

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND TARGET  
BUDGET PROGRAM: A CASE STUDY OF LIKHU VDC OF DOLPA**

**A Dissertation**

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March, 2017

## DECLARATION

Except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, the analysis in this dissertation represents my own original research work.

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KIRTIPUR, NEPAL  
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that SunkaliBudhahas completed her dissertation entitle **‘RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND TARGET BUDGET PROGRAM:A CASE STUDY OF LIKHU VDC OF DOLPA’** under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This dissertation entitled '**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND TARGET BUDGET PROGRAM:A CASE STUDY OF LIKHU VDC OF DOLPA**' prepared by SunkaliBudhahas been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master Degree in SOCIOLOGY.

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SunkaliBudha

## ABSTRACT

*Women empowerment is a process of social development from sociological perspective. In this realization, state mechanism also has been implementing target budget program in local level since couple of years. As an outcome of such program, women are now participating in various capacity and skill development trainings. Women are becoming aware and skillful and also playing social, economic and political role in the society. The study entitled ‘**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND TARGET BUDGET PROGRAM: A CASE STUDY OF LIKHU VDC OF DOLPA**’ conducted to assess status and impact of target budget program and women empowerment process.*

*Post-positivism research paradigm applied for analyzing the relationships between study variables. Survey research design was followed and household survey, key informant interview and focus group discussions techniques were used for collecting data. Taking sample purposively and randomly 81 HHs (9 HHs from each wards), local authorities, gatekeepers and successful cases were selected. Primary data collected from field survey and secondary from various published/unpublished books, journals, articles. The administration of the questionnaires took into consideration of the research objectives, the sequence of questions, question structure as well as ethical considerations. The descriptive and analytical analysis of the data concentrated on socio-economic and political role of women in the society.*

*The research study found that, 71.60% of the households are following Hindu and 12.34% Christian religious practices. Because of patriarchal social structures still 56.8% respondents are still facing caste-based discrimination practices and 32.1% respondents also stated that people have negative attitude on female education. 35 respondents have 4-6 children. Because of social stratification, 38.2% of the HHs have <5 ropani land, 13.7% HHs are landless and 83.8% HHs are facing food deficit. However, mean value of annual income (>2, 00,000) and expenditure (>1, 00,000), mode value of income (1, 00,000-1, 49,000) and expenditure (90, 000-1, 49,000), Std. deviation of income (1, 07,984) and expenditure (80,008) shows that annual income and expenditure is normally distributed and 41.9% women are feeling medium level social status in the society.*

*More specifically, 41.9% sample women are involving in different livelihood activities for 8 hours in which 33.3% women are performing agriculture based activities. Most of the women have contributed 10,000-15,000 NRs monthly income*

for livelihood. And 46.2% of them are investing 2,000-5,000 NRs for child schooling and even 13.5% women are sending their children in institutional schools. Value of correlation (0.249) between annual income and monthly child invest is found moderate positive. And 62.0% of sample women strongly agreed that there is a significant role of education in women empowerment and 66.7% have understood objectives of target budget program. Likewise, 34.5% sample women stated that it is major affecting factor for women empowerment that has been provided economic opportunities. However, value of chi square test (0.059) between reasons for implementing target budget program and affecting factors of women empowerment program shows independent relationship. Similarly, 65.4% sample women are well familiar with women empowerment process and most of them participated in skill development trainings. 45.9% women are playing passive role in decision making, 58.1% women are neglecting their political role in the society. Responses of beneficiaries and authorities from VDC show that the status and impact of target budget program in empowerment of women is more relevant, efficient, and effective. The program has been fostering positive impact on women empowerment process. But for sustainability of program government must continue this policy in local level and also have to enlarge the size of budget as respondents argued.

The research confirmed that status and impact of target budget program has fostered positive impact on women empowerment process in Likhu VDC that is changing socio-economic role of women and transforming rural livelihood. Thus, effective implementation of the program is almost essential for enlarging gender development index, state mechanism must enlarge the size of target budget program in which priority must be given for conducting various skill development training related to food processing and distribution as well as capacity development of the women and culture for investing capital in productive sectors by the sample households are suggested for gaining positive impact by target budget program in this VDC. Lack of enough budget, limited manpower, and limited time bound, with limited logistic and because of academic limitation it could not be an absolute source of information on related topic, but it is able to produce a general feature of Nepalese contexts. It could be guide that opens the door of further research study on problems and prospects of women empowerment process in local level.



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## **ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CERID	-	Center for Educational Research and Development
DAG	-	Disadvantage Groups
DDC	-	District Development Committee
DFID	-	German Development Cooperation
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FEDO	-	Feminist Women Development Organization
GDI	-	Gender Development Index
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Products
GEM	-	Gender Empowerment Measurement
GNP	-	Gross National Products
ICIMOD	-	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
IGA	-	Income Generate Activities
INGO	-	International Non-government Organization
JT	-	Junior Technician
JTA	-	Junior Technical Assistant
KII	-	Key Informant Interview
LBS	-	Local Bodies
LGCDP	-	Local Governance and Community Development Program
LSGA	-	Local Self Government Act
LSGR	-	Local Self Government Regulation
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
MOFALD	-	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
NDHS	-	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
NGO	-	Non-Government Organization
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
NWC	-	National Women Council
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Science
TGDP	-	Target Group Development Program
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nation Development Program

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## **CHAPTER: I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Women empowerment is the process of generating a building capability of women to exercise control over one's own life. It is generating understand to mean the ability of women to make choices to improve their well beings that of their families and communities. Empowered women thus can take active roles for in family, community and social levels. During the Vedic period, women and men were equal as far as education and religion was concerned. It is said that all males' power comes from the feminine. The Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva are all powerless without their female counterparts (Prabhu, 2004). In Hindu culture, the mother is the very embodiment of love, of sacrifice, or selfless service to her children and of forbearance. She is considered the first teacher of every child, and is regarded as the highest Guru (Prabhu, 2004).

However, Hindu religious system also developed and practiced patriarchal and hierarchical case based society on the foundations of rigid social, cultural and economic structures. Ppatriarchal cultural attitudes and practices have been also excluding Women from a variety of functions. This has resulted in gender stereotypes where women's role as unpaid productive and reproductive labour is assigned negligible power or control over economic resources. Therefore, the active and meaningful participation of Women in all spheres of daily lives is the felt need of today as well as the rights and opportunities to raise their voice to increase their level of empowerment.

Hindu rituals also institutionalized the criticism of women, and systematically undermine their self-worth. Manusmriti prescribed woman's main duties in obeying and serving their fathers, brothers and others male members of the family when they are young. And after they are married off, they should serve their husbands, fathers-in-law, mothers -in-law and others senior male and female members of the family. But when they grow older they should follow the advice of their sons. Thus women are made subservient to male members of the family throughout their life (Jain, 1994). This situation helped people internalize that women are not equal to men under the law, and they are economically and socially dependent on male. Gender discrimination is a major contributor to prevail poor status of women empowerment especially in rural communities throughout Nepal. Nepal, like the rest of South Asia, is steeped in a

culture of bias against women and girls causing great inequality between men and women in areas such as literacy, health, and political participation. According to Human Rights Watch, Women make up most of Nepal's ultra-poor: more than 90 percent of Women live below the poverty line. They score lower than all groups in Nepal on most social indicators, suffering an average lifespan of only 42 years and 7 percent literacy rate. Literacy is a basic element for the formation of the progressive and cultural society, literacy is acknowledged as benefiting the individuals and the society is associated with a number of positive outcomes for health, nutrition and overall wellbeing of both men and women (NDHS, 2011).

Similarly, health is another crucial indicator from which we can generalize the status of women. Due to the poor literacy condition, in indicators of the qualitative development Such as gender equality and equity, freedom of expression, meaningful participation in social, cultural and political spheres and decision making process are not in improved condition in Nepal. The unfair and unjust status of this half of the population has forced people to live a life of endless misery. On the same way, due to the lack of sufficient infrastructures and skilled human power the health status of Nepalese women is not satisfactory.

Because of the women's subservient position female group in Nepal is behind compared to their male counterparts. The story of women in Nepal in general depicts a continued way of exploitation and gender based discrimination where the status of Women empowerment is vulnerable. Most of the women are still struggling in household chores and they have traditionally been barred from access to education, jobs, housing, the judicial system, political representation and even public places of worship. But the fact is that when women take active roles in the household and community decision-making, their families will be better equipped to confront the challenges of poverty, improve family health and well-being and increase household income.

It is because women's empowerment is the crucial aspects of the development process of society because until and unless the women are empowered the society cannot go ahead in a progressive way. There will be neither peace nor brotherhood. Therefore the empowerment process should be given top priority. A person or a society alone can't achieve such a miracle goal. According to the "State of the world population, 2003 Report" it is said that women have not become empower to participate in the social and economic development in a full-fledged manner as they



are excluded from the development process. The deep rooted gender/stereotyping in the socialization pattern and role models has consistently stimulating women from coming out of their traditional cocoons. Empowerment means transforming existing power relations in favors of women, disadvantaged groups who faced severe limitations in exercising power and making voluntary choices. Empowerment concerns the transformative use of power, in which a dominant agent also exercises his power in such a way that the sub-ordinate agent learns certain skills that undercut the power differential between him/her and the dominant agent. In this sense, the notion of empowerment is inescapably bound up with the condition of disempowerment and refers to the processes by which these who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire such ability (UNDP, 2004).

The term empowerment refers to arrange of activities from individual self-assertion to collective resistance, protest and mobilization that challenge basic power relations, for individuals and groups where class, caste, ethnicity and gender determine their access to resources and power relationships. Empowerment therefore, is a process aimed at changing the nature and direction of systemic forces which marginalize women and other disadvantaged sections in a given context.

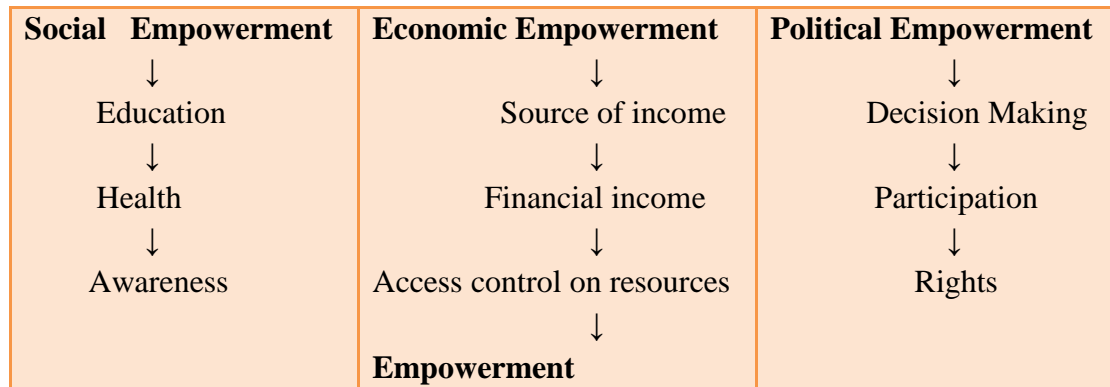
Empower is a process of awakening and regenerating dormant potentials that are inherent in people/human. It is not arming them with weapons rather recognizing and respecting men and women as equal dignified human beings. Empowerment call for liberating them from the orthodox, superstitious and conservative constraints imposed on legislation for protection of equal legal rights, and abolition of gender inequalities are the tools of empowerment (UNDP, 2004). UNDP defines as, "Empowerment is about full participation of people in the decisions and processes that shape their lives. It is viewed in the context of politics and programmes designed to strengthen people's capacity to respond to their needs and priorities and civil society organizations are viewed as mediators or catalytic agents for people's empowerment and focus on strengthening these mediating structures."

In other word, empowerment indicates the sufficient provision of power to those who are powerless disadvantaged, marginalized to take control of their lives. It is also a state to be able to provide them and take care of their food, clothing and lodging. In this regard, Hashemi and Schuler, 1993 have mentioned eight different kinds of indicators such as; mobility form household chores, economic security, ability to make small purchase, ability to make larger purchase by her own earned

money, involvement in major decisions in households activities, relative freedom from family domination, political and legal awareness and participation in public protest and political campaigning.

But in Nepalese context, the term women's empowerment has been viewed through the three basic components of empowerment. These are social empowerment, economic empowerment and political empowerment (Bhattarai, 2009).

**Figure 1: Indicators of Women Empowerment in Nepal**



*Source: Bhattarai, 2009.*

The figure 1 highlights the information about social, economic and political empowerment. Here social empowerment implies meaningful access on education and health are basic factors of social empowerment because when women are properly educated and got health facilities, they will be able to compete with others and women's empowerment gives us positive result. Moreover, awareness is another crucial factor of social empowerment which covers a wide range of consciousness not only of the people of illiterate and poor class but also of the people of educated and high ranked classes. It motivates them to provide on environment to women where women can get opportunities to empower themselves.

