private sectors work etc. Both male and female are means and ends of decision in society. Nowadays, the status of women seems changing and still for the improvement of women status there should be decision making power is equally divided to men and women, then the family can run very easily in a better way.

The economic, demographic and social factor is the most important factor which directly or indirectly affects the decision making processes. Women's involvement in the market economy lends them greater power in terms of household decision making in important matters. This can be attributed to the contribution of women towards the household income. As the other hand confinement of women domestic and substance sector automatically implies a low status confer to them terms of decision making power (WSCC, 1985).

In male dominated country like ours, females were considered of low standard and of less values traditionally. Male are given preference in many socio economic activities. We find dominant involvement of male in district as well as in national level programs rather than women. Many opportunities are given to male rather than women from the family to community and national level activities. Women's participation is minimal in every decision making and job opportunity (Pradhan, 2010). But in recent years people have started realizing the importance of women

participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Men and women have now started participating on equal footing in development activities in many development countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger" (Acharya, 1987).

In rural Nepal, women play multiple roles. They are integrated with their responsibility of domestic affairs of farming works in field together with their male counterparts. Several studies over the years have clearly indicated that labor contribution of women in Nepalese agriculture appears to be higher than that of men and most of the agriculture work is done by women. In addition to agriculture work, they also have to perform many other households' activities. Like care and maintenance of the households and its members including bearing and taking care of children food preparation, water and fuel collection, shopping, housekeeping and family health care. Such kind of reproductive work is crucial to human survival yet it is seldom considered "real work" In our rural society, most of the farm women do almost all of this productive work. They are active in land preparation, compost preparation, especially land leveling sowing, hoeing, transplanting, weeding and harvesting.

The post harvest works such as drying, cleaning storing and processing of food grains are also the responsibilities of women, likewise they have role even in live stock and husbandry. There is hardly any activity in agricultural production, with the exception of ploughing in which women are not actively involved. Their involvement may vary according to ethnic groups and ecological areas. The degree of women labor involvement in farming system is affected by any interplay of socio-cultural, economic and environmental factors. Women's decision making empowerment must involve women making choices that enhance their individual wellbeing beginning from their freedom of choice over personal to household matters. Women who have participated in such programs often become more actively participate in their household and communities and as a result contribute more to the growth of the Nepalese Economy (Ojha, 2015).

However, The fact that women as the oppressed as the suppressed lot still persists. This is reflected in almost all aspects of their lives including their power of decision

making in the household. Decision making is also an important aspect, which measures the relative status of the household's members. Although women have access to decision making in unimportant matters, they still remain excluded from an important decision making.

This study was conducted in "Mithukaram VDC" of Nawalparasi district to find out role of women decision making Households in Mithukaram VDC. This study is focused on gender aspects, women on empowerment, an access of women in income and women's contribution and household economy.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The status of women compared to men is different in geographical regions (rural, urban, hill, mountain, terai) of the country. There are also varying practices among different classes, castes, ethnicity, tribes, Dalits etc. Women as a whole are trying to be empowered, wanting to know more, practicing their inborn their legal rights, feeling competence with their male counterparts, wanting to occupy positions, trying to make decisions within the family affairs.

The population of 2011 census, women has minimal access to resources, information and participation, this indicates that women suffer from discrimination and have to face unequal social and economic conditions in almost all aspects of their lives and Their freedom within the households sphere is restricted but they are permitted to work outside leave them alone for the outside work (Agriculture) longer hour than male counterparts. (Kaur, 1987).

Decision making is an important aspect which measures the relative status of the household's members. The decision making power within women is always seen weaker. Along with the diversity of Nepal, the country is characterized by widespread inequalities and discrimination in terms of ethnicity, gender and geography. The society is excessive patriarchal based social structure and extended family system which restrict women to make independent decision. Lack of decision making power has deprived women of the basic elements of a decent life such as food and nutrition, education, skill development, health, and family planning. Although, women have access to decision making in unimportant matters, they still remain excluded from important decision making.

Women lose their identity after getting marriage(Gurung, 1994).They have to obey her husband and mother in lawcommand.Women are bond with certain rules and regulation of housebut the husband is free to dowhatever he likes. In our society for example if the husband died the women couldn't marriage she have to remain widowbut if wife diesociety allow husbandto get married.The society create certain rules for women and men to conduct. If men absent from the house of several days, months or years or may even come back with another wife, this is acceptable to society and culture(Gurung, 1994). But a woman is strictly prohibited from doing all these things, she is expected to look after children, herd the cattle, take care of cultivation, cook food and collect fuel and fodder.

The study was intended to the role of married women's in household decision making in Ward No.1 of Mithukarma VDC of Nawalparasi district. The population of female is greater than male in Ward No.1 of MithukaramVDC but also women involve in minor decision, such as cooking firing, collectingfirewood, caringchild, grazing domestic animal etc, but the major and important decision done by male such as livestock management, farm management seeding and purchasing of land etc. women are capable of making effective and important decision if the opportunity is given. If the opportunities are not timely given, women of the future generation might also left in the same condition. Therefore, programs and policies should be designed to reach them to come to the forefront as the equal of effective decision-making power.

So, theaim of this study is to identify the role of women in several aspects in the household management. It also identified the major problems why only male are involve in major decision making power.

This research has been focused to answer the following research questions:

- ) What are the situations of women's participation in decision making at farming activity?
- ) What is the access of women in household resource?
- ) What is the condition of female decision making power of household decision-making in the term of their age, education and caste/ethnicity?
- ) Who are involved in major decision making process and why?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to analyse the role of women in Household Decision Making of Mithukaram Village Development Committee of Nawakparasi district. The specific objectives are as follows:

- ) To analyse the role of women in household decision making i.e. farm management, labour utilization, educational aspects and family planning.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The information generated from this research will be applied in other places to explore the same problems. I think it is necessary to find out and describe the women's educational status and their household decision making power. Women constitute half of the total population in Nepal. They play significant role in the societies by supporting both economic and social factor. This study centralizes upon women ability or strength as well as their weakness, and also useful for policy makers and planners at national levels because they need to know the actual condition of the problem while devising appropriate policy and program to address the problem. The male dominated society has discriminated the women participation in social, political and economic fronts. Thus this study helps to be useful for teachers, students, researchers and sociologists. Not only single research studies have been concentrated on women's decision-making process of the study area.

The present study is appropriate to investigate the role of women in household decision-making process. The information would help to enhance the status of women of village by utilizing their ability to envision a better life in nearby future. Although Nepalese women have been empowered only in paper, they have not been wholly translated into real life. In this area The researcher studied the women participation and women issues at every stage of the development cycle with the overall goal to overcome women's inequality.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

This study is divided into seven chapters. These chapters are further divided into topics and various sub topics. The first chapter deals with an introduction of the study, study of the research problems, research objectives and significance of the

study. The second chapter deals with review of literature. This chapter deals is divided into two perspectives. The first one is general perspective and another one is feminist perspective. The third chapter presents the methodology applied in the research. This chapter is divided into two sections. The first section present the rational of the site selection. The second section discusses methods of data collection and their use and limitation of the study. The four chapter gives the general information about the study area. It deals the demographic, social, economic, and participatory characteristics of the sample population and the respondents. Chapter five deals the role of women in terms of decision making process. It deals with the analysis of collected data regarding the household decision making process, family planning decisions and factors affecting on the role of women decision in family planning. Chapter six provides summary and conclusion of the study.

## CHAPTER - TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review provides knowledge or guidelines about related subjects and gives detailed information about previous studies. The literature review consists of my study related to role of women in household decision making process in the Nepalese condition. Some of the works reviewed are directly or indirectly related to this dissertation and thus are presented below:

Some of the relevant literature concerning women's role in household decision making process has been reviewed in this chapter. The following few pages are intended to highlight the women's status and their role in decision making process in households as well as in society.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

In modern society, the male and female participation is considered to be equal. Their role should be equal that may be at home or outside. For the improvement of women status there should decision making power with women, if decision making power is equally divided to men and women, then the family can run very easily in a better way.