Similarly, economic empowerment implies that it is the most influential opportunities to boost up the whole empowerment process of women. It denotes women's access and control over economic sectors such as sources of income, financial authority etc. And political empowerment implies unified meaning of negative freedom from arbitrary arrest, exclusion and positive freedom to vote, participate in political life or actual exercise of political freedom to the women. It advocates about the meaningful participation of women in decision making process that advocates about the provision of rights to women (Sharma, 2007). All of these factors affect directly and indirectly the process of women's empowerment. If women get a conducive environment to the above mentioned sectors, women's empowerment

smoothly goes ahead. It enhances the development process of both rural and urban sectors. Therefore, Women's empowerment is a necessary tool to uplift the living standard of Nepalese women and to enhance the overall development. In fact, it is a reliable tool to enhance the qualitative development of Nepalese society and to ensure the bright future of modern Nepal.

The position of women in Hinduism is widely dependent on the specific text and the context. Positive references are made to the ideal woman in texts such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, while some texts such as the Manu Smriti advocate a restriction of women's rights. Some literatures under Hinduism towards and against womankind are described below. According to Hinduism, a woman is a form of energy (*Shaktiswarupini*) or an aspect of *Shakti* (power). She is *Mata*, the Mother Goddess, the auspicious one. As a young child she is *kanya* (daughter), the goddess *Durga*. As a wife she is *Patni* and *Saha Dharma Charini*, a partner in her husband's religious duties. As a mother she is worthy of worship (*Matrudevobhava*).

According to Manu, (Prabhu, 2005), women must always be honored and respected by the fathers, brother, husbands and brothers-in-law who desire their own welfare". And, "where women are honored, there the very Gods are pleased, but where they are not honored, no sacred rite even could yield rewards. Though Manu has said that women should be honored but I understood that might be from the point of view of necessity in maintaining a pleasant homely environment or for their own happiness and safety. Similarly, Manu Smriti (ii. 45) says: "From the point of view of reverence due, a teacher is tenfold superior to a mere lecturer, a father a hundredfold to a teacher and a mother a thousand fold to a father"(Prabhu, 2005). The interesting part I found going through these literatures is mother getting a high social regard than the teacher and even the men. In other words these literatures show that the women were superior to men in the ancient period.

On the one hand Hindu literatures proved women to be superior and respected but on the other hand they proved women to be inferior. Now I would like to discuss some literature that shows women as inferior and education as not the matter of concern for them. YajurVed says, "Women are without energy. They should not get a share in property" (Prabhu, 2005). It has also expressed women as shudras, dogs and crows together and says falsehood, sin and gloom remain integrated in them .I also reviewed some literature regarding women as intellectually inferior to men as Lord Indra himself has said that woman has very little intelligence so there cannot be any

friendship with a woman. Similarly, some literature had also taken Sudras and women as equal being. As the literature Mahabharata says that women, Sudras and the inferior members of the twice-borne classes were unfitted for hearing the Veda and desiring the blessings, arising from the ceremonies (Jain,1994). Position of woman under Hinduism seems to be in paradoxical situation. On the one hand Saraswati the idol of learning is female and at times women is elevated at the highest echelon of power in the form of Durga, Kali, Bhagwati etc, on the other hand she is down to earth not being treated as a human being having a soul. It is said that in the early Vedic period her position was high and in the later period it went on deteriorating (Koirela, 2003).

Though I feel annoyed, and rightly so, going through the contents of the Hindu literature like Mahabharata, where Bhishma has said: “There is no creature more sinful than women. Woman is a blazing fire. She is the illusion. She is the sharp edge of the razor. She is poison. She is a snake. She is fire (Jain, 1994). These things particularly harsh women and treats them with despise and doubt. Probably, I think the Women have been its worst victims and suffered more compared to women of other castes. Though, I can say that the situation is gradually changing. In a changing world, we need to redefine the role of women in the institution of family and society.

The analysis of the Vedic literature helped me in understanding the perception towards women and Women that, there is not any specific attitude towards women status in general and their empowerment in particular though the good description of female were hidden. The literature that I reviewed gave me the idea that women are described indifferently and women themselves are feeling inferiority. Their behavior has been shaped of feeling humiliation, hesitation and torture.

To conclude, the status of Women empowerment in Nepal is slightly increasing due to leading role of policy provision, state mechanism and women activist. Traditional attitude and practice on women empowerment is also trying to replace through targeted budget program. Such programs have been giving priority to women empowerment for their active socio-economic and political role in the society. There by many low economic countries like Nepal has been emphasized for achieving transformative role of women through economic empowerment and modernization. As a result, women are also providing economic and livelihood support to the household members and contributing local and national economy. Thus, the research

study trying to explain and analyze relationships between women empowerment and target budget program in VDC level.

### **1.1.1 Target Group and Target Budget Program**

Government of Nepal (GoN), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) has defined targeted group for development. Basically, three groups are highly prioritized and targeted for development as mandatory provision. Deprived and marginalized all Women and Children of all cast/ethnics, and Socio-economically Disadvantaged Groups (DAG) are defined as targeted groups for the development. There are clearly defined even DAG as Senior citizens, all forms of disabled people, poor dalit and ethnics. Under the provision of Local Self-governance Act/ Regulation (LSGA/R 1999), a development guideline has published for local resource mobilization by MoFALD.

Government of Nepal implies its budget through speech of finance minister. The budget allocates for local bodies as well. After 1996, the central government has been providing block grants to VDCs directly. Poverty reduction, infrastructure building such as roads and bridges and other social development are found in the priority of the allocation. Women empowerment is a major aspect of the government. Gender responsive budget formulation guidelines, 2069 has been implementing under the ministry of finance. The ministry has been formed “gender responsive budget committee” as well. There are more than a dozen steps in formulating the development budget of government of Nepal. However, the processes and recommendations are over powered by top bottom approach. That is the central perspective determines the volume of the budget for local bodies. In recent year, the government has implemented “Targeted Group Development Program (TGDP). This program is for women empowerment especially to those marginal women who are trapping under the poverty line.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

As Nepalese communities are heterogeneous in culture, DFID estimates that about 891million in the world experience discrimination on the basis of ethnic, linguistic, and religious identities alone (DFID 2005, p.5). In fact, Women have less opportunity to enhance their own capacity and that can foster their level of awareness and empowerment. The breaking barriers towards empowering Women can't be possible without subjective expression of Women.

For maintain social justice to marginalized people, local Self-governance Act/ Regulation (LSGA/R 1999) focus on participatory planning and budgeting for local development. LSGA 1999 highly emphasizes on inclusive development. It has obligated to the all Local Bodies (LBs) that (DDC, Municipalities and VDCs) should formulated appropriate plan for women, children and socio-economically deprived and marginalized groups. Based on strong provision of LSGA/R local bodies are directly accountable the beneficiaries. Under this provision Government of Nepal (GoN), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) has circulated a blended guideline (Local bodies' resource mobilization guideline, 2013). Previously different guidelines were launched. The guideline (Article No.10), has clearly mentioned at least 35% of total capital budget to be allocated for the defined targeted groups. Here, women are highly focused.

The guidelines strongly focused for poor and deprived all women. As the provision of the guideline, at least 10% of capital budget to be allocated for the women empowerment and capacity enhancement. Remaining 25% of the 35% budget, at least 10% for poor and deprived all children and 15% for socio-economically deprive, backward and marginalized people (Senior citizen, Disabled persons, Dalit, ethnics, Madhesi, Muslim and back -warded communities). In these all sectors women are highly prioritized. GoN/MoFALD has targeted all 100% ward level planning workshop documented participation of women, children and DAG by 2016/17 fiscal year. In this way by implementing targeted group program and measuring effectiveness of program could be one of the most remarkable solutions for achieving women empowerment in VDC level. It could be great opportunities and rights to women as for dealing socio-economic and national development not only becoming empowered in the society.

Thus, this practice helps to empower the rural women and prevent the existence of socio-culturally backward environment in rural Nepal. Therefore, this research study may fruitful to analyze the role of targeted group program and measuring improving status of women and empowerment in rural Nepal and creating income generating activities, capacity development and skill development opportunities in general.

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

This research study aimed to find impact of target budget program in women empowerment process. Thereby, the general objective of this study is to analyze the status and impact of target budget program in empowerment. Based on general objective, the study has also encompassed following specific research objectives:

- To assess affecting factors of women empowerment process in Likhu VDC.
- To explain status and impact of target budget program in women empowerment.

### **1.4 Rationale of the Study**

Women empowerment processes not only uplift their status in the family and social level but equally transform their family wellbeing and social scenes. Therefore, current states of gender/caste based discrimination, domestic violence against women and their deprivation from decision making process must be given high emphasize by the state mechanism. The Likhu VDC cannot surpass through similar condition where the status of Women empowerment is still questionable.

Indeed, the study trying to analyze major problems and prospects of women empowerment process with reference to target budget program in VDC level. The study amore focus on women empowerment process and role and responsibilities of local stakeholders. Thereby, being a local women and social worker, researcher thus trying to analyze relationship between women empowerment and target budget program in Likhu VDC of Dolpa District.

Hindu religious and cultural structures compelled women to play passive role in the society and active in households' chores. Because of this, they are suffering from multiple forms of social and economic exclusions. Therefore, the womenare constructed perception from the victimizing forces and social oppression. Gender based discrimination is worst in remote rural areas of the country. Hereditary and occupations both determine social identity of the women. So I also wanted to understand women's perception regarding social and personal identity. Besides, the interesting point is that in spite of various incentive programs status of women empowerment process is not satisfactory. So I felt essential to carry out a research to examine how and why the gender based discriminatory practices are nurturing a definite perception of women. And it is where I became curious to know their

perceptions about gender based discrimination, women empowerment process and productive status and impact of target budget program in the village level.

Because of poverty, ignorance and illiteracy, women are deprived of the opportunity of working in the moneymaking professions, such as opening teashops and restaurants, selling milk (Sob, 2005). This made them unable to uplift their economic status. Consequently, they lacked educational opportunities. Nepal has made significant reforms in its policies and programs to improve the situation of women in the country. In order to put women in an equal footing with men, several approaches has been devised at the international level. But the country could not make much progress in adopting the policies and programs made towards women with these approaches. The main cause for the failure of these policies and the programs is illiteracy including the lack of awareness and the prevailing conservative attitude of the society (CERID, 2001).

So this study will be helpful to dig out the discriminatory practices and forces that are perceived by Women. Experiences and literatures show that Women have no economic power in the family. These women have to work hard as laborers to earn a living, but they receive very little in return. Moreover, payment is mostly in kind, and their pay does not justify the intensity of the work. There is no doubt that Women are economically more exploited than their upper caste women counterparts.

In present context it is very necessary to find that impact of target budget program in women empowerment. This research study is very much justifiable to generalize status of women empowerment in rural areas No doubt; this studymight be fruitful to those students who are willing to conduct their study in this area of interest, and equally informative to institutional members in local and central level. Therefore, this research study also could become amajorsource of information to VDC and DDC level planner and policy makers, local politicians. At last but not the least, this study can also provide some methodological reference to the novice researchers.

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

This research study organized into six chapters based on its content, information and material. The first chapter, an introductory part dealt setting the scene, background of the study, rationale of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study and delimitation of the study. The second chapter included literature review. It dealt with international and national instruments



like policy document review, conceptual review, theoretical review, empirical review, and conceptual framework of the research study.

Similarly, the third chapter presented research methodology. It has included research paradigm, research design, nature and sources of data, rationale of the selection of study area, universe and sampling, data collection techniques, reliability and validity, methods of data analysis and ethical consideration. The fourth chapter highlighted general introduction of Likhu VDC of Dolpa District. The fifth chapter dealt with presentation, interpretation, and analysis of the collected data. And sixth chapter presented gist of study that included summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER: II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter dealt for expanding research titles based on available literatures. More specifically, this chapter briefly presented conceptual meaning of empowerment, historical and cultural perspectives in women empowerment, international and national efforts on women empowerment, theoretical perspectives on women empowerment, empirical review and conceptual framework of the study.

#### **2.1 Cultural Perspectives**

Culture includes the ideas, values, and customs of groups of people where they share a common heritage and culture. Members of society learn this culture and transmit it from one generation to the next. Culture means a way of life, the individual acquires from his group, a way of thinking, feeling and believing in learned behavior. Boys are generally not expected to contribute to the same extent but girls are expected to perform domestic labour for their brothers (Altekar, 1999). Cultural integration reflects agreement among members of a society, conflict theorists counter that the norms and values perpetuated are those favorable to the elites and the powerful. Moreover, while protecting their own self-interests, powerful groups may keep others in a subservient position.

A culture, therefore, may offer “reasons” for unequal social arrangements. Hence it was/is due to power relationship among ethnic groups the status of Women empowerment in Nepal seems miserable. It is because I understood that the social significance of the dominant ideology is that a society’s most powerful groups and institutions not only control wealth and property, even more important, they control the means of producing beliefs about reality through religion, education and the media. For example, if all of a society’s most important institutions tell women that they should be subservient to men; this dominant ideology will help to control women and keep them in a subordinate position (Schaefer & Lamm 1999). Cultural perspective has helped me to understand how discrimination has been created, embedded, developed, manipulated and changed to some extent by Women.

Cultural beliefs have segregated women, child marriage is common practice, women get importance as child bearer but culture considers women’s body as impure and it reinforces subordination of women (Koirala, 2003). In the context of our country, cultural beliefs have segregated women of all castes. Child marriage is

common practice as well. Though the culture considers women's body impure, women get importance as child bearer. Culture has decided boys to take care of the parents at the old age and send the parents to heaven by conducting various rituals after death but girls are taken as only the temporary member, other's property and as helpless people.

From the above perspectives I came to understand that social and cultural values have contributed to the perspective of discrimination. Gender relations are the result of socially constructed unequal power relations and are context-specific. There is nothing in women's reproductive responsibilities that should make them subordinate to men. It is the culture which establishes the ideology of male supremacy and female subordination. Without reproduction the human race cannot survive and the position of motherhood is exalted in all cultures. But female subordination at this stage of human history is universal, although its form and degree vary from society to society and caste to caste.

Part of this ambiguity arises because empowerment is often not well defined, and what is perceived as empowerment is context specific. While increased mobility outside the home is often viewed as a measure of empowerment in Western contexts. The rationale for considering women's empowerment in agriculture as a determinant of food and nutrition security is rooted in a body of empirical evidence that demonstrates the ways in which women are essential to improvements in household agricultural productivity, food security, and nutrition security. Considerable evidence exists that households do not act in a unitary manner when making decisions or allocating resources. This means that men and women within households do not always have the same preferences nor pool their resources.

An expanded version of the 1990 UNICEF framework illustrates how several types of maternal resources may operate as key determinants of child nutritional status by influencing care practices such as feeding small children. In addition to noting the importance of caregiver education, physical health, and mental health condition notes the importance of women's status by including the domains of maternal autonomy and control of household resources, workload and time availability, and social support networks. However, these linkages are complex, and directions of impact between empowerment and nutrition outcomes are ambiguous. It is possible, for example, that increased empowerment enables women to allocate more of the family's resources to food, and to different types of food.

## **2.2 Inter/national Efforts**

Millennium Development goals and sustainable development goals equally advocated for women empowerment and poverty reduction have been taken a prime goal. According to the National Planning Commission (NPC) of Nepal, 21.6 percent of the total population is below the poverty line. NPC targets that the country will not remain in the list of least developed. Many MDGs targets such as reducing the proportion of people below national poverty line, achieving 100 per cent enrollment in primary education, reducing child and maternal mortality, and access to improved drinking water facilities have remarkable progress (UN, 2005). However, in the area of employment generation and hunger reduction have seen as challenging.

Policies including Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007, PSRP and a couple of Three year Interim plans, sectoral policies, programs and projects have focused in addressing the MDGs in last 12 and half years. Not only in the poverty reduction, has the country had to do much on human development as well. Because, Nepal's human development ranking remained 157th, just ahead of Afghanistan (175) among the South Asian countries as stated in Human Development Report, 2013. Gap between poorer and richer has been widened. However, Gini coefficient in the report is 32.8. It was 47.3 previously. Means the gap is becoming larger.

Before preparing the MDGs, Nepal had envisioned the decentralization of the governance structure though that was unitary system. The country has been divided in 5 regions, 75 districts, 58 municipalities and 3915 Village Development committees (VDC). Local Self-Governance Act, 1999 (LSGA, 1999) provided a substantial legal and institutional structure for local governance. LSGA has provisioned a level of devolution of authority to local bodies they are VDCs and District Development Committees (DDCs) for resource mobilization. The local bodies can run development efforts in local level as well. In other words, they can generate revenue in their territorial jurisdiction and can run developmental projects and programs.

For ensuring women empowerment, Nepalese state mechanism has been signed in various national and international level policy instruments. More precisely, after the restoration of the democracy in Nepal, the government has enacted various laws and provisions addressing women issues. In case of Women empowerment, in article 13 (3), it has been quoted that the state will not discriminate any people on the basis of religion, caste, gender, origin and principle of individual (Three- Year Interim Plan, 2007-2009). Besides this, this plan has made provisions for educational loans to

the students of disadvantaged community toFollowing the 'right-based concept', the state has been making policy, legal and institutional reforms and implementing the development programs in order to protect and promote the women's rights by eliminating all forms of discriminations and violence against women. The article 20 has made the following provisions: There will be no discrimination to female on the basis of sex and gender.The National Women Commission (NWC) will be strengthened and made autonomous in order to make its function effectively. Infrastructure, staffing and institutional capacity of women development offices functioning as focal points of contact for gender issues at local levels will be strengthened for effective coordination, facilitation and monitoring of gender equality and women empowerment activities. Capability of community level entities working for women empowerment and the women's NGO agencies as well will be enhanced and made accountable. A special scheme will be set up to deliver basic services at the local level for the benefit of women in the poverty group.

There have been significant achievements in improving the living standards of women through the implementation of various programs including reservation, awareness against domestic customs and traditional violence, consultation and treatment as well as legal support to the women affected by violence, women's participation in conflict resolution and peace making process, skill and capacity enhancing programs, gender responsive budget, the women development program, conducted for creating the alternative opportunities for poor rural women, will have been expanded in 3043 Village Development Committees by the end of the fiscal year 2009/10. Despite these achievements, considering the coverage and quality, the efforts for the women's political, economic and social empowerment have been remained inadequate

Three Year Plan Approach Paper (2010/11 - 2012/13) has stated that a lot more still has to be done to promote women empowerment. However, the increasing awareness, the efforts made in the constitutional, legal and institutional levels, the execution of gender responsive budget, the qualitative and quantitative increase in the capacity of the institutions working in the field of women's rights have shown great possibilities for the development of this sector in coming days. Because the gender budget system will be expanded up to local level making it more effective, meaningful and institutional in the process of formulation of all sectoral programs. The paper also highlighted that targeted programs will be run for women development

in all VDCs; special programs will be carried out targeting the poor and ultra-poor women of the rural areas and the female adolescents. And the role of women in sustainable peace and development will be made capable and strong by empowering them socially, economically and politically. Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measurement (GEM) would have been reached 0.592 and 0.549 respectively.

### **2.3 Theoretical Perspectives**

An ancient Chinese expression mentioned that, theory without practice might be foolish and practice without theory could be dangerous. Researcher also agreed with the idea that, without theoretical understanding of how society works making critical reflection on socio-cultural might be futile, debunking and superficial (Turner, 2005, p.4). Thus, researcher comes to realize that theoretical perspectives and understanding on women empowerment is essential to understand researching issues.

#### **2.3.1 Capability Approach**

The center of Sen's vision is what he calls a 'capability approach', where the basic concern of human development is 'our capability to lead the kind of lives we have reason to value', rather than the usual concentration on rising GDP, technical progress, or industrialization (Sen, 1985). His approach inescapably focuses on the agency and judgment of individuals including their capability, responsibility, and opportunity. Raising human capability is good because it improves: the choices, wellbeing, and freedom of people; their role in influencing social change; and their role in influencing economic production.

He painstakingly distinguishes human capability from human capital. Human capital is important, as it refers to the agency of people in augmenting production possibilities. Yet human capability is more important because it refers to the substantive freedom of people to lead the lives they have reason to value and to enhance the real choices they have. Education, for example, is crucial beyond its role in production; it's most important role being that of increasing human capability and therefore choice (Sen, 1985). Again, Sen cites Adam Smith who links productive abilities to lifestyles to education and training, and presumes the improvability of each. While the popularity of the concept of human capital is for Sen. 'certainly an enriching move', it needs supplementation by an approach that takes human capability as its central concern.

### **2.3.2 Identity and Social Identity Theory**

Social identity theory advocates that social existence can determine the consciousness level of the individual rather their level of consciousness determines their existence. Therefore, this theory could be a mapping strategy of human world by justifying that individual as a member of collectiveness (Asthen et al., 2004 as cited in Jenkins, 2008, p. 5). Social identity is rooted in socio-cultural structures that define who are who in their own eyes and others. Individual identification can be ranked and some could decide how to treat any particular individuals? Therefore, social identity is a process of categorization rather self-identification. And the categorization process also helps to establish relationship of similarities and differences among individuals in the society (Jenkind, 2008, p.7).

Identity help to individual for becoming self-reflexive and classifying self but social identity making up that person's self-concept is unique and components of a structured society occupants of positions role. Social identity cover 0-1 probability because according to normative fit principle an individual perceives the content of the social category is defined along stereotypical as held in culture but identity covers full range of probability (Stets & Bruke, 2000). Self both exist within society and influenced by society. Hence, individual may categories themselves in a particular ways in group or role and not only to fulfill the need to feel valuable and worthy but also to feel them competent and effective ( Stets,1987 as cited in Stets & Bruke, 2000). But for this attempt individual must understand that social identity is a cognitive and motivational process which can be establish through emotional cognition, collective action, group cohesiveness and ethnocentrism (Turner et al. 1987 as cited in Stets & Bruke, 2000).

### **2.3.3 Theory of Social Justice**

Justice is the first virtue of social institutions as truth is of system of thought. Human activities truth and justice are uncompromising. How to assign basic right and duties to members of society and how to distribute benefits is a prime concern of social justice theory. Author presented his disagreed device of hypothetical "original position" in that position individuals who are prevented by veil of ignorance from knowing their personal status in their society rationally distribute about what principles of justice should govern the society in which they will live (Ritzer, 2000). Impartiality and objectivity of the people in the original position would lead them into adopt two basic principle of justice. First principle states that each person is to have a

maximum basic liberty compatible with a similar liberty for others. Basic liberty includes such things as the freedom of speech decision making. The second principle states that social and economic inequalities be arranged in a way likely to work to everyone's advantage and that there be equality of opportunity to attain the higher social and economic position of the individuals.

## **2.4 Empirical Review**

There also is a link between women's control of resources and allocation of resources to food, although most empirical studies supporting this claim come from Africa south of the Sahara. For example, Duflo and Udry (2004) find that increasing women's share of cash income significantly increases the share of household budget allocated to food. Doss (2006) shows that in Ghana, women's share of assets, particularly farmland, significantly increases food expenditure budget shares. In Bangladesh, greater empowerment of women, also measured using the WEAI, has been found to increase per adult-equivalent calorie availability and dietary diversity.

According to G. C. (2008), Nepal is one of the few countries in the world where women have a lower life expectancy and empowerment than men. It is the direct reflection of the underprivileged status of women in most caste and ethnic groups, Nepalese women have both lower status and heavier domestic workload. Social and cultural and religious and policy formulation and implementation factors have been playing important role in determining the value of women in the Nepalese society. Women have a lowest value in the society and are supposed to work inside the house.

According to Nepal (2004), many rural women live in severe poverty without any means of improving conditions for themselves and their family members. In rural area there are very few employment opportunities, skill and capacity development training opportunities and alternative source of income generating activities. Moreover, to work as a seasonal worker in agriculture or construction may not be an option for women. For those with little or no land some of self-employment is small scale business presents constructive options for income generation.

According to Sharma (2007), Nepalese women are one of the most socially and culturally vulnerable groups exposed to discrimination at home live to patriarchal structures. Most of the areas, women are being excluding from main stream of empowerment. They are excluded in working place; they are less literate than male and getting opportunities to involve in capacity development and skill development



training. They are marginalized in the decision making process either in house hold level of VDC level. Therefore, it is not difficult to understand about the gender discrimination and its impact to the development process of the society. Still in our Hindu culture inter-caste marriage is theoretically impossible however there is a provision for accepting inters caste marriage in some policy document.

According to Karki (2008), Nepalese women are still working in subsistence farming and household works compare to men working in outside the village and nation. He also presented scenario of working condition of male and female in Nepalese context.