Achrya and Bennett (1981) give a wider overview of women's status in their decision making power in household. Archery and Bennett claim that economic factor affects women's role in decision making directly and indirectly. If women have a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision making. Similar, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. E.g. small size of children imply higher economic participation and greater decision making power. Achrya and Bennett have singled out "decision making" from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification in the household. They developed some model from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were imagine to operating in such four spheres of substance activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the



village labor market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy in the village.

Acharya and Bennett (1982), focuses on different degree of female participation in the market economy in the different communities which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the household. While women from the Hindu communities showed greater concentration in the first two spheres of domestic and substance production, the Tibeto-Burman shows a higher degree of female participation in the third and fourth sphere of market activities. This implies “women in the more orthodox Hindu community who are largely confined to domestic and substance production display a much less significant role in major household economic decision than those in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate actively in the market activities.” (Acharya and Bennett, 1983).

Women’s public life is culturally restricted to the degree that is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law tradition, history and social attitudes limit on women’s participation in public life, and also control their private life. Those factor affect the practice of development. this fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position (shtrishakti, 1995).

According to the progress report of the UN decade for women in Nepal 1985’ women are responsible for the continuous talks in all agricultural operation. Although the involvement of women is more than that of men, they have little opportunity to receive information on new agricultural technologies. It is imperative that more opportunities for training and education in this field be made specially available to rural women, certain changes have to be made in order to maintain and augment the contributions of women in this field. (WSSC, 1985).

In a patriarchy society men dominate women. Men control all the responsible things like banking, government, religious organizations, the mass media, school and university, prestigious processions, military and most of the nation's wealth. Women's power is more likely to be focused on traditionally female concerns such as child care than on male dominated areas such as economic activity. Women also

derive power from their unique position as a minority, for while virtually all other minorities are segregated from those who dominate them, intimate relationship between men and women lie at the heart of the most universal of all social institutions, marriage and the family. Although women are a minority group, most of the women also live in relationship in which they depend on men and men depend on them. Social structure distributes power unequally between women and men in complex ways (Shrestha, 2003).

The contribution of women in economic activities in various fields is no less than that of men. To understand the actual economic condition of women obstacle that continues to make recognition of women's full potential from obstinately held narrow concepts regarding women. In a patriarchy society rather envision of a human society of men and women where the other does not dominate the personality of one sex. The mere differences in physical structure does not make it necessary for one sex to lose complete human identity and live in the surrounding of other sex in order to bring about true gender equality in the attitudes of the family and society towards women. This can only be brought about when the women themselves their own ideas and feelings. Such sharing of real feelings among women will bring them into the process of empowerment. Nowadays, development workers have started talking a lot about women's participation because they have finally realize how important women's involvement is, in every aspect of daily life (Shrestha, 2003).

Feminism is a movement that attempts to institute social, economic and political equality between man and woman in society and it talks about the relationship between man and woman. The feminist movement has given rise to a large body of theory, which attempts to explain gender inequalities. Feminist theories in relation to gender inequality contrast markedly with one another. While feminist writers are all concerned with women's unequal position in society, their explanations vary substantially. Competing schools of feminism have sought to explain gender inequalities through a variety of deeply embedded social processes, such as sexism, patriarchy, capitalism and racism (Giddens 2001).

Liberal feminist thinking talks about gender inequality, oppression, and suppressions a product of the interplay of four factor i.e. patriarchal and sexist patterning of division

of labor, social construction of gender, belief of private and public sphere and patriarchal ideology. Liberal feminist said that gender equality can be achieved only after transforming division of labor and re-patterning key institutions such as family, law, work, education etc. For them existing institutions and division of labor restrict the women's freedom. Male biased institutions and their assigned roles create hurdles of women to be independent.

Likewise Marxist feminist thinking deals with women's reproductive and sexual concerns and as a result Marxist feminists have tended to focus on women's work related concern. Similarly socialist-feminist thinking deals with the use, abuse, subjugation and subordination of women due to which the social arrangement promoted domination and subordination through the institution of patriarchy and radical-feminist thinking are the byproduct of patriarchy which is created by guilt, oppression, masochism and manipulation and those factors are all controlled by the women, they always oppose the violation of all types. These perspectives help to understand the role of women in different times and it also helps how the role of women is changing. Therefore, these are slightly helpful for this research.

## **2.2 Previous Studies**

Benett.(1986) On women of higher caste Brahmin and Chhetri of the Kathmandu valley illustrate that women in the day-to-day activities interpret and manipulate social, ritual and mythic perceptions of themselves in order to achieve real life goals. The analysis was based on the notion of purity and pollution which is so common in the Hindu culture of Nepal. In the higher caste societies in Nepal, daughter and sisters are placed in different realms according to notions of purity and pollution. The Hindu world view plays an important role in shaping the status and actions of women in all societies of Nepal. Women in their natal homes are viewed as both pure and auspicious. As daughters and sisters, these women do not subject their natal male relatives to their dangerous and polluting sexuality. Thus the position of women in this situation is a positive, warm, and loving one, and the ritual of Hindu household aid in the protection of the male relatives.

According to Duncan Mitchell, social status refers to "the position occupied by a person, family, or kinship group in a social system relative to others. This determines rights, duties and other behaviors, including the nature and extent of the relationships with persons of other statuses" ( Rao 2000).

Status of women may be defined as to what women, compared with men, have access to knowledge, to economic resources and political power. United Nations (UN, 1975) has given focus to these six aspects while analyzing status of women.

i Women, Family and household, family structure, size and household violence.

ii Public life and leadership.

iii Education and training.

iv Health and childcare, life chances, life expectancy rate, cause of death, health

of girls, reproduction rates.

v Women's work and economy.

In some village, women have a high position and rank similar to men in many respects. They make important decisions such as: what the family eats, whether the children go to school or not and what activities family members will engage in. In some community they have their own land to cultivate or they contribute to family's farming work. They may decide what crops to plant, whether to use new methods of farming, where to sell their produce and how any earned income will be used. (Donald, 1976).

On the other hand, there are countries where rural women are still generally considered and treated as inferior to men. They are not allowed to make important decisions on their own or to handle money even if they earned some income, they do not have a say in how it is going to be used. (Safilos-Rothschild, *ibid*).

To make intelligent decisions, rural women need to have the right information as wives, mothers, daughters and sisters; they bring information to other members of the family and can influence their men. The decision-making opportunity of rural women can be encouraged in various ways. In fact, most projects, training workshops and manuals of the kind presented in this book let can improve women's skills and their role in decision making. Increasing the economic opportunities of women can improve their status, and in turn, enhance their decision making and leadership roles at every level. (Food and Agriculture Organization Plan of Action 1990). Women in Agricultural Development.

### **2.2.1 Role of Women's in Decision Making Process**

Women participation in decision making process is an important indicator of their empowerment. Women are the primary supporters of the decision making of the domestic and subsistence sector. Their major role in agriculture production particularly, both in laborers and managers of the production process (Acharya and Bennett, 1983).

In other assess women's decision making autonomy, the NDHS, 2006 sought information on women's participation in four types of household decisions, own health care, making large household purchase, making household purchases for daily needs and visits to family or relatives.

The participation in the decision making inside the household sphere was found to be equal for men and women of Tamang community. The percentage of decision making authority constituted 40.26% of the total. However, the female participation in decision making authority for outside the household sphere was found to be dominated by male decision is 32.47% vs 40.35% (Limbu, 1997).

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

Role within household system was an indication of the status of women. The high status of women is expected to reduce fertility rate, while opposite for those of lower status of women. They found that in communities, which encourage women to participate in gainful employment, women would have a higher status as compared to where those activities are restricted. They also found decision making role as solely confined to household head. This is because of the cultural norms and low level of income (Pradhan, 2010)

Similarly, Kaur (2010), emphasizes upon the female decision making especially in the area as home and farm affairs among the rural families. She goes on to emphasis

education of women as an important factor in the decision making process. She says that "Educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counter parts".

Decision making skills and ability to envision a better life and which address the concerns of Nepalese men, as they are one's who will need to share power with women. This study directly illustrates the role or holding of women in the family. In the light of the findings many new dimensional can be identified to accelerate and enhance the participation of women in development sector. So, this study aims to fill partially gap by identifying the role of women in household decision making process of Ward No. 1 of Mithukarma VDC of Nawalparasi district.