**Table 1: Working Status of Men and Women**

Male			Female		
	1991	2007		1991	2007
Agriculture-forestry	74.9%	60.3%	Agriculture-forestry	90.5%	72.8%
Industrial sector	3.4 %	12.5%	Industrial sector	1.2%	9.7%
service sector	19.9%	24.9%	service sector	9.75	14.9%

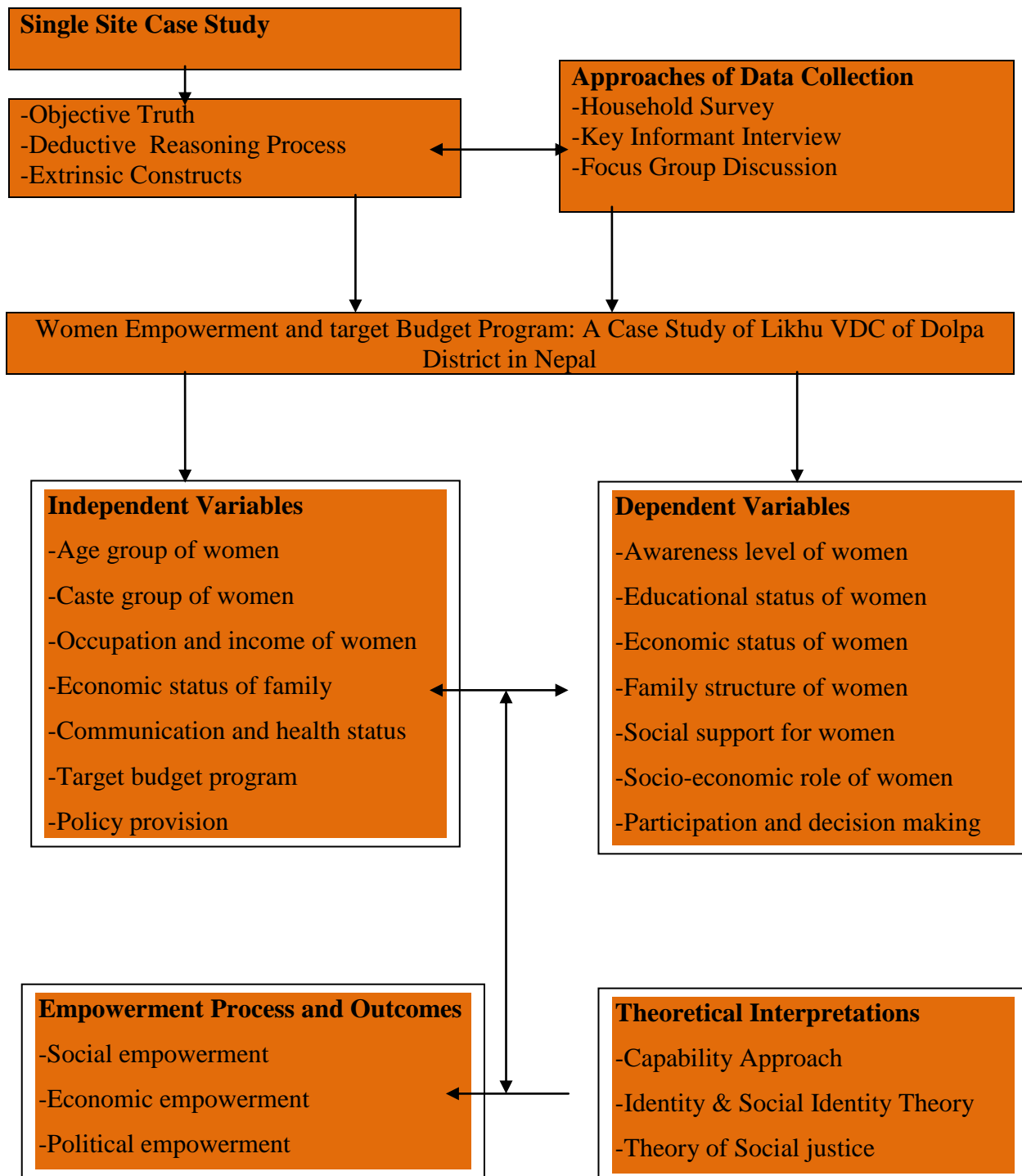
*Source: Country gender profile, 2007, p. 3*

The table 1 shows that most of the women are engage in agriculture sector. The agriculture3 base employments are either unpaid or merely paid. Form the table it is clear that participation of women in industrial sectors increase from 1.2 % to 9.7% and service sectors is from 7.6% to 14.9 % respectively.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

On the basis of literature reviews, researcher tried to make research plan more constructive, straight forward and explicit. Given conceptual framework or plan of action has been developed based on research method/methodology. More so, researcher also highlighted approaches of data collection, independent and dependent study variables as well as theoretical frameworks that will triangulate during data analysis. In fact, this conceptual framework has ultimately presented complete picture and roadmap for this study.

**Figure 2: Conceptual Framework of the Study**



## **CHAPTER: III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter dealt with research methods and methodology. More specifically, this chapter dealt about research paradigm, research design, nature and sources of data, rationale of site selection and rapport building, universe and sampling procedures, techniques and tools of data collection, reliability and validity, method of data analysis and ethical consideration.

#### **3.1 Motivation for Research**

As a novice researcher, I am trying to reflect my personal and professional experiences on women empowerment process. As I understood, researcher can explore new knowledge by reflecting upon lived experiences of self and others. And through, various objective information that allows them to make connections among lived experiences in changing socio-cultural and economic contexts. Thereby, my reflection on past and present scenario of women empowerment process and their socio-economic role has been changed. Owing to that these contexts inspired me to explain status and impact of women empowerment process due to target budget program in my own Village Development Committee (VDC).

I was born and brought up in a Likhu VDC of Dolpa District. My parents provided me good parenting during my school education life. After passed secondary level education from own village, I got higher educational opportunities in Pokhara and Kathmandu cities. In ever changing environments, I got a chance to analyse daily life activities of the women. During my higher education life, I got a chance to compare status of women empowerment and socio-economic role of women in urban and rural settings. Fortunately, as a social worker, I started my career in my own village. I provided awareness raising and skill development trainings to the native and relative women. I played coordinative role with VDC representatives while providing awareness raising and skill development trainings to the women through target budget program.

At that period, I also analysed impact of targeted budget programs that made women skilful, trained, active and interactive. I saw those women became thoughtfully engaged in different income generate activities. They began to play socio-economic role in the family and society and also participated in in/formal meetings in the VDC. Since then, I was planning to conduct my Master Degree thesis

in my own VDC just for reporting the process and impact of women empowerment programs. Therefore, being a responsible and reflective women activist, I am trying to conduct research on the purposed topic “Women Empowerment and Target Budget Program: A Case Study of Likhu VDC of Dolpa District in Nepal”.

### **3.2 Rationale of Site Selection and Rapport Building**

Rapport building itself is a crucial component in doing field work in research. It connotes close relationship between researcher and respondent. Researcher belongs to same VDC and also has been playing change agent role in the society. However, rapport building process was not undermined. Thereby researcher first built good rapport with the respondents while collecting data and also conducts this study with emic perspectives.

Researcher myself has been observing and analyzing relationships between women empowerment and target budget program since many years. Likhu VDC can be regarded as one of sample VDCs in Dolpa District. Status of women empowerment in this VDC is increasing as compare to other VDCs. Women are now involving in various livelihood activities especially in commercial farming and also thoughtfully participating in awareness raising programs in local level. However, role of I/NGOs for empowering women cannot be undermined. Apart from that being a local intellectual and responsible actor of the VDC, researcher interested to conduct this study from emic perspectives. Thereby, researcher selected own village area as a field of the study. By selecting own villages as a field of study it is assumed that researcher can manage time, physical resources, and financial resources herself in convenience. Similarly, researcher is intended to contribute a body of knowledge in researching phenomenon to the stakeholders and policy makers.

### **3.3 Research Paradigm**

Research paradigm is a fundamental set of beliefs for guiding the actions and interactions of researcher during field study (Creswell, 2012). However, positivistic and non-positivistic paradigms are applying in research study but researcher applied positivist paradigm for explaining objective knowledge and understanding essence of objective reality. And within a positivist paradigm, this study employed post-positivism to establish relationships between researching variables.

#### **Post-Positivism**

Post positivism research paradigm is a deterministic view point that believes on experimental knowledge by applying cause and effect relationship. Post-positivist

assumption represents the traditional form of research by following quantitative method to explore objective reality or absolute truth of knowledge (Phillips & Burbules, 2000). Considering this paradigm, researcher identified and assessed the causes that may influence the effect or outcome of the study. By experimenting on cause and effect relationship, research derived objective knowledge by developing numeric measures of observations and studying the behavior of individuals that exist outside the field (Creswell, 2012). In such a way, post-positivism holds a determinist philosophy that establishes cause and effect relationship between tested variables. Therefore, explored knowledge of this study are based upon careful observation and measurement of the objective reality that exist in the research field in which respondents can be regarded as a paramount to the researcher (Phillips & Burbules, 2000).

### **3.4 Research Design**

The purpose of the study was to analyze relationships between women empowerment and target budget program in Likhu VDC of Dolpa District. Taking in to this consideration, Likhu VDC was a case of this study and sample respondents were unit of study. Household questionnaires, key informant interview and focus group discussion guidelines tools were applied to collect data. Findings and conclusion are generalized in which decisions are given to theoretical population from sample number. Descriptive, exploratory and analytic methods were applied to carry this research. Necessary mathematical tools approved geographical principle and other statistical methods are applied to illustrate research findings.

### **Case Study as Methodology**

This study is going to design under quantitative case study research methodology. Case study research involves the study of an issue explored through one or more cases within a bounded system, setting or context (Creswell, 2007, p. 73). According to Stake (1995), case as “a bounded system” and inquire into it “as an object rather than a process”. It is a specific or a complex functioning thing like; boundary and working parts and purposive social interactions (Stake, 1995, p. 2 as cited in Yazan, 2015).

To explain relationships between women empowerment and target budget program through higher conceptualization and understanding causes and outcomes of variables (Yin, 2003), researcher applied single site case study for interpreting experiences of the participants on the foundation of personal experiences and

background (Creswell, 2007). An advantage of the case study approach is that it can fit well with the needs of small-scale research through concentrating effort on one research site. Case study method helps a researcher to directly examine the data within a specific context (Denscombe, 1998). The case as a thing, a single entity, a unit around which there are boundaries (Merriam, 1998) in which researcher trying to bring a construction of reality to the research situation, which interacts with other people's constructions or interpretations of the phenomenon being studied (Merriam, 1998, p. 22 as cited in Yazan, 2015, p.138).

### 3.5 Nature and Sources of Data

To make this research academic and reliable both primary and secondary data are used. Primary data were collect through sample population based on questionnaire sheets, interviews and focus group discussions guidelines. Samples HHs were select by using probability, non-probability and quota sampling methods. Probability sampling method was used to select respondents from different age, sex agriculture and non-agriculture occupational groups. Secondary data were collected from published and unpublished books, articles, journals and public administrative profiles.

### 3.6 Universe and Sampling Procedure

Sample as mentioned in, Best and Khan (2004) is a small proportion of population that will select for observation and analysis of data information. In my study, I applied multi stage sampling method for determining sample populations and sample numbers (Burton, 2007). In the first stage; 1,119 total numbers of females of the VDC was considered (CBS, 2011). Out of them in second stage, 621 married women throughout the VDC are selected as a theoretical population for the study. Again in third stage, 148 trained, skillful and socio-economically/politically active women are selected as sample population of the study. Finally in fourth stage, 81 women were selected as sample number for the study. For determining sample number, the random stratified sample method will apply.

**Table 2: Sampling Procedures**

Stage	Reasons	Numbers
I stage	Total population of females in the VDC	1,119
II stage	Total number of married women in the VDC	621(Theoretical population)
III stage	Total number of trained women in the VDC	148 (Sample population)
IV stage	Sample selected by stratified sampling	81 (Sample number)

**Source: VDC Profile, 2016; CBS, 2012**

Finally, 81 sample respondents will select for collecting primary data which is generated with 95% confidence level and 5% marginal error by using sample size determination formula (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970).

$$\text{Sample size (n)} = \frac{\chi^2 * N * (1-P)^2}{ME^2(N-1) + (\chi^2 * P * (1-P))}$$

**Where,**

n = required sample size

$\chi^2$  = Chi square for the specified confidence level at 1 degree of freedom (Value\* 3.841 for 5% confidence level with 1 degree of freedom)

N = Population size

ME = Desired Marginal error (expressed as a proportion)

P = Probability of success (0.5 value for unknown population)

Q = (1-P, i.e. 0.5 value for unknown population)

### **3.7 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection**

In this study, researcher will apply household survey questionnaires, semi-structured interview and focus group discussion techniques for collecting data. In this regard, questionnaire sheet, interview and focus group discussions guidelines tools will be applied in the field for that purpose.

#### **3.7.1 Household Survey Questionnaires**

For collecting numeric data information from the respondents, structured questionnaires prepared to collect reliable information for data analysis. To collect realistic and accurate data from the field these questionnaires were piloted in selected areas of Likhu VDC. After pilot testing, all questionnaires were filled up by selected women. Respondents were requested to fill-up the questionnaire with close rapport building. In case of illiterate respondents, researcher myself facilitated to fill up questionnaire sheets. Similarly, researcher also followed informed consent during research study.

#### **3.7.2 Focus Group Discussions**

During the field observation, two focus group discussions were performed in the VDC. First discussion held among beneficiaries or right holders. They were selected from sample number. Similarly, second discussion held among local authorities and duty bearers. During focus group discussion, the core concern related to the relationships between women empowerment and target budget program was discussed from various perspectives.

### 3.7.3 Key Informant Interview

The word interview signifies the process of viewing inside of the interviewee by the interviewer during their conversation and it is regarded as a one of the most popular tools of data generation (Kvale, 1996). Key informant interview was conducted with selected sample respondents, gatekeepers, intellectuals and VDCs secretary by following the principle of semi-structured interview. This may explore respondents' perspectives on any particular idea, phenomenon or situation (Mason, 2002, pp. 225-241). Researcher knew that effective interview goes with step to steps. During the beginning, researcher selected the respondents in line with research purpose, build rapport with them to get correct data because correct data could be achieved when participants should trust researcher before providing information.

### 3.8 Reliability and Validity

Researcher heartily considered reliability and validity to generalize the findings of the study. Apart from that researcher also realized the scientific role of the researcher by herself.