## CHAPTER - THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the various methods applied and adopted for the completion of this research work. Methodology is the most important part of research work. Reliable and relevant study can be made possible only by applying scientific method. Hence, the main purpose of this chapter is to present the framework for the research design. It includes reason for selecting the topic, rational for selecting the field area, research design, Source of data collection, interview, Key informant interview, Questionnaire, observation, methods for data collection, Sampling procedure and sample size, case study, data analysis procedures of the study and Limitation of the study.

#### 3.1 Selection of the Study Area

Research was conducted in the rural community of Nawalparasi district. They were dominated by the patriarchal society. Due to this reason it is essential to undertake a study about the women's. The proposed study area is Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi district which is located in the south-western part of the district headquarters. The Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC was chosen in such a way that there was a heterogeneous community in terms of caste, ethnicity, occupation. The Mithukaram VDC have diverse ethnic group. The Brahmin/Chhetri dominates this area, then Sarki, Kami, Magar and other. Agriculture is the major occupation of this area. Some of them cultivated land under the *aadhiya* system (share crop basis). Majority of people are found to be engaged in vegetable farming in Ward No.1 of Mithukarma VDC. But now most of the youth are going aboard for foreign employment. This area is selected because it has diverse ethnic group so from it we can identify the role of women of different community. The study area was thus chosen to conduct an in-depth study of the role of women in household decision making.

#### 3.2 Research Design

This is a sociological research and the research is based on descriptive as well as exploratory research designs because it has attempted to discover the role of women in decision making. The exploratory research design helped to explore the

women's role in household management specifically of married women of the research area and it also explore the women's decision making power. This study has been descriptive because it attempts to provide proper knowledge of the women's decision making power of Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi district. This particular research design was translated in a descriptive-analytical form which was utilized during the data analysis process. This means that the data interpretation was supported by tabulated analysis followed by their explanation and the data collection was to describe the situation of respondents in the selected area.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

The study used both primary as well as secondary data. This study was mainly based on primary data. The primary data sources were gathered from field research through observation with formal and informal discussions with women's as well as male. The primary data were collected with the help of questionnaire by using structured questionnaire. Secondary sources of data were obtained from published and unpublished books, journals, articles, previous related studies and other available sources.

Mostly qualitative data was collected from the field through the use of various research tools and techniques in order to fulfill the standard objectives and to answer the research questions. In this way the nature of data was both qualitative and quantitative.

### **3.4 Techniques of Data Collection**

#### **3.4.1 Interview**

Mostly quantitative data was collected from the field through the use of various research tools and techniques in order to fulfill the stated objectives and to answer the research questions. It is a well known and common practice technique to collect primary data from the field. I interviewed women of different ages and occupation groups to balance my research. In Wada No.1 of Mithukaram VDC, people having a good knowledge about the local area and resources such as farmers, leaders, social members, VDC chairman as well as house wives and women group leaders, were consulted through conversations, interviews for broader information collection.



An interview with structured-schedule was applied to collect data for meeting the purpose of the study. In this study, structured questionnaire had been used for the collection of data and information of role of women's in decision making process and socio-economic status.

### **3.4.2 Key Informants Interview**

By the structured interview it is not possible to collect all the information about the respondents. Therefore, establishing a co-operative and mutual friendly relation with the information, data of internal feeling and emotions were acquired by an informal interview with selected persons. People of Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC such as political leaders, social workers, ex-ward chairman and ward members were interviewed with the help of checklist.

### **3.4.3 Questionnaire**

According to the Mithukaram VDC record there were all together 120 households in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi District. Households questionnaire was used in interviewing the sampled women regarding their socio-economic condition, demographic characteristics, farm management, health information, children schooling information, resource procurement and use, labor utilization pattern, information related to participation in social activities, information related to legal aspects of women's right and others in the decision making pattern. All these schedules provided the information about socio-economic condition of women and their situation in household decision making. So, the questions were asked to the women or female members of the household which were the key informant of the research.

### **4.4 Observation**

Observation was another important technique for data collection. Observation was used to collect relevant information regarding the "role of women in household decision making" in the study area which was women's participation in day-to-day activities, physical settlement of households, socio-cultural values, agricultural practices, behavior and attitude were observed to find out the women's role in the household decision making. It helped the researcher in understanding the local

language, male and female communication in social ceremony, and cooperation in household's work. The decision making process in the household observed to find out the women's role in the household decision making.

### **3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size**

Sampling was taken as portion of universe or as representative of that population or universe. The study area consists of 120 households. Among 120 household 40 HH were selected through simple random sampling by using the lottery method. Among them 3 women are of age between 15-20, 6 were of between 21-25, 8 were of between 26-30, similarly 8 are 31-35, 10 are 36-40 and 5 were of above 40 years.

### **3.6 Case Study**

Case study is another technique of data collection. In order to see the process of decision-making and other aspects of household activities, some 'case studies' were also carried out. Three women were taken purposively for case studies. The case were chosen with level of income, education, marital status as well as different age groups. The selected information's were intensively interviewed to prepare details case study, to incorporate individual experience of their work and feeling of empowerment.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Data analysis is an important part of the research project. Analysis of data is complicated work that has to go through different processes from data collection to drawing conclusions. Data analysis is the process of making sense of collected information. Collected data needs to be analyzed, classified, and interpreted in order to infer proposed information from fieldwork. This study is both qualitative and quantitative. Quantitative data were presented in terms of percentages, frequencies tables and figures are used for the illustration of both qualitative and quantitative information. Most of the collect data of the research study was analyzed descriptively and statistical methods were applied where necessary. So, different statistical as well as logical tools were used to analyze data in this study. The collected data was analyzed by the researcher in different forms and then consolidated. The information

collected from primary sources is organized in content form and incorporated with their research findings.

### **3.8 Limitations of the Study**

Every research has its own limitations. I did research in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC Nawalparasi and spent 2 months during October and November 2016 in the field talking to people and observing different events related to household decision making. I was aware of the local knowledge, so I did not anticipate any difficulties or problems during my research. The sample use in this study will be represent only women in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC .Our data generate from the field survey allow us to major the male/female status only within the household, but not in the wider spheres of society. Study will ignore the inter- caste, inter-class relation and other factors between men and women during our analysis of decision making. The finding may not be generalized to the whole country. The study centralized the women's strength as well as their weaknesses. Our data generate from the field study allow us to measure the male/female status only the household, but not in the wider spheres of society. Women members of the houses are the respondents of this study. So, the finding of the study is applicable only at the micro level.

## **CHAPTER-FOUR**

### **WOMEN OF THE STUDY AREA**

This chapter mainly deals with the data presentation and analysis on the basis of collected information. The whole content of the chapter has been organized as: 4.1 and 4.2.4.1 Deals with aspect of the socio-demography of the respondent. Such as current age of the respondent, caste/ethnicity composition, family structure, housing condition, aspect of religion, marital status, age of marriage and type of marriage of the respondent, education status of respondents. 4.2 Deals with the economic aspects of the respondents. Such as, source of income, source of family income, live-stock, keeping of household income.

It analyze the women's status within the household special emphasis on their decision making power as compared to their male counterpart. The information included is in consonances with our methodology used which was collected from women of four different ethnic communities namely Brahmin/Chhetri, Janajati and Dalit. Their main sources of income were agriculture. No significant inclination towards industry, small business and entrepreneurship could be depicted among these households.

GDI focuses on comparing the attainments of women in relation to those of men in a given nation. According to GDI report, 2001 economic activity other than agriculture of women was 16.5% and literacy rate was 42.49%.

According to GEM report based on recent data ratio held by women in national parliament in 1997 was 3.4% but in 2001, it seemed to be 5.9%. Based on CBS report 1991, 45.5% of women share in total labor force but in 2001 Only 43.8% of women were found to share total labor force.

Grater confinement of women to the domestic sector is probably one of the reasons for a very low literacy rate evident among them as compared to the male literacy rate.

Besides these general observations, efforts have been made to include all possible socio-economic aspects of the respondents into our present study. Table have also been illustrated to support findings.

#### **4.1 Socio-Demographic Aspects of the Respondents**

Nawalparasi District is located in Terai region of Nepal. It is located in the Lumbini Zone, Central Development Region. This district is divided into 70 Village

Development Committee and 5 Municipality, Parasi is the head quarter of the district. The study area is one of the 70 VDC of Nawalparasi district. The district is surrounded Chitwan by in the east, Rupandehi in the west, Tanhu in the North, and India (Bihar) in the south. It is adjoined with multiple castes people. There are 17 different ethnic group Majority of the population of this district is Brahmin and Chhetri (Kandel, Poudel, Adhikari, Koirala) followed by Sharki, Kami, Damai, Magar, Tharu, Majhi etc. Mahendra Highway is backbone for the development of Nawalparasi. In the study area most of them speak Nepali language and some of the ethnic people speak their own traditional language. They have their own traditional belief. Each of the castes have follow their own indigenous culture which comes from their ancestor to ancestor. In this area most of the people were non-Dalit castes.

Total population of Nawalparasi district is 175,298. Among them 85,649 are male and 89,649 are female. The total population of the Mithukaram VDC is 6321. Agriculture is the main source of economy here 70% people of the total people are engaged in agriculture occupation. The economic condition of the people was established by the observation of family income and size of the physical facilities, the number of animals they possessed, environmental sanitation and total land holdings, cash generating activities. Nowadays, the young are going to foreign countries to earn money as a labor worker. It provides alternative support for their family members and it makes their day to day life easier because while working in their community or nearby market they did not save money.

In the study area the education status of women was found not very satisfactory in comparison to other castes group. Some of the women were interested to receive higher education.

Nawalparasi district is rich in term of religious and cultural importance. Many festivals are celebrated in this district like Dashain, Dipawali, Tihar, Teez, FaguPurnima, MagheShankranti, Krishna janmastami etc. Among of them Dashain is famous and most important festival for Western Development region of Nepal.

Average life expectancy of the people in this district is 60 to 65 year and per capita income is 969\$. Human development index of Nawalparasi district is 0.202 (DDC Report, 2067).

#### 4.1.1 Current Age of the Respondent

Age composition is one of the most important demographic features for the researcher which will help to collect separate data from several age group. It will help to know which sector is weaker and support they can do for uplifting the age group. Information on age and sex of each household member has been obtained from the household head and married women of different age groups. The table No.1 shows the age composition of the respondents. There were 120 households in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC. Among the total household of the study area I have interviewed 40 women as a sample.

**Table No.1**  
**Age Composition of the Respondents**

Age-groups	Number	Percentage (%)
15-20	3	7.5
21-25	6	15
26-30	8	20
31-35	8	20
36-40	10	25
40+	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The given table shows that out of total 40 married women, the highest percentage (25%) of the total population is found in the age group of 36-40 years. It is followed by age group of 26-30 and 31-35 equally. The age group 21-25 and 40+ followed respectively. The lowest percentage (7.5%) of female population is found in age group of 15-20 years.

The table No. 1 shows that most of the married women are economically active population. So, they can serve as the best to support in their family income.

#### 4.1.2 Distribution of Household Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity

Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where there are different caste/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has its own language, culture and tradition. All of them follow their tradition in a different ways which is not matching with other castes. Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in the society and it plays important

role in social activities. The following table reveals the ethnic composition of the respondents in the study.

**Table No.2**  
**Distribution of Household Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity**

Caste/Ethnicity	Total Number	Percentage (%)
Brahmin	16	40
Chhetri	8	20
Janajati	8	20
Kami	4	10
Damai	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table No. 2 clearly shows that 40 caste/ethnicity households in the study area has been selected to fulfill the objectives of the dissertation. The caste/ethnic groups revealed a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However, people from different groups were also found to be living together in certain areas of settlement. The Brahmin, Chhetri community is seen as dominating the overall population. The majority of the respondents were found from Brahmin (40%) of the total household. Next to them are with Chhetri and Janajati (20%) equally. After them Kami and Damai(10%) were equal in the last of the group.

#### **4.1.3 Family Structure**

Family is a basic unit of the society and is an institution which plays important role in building society. Without having family people would not be a complete human beings. The traditional economic functions of the family are very important in many developing countries. The advantage of the family as an institution for organizing particular activities flows from its ability to integrate those activities with preexisting, ongoing, significant personal relationships (Benedict, 1968). The family size and structure affects the economy, health, social and educational condition of the family. Family structure has dominant role in decision making process. According to the nature there are two categories of family structure nuclear and joint family. Both nuclear and joint family are found in the study area. Nuclear family refers that family which consists of husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family consists of

husband wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for male and reside under the same roof.

The following table shows the family size and structure of the respondents which clearly shows the nature of family.

**Table No. 3**

**Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Family Structure**

Family Type	Number	Percentage (%)
Nuclear	33	82.5
Joint	7	17.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table showed that in the study area among the sampled households 82.5% have nuclear family and 17.5 have joint family. Which is clearly shows in the up given figure. In this research this is clearly shows that most of them prefer less number of family members and few women prefer large number of family members.

**4.1.4 Housing Condition**

Most of the house was pakki with made from bricks. Some of the houses were kachhi. The wall of the houses is made of stones and mud, bamboo and wood. Their houses have a partly enclosed veranda facing the courtyard in front of the houses which is considered to be the most appropriate place to welcome the guests. Most of the houses are two storied. A low door way leads to the main ground floor. Ground floor is used for kitchen and upper floor used bedroom and store. Nowadays, newly constructed houses don't have such problem. Most of the house face to southeast to get proper sunlight. The tin roof of a house signifies the prosperity of a person in the local community.

**Table No. 4**

**Housing Condition of the Selected Housing in the Study Area**

Type of House	Number	Percentage (%)
Kacchi	15	37.5
Pakki	25	62.5
Total	40	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2016



The given table it is clearly shows that most of the respondents were living in pakkighar (62.5%), and 37.5% people had kachhighar. It is most valuable thing for them to sustain in a certain place properly.

#### **4.1.5 Marital Status of the Respondents**

Table No.3 shows that the marital status with their age group of the respondents. Marriage is a social contract of the satisfaction of physical, biological, psychological and spiritual needs of male and female leading to formation of a family to bring up children and live together. Rather social contract of two opposite sex will be called marriage when socially sanctioned according to different cultural values and tradition.

**Table No. 5**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status with their Age Group**

Age Group	15-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	40+	Total	Percentage (%)
Married	9	13	5	1	1	0	29	72.5
Unmarried	5	2	1	0	0	0	8	20
Widow	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	7.5
Total	14	15	7	2	1	1	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of total 40 respondents 72.5 % were found to be currently married, 20 % were unmarried and 7.5 % were widow. There were not seen any respondent who has taken divorce and separated respondent indicates women bounded by Hindu culture and also indicate good relationship between husband and wife.

#### **4.1.6 Age of Marriage of the Respondents**

In the context of Nepal, with parental consent, legal minimum age at marriage for both girl and boy is 18 years. If the boy and girl want to marry on their own choice then the minimum legal age at marriage for both is to be 20 years. Without having the minimum age of marriage they would not be able to do marriage against of their family. In some societies, girls are still married at younger ages but in Mithukaram Village Development Committee many of the girls are found as married at the age of 18-20 years, as revealed by the table 6.

**Table No. 6**

**Age at Marriage**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent(%)</b>
15-20	21	52.5
21-25	19	47.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey,2016

From the survey the age at marriage is high within age group of 15-20. i.e. Out of 40 responded 21 respondent (52.5%) have reported to have their first marriage in age group 15-20 years followed by 19 (47.5%) responds in group of 21-25 years. Lastly ,we can conclude that highest percentage of women's age at marriage in Mithukaram VDC is 15-20 years, which is higher to the census 2011. Marriage usually takes place at very early ages in Nepal. As the literacy rate in Nepal is low, age at marriage is also low. During 1991 the age at marriage of female was 18.1 and in 2011 increased to 19.5 (CBS,2011).