#### 3.8.1 Reliability

Reliability in quantitative research can be measure through dependability, consistency and replicability over time, over instruments and over groups of respondents. It is concerned with precision and accuracy in measurement. For achieving consistency in measurement, researcher first developed reliable research instruments including survey questionnaire sheet; structured interview guideline and representative sampling procedures (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2007). There are three principal types of reliability: stability, equivalence and internal consistency. In my research study, I applied internal consistency measure (Cronbach alpha) as an alternative measure of reliability. The Cronbach alpha provides a coefficient of inter-item correlations that measures the internal consistency among the items (Cohen et al., 2007, p.148). In this attempt, researcher will use given formula (Cohen, et al., 2007, p.506).

$$\text{Alpha} = \frac{n r_{ii}}{1 + (n-1)r_{ii}}$$

n = the number of items in the test or survey (e.g. questionnaires)

r<sub>ii</sub> = the average of all the inter-item correlations.

Let us imagine that the number of items in the survey is ten, and that the average correlation is 0.738

$$\text{Therefore, } \alpha = \frac{n r_{ii}}{1 + (n-1)r_{ii}} = \frac{10(.738)}{1 + (10-1).738} = \frac{7.38}{7.64} = 0.97$$



>0.90 very highly reliable

0.80–0.90 highly reliable

0.70–0.79 reliable

0.60–0.69 marginally/minimally reliable

<0.60 unacceptably low reliability

For this research, taking internal consistency in consideration, researcher used Cronbach Alfa test. Researcher use for piloting and confirming the value when found Alfa value as weaker internal consistency or less than 0.8, then researcher again revisited the tool before collecting data information.

### **3.8.2 Validity**

In quantitative research validity can be improved through careful sampling process, applying appropriate tools, techniques for data collection and appropriate statistical analysis of the collected data (Gronlund, 1981 as cited in Cohen et al., 2007). For strengthening of measurement procedures, appropriate sampling, instrumentation, statistical treatment and appropriate conclusion will applied during research study. For that purpose, researcher applied content, construct and criterion validity (Cohen, et al., 2007). By applying content validity, researcher attempted careful sampling and measured significance test of the variables before doing analysis and interpretation. Similarly, by applying construct validity, researcher triangulated literature reviews, field data information and analysis as for meaningful interpretation in which researcher applied statistical tool of factor analysis for measuring construct validity. And by applying criterion validity, researcher used reliable tools for data collection from the participants.

### **3.9 Method of Data Analysis**

Data analysis is the process of systematically searching and arranging structured data information so that the researcher can accumulate to increase his or her understanding and enabling them to present generalized knowledge to others (Creswell, 2012). Thus, in this study, all the recorded questionnaires first systematically arranged in various headings and subheadings. Analysis and interpretation of collected data information was generated by triangulating the data collected from various sources.

Therefore, during triangulation, researcher also has drawn insights from description, analysis, and interpretation of the data. Description of data information helped me to understand the meaning of the data, analysis of data information

helped me to identify underlying meanings of my data to make a systematic description and interpretation of data information helped me to understand processes and meanings in the theoretical context (Yin, 2003). Similarly, SPSS software was used for managing and statistical interpretation of the data information. Before analyzing data, significant time was spent to get familiarity with the data. Frequency tabulation, means, standard deviations, skewness, and kurtosis of earnings, logistic regression, manova, chi square testing and factors analysis statistical tools were applied. Particular attention to the number of valid (no missing) cases were given. Researcher also presented some of the histograms, pie chart and normal distribution curve for systematic presentation of data information.

### **3.10 Ethical Consideration**

For maintaining ethical consideration in the study, researcher reflected upon the issue of privacy and consent to ignore any kind of biasness (Creswell, 2012). Thereby, privacy of respondents and their attitude towards vocational skills, income, occupations and work environment were the matter of confidentiality. Similarly, simple and sweet language was used for communicating this study to the readers. Along with that, reflecting upon the ideas of Kvale, researcher myself was more guided by mainly two ethical aspects: (i) scientific responsibility to commit academic as well as professional career and research subjects so that this study can contribute to yield body of knowledge and, (ii) independence of research that researcher will conduct research more independently by planning independently to ensure the quality of the study and uphold the independence of research (Kvale, 1996).

### **3.11 Limitations of the Study**

The living status and empowerment of Women and their transforming role in livelihood activities have led to this study. This research study particularly conducted in Likhu VDC of Dolpa District. In general finding of this study can be generalized in similar geographical and natural locating.

Moreover, this micro level research study was designed under case study research methodology in which mix methods study was applied for collecting both qualitative and quantitative data information. Due to various constraints like: short time period, limited economic resources, small sample populations has been selected for collecting data information. Thus, this study followed few limitations which are mentioned below:

- Because of academic nature of study it could not satisfy professional research principle. -The research field delimited into Likhu VDC only.
- This research study collected data from 81 HHs, local intellectuals and gatekeepers.
- This study result can be a symbolic to representative of whole Nepal.
- Socio-economic situations and educational status of respondents and their understanding on women empowerment process were highlighted to explain impact of target budget.

**CHAPTER: IV**  
**INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

This chapter has dealt on brief introduction about Likhu VDC. In this attempt, description of locality has been highlighted briefly from various perspectives. Similarly, socio-economic and cultural life of the local people has given more emphasized.

**4.1 Likhu VDC at a Glance**

Likhu VDC is one of the samples VDC in Dolpa District lays in the Northern part of district. The VDC is surrounded by LahaVDC in the west and PahadaVDC in the east, TripurakotVDC in north and KaigaunVDC in south.

**Table 3: Profile of Likhu VDC**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
Area	14.76 square kilometer
No. of Total HHs	724
Total Population	3,970
Population Density	per square Kilometer
Male Population	1,763
Female population	2,207
Administrative center	Likhu
District	Dolpa
District center	Dunai Bazar
Number of Wards	Nine
Educational Institutions	Seven community schools and one college
Health Institutions	One
Number of Working I/NGOs	Four
Total Number of Shops	Thirty four
Restaurant and tea shops	Seven
Ecological Zone	Mountain
Ecological Sub Zone	Northern Mountain
Main crops	Barley, Wheat, Millet, Maize etc.
Main vegetables	Beans, Potato, Reddish, Green leaf, Cucumber, and Ginger etc.
Main Fruits	Apple, orange, Banana, Peach, Guavas, Ainselu, Papaya, Walnut, Pears and Lemon etc.
Basic infrastructures	Available
Basic Security	Available

*Source: VDC Profile, 2016*

Above mention table aimed to present basic information on Likhu VDC based on VDC profile. It has presented general introduction related to multiple aspects of locality including various service providers' functional units and major production of particular area. The gist of study revealed that Likhu VDC is rich from the perspectives of historical, religious, natural, social and cultural perspectives although it is located in remote area of Middle Western Development region. Women are participated in various capacity and skill development training conducted in local level.

### **4.3 Socio-economic Life of the People**

Eastern Hinduism Philosophy is still guiding the social-economic life pattern of the local people. Thus, their Hindu holy book and their KulDeuta have guided local customs, traditions, rituals, ideologies, believes, moral values, thoughts. However, all of them are written or unwritten form, but the structure is often cited and practiced by local people during their life cycle and inter and intra generation. Social organization leads the norms and values of local community. The sawman, aged personality and Brahmins are social leader or religious leader in the society. They have significant role in the societies towards achieving over all betterment. Local people have been practicing both nuclear and joint family system from the ancient time. The father plays a dominantly functional work role in the family and among the community-society and mother plays a dominantly household role in the family and sometimes-functional role in the community.

Being patriarchal society, the role of women in livelihood is not less important both sexes of people are being participating on various economic activities especially in agriculture production, animal husbandry, foreign employment, local business and daily wages. Most of the area of Likhu VDC has covered by agricultural land and natural greenery. Because of low land to high land topography, local farmers have been cultivating most of indigenous edible crops like; paddy, barley, glue, millet, maize, potato, semi, bhattamas (soybean), various herbal plants, seasonal vegetable and fruits. In recent trend most of local and migrated people has been practicing commercial farming since few years. Animal Husbandry also plays an important role in organic production and economic formation of the VDC. Every houses has at least a cow and 1or 2 oxen and a buffalo who can afford. In someone's houses keep sheep, goats and local poultry. People are raring sheep, goats, poultry, cow and buffalo as a major source of earnings. In this area, people are using compost fertilizer in their

fields instead of chemical fertilizers. Firewood is sufficient, so the animal dung is rarely used for fuel purpose.

Due to the concept of Community Forestry, protected area and ten years conflict however young people are immigrating for foreign employment that has been compelling to decrease agricultural based activities in the village area. Ginger farming and Beekeeping is also the major source of income in this area. The people who are living near the jungle have owned at least 5 or 7 hives. They can produce about 30 to 55 kg honey in a year. They are selling it in local markets 400 to 450 NRS per KG. Most of them have no new knowledge to produce honey. However, a few people had some knowledge and trainings conducted by various NGOs in local level.

#### **4.4 Cultural Believes and Way of Life**

Most of the people in this district believe on God (wizards), local cosmology and fate. According to their cosmos; during their traveling if they found full pot, saw man (Dhami), unmarried girls they took it positively at the same time if they found empty pot, unwashed pot, widow, menstruated women (Even with full pot) they took it symbol of bad. Likewise, if they have dream of lions, white cloths wearing person, stool or dirty things, cry with tear they also took it good and dreamt with black cloths, dogs, eating meat and happiness has to be taken as a bad symbol.

Due to over faith on fate and local cosmos they consult with local saw man 'Dhami' (who conduct indigenous and local based treatment) to cure their passents. They are ready to offer any things what the Dhami asked for the treatment. People's way of life is difficult. Almost 70 percent of people are under line of poverty. Food is not adequate within a year, even though they work hard. They are so busy in planting and harvesting seasons that they cannot take a person in graveyard and gather immediately if any difficulty occurred. Women are devoted in households work than in men.

Cultural diversity is found in this VDC where people from 4 vary Vernas, and three religious groups have been living together. There is a mutual and kind relationship among them. Among them, Magar and Janjati groups are dominant caste groups in this VDC and remaining are Brahmins, Chhetries, Dalit, Musalman and Christians. Local people have been preserving and conserving all kinds of cultural heritage. Especially, local song, folk-lore, folk-ways, cultural dances, religious practices, fair and festivals, housing pattern, art, crafts since generation to generation.

Nepali and Hindi are common language for sharing interpersonal information in whole area. Local people used to celebrate various rituals and rites in annual rotation wise and occasion wise. Local people celebrated New Year, Loshar, Christmas day, and VijayaDashami, SubhaDipawoli, Holi and other religious and cultural feasts and festivals by following annual rotation system. Similarly, they used to celebrate various feast, rituals and rites conditionally such as birth ceremony, happy birthday, marriage ceremony, marriage anniversary and funerals etc. During local feasts and festivals, local people conducted cultural programs according to their typical culture and religious values.

**CHAPTER: V**  
**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FIELD DATA**

This chapter presented analysis and interpretation of field data. In order to address research objectives, collected data were analyzed by applying descriptive and inferential statistical methods. In so doing, simple percentage calculation, tabulation, correlation, chi-square testing, cross tabulation and normality testing are used in respondent's proportion.

**5.1 Social Empowerment and Target Budget Program**

Social empowerment is one of the most determinant indicators of women empowerment process. This section highlighted how respondents perceive and practicing women empowerment process, target budget program and playing social role in the society. More specifically, impact of target budget program on social empowerment of the women have been analyzed under given variables; religion, caste group, educational status of couples, number of children, cross tabulation: educational status of wives and number of children, attitudes of local people on male and female education, facing caste-based discrimination by the respondents, significant role of education in social empowerment, knowledge on target budget program, sources of information about target budget program, affecting factors of women empowerment programs, capacity development training participated by respondents, reason for implementing target budget program, relationship with affecting factors of WEP& implementing TBP, outcomes of women empowerment program, impacts of target budget program for respondents, types of child schooling of the respondents, subject enrollment by children in higher education and feeling social status by respondents.

**Table 4: Religion of the Respondents**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Hindu	58	71.60
Christian	10	12.34
Buddhist	13	16.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

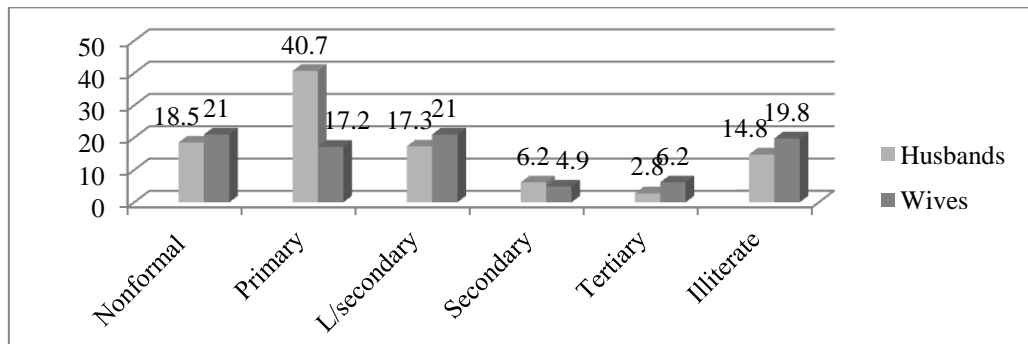
*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 4 shows the information on religious groups of the respondents. From the data fact it is found that majorities (71.60%) respondents are following Hindu religion and remaining 12.34 percent respondents are following Christian religion. The fact indicates that Hindu people might have been behaving women to be



inferior as some literature had also taken shudra and women as equal being. It could be one of the reasons that some of Dalit Households are changing their religious faiths from Hindu to Christian. During focus group discussion some participants also said that the trend is increasing because of secularism and social support system in Christian religion.