**4.1.7 Education Status of Respondents**

Educational attainment is an individual characteristic which is associated with the individual orientation knowledge and skill presumably appropriate for job responsibilities. It is anticipated that a person's education has a bearing on role prescription, consensus, task performance and decision making.

Education play a vital role in developing self-consciousness in person's attitude towards something. Education is a great facilitator of household decision making. Lack of education has been identified as a critical constraint inhibiting diversification by several researchers (Evans and Ngau, 1991). Some of the women have been found very much aware and they have been shown an interest and positive attitude in household decision making. Since poverty is a closely associated with low levels of education and lack of skills, education is also a key factor contributing to the greater ability of better off families to diversify compared to poorer families. It follows that targeting towards poor village households is likely to have a relatively large impact on their ability to diversify income sources.

In Mithukaram VDC education is heavily class-biased, it varied from one ethnic group to another and similarly one caste group to another, which also hinders in

decision making. Educational structure of the community people has played important role for the participation in different household and community activities. In the present study the educational status of the respondents is divided into three categories which are illiterate, under and educated. those who cannot even read and write are kept under the category "under SLC" and those who have passed SLC or have attended higher education are kept under the category "educated".

**Table No.7**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Education**

Educational status	Total Number	Percentage
Illiterate	11	27.5
Under SLC	15	37.5
Educated	14	35
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey,20156

The above table presents the data of the educational level of respondents. It was found the majority of the respondents are under SLC with 37.5% in each category of "educated" has attended the school education but has not passed School Leaving Certificate (SLC examination). 35% respondents has attended the education of above SLC. Proportion of illiterate population is 27.5%.

This shows that still women are far behind than male from educational aspect. Through, the government has greater early expenses still many people in the grass root level are deprived of education in clearly signified by the study area.

#### **4.1.8 Religion**

Religion plays an important role in everyday life. Religion is a set of beliefs and practices. It is practice in every society and play a great role in maintaining social structure in a given community and society. Nepal is continuously a multi religion country with large provisions of no discrimination against other religions. The Hindu population in the country has been consistently over 75 percent since 1950. After the major political change in the country, the interim parliament declared it as a religion neutral nation. Irrespective of this, Nepal has always been a place with religious harmony. Hindu and Buddhism are the main religious group in the nation. Here in this

table clearly shows that in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC majority of people were follow Hindu religion and some of them follow Buddhism.

**Table No. 8**  
**Religion Followed by the Respondents**

Religion	Number	Percentage (%)
Hindu	37	92.5
Buddhism	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Most of the women in survey were follow Hindu (92.5%) and some of them followed Buddhism which was 7.5%.

## **4.2 Economic Characteristics of Respondents**

In this segment, economic characteristics of the respondents such as land holding, house ownership, fuel consumption, income generating activities, household income etc, have been analyzed. Economic activities can be indicator of the status of women and decision making power in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC.

### **4.2.1 Source of Income**

Power, the responsibility of having one's will done despite opposition is a complex phenomenon, one of the visible means of power is economic power. Income represents an economic resource (Simmel, 1907/1978).

The nature of resources as well as their respective values determines the pattern of social differentiation among actors. Therefore, it is anticipated that there are relationships between the individual's income, role prescription, role consensus and role performance (participation in decision making). After management of collected data most of the women were found medium or average economic status. The main source of income was found agriculture. Some household have found good remittance. They have normal role in decision making process. They are found satisfied about their income level. Following table reflect the economic status of women in the study area.

**Table No. 9**  
**Household Income of Respondents**

Monthly Income in Rupees	Total Number	Percentage (%)
1000-5000	15	37.5
6000-10000	20	50
11000+	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

It is observed that among those who are involved in income generating activities 50% have monthly income in the range of rupees 6000 to 10000. 37.5% have monthly income in the range of rupees 1000-5000 and 12.5% have more than 10000 rupees as their monthly income.

#### **4.2.2 Source of Family Income**

Employment is not only an external process, but also a process that has to bring about these intrinsic changes, in women. Family income is also one of the major factors to empower women economically. The given table clearly shows about their income from where they get money and status of women with respect to their education in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi district. Income is one of the indicators to indicate economic status of women. The survey found that most of the women's were engaged with agriculture work.

Agriculture is the main occupation in Nepal. The second important thing for them was remittance. This trend has seen in the study area. Some of them were also engaged in non-agricultural work.

**Table No. 10**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Source of Family Income**

Source of Family income	Total Number	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	20	50
Remittance	10	25
Business	2	5
Labor Employment	5	12.5
Job	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of 40 household, agriculture has occupied the first position with 50% as the source of family income. 25% households depends upon remittance for their income. It is followed by labor employment 12.5%. 7.5% of the households have job of income and only 5% of the household were involved in business. While asking about business they were not very much familiar with business and don't want to take risk. From my study I found that women's in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC are still engaged more than other occupation and their other family members are also involved in agriculture. Thus, it is most important part of their life to take decision.

#### **4.2.3 Livestock**

Livestock is also a part of agriculture. It plays an important role for the up-liftment of their economic condition. The prosperity of a family can be also judged by the number of animals. Livestock is one of the important occupations of Nepalese people for getting milk, meat, eggs, ghee etc. Livestock is also a means of liquid assets which can be easily converted into cash during crisis.

During the interview of respondents, it was found that only most of the females were engaged in livestock holding. They said that it is very easy for female without having any trouble. Some of them said that their husband were also involved in livestock whose main economic means were livestock.

**Table No. 11**

#### **Involvement of Women in Livestock Management Activities**

Involvement	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	7	17.5
Female	20	50
Both	13	32.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The given table it is clearly shows that most (50%) of respondents are involved in livestock activities without receiving any help of male. 32.5% of the respondent said that they were doing this work with the help of male. Only 17.5% respondent said that only there is doing this work.

#### 4.2.4 Keeping of Household Income

Both males and females need to have equal responsibility for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in the family at TilBahadur. In principle, both should have equal rights and duties. But in our society, male have dominant role. They always do anything with their own choices. Some time they consult women too to take household decision.

Nowadays, women's are getting more responsible about their family and the general things that they do in everyday life. Males are working out of their houses and most of the male would like to go foreign country to earn money. That's why they are not getting time to engage in household work. Female have always supporting roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision making. But in our study area we have found an interesting result that is in country to the general trend in the nation.

**Table No. 12**

**Distribution of Respondents by Keeping the Household Income**

Keeping of Household Income	Total Number	Percentage (%)
Women	13	32.5
Husband	16	40
Both	10	25
Others	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of 40 households, respondent who were females, keep the household income in 13 households (32.5%) compared to 16 households (40%) by their husbands or male were higher. In 10 households (25%) both male and female were keep together. Only 1 households (2.5%) of the respondent, the income is kept by other members of the family. Father in law and mother in law of the respondents. It shows that female members have the control over the possession of the family income irrespective of who is responsible for the income generation.

The above data shows that still there is no equality in decision making power between male and female. Still women are far behind than man in decision making power which is not only in grass root level, but also the major problem in national level as well.

From the findings of my study area we found involvement of women as the initiators in various decisions making like education, family planning, labor utilization etc. However, the final decision regarding all these matters was found to solely depend and still upon the husband.



## **CHAPTER - FIVE**

### **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND USE**

This chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision making in different aspects of household as well as other activities. Decision making regards as household work, opening of bank account, buying foods, buying clothes, using type of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, schooling of children, participation in social activities are taken into account. Because these are most important things to determine the women's role in decision making.

The process of decision making varies between the household level and the community level. This process is affected by social, cultural, economic background of the community members. Literacy, social norms and the status of women also influences the process of decision making.

To speak about power, is to speak about the ability about the ability to influence others so that they do what we want them to do whether they want to do it or not. Like many other relationships, in marriage and the family, there is a power interaction. Generally we look at decision making in the family and household to determine which individual has more power (Blood and Wolfe, 1960). There are condition, however, under which men's power in the family changes. The spouse who brings more "resources" (income, social status, educations is likely to become more powerful). (Blood and Wolfe, 1960) discovered that as a wife's resources increased, she gained leverage relative to her husband.

Decision making centers around the nature of power itself includes the right to delegate responsibility for certain decision to others. In some cases husbands delegate the power to wives to make certain decisions. This implies that the wives make decisions on behalf of their husbands and are not. So far we have discussed how various variables interplay to give meaning to our understanding of women's participation in decision making in the household.

#### **5.1 Decision of Women in Household Work**

Decision making is a current element for the success of any work. The research has found that participation is affected not only by those who make and implement

decision but also by how decision is made. It is one of the most important factor to empower women's.

**Table No.13**  
**Distribution of Women in Household Work**

<b>Decision on</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Decision on household work	4	10	24	60	12	30	40	100
Decision on selection of occupation	24	60	6	15	10	25	40	100
Decision on Production and selling of crops	19	47.5	7	17.5	14	35	40	100
Decision on buying and selling of animals	17	42.5	5	12.5	18	45	40	100
Decision on collection grass for animals	1	2.5	27	67.5	12	30	40	100
Decision on operating of bank account	25	62.5	8	20	7	17.5	40	100
Decision on sending children to school	-	-	4	10	36	90	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Decision of women in various activities is also one of the key factors to determine their actual status and also the freedom of women. Here only 24 respondents have decision on household work, whereas 7 respondents have decision on production and selling of crops by herself, 5 respondents have decision on buying and selling of

animals, 27 respondents have decision on opening of bank account by herself and only 4 respondents have decision on sending children to send their children by herself. Here in this survey maximum decision took place by both male and female on different decision in various activities.

## 5.2 Decision Making in Household Purchases

It is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal role and responsibilities. But most of the women are engaged in household chores. In this section I have analyzed the decision making status of women in the household purchases.

### 5.2.1 Decision on Buying Clothes

Clothing is one of the most important basic needs of human beings. Every household buys clothes but it depends on their needs and their age group

**Table No.14**

#### **Decision Making on Clothing**

Decision Making on Clothing	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	8	20
Female	12	30
Both	20	50
Total	40	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table shows the situation of women regarding decision making on buying clothes in the family. Among 40 respondents 50% respondents said that both male and female were like to buy clothes together. 30% of the respondent like to buy clothes separately and only 20% of the respondents said that their husband bought clothes for them.

Most of women went to buy their clothes with their husband but in the absence of their husband they went with their neighbor or relatives. Nowadays, everyone is willing to buy their own clothes separately especially young generation people who are educated and living in urban areas. They are avoiding family shopping. Thus, it is said to be nowadays women's are utilizing their rights properly in Mithukaram VDC.

### 5.2.2 Decision on Using Types of Fuel for Cooking

In Nepalese society, cooking is mostly related with women. In this study, we want to see if women have freedom to decide on the choice of type of fuel used for cooking.

**Table No.15**

**Decision on Using Fuel for Cooking**

Decision Making of Fuel for Cooking	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	5	12.5
Female	20	50
Both	15	37.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of 40 respondents 25 women's were take decision on fuel for cooking by self. 15 of them take decision with their husband and only 5 women's said that they don't need to think about the fuel because their husband will manage. It is clearly shows that most of the females are involving with these types activities.

In the study area most of the women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide themselves on using the type of fuel for cooking. On the contrary, some of the women who were less than 30 years of age group decide themselves solely. In the case of younger age group decides together with their husband. Analyzing education wise, women in each sub-category of illiterate, under SLC and educated are found with better self-deciding power than other members of the family, educated women having the greatest freedom. Husband of illiterate women also have strong influence on deciding in this case in comparison to self-decision-making power of their wives is also higher.

### 5.2.3 Decision Making for Community Development and Social Activities

Despite the equality guaranteed to women given by constitution of Nepal and the international commitments made by Nepal government to uplift women and eliminate discrimination against them, approximately, all indicators shows women's disadvantaged status in Nepal. But in this research I found that the women's of Mithukarma VDC of Nawalparasi district participation is in average. The situation of the respondents on decision making about the participation in social activities are shown in the given table.

**Table No. 16****Decision Making on Community Development**

Decision on	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Total	%
Decision on making club member	24	60	6	15	10	25	40	100
Decision on participation of social custom and culture	15	37.5	8	20	17	42.5	40	100
Decision on participation of social meeting	17	42.5	8	20	15	37.5	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In the study area only 24 respondents have taken decision on making club member by male, whereas 6 respondents have decision on making club member by herself, 15 respondents have decision on participation on social custom and culture by male, 8 respondents have decision on participation of social meeting by herself and only 15 respondents have decision on participation of social meeting by both male and female. Here in this survey maximum decision took place by both male and female on different social activities.

While analyzing the data with education wise, illiterate women are in better position than the women with some school level education and educated women. Most of illiterate respondents decide themselves about the participation.

Furthermore, information on this topic is collected about whether women those who keep the earning money could spend money without other permission.

#### **5.2.4 Decision Making for Taking Loan**

Information on this topic is collected about whether women those who keep the earning money could spend money without other permission. The table No. 17 clearly shows the decision making on taking loan.

**Table No. 17**

**Decision Making on Taking Loan**

Decision making on taking Loan	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	18	45
Female	8	20
Both	14	35
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table shows the situation of women regarding decision making on taking loan to run their family and required other necessary needs. Among 40 respondents 45% told that the male only take decision on their economic matter. Male thought female are only for to cook food and household work. They do not have capacity to take decision on complicated matter. But a35% respondent said that they took loan with the decision of both male and female suggestion. 20% of women who have to take decision to spend loan even though they are keeping money own self.

The table indicates that women are not able to spend money according to their willingness. During research, it was found that husband does ask their wives to spend money. One of the major reason can be because almost the household decision to run their family expenditure is mainly made by their husbands and household head.

**5.2.5 Decision on Selling and Buying Land**

Property right for women has become the hot discussion in the present day situation. Therefore, it is not the single problem of the study area. However, a national attempt is demanded to empower women economically by providing access over assets like land. Table no, 18 shows the selling of land without anyone else permission of the respondents.

**Table No. 18**

**Decision Making on Selling and Buying Land**

Decision taken by	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	20	50
Female	5	12.5
Both	15	37.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Among the women who have their family land, 12.5 % of women take decision to sell their land while 50% of women told that male took decision to sell the land without giving any information to women and 37% of both take decision with their compromising and suggestion in order to sell the land properly. Property right for women has become the current discussion in the present day of Mithukaram VDC Nawalparasi district. Therefore, it is not the single problem of the study area. Moreover, a national attempt is demanded to empower women economically by providing access over assets like land.

### **5.2.6 Decision Making on construction of Road to develop their Village**

There has been considerable interest recently in the extent to which women took decision on construction of road. Table no. 19 shows the decision on construction of road by the respondents or jointly with other people.

**Table No. 19**

#### **Decision Making on Construction of Road to Develop their Village**

Decision on	Number	Percentage
Male	28	70
Female	4	10
Both	8	20
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Here the data shows the status of women in terms of their decision on construction of road which was 10% of women do the work where as 70% of male took decision on construction road. Only 20% took decision on construction of road by both male and female together.

### **5.2.7 Decision Making on Schooling of Children**

In the given table it shows that the situation of women regarding decision making on schooling of their children. Among 40 respondents 35 people have children. Among those 35 respondents only 12.5% female respondent take decision that where to send their children without asking their husband. They said it happened by the carelessness of their husband and unconsciousness. Most of the respondent said that their husband takes decision in this case because it is complicated matter and it is related to our

child future. We don't want to take any risk in this kind of case. Approximately 37.5% respondent said that both of them took decision with asking and giving suggestion with one another.

**Table No. 20**  
**Decision Making on Schooling of Children**

Decision on	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	20	50
Female	5	12.5
Both	15	37.5
Total	40	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2016

However, the decision of the husbands alone as well as the joint decision of both husband and wife was found to have an equal contribution in this respect.

### **5.2.8 Decision Making for Medical Check-up**

There are many therapeutic methods existing in Nepal, which are categorized into two different healing systems. One of them, called the traditional healing system (Dhami/Jhankri, Baidha, Chamine,) started in ancient times while the other is the modern medical or allopathic or English medicine (Health Assistants, Nurses, Dispensing Chemist and Pharmacists, Acupuncture, Therapists, Tibetan Medical Practitioners, Ayurvedic practitioners).