**Figure 3: Educational Status of House Wives and Husbands**



*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The figure 3 highlights the information about educational status of house wives and husbands. From the data fact it is found that most (40.7%) husband completed primary education and equal 21.0 percent wives completed non formal and lower secondary level education and least (2.8%) husbands completed tertiary education whereas 4.9 percent wives completed secondary level education. And 14.8 percent husbands and 19.8 percent wives are found illiterate.

The data indicate that Women in Likhu VDC have been also getting educational opportunities from their family members and state mechanism. It is the reason behind why Women are also involving in social development and health care activities and becoming social empowered. As the literature argues social empowerment implies meaningful access on education and health because when women are properly educated and got health facilities, they will be able to compete with others and women's empowerment gives us positive result in the society.

**Table 5: Number of Children of the Respondents**

Numbers	Frequency	Valid Percent
1-2	16	19.7
3-4	30	37.0
5-6	35	43.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 5 reveals the information about number of children of the respondents. From the given fact it is found that most (43.3%) of the female

respondents have 5-6 numbers of children and least (19.7%) of the respondents have 1-2 numbers of children. Similarly, remaining 37.0 percent of the respondents have 3-4 numbers of children. The data indicate that most of the households are living with joint family system.

**Table 6: Cross Tabulation, Educational Status of Wives and Number of Children**

Educational Status Wives	Number of Children			Total
	1-2	2-4	4-6	
Non formal	0	5	12	17
Primary	0	10	12	22
Lower secondary	9	8	0	17
Secondary	0	4	0	4
Tertiary	5	0	0	5
Illiterate	2	3	11	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>81</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 6 illustrates the information of cross tabulation between educational status of house wives and number of children in the household. From the data fact it is found that 16 female respondents have 1-2 children, 30 respondents have 2-4 children and remaining 35 respondents have 4-6 children. More specifically, most 9 respondents with 1-2 children have completed lower secondary level education. Most equal 12 respondents with 2-4 children have completed non formal and primary level education. More interestingly, most of the respondents having no-formal, primary level educational status and illiterate have more than four children in their family members. The data indicate that education is a major determinant factor for child birth. However, there is a positive correlation between level of education and number of children but educated women are becoming role model to others even for illiterate women. And they are also providing good parenting to the children, economic support to the family members and also playing social role to the society. No doubt, educational status of women is significant from various perspectives.

**Table 7: Attitudes of Local People on Male and Female Education**

Positive Attitude	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	55	67.9
No	26	32.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 7 highlights the information about local peoples' attitude on male and female education from the view point of sample respondents. From the data

information it is found that majorities (67.9%) of the female respondents stated that there is both positive attitude of the local people on male and female education and remaining 32.1 percent respondents stated that still local people have negative attitude on female education. The data indicate that still local people are underestimating capacity of the women. However, religious literatures said that woman is a form of energy (*Shaktiswarupini*) or an aspect of *Shakti* (power). She is *Mata*, the Mother Goddess, the auspicious one but because of rigid socio-cultural structures some of women are still compelling to engage in households' chores.

**Table 8: Facing Caste-based Discrimination by the Respondents**

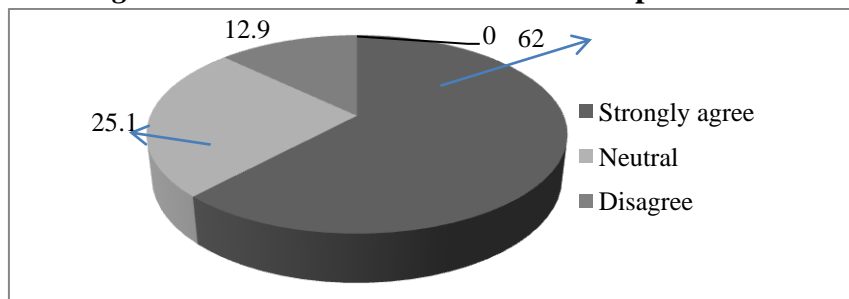
Facing Discrimination	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	46	56.8
No	35	43.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 8 highlights the information about facing caste-based discrimination practices in public places by the selected female respondents. From the data information it is found that still majorities (56.8%) of the respondents are facing such types of discriminatory practices and least (43.2%) of the respondents expressed that they are not feeling any kind of caste-based discrimination practices by the upper caste members.

The data indicate that it was/is due to hierarchical caste system still members from so called upper caste groups are following untouchability practices in Likhu VDC. I came to understand that reproduction of rigid social and cultural structures, norms and values have been contributed to the perspective of caste-based discrimination practices.

**Figure 4: Role of Education in Social Empowerment**



*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The figure 4 highlights the information about understanding of selected female respondents on significant role of education for women empowerment process. From the given data fact it is found that majorities (62.0%) of the respondents strongly

agreed that there is a significant role of education in women empowerment and least 12.9 percent of became disagreed. Similarly, remaining 25.1 percent of the respondents stated their neutral view on women education and empowerment process.

The data indicate that educational status of each household in Likhu VDC will definitely increase in near future as Women argued that there is a positive correlation between educational status of Women and empowerment. It is a good educational status of Women they have changing their socio-economic and educational status in the society and securing very good accessibility in target budget program in local level.

**Table 9: Knowledge on Target Budget Program**

<b>Having Knowledge</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Yes	54	66.7
No	27	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2015*

The table 9 reveals the information on knowledge and understanding of target budget program of the selected female respondents. From the data fact it is found that majorities (66.7%) of the female respondents have clearer knowledge and understanding about target budget program but least (33.3%) of the respondents stated that they are still unknown about such types of program in VDC level. The data indicate that there is a meaningful and democratic implementation of the target budget program in Likhu VDC.

Reflecting upon efficiency of target budget, FGD 1 and 2 both agreed that now, the VDC council is meeting on proper time as well. Observation shows that the VDC has pasted the program list for the planning on the wall of the VDC office. And I found that the VDC is working accordingly. As I found that the VDC has not been failed in planning for a single time. Thus, the meeting, the allocation of budget and the receiving of budget by the Targeted Group have been happening in very proper time. Theoretically the program is raising human capability in the valley that is the reason behind why Women are acquiring knowledge about target budget program, changing their socio-economic situation and wellbeing and freedom that has also influenced social change and economic production.

However, the program is efficient in terms of planning and budget distribution but still the efficiently in terms of implementation are questionable. K1 said that “still few groups have not reported the progress since last three years”. Here according to

social justice theory respondents are becoming a rational and they are fulfilling their right and duties for evaluating implemented projects. Thus, research shows that Targeted group Program has been very efficient from the side of the supply but from the side of the implementation, still it is questionable.

**Table 10: Sources of Information about Target Budget Program**

Sources of Information	Frequency	Valid Percent
Radio	7	8.6
TV	8	9.6
Local FM	9	10.3
Newspapers	10	12.5
Friends	30	37.6
Above mention all	17	21.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 10 highlights about accessibility of various sources of information about target budget program for the selected female respondents. From the data information it is found that most (37.6%) of the respondents got information from their friend circle and least (9.6%) of the respondents got information from TV channels. Similarly, 21.4 percent respondents got information from all the sources, 18.3 percent got information from radio program and remaining 12.5 percent got information from various reading materials.

The data indicate that Women are raising their awareness level and empowerment process through multiple sources of information. But it is impossible without their changed socio-economic and educational status in the society. I can affirm that Women will get continuous support from target budget program as the impact of program can be appraised from the perspective of social transformation in Likhu VDC

**Table 11: Affecting Factors of Women Empowerment Programs**

Factors	Frequency	Valid Percent
Law	19	23.4
Target Budget Program	28	34.5
Society	16	19.7
Family	18	22.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 11 illustrates the information about affecting factors of women empowerment program from the view point of selected women respondents. From the

data information it is found that most (34.5%) of the respondents stated that target budget program is a major affecting factor and least (19.7%) of the respondents stated that social system is a vital factor for women empowerment. The data indicate that policy is a crucial factor to promote women empowerment because it is a policy implementation process that can reform various projects in local level.

FGD-1 also shows that for the women became aware and realize the importance of social and economic role of women. The program has also helped to strengthen the family environment by reducing family conflict. According to social justice theory the situation signifies that the program is distributing equal benefits to the member of society which was/is really prime concern of the justice theory.

**Table 12: Capacity Development Training Participated by Respondents**

<b>C/Development Training</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Health and sanitation	20	24.7
Awareness raising	30	37.0
Saving and credit	19	23.5
Advocacy for women	12	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 12 shows the information of women participation in various capacity development training. Most (37.0%) women participated in awareness raising and least (14.8%) women participated in women advocacy training. Similarly, women are also participated in health and sanitation as well as saving and credit trainings. Those trainings built capacity of the women that is necessary for women empowerment process. Now they are providing their social, economic and advocacy role in the society. K1 said that “still few women are not applying acquired knowledge and vocational skills in their life. Here according to social justice theory respondents are becoming a rational and they are realizing and understanding the objectives of provided trainings.

**Table 13: Reason for Implementing Target budget Program**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
For educational opportunity	19	23.5
For economic opportunity	20	24.7
For capacity development	12	14.8
For social inclusion	30	37.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 13 highlights about information on reasons for implementing target budget program according to perceptions of selected women respondents. From the given information it is found that most (37.0%) of the respondents stated that the main reason is providing economic opportunities to women and least (14.8%) respondents stated that it is just for structuring just society and social inclusion. Similarly, 24.7 percent respondents stated that it is for giving educational opportunities to women and remaining 23.7 percent respondents stated that it is only for capacity development of the deprived women groups in the VDC level. The data indicate that Women in Likhu VDC are also found to be politically aware. They argued through multiple reasons against implementing target budget program in local level. Some of literature also declared that implementing target budget program is a process of social, economic and political empowerment of women categorized as the backward groups, Dalit, Adibasi Janajatis, Madhesis, single women, Muslims, women with disability and marginalized.

According to my horizon of reflection what I found that the program is very relevant and beneficial for the commercial farming and community development. Similarly, from the vantage point of social justice theory, the situation also implies with second principle of justice theory in which women are now working for each other's for attaining equal social and economic opportunity or position in the society.

**Table 14: Relationship with Affecting Factors of WEP & TBP**

	Reasons for Implementing Target Budget Program (TBP)	Affecting Factors of Women Empowerment Programs (WEP)
Chi-Square	7.430 <sup>a</sup>	25.358 <sup>b</sup>
df	3	4
Asymp. Sig.	.059	.000

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 14 shows the information about value of chi square testing in between reasons for implementing target budget program and affecting factors of women empowerment program. Here, calculated value 0.059 is found less than 0.5 alpha values. Given fact indicated that chi square testing in 5% significance level found to be rejected and there is a dependent relationship between these two variables.

**Table 15: Outcomes of Women Empowerment Program**

<b>Opinions</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Necessary for Women	14	17.2
Reduce discrimination	23	28.3
Changing role of women	17	20.9
Develop just society	27	33.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 15 illustrates the information about opinions of selected female respondents on conducted women empowerment program in VDC level. From the data information it is found that most (33.6%) of the respondents claimed that such program can become a means for social development and just society and least (17.2%) of the respondents suggested that such types of program is necessary for Women empowerment. Similarly, 28.3 percent respondents suggested that such programs can reduce cast based discrimination practices in the society and remaining 20.9 percent respondents suggested that such types of training program can help to play changing role of women in the society. The data indicate that women are participating in various programs for personal and social benefits that can foster women empowerment process.

From the vantage point of effectiveness of target budget program as a researcher I found that the small contribution of the program has brought a positive effect in the society. The ratio of input and output is very good. Indeed I found more output from the less input in this VDC. The program, it is going towards the path of success for women empowerment process as women are seemed to be more conscious for participating in various women empowerment program in local level. Till the last year, the program was simply to complete but now the training that has conducted due to program becomes more productive. However, in terms of public hearing and social auditing, the VDC has found to be weaker. Most of the respondents of FGDs and key informant interviews were aware about even the meaning of social audit and public hearing. I also found the capacity of stakeholders has been really enhanced by the program.



**Table 16: Impacts of Target Budget Program for Respondents**

<b>Causes</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Social security	32	39.5
Women right	33	40.8
Child right	6	7.4
Pro marginal People	10	12.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 16 reveals the information about possible causes of target budget program from the view point of selected female respondents. From the data fact it is found that most (40.8%) of the respondents stated that target budget program may be implemented for securing women right and least (7.4%) of the respondents stated that such program can also secure child right. Similarly, 39.5 percent respondents stated that it may maintain social security and remaining 12.3 percent respondents stated that the program might be implemented for supporting livelihood activities of the marginal people. The data indicate that Women in Likhu VDC seem more responsible as they argued that the program is securing women right and social security in local level. Ultimately, such system has been achieved very good status and impact of women empowerment process in Likhu VDC.

From the vantage point of positive impact of the target budget program as a researcher I observed some tangible effect of program yearly. More specifically the voice and choice of Women are raising day by day and they are also involving in commercial farming, local business and contributing to their livelihood. Now, women started their own business so that they become independent from their dependency from their husband. I reflected that there is social transformation and women empowerment due to targeted group program. And I also realized that the program has become really an impactful. The daily lives activities of women and their family members have been changing significantly. I also reflected upon capability theoretical approach in which basic concern of human development is raising capability of the individual rather than the usual concentration on rising GDP and technical progress.

**Table 17: Types of Child Schooling of the Respondents**

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
In community school	54	66.6
In institutional school	11	13.5
Out of school	16	19.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 17 depicts information on types of child schooling of the female respondents. From the data fact it is found that majorities (66.6%) of the respondents' children are studying in community school and least (13.5%) of the respondents' children are studying in institutional school. And remaining 19.9 percent of the respondents' children are out of school. The data indicate that because of moderate economic and educational status of the parents children are getting educational opportunities.

**Table 18: Subject Enrollment by Children in Higher Education**

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Hotel management	3	3.7
JT/JTA	11	13.5
Arts/Education	24	29.6
Commerce	19	23.4
Health related	5	6.2
Engineering	3	3.7
No status	16	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 18 reveals the information about higher educational status of the respondents' children. From the given data it is found that most (29.6%) of the respondents' children are specifying their higher education life in Arts/education subject and least (equal 3.7%) of the respondents' children are getting specification in Hotel Management and Engineering subjects. The data indicate that comparatively very few students are involving in vocational education though it has a wider probability to grab employment opportunities in the labour market. The situation shows that according to human capability theory the local authorities are still giving higher emphasize to formal education that is crucial beyond its role in production and increment of human capability and choice.

**Table 19: Feeling Social Status by the Respondents**

<b>Social Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
High	13	16.0
Medium	34	41.9
Low	19	23.4
Significant low	15	18.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 19 reveals the information about feeling social status of the respondent in their perceptions. From the given fact it is found that most (41.9%) of the respondents expressed that they are feeling medium level social status and least (16.0%) of the respondents expressed that they are feeling high level social status. Similarly, 23.4 and 18.7 percent respondents expressed that they are still feeling low and significant low level social status in the society.

The data indicate that Women are still facing various social problems even though they have performed transformative and productive role in the society. The literate claimed that practicing such discriminatory situation was/is because of cultural integration and agreement among members of a society and favorable values and norms that has been perpetuating social stratification and elite dominated society. Similarly, from the vantage point of social justice theory, the situation also implies with second principle of justice theory in which women are now working for each other's for attaining equal social and economic opportunity or position in the society.

## **5.2 Economic Empowerment and Target Budget Program**

Economic empowerment is another key indicator for measuring empowerment of the women. Because of changing socio-cultural structures women are now also playing economic role in the family and society. Though, different households have different social, economic and occupational status but the concern is women are actively participating in economic activities because of impact of target budget program. Family wellbeing of selected households has been increasing because of women empowerment process. For reporting status of economic empowerment of the women this section analyzed given variables; land property, food sufficiency, occupational status of couples, involving in economic activities, participating in vocational trainings, reasons behind involving in vocational training, spending working hours for family livelihood, monthly income of respondents, annual family income, relationship between monthly income and feeling social status, annual expenditure of the households, monthly invest for child education, relationship between income and monthly invest for child education, keeping records of income and expenditure, discussion between husbands and wives for livelihood, statistical analysis of annual income and expenditure, status of credit loan of the respondents and investing credit by the respondents.

**Table 20: Status of Land Property**

Status of Land	Frequency	Valid Percent
< 5 ropani	31	38.2
5-9 ropani	27	33.3
10-24 ropani	12	14.8
Landless	11	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 20 highlights the information about land status of the respondents. From the given data fact it is found that most (38.2%) of the households are have less than 5 ropani land property and least (13.7%) of the households are found landless. Similarly, 33.3 percent households are holding 5-9 ropani land and remaining 14.8 percent households have 10-24 ropani land property. In one stance, the data indicate that still some Dalit and Janjati households are facing food deficit and economic problem as land is a major source of earning. But in another stance, the situation might have compelled to change the socio-economic role of the women for their livelihood.

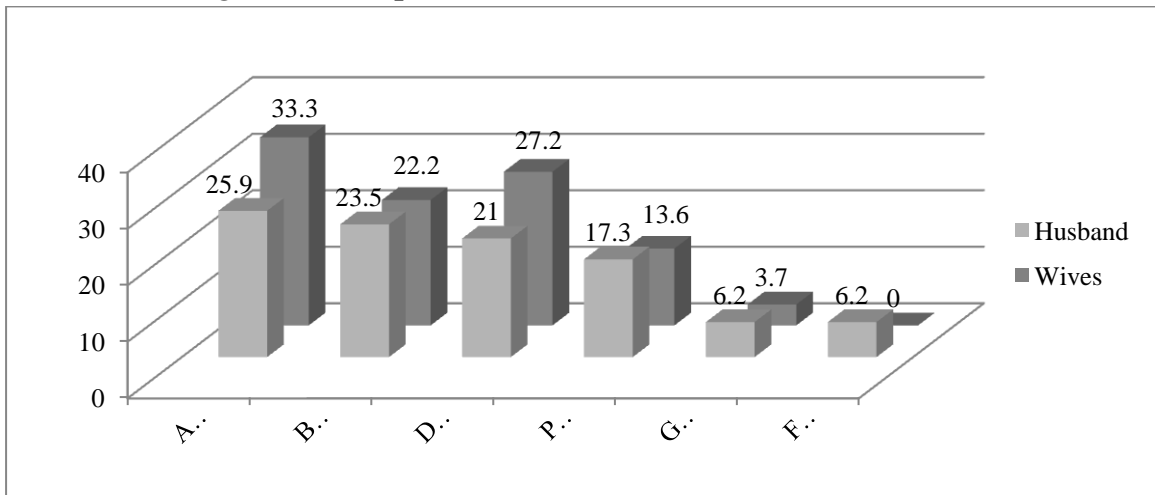
**Table 21: Food Sufficiency of the Respondents**

Duration	Frequency	Valid Percent
< 3 months	42	51.8
3-6 months	26	32.0
12 months	13	16.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 21 illustrates about actual status of food sufficiency of the respondents. From the table it is found that majorities (51.8%) of the households are still producing food grains only for less than 3 months and least (16.2%) of the households produce food for full year. Similarly, 32.0 percent households produce food grains only for 3-6 months. The data indicate that most of the households are able to overcome food deficit problem because of socio-economic role of the women. During key informant interview one of respondent argues that for food security she has been mobilizing in local market to sell her products outside and inside the village. Here some of literature also stated that a woman is considered empowered if she is able to visit places such as markets, medical stores, go outside the village.

**Figure 5: Occupational Status of Husbands and Wives**



**Source: Field Survey, 2017**

The figure 5 reveals about comparative information on occupational status of the house wives and husbands. From the data fact it is found that most (33.3%) wives and most (25.9%) husbands are following agriculture as a major occupation and least each (6.2%) husbands are involving in Government job and foreign employment whereas 3.7 percent wives are involving in Government job and none in foreign employment. The fact indicates that Women are involving in various occupational activities as their husband did. Very interestingly, Women are not involving in foreign employment where as some of their husbands are still involving in same occupation. Perhaps, Women are respecting their family system and equally providing socio-economic, cultural and parenting role in the society.

**Table 22: Involving in Economic Activities by the Respondents**

Involvement	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	53	65.4
Sometime	22	27.1
Never	6	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2017**

The table 22 highlights the information about involving in economic activities by the female respondents. From the data information it is found that majorities (65.4%) of the respondents preferred to participate in economic activities forever and ever and least (7.5%) do not prefer to involve in economic activities. Similarly, only 27.1 percent of the respondents are participating in such activities for sometimes. The data fact indicates that Women seem more responsible with economic security as they are

involving in economic activities in local level. Here powerless Women are increasing their economic and social power to take control of their family lives.

**Table 23: Vocational Trainings Participated by the Respondents**

Vocational Training	Frequency	Valid Percent
Tailoring	13	16.04
Food processing	15	18.51
Embroidery	16	19.75
Food/fruit cropping	18	22.22
Mushroom cultivation	19	23.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 23 highlights on vocational training participated by the respondents during implementing target budget program during women empowerment. From the data fact it is found that most (23.45%) women participated in mushroom cultivation and least (16.04%) women participated in tailoring training. The data indicate that women are becoming skillful to run their own economic activities. This has increased the annual earning size of the households. Several empirical studies have also found that involving in income generate activities by women have been increasing family income and productivity.

**Table 24: Relationship between Monthly Income and Social Status**

		Monthly Income	Feeling Social Status
Monthly Income for Livelihood	Pearson Correlation	1	-.233**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.037
	N	81	81
Feeling Social Status	Pearson Correlation	-.233**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.037	
	N	81	81

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 24 shows the statistical information about relationship between monthly income and feeling social status of the respondents. Researcher has set the hypothesis that there is a correlation between these two variables. From that table it seems clearer that correlation coefficient found significant in 100 percent significance level. Where p value (-0.233) found less than alpha value (0.5) that is why there is a moderate negative correlation in between these two variables.

**Table 25: Annual Expenditure of the Households**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
<90,000	27	33.3
90,000-1,49,000	35	43.2
1,50,000-1,99,000	16	19.7
>2,00,000	3	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 25 shows the information about annual expenditure of the households. From the data information it is found that most (43.2%) of the households expenses between 90,000-1, 49,000 NRs and least (3.8%) of the households expenses more than 2, 00,000 NRs. Similarly, 33.3 percent households expenses less than 90,000 NRs and remaining 19.7 percent households expenses in between 1,50,000-1,99,000 NRs only. The data indicate that women are supporting their livelihood equally with earnings and spending. Literatures also find that increasing women's share of cash income significantly increases the share of household budget allocated to daily needed (i.e. fooding and other items).

**Table 26: Monthly Invest for Child Education**

<b>Investment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
< 2,000	25	38.4
2,000-5,000	30	46.2
5,000-9,000	10	16.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 26 illustrates the information about monthly investment of the households for child schooling. From the given fact it is found that most (46.2%) of the households have invested around 2,000-5,000 NRs and least (16.4%) of the households have invested 5,000-9,000 NRs respectively. Similarly, remaining 38.4 percent of the households are investing less than 2,000 NRs only. The data indicate that parents are investing for child education only for achieve higher return from education as they understood education as a major source of earnings.

**Table 27: Relationship between Income and Monthly Invest for Child Education**

		Annual Income	Monthly Invest
Annual Income of the Households	Pearson Correlation	1	.249**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.027
	N	81	81
Monthly Invest for Child Education	Pearson Correlation	.249**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.027	
	N	81	81

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 27 illustrates the information on statistical relationship between annual incomes and monthly invests for child education. During data interpretation, the researcher set the hypothesis that there is a relationship between these two variables. From the given table it seems clearer that correlation coefficient found significant in 100 percent significance level. Where p value (0.249) found less than alpha value (0.5) that is why there is a moderate positive correlation in between annual income and monthly invest for child education of the respondents.

**Table 28: Keeping Records of Income and Expenditure**

Keeping Records	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	31	38.3
No	29	35.8
Planning to do	21	25.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 28 shows the information about updating financial management habit of the female respondents. From then data fact it is found that approximately equal percent of the respondents seems for and against such habit in which 38.3 percent are keeping their income and expenditure records. More interestingly, 25.9 percent of the respondents are planning to keep records of income and expenditure. The data indicate that women are planning to do so in future.

**Table 29: Discussion between Husbands and Wives for Livelihood**

Discussion	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	33	40.7
No	48	59.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 29 illustrates the information on discussion between husbands and wives just for copying strategies against vulnerable livelihood of the family members. From the given information it is found that majorities (59.3%) of the female



respondents are still giving less priority to build productive discussion about sustainable livelihood reasoned that 40.7 percent female respondents are being establishing significant discussion with their husbands for continuing their productive and significant livelihood activities. The data indicate that still women are neglecting the importance of sustainable livelihood that cannot be achieved without their collective efforts. During key informant interview one of respondents expressed that her husband never try to understand and respect her economic struggle. She also stated that she will be more than happy if they could sustain their livelihood with collective efforts.

**Table 30: Statistical Analysis of Annual Income and Expenditure**

<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Annual HHs Income</b>	<b>Annual HHs Expenditure</b>
Mean	2.3086	1.9012
Median	2.0000	2.0000
Mode	2.00	2.00
Std. Deviation	1.07984	0.80008
Skewness	0.939	0.482
Std. Error of Skewness	0.267	0.267
Range	4.00	3.00

**Source: Field Survey, 2017**

The table 30 highlights on statistical analysis of annual income and expenditure of the sample households. From the data information it is found that mean income is more than two lakh whereas mean expenditure found more than one lakh. Median value of income and expenditure is equal two lakh. Mode value of income is 1, 00,000-1, 49,000 and expenditure is 90, 000-1, 49,000. Standard deviation of income is 1, 07984 and expenditure is 80,008 only. Similarly, annual income and expenditure range seems 2, 00,000-2, 99,000 and 1, 50,000-1, 99,000 NRs respectively. And skewness value of income and expenditure indicated that the earning and expensing of households are normally distributed.