Every people have their own perception regarding their treatment. Some people believe on Dhami/Jhankri and some do believe on doctor. In first stage of respondent's illness they consult Dhami/Jhankri and if it didn't work properly then they used to go to the clinic or hospital to get better treatment of their health. This kind of behaviour found in women of Mithukarma VDC of Nawalparasi. In the case of study area both healing tradition are practiced equally. They said that both practitioners have equal power to cure the disease but it depends on the nature and context of illness. That is why they need both of them in their society to prevent the illness. The health decision-making is a dynamic and complex process, and as such, it makes for a very complicated literature spanning multiple disciplines, incorporating multiple methods, employing multiple theories, examining multiple levels and observing multiple outputs, all with multiple different objectives.



**Table No. 21**

**Decision Making on Medical Check-up to Doctor**

Decision by	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	5	12.5
Female	5	12.5
Both	30	75
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the given table it was found that majority of the respondent said that both husband and wife take decision for better treatment and medical checkup. Only 12.5 percent of male and female take decision separately without asking each other's.

**5.2.9 Role of Women in Family Planning Decision**

Data about knowledge and use of family planning devices by the respondents were collected in the field survey. General observations revealed that women from all 40 households have heard about family planning measures from others or through the media. Although all of them have heard about family planning measures, the number of women who do not use them dominate over the women who do. 23 of the women's were found that using of family planning devices.

**Table No. 22**

**Decision upon the Temporary Family Planning**

Decision Taken by	Number	Percentage (%)
Female	14	35
Male	8	20
Both	18	45
Total		100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table no. 22 it was shows that out of 40 women 35% of women decide themselves whether to use family planning or not. Whereas 20% of women said that their husbands decide it and 45% of women said that they jointly decide about family planning to use.

From the above description it was found that majority of women use family planning measures by their own choices. Some of them said that they took decision together.

The reason of not using of family planning devices was lack of guidance and not allowed to go outside the home without permission of their husbands to get the family planning devices. Lack of information about it and barrier of socio-culture, norms, values etc on the other hand of the respondent.

Thus family planning was adopted in few households in my study area. Both husband and wife also jointly decide which family planning measures to adopt. However, temporary family planning measure was practice in great deal.

### **5.3 Factors Affecting the Role and Responsibility of Women in Decision Making Process**

The factors which are the most affecting the role and responsibilities of women in decision making process are given below:

#### **Patriarchy System**

The word patriarchy literally means the rule of the father or the "patriarch" and originally it was used to describe a specific type of male dominated family- the large household of the patriarch which included women, junior men, children, slaves and domestic servants all under the rule of this dominant male. It is used more generally to refer to male domination, to the power relationships by which men dominate women, and to characterize a system whereby women are kept subordinate in a number of ways.

Shanti Magar

Address: Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi district

Education: SLC Pass

Age: 25 years

She got married few years ago. Now she has two son and staying in joint family with Family in low, mother in low and brother in low. She was passed in SLC examination and had not took higher education by the cause of family matter. But after her marriage now she is only limited in household activities within inside of the household. Since morning to evening she used to engage in household chores. She needs permission of her husband and mother in law for even in simple and personal matter. She has to ask her mother in low what should cook for lunch and dinner and

also with her husband if she wants to go to visit friends and relatives.

When I was at her home to ask her personal information for the survey, She wants to take permission of her husband. When her husband not allowed giving information then she refused to say anything. This event clearly shows that education is not only the major factor in rising women's decision making power but there are other factors which are playing great role as women's obstacles i.e. is cultural and social norms.

In the third world countries like Nepal there are deep-rooted cultural and social norms, which is invisibly affecting women's decision making power and also obstacle to participate in economic activities. So women should be given freedom to some extend in daily household decision making process.

From the case study it is clearly shows that women's in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC are still dominated from patriarchy society. They are still receiving permission from their husband to do most of the thing.

### **Gender Inequality**

There are four themes characterized the theories of gender inequality. first men and women are situated in society not only differently but also unequally. Specifically, women get less of the material resources, social status, power and opportunities for self-actualization than men do who share their social location- be it a location based on class, race, occupation, ethnicity religion, education, nationality or any other socially significant factor.

Name: Hari Maya Giri

Education: Under SLC

She is married and has one son a daughter. Her husband is a carpenter and he gets to central market nearby his residence for work. Physically her husband is victim of eye disease so unable to do hard works. They did not possess any agriculture land except a small piece of land. They were loading a measurable life facing economic crisis.

About 5-6 years ago she thought of selling vegetables. Then she started selling vegetables, visiting each household. From selling, she can able to collect some money. She invested that money on storage of vegetables. After few years, due to hard work and self-confidence she achieved her goal. Today she has one tea shop in

the village market. Nowadays, her husband does not work and looks after his children and home.

In this past relatives used to hate women selling vegetables in door to door but eventually our economic status rose up and due to which everyone is shocked. She said we do not have any loan to pay at the moment with pride.

Women also work like men and can handle the house and children if they wish. It is recommended that government should provide soft loans through government-owned banks to women who have low economic status and willingness to do something in their life.

#### **5.4 Role and Responsibility of Mother's Group in Decision-Making Process to Empower Women**

Mother's group plays an important role in empowerment and decision making. The villagers have established the mothers group to control bad activities, like gambling, drinking alcohol and to aid social works like building roads and water taps. AamaSamuha raises funds by dancing for tourists, at key rituals and for local people who are returning from overseas. The funds they collect are publicly announced at the end of the cultural shows and used in the community project in the village. They utilize their funds for doing social works like making taps, electricity, cleaning the village and lending (paicho). If a flood destroys someone's crops, then the mothers group helps support this person financially. I was told that the funds are never used for personal purposes.

In every household one member is a member of the mothers group. All together there are seven to thirteen executive members in a group of various ages. The group is entirely with different castes as they do also allow Dalit mothers to be members, because they want to empower the women, which will help them to rise in their life.

Everyone is equal in the mothers' group in Ward NO.1 of Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi, but the role of each mother is different. The executive members of the mothers group are very active in raising awareness about various local issues. When they want to do anything for the village, the president can conduct a meeting, but if the president is absent, one of the executive members can conduct the meeting. The participation of everyone is equal and all the members can share their own ideas and

they also participate male for doing something for village because they cannot do everything for themselves. If anyone has a good idea and all the members of mothers' group agree they will attempt to make it happen. When anyone invites the mothers group for anything the president will go there, but in the absence of the president, other executive members can go. The important role of the mothers' group is managing household chores, raising children and village affairs, reflecting the strength of Mithukaram society. There are people who keep records for the mothers' group. One person keeps financial records, another person keeps money and last one keeps others record. In the mothers' group there has never been corruption. They believe each other.

Name: SaritaKandel

Education: Under SLC

SaritaAdhikari is a active member of Mother's Group (AmaSamuha) who has 2 sons and a daughter. Her husband was died 5 years ago due to the health problem. She involves in mother's group through the advice of the community members, At the beginning she was not aware with the role and responsibility mother's group. After that respectively she learned all the things. She said that it is one of the good means to empower the women and improve their position in the patriarchal society. since then she became active in mother's group particularly in the arena of the community development like management of the drinking water, trails, women literacy class and many more. She says that, I have participated in different seminar related community development, especially women empowerment activities which help me to gain new knowledge and ideas. She is also interested is social and political activities but she is unable to do due to household chores. She said, few years ago widows are inhumanly treated when they involved in social and political activities but nowadays that become history. SaritaKandel argue that the patriarchal nature of the society is changing due to the influence of the non-government organizations. We women have been benefiting through the trainings, seminars carried out by the different projects. In one hand it builds the capacity of women, in the other it become source of income.

On the basis of the above case studies, it can be said that mother's group play an important role to empower women and deserve good position in the society by

performing their roles and responsibility. Thus, it is clear that women can do anything by gaining some advice to empower themselves and free from patriarchy society.

Although, women play great role and take major responsibility in most of the aspect of household decision making but in the vital and crucial areas men make decision where women's role have been narrowed down only to follow or obey. The crucial areas are selling of property and buying of property or other deciding factors which in a long run effect in household or family.

The greater role of husband as final decision maker signifies that women are still far behind than male as major decision maker. One of the main problems was illiteracy in rural area which leads only the husband as final decision maker.

From the findings of my study area I found that involvement of women as the initiators in various decision making like decision on household work, collection grass for animal, family planning. But in other cases both male and female took decision together equally. However, the women's are somehow improving their role in decision making.

## **CHAPTER -SIX**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **Summary**

Women play a key role in the household activities. However it is often argued that their contributions are undermined and their decision making power is highly limited. This study was carried out in Ward No.1 of Mithukaram VDC of Nawalparasi district. The population of female is greater than that of male in this Ward. Through the women have larger population they are involved in minor decision, such as household management, business management, selling land, purchasing of land, social activities etc. So the aim of this study is to identify the status in decision making process and the role of women household resource allocation and their use in Ward No.1 of Mithukarma VDC and also to identify the issues why only the male are involved in major decision making process in their livelihood activities.

Basically this study is based on descriptive and exploratory research design. The data required for this study was taken both from primary sources and secondary. There are approximately 120 who were considered as universe of the study. Among the all population, 40 married women between the age of 15 to 49 were selected because they are active age people were selected by purposive sampling method. For this I have used simple random sampling. Through it is based on small scale survey in Ward No.1 of Mithukarma VDC from the 40 selected sample population.

From the study it can be seen that out of total 40 married women, the highest percentage (25%) of population is found in the age group of 36-40 years. It is followed by age group of 26-30 and 31-35 were equal. The lowest percentage (7.5%) of female population is found in age group of 15-20 years. From the study it shows that most of the married women are economically active population. So, they can serve as the best to support in their family income.

Most of the women in survey were Hindu (92.5%) and others (7.5%) were Buddhist. In the census it shows that most of the people follow Hindu religion. Out of total 40 respondents most of the women have good experience about household and some of the respondent was newly married. I found some of the single women who were living in the study area. I didn't get any case of divorce and separated respondent indicated women bounded by Hindu culture and also indicate good relationship between husband and wife.

From the study I found that the age at marriage is high within age group of 15-20. That is out of 40 respondents 21 respondents have reported to have their first marriage in age group of 15-20 years followed by 19 respondents in age group of 21-25 years. Lastly, we can conclude that highest percentage of women's age at marriage in Ward No.1 of Mithukarma VDC is 15-20 years, which is higher to the census 2011. Marriage usually takes place at very early ages in Nepal. As the literacy rate in Nepal is low, age at marriage after 20 is also low.

From the study it found that 37.5% of households were living in kachhi-house made by clay, hay and stone. The number of households who were living in pakki house were 62.5%. From the study it was found that out of 40 female respondents 15 respondents were under SLC at the marriage time, followed by 14 respondents with certificate level of education. 11 respondents were illiterate. From this study it was found that respondents did not want to continue their education for certain year after marriage due to household burden.

Occupation is one of the important indicators to indicate economic status of women. The survey found out that among 40 household 50% of them were involved in agricultural work. Among the total women most of them were engaged in agricultural work by employing in their own field and others field (Shared crops system).

Decision of women in various activities is also one of the key factors to determine their actual status and also the freedom of women. Here only 24 respondents have decision on household work, Only 6% respondents have choice to select occupation with their own choices, whereas 7 respondents have taken decision on producing and selling of crops by herself, 5 respondents have taken decision own buying and selling of animals, 8 respondents have decision on opening bank account by herself and only 4 respondents have decision on sending children to school by herself. Here in this survey maximum decision took place by both male and female on different decision in various activities to spend better life.

There has been considerable interest recently in the extent to which women took decision on construction of road. Here the data shows the status of women in terms of their decision on construction of road which was about 10% of women do the work where as 20% of male took decision on construction of road by both male and female. Among the women who have their own land, 12.5% of women have take decision to sell their land while some of women told that male took decision to sell the land and 37.5% of both do know about taking permission in order to sell land.



From the study it found that the majority of women told that they took decision for medical checkup by both husband and wife. Whereas 12.5% of the women took decision one self. From the study it found that education can influence women's knowledge about participation in local institution. To get further information whether they involve in any local institution or not. The study clearly shows that majority of the respondent were involved in AmaSamuha.

Finally, I would like to said that maximum attention should be given to women to build their capabilities in decision making. Moreover, appropriate ways and approaches to educate women should be given more emphasis to get equal access with other areas of women's.

### **Conclusion**

Considering all the information and situation as explained it has been concluded that the women socio-economic aspect is lower mainly due to their illiteracy, having lower social status, low level of awareness, no access over land and to some extent domination of male and other elder household members. because of the effects of traditional patriarchal values.

Decision-making status of women has been studied under in different categories. They are related to purchasing food products, clothes, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, schooling of children and other so on. Empowering women to be part of the decision making process. Most of the women were taking decision on taking loan, spending money because of the effect of patriarchal society. From the study it was found that women are not able to spend money accommodation with their own will. During research, it was found that husband does ask their wife to spend money. One of the major reasons can be because almost the household decision to run their family expenditure is mainly made by their husbands and households head.

The decision making power of women in economic aspects and political involvement (community development and social work) also look not satisfactory and progressive. From the case study it clearly shows that education is not only the major factor in rising women's decision making power but there are other factors which are playing great role as women's obstacles. That is cultural and social norms. Unless man and women work together with mutual respect and understanding, there is less change in

Nepal to raise their status even if strong laws and rules are enacted by the government.

In the third world countries like Nepal there are deep rooted cultural and social norms which are invisibly affecting women's decision making power and also obstacle to participate in economic activities. However, the women have the least or rather not satisfactory power over the decision making of issues that solely concerns them.

That's why women should be given freedom to some extent in daily household decision making process.

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## Questionnaire: Role of Women in Household Decision Making: A Case Study of Mithukaram V.D.C of Nawalparasi District

### 1. General Information

1.Name: ..... Cast: ..... Age: .....

2.Marital Status: .....

### 3.Information of Family Members: Family Size

S.N.	Family Member	Relation with Respondent	Sex	Age	Education	Occupation	Religion
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

### 2. Social Background Related Questions

1. In which type of family do you live?

(A) Nuclear (B) Joint (C)

Extended

2. Do you participate any community activity?

(A) Yes (B) No

If yes, then in which programme?

(A) AamaSamuha (B) Cooperativ (C)

Others

3. In which type of house do you live?

(A) Kachhi (B) Pakki

4. Which type of role do you play in the family?

(A) Assistant (B) Major (C)

Both

5. Do you have freedom to participate in any social Organization?

(A) Yes (B) No

### 3. Economics related questions

1. What is your profession?  
(A) Agriculture (B) Remittance (C) Business  
(D) Labor Employment (E) Job
  
2. How much do you earn annually?  
(A) 1000-5000 (B) 6000-10000 (C) 11000+
  
3. Who take your family earnings?  
(A) Self (B) Husband (C) Both
  
4. How much land do your families have?  
.....
  
5. Do you have land in your name?  
(A) Yes (B) No  
If yes, Mention?  
.....
  
6. Do you have bank account in your name?  
(A) Yes (B) No
  
7. What is your main source of income?  
(A) Agriculture (B) Remittance (C) Business  
(D) Labor Employment (E) Job
  
8. Do you take loan for your family?  
(A) Yes (B) No  
If yes, from which sources?  
.....

### 4. Household Decision Making Process

1. Who take decision for sending children to school?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C) Both
  
2. Who take decision for choosing profession in your family?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C) Both

3. Who take decision for purchasing and selling of agriculture production?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
4. Who take decision for selection of agriculture production?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
5. Who take decision for loan taken and given in your family?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
6. Who take decision for buying and selling of cow and buffalo?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
7. Who take decision while opening bank account in your name?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
8. Who take decision for consultation with doctor while illness?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
9. Who take decision while participation in social activities?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both
10. Who take decision for participation in construction of roads?  
(A) Male (B) Female (C)  
Both