The data indicate that it was/is because of economic role of the women the annual income and expenditure level of each household in Likhu VDC seems to be effective. The literature also state that increased empowerment enables women to allocate more of the family's resources to food, and to different types of food. In fact the normal distribution of income and expenditure of the households indicate that each household are transforming their socio-economic situation day by day that will

become a determinant factor to increase educational status of the household throughout the VDC.

**Table 31: Status of Credit Loan of the Respondents**

<b>Credit Loan</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
5,000-24,000	27	48.2
25,000-49,000	20	35.7
50,000-99,000	7	12.5
>1,00,000	2	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 31 reveals the information on status of credit loan of the sample households. From the data information it is found that most (48.2%) of the sample households have 5,000-24,000 NRs credit loan and least (3.6 %) households have more than 1, 00,000 NRs credit loan. Similarly, 35.7 and 12.5 percent sample households have 25,000-49,000 and 50,000-99,000 NRs credit loan respectively. The data indicate that it was due to women empowerment each household are also mobilizing their credit capital for economic opportunities from various local level institutions.

**Table 32: Investing Credit by the Respondents**

<b>Investment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Commercial farming	19	33.9
Business	13	23.2
Animal husbandry	16	28.6
Personal enterprises	8	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 32 shows the information on status of investing credit capital by the sample households. From the given fact it is found that most (33.9%) of the households have invested in commercial farming and least (14.3%) of the households have invested in personal enterprises. Similarly, 28.6 and 23.2 percent households have invested in animal husbandry and local business respectively.

The data fact indicates that now Women are becoming both socially, politically and economically empowered that is why they are involving various economic activities. Some of women are also performing vocational farming and business collectively. However, Hindu literatures proved women to be both superior,

respect and to be inferior but the situation shows that without women empowerment it is almost impossible to transform rural development activities as well.

### **5.3 Political Empowerment and Target Budget Program**

Political empowerment is another key indicator to evaluate women empowerment process. Social, economic and political empowerments are not a mutually exclusive; one is directly or indirectly connected with each other's. Because of social and economic empowerment, women are also playing political role in the society. Women are not only involving in politics but also playing social role and responsibilities. They are now working for empowering women in the society and participating in village level in/formal meetings as outcomes of target budget program. More specifically, this section has dealt on given variables; listening radio and reading newspapers by the respondents, memberships in organization of the respondents, participation in VDC level meeting by the respondents, leadership role playing by the respondents, role of women in decision making, involvement of women in politics by the respondents and spend working hours for women empowerment.

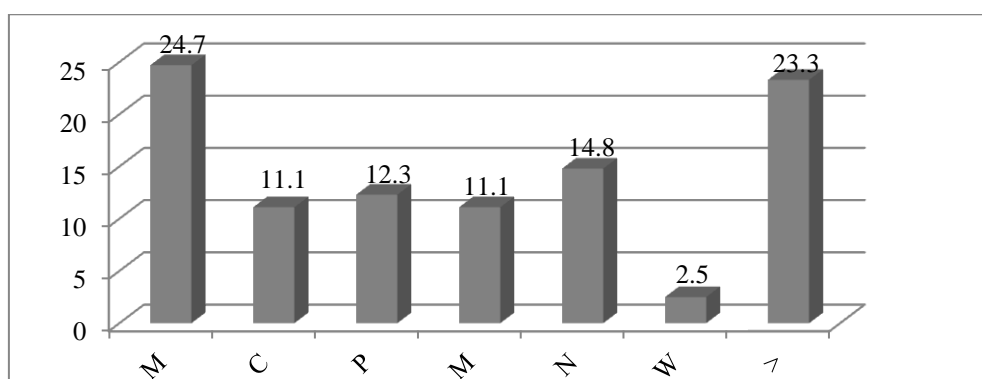
**Table 33: *Listening Radio and Reading Newspapers by the Respondents***

<b>Reading Habit</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Yes	42	51.8
No	23	28.4
Illiterate	16	19.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: *Field Survey, 2017***

The table 33 illustrates the information on reading newspaper habit of the female respondents. From the given table it is found that majorities (51.8%) of the female respondents prefer to go through newspaper reading but 28.4 percent female respondents do not prefer to follow same habit. Similarly, remaining 19.8 percent of the female respondents are found to be illiterate. The data indicate that women are getting information from related newspapers as right to information is basic source for empowerment. It does not mean that illiterate women cannot get any kind of information because they are getting informal knowledge from the socio-cultural structures. From the view point of social identity theory, the situation signifies that women are feeling them valuable and worthy and playing group role in a particular way as they are working with each other and also conscious with annual budget and target budget program.

**Figure 6: Memberships in Organization of the Respondents**



*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The figure 6 illustrates the information about organizational memberships that has received from selected sample respondents. From the data information it is found that most (24.7%) of the respondents have received membership from mother groups which is followed by 23.3 percent women who got more than three memberships and least (2.5%) of the respondents have received membership from ward level committee. Similarly, 14.8 and 12.3 percent women got membership from local NGOs and political parties. Finally equal 11.1 percent women got memberships from community forestry and micro credits organizations. The data indicate that because of empowerment Women are working collectively for perform rural transformation in Likhu VDC. According to some literature the situation implies that Women's empowerment is a necessary tool to uplift the living standard of Nepalese women and to enhance the overall development.

**Table 34: Participation in VDC Level Meeting by the Respondents**

Familiarity	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	53	65.4
No	28	34.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 34 depicts the information about familiarity of sample respondents on women empowerment process. From the data fact it is found that majorities (65.4%) of the respondents are well familiar with women empowerment process and least (34.6%) respondents are still unknown with such process. The data indicate that Women are participating in local level programs just for changing their power relationships with others that can be regarded as a major impact of women empowerment process. According to conceptual meaning of empowerment the

situation signifies that Women are arranging their activities from individual self-assertion to collective resistance, protest and mobilization that challenge basic power relations, for individuals and groups where class, caste, ethnicity and gender determine their access to resources and power relationships. FGD 1 and 2 both agreed that now, the VDC council is meeting on proper time as well. Observation shows that the VDC has pasted the program list for the planning on the wall of the VDC office. As I found that the VDC has not been failed in planning for a single time. Thus, the meeting, the allocation of budget and the receiving of budget by the targeted group have been happening in very proper time.

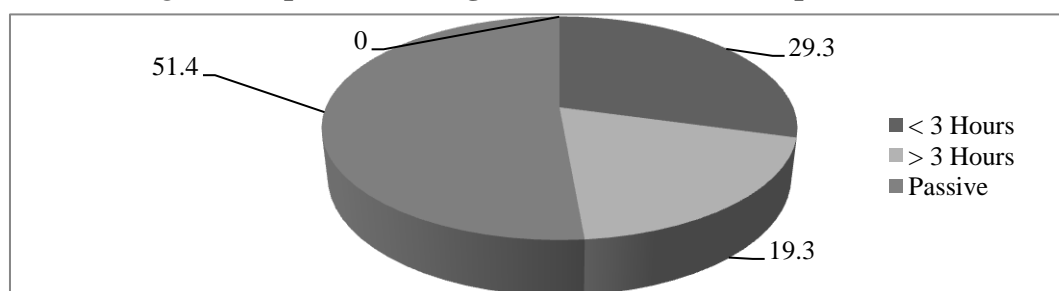
**Table 35: Leadership Role Playing by the Respondents**

<b>Leadership Role</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Yes	16	19.8
Not yet	29	35.8
May be in future	36	44.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

The table 35 highlights the information on leadership role playing by the female respondents. From the data fact it is found that most (44.4%) of the respondents said that they are planning to do so in near future and least (19.8%) of the respondents stated that they are playing leadership role in the society. Similarly, remaining 35.8 percent of the respondents are not involving for providing leadership role in own society. The data indicate that Women are becoming politically empowered too because most of them are realizing importance of their advocacy and leadership role in the society. Literature also argues that political empowerment implies unified meaning of negative freedom from arbitrary arrest, exclusion and positive freedom to vote, participate in political life or actual exercise of political freedom to the women. From the perspective of capability theory, the information implies that the respondent also interpreted her situation and condition by self. She has also playing leadership and advocacy role in the society by changing her socially structured action to rational action in a transformative manner.

**Figure 7: Spend Working Hours for Women Empowerment**



**Source: Field Survey, 2017**

The figure 7 shows the information about spend working hours for women empowerment process by the sample respondents. From the data information it is found that majorities (51.4%) of the respondents are still passive on women empowerment process and least (19.3%) of the respondents have been spending more than three hours' time daily. Similarly, remaining 29.3 percent of the respondents have been spending less than three hours' time daily. The data indicate that Women are becoming socially and politically empowered as they are found to be more responsible for supporting women empowerment process. No doubt, the situation will lead sustainability of women empowerment process in Likhu VDC.

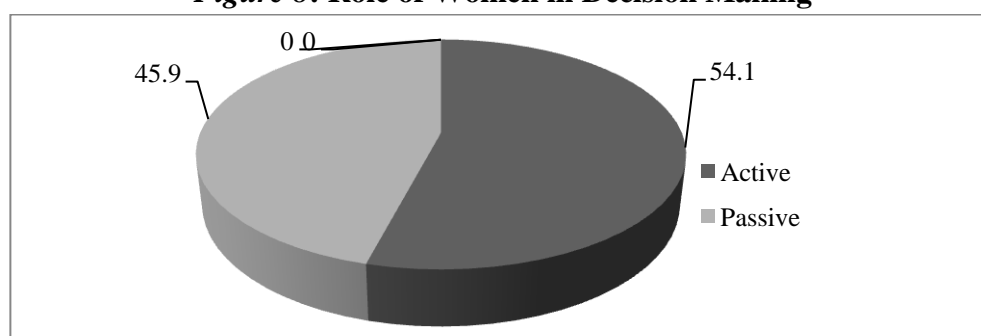
**Table 36: Involvement of Women in Politics by the Respondents**

Involvement	Frequency	Valid Percent
Of course	34	41.9
No	47	58.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2017**

The table 36 reveals the information about necessarily involvement of women in politics from the view point of sample respondents. From the data fact it is found that majorities (58.1%) of the respondents expressed their view against involvement in politics and least (41.9%) of the respondents expressed that women involvement in local politics is essential for women empowerment process.

**Figure 8: Role of Women in Decision Making**



**Source: Field Survey, 2015**

The figure 8 reveals the information on actual role of women in decision making process according to the view point of sample respondents. From the data fact it is found that majorities (54.1%) of the respondents claimed that they are playing active role in decision making process and least (45.9%) of the respondents claimed that still they are playing passive role in decision making process. The data indicate that meaningful participating of women in decision making process advocates about the provision of rights to women. Respondents in the second group argued that still there is not accessibility to all Women to participate in skill development training because of limited opportunities. However, in contrary they accepted that because of the program, some of the women have been getting opportunities to involve in various skill developments training as well.

**CHAPTER: VI**  
**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

This concluding chapter dealt on discussions of findings and conclusion of the study. Target budget program has been providing capacity and skill development training opportunities to the women in local level. Women are now playing social, economic as well as political role because of positive impact of target budget program implemented in local level. However, local and central bodies must pay attention on sustainability of program for fostering women empowerment and local development.

**6.1 Summary of Findings**

Target budget program implemented in local level has been empowering women. There is a significant relationship between women empowerment and target budget program. Studied variables related to social indicator (see in Box-A) indicate

that women in Likhu VDC are becoming socially empowered due to the outcomes of target budget program. Women are playing social role and participating in different socio-cultural

<b>Key Findings: Box-A</b>	
	71.60% respondents are Hindu & 12.34% are Christian religion.
	42.0 % respondents completed lower secondary level & training.
	40.7% husbands completed secondary level education.
	43.3% respondents have 4-6 numbers of children.
	9 respondents with 1-2 children completed lower secondary level.
	67.9% women stated people are positive on female education.
	56.8% respondents are still facing discriminatory practices.
	62.0% women strongly agreed role of education in empowerment.
	33.3% respondents stated unknown about target budget program.
	34.5% respondents stated TBP as major factor for empowerment.
	37.0% respondents participated in awareness raising trainings.
	37.0% respondents stated TBP providing economic opportunities.
	Chi value, 0.059 shows dependent relation between FWE & TBP.
	13.5% respondents' children are studying in institutional school.
	Minimal respondents enrolled children in technical education.
	41.9% respondents felt medium level social status in society.

functions. Women are successfully establishing their identity as social category is defined along stereotypical as held in culture but identity covers full range of



probability (Stets & Bruke, 2000). The implemented program has been provided various capacities and skills development training to women. Non-formal education or training has been increasing human capability and choice in local level (Sen, 1985). Because of that women are supporting their family livelihood by involving in own local business and they are also creating self/employment opportunities.

Similarly, studied variables related to economic indicator (see in Box-B) also indicate that women from Likhu VDC are also becoming economically empowered due to impact of target budget program. Women are now playing economic role in the family and society. From the view point of empowerment the literature claimed that economic empowerment is the process of managing sources of income and financial

income. Here economically empowered women are planning sustain their economic activities even in the absence of the target budget program. Though, some women are still

<b>Key Findings: Box-B</b>	
	38.2% HHs have <5 ropani land and least 13.7% found landless.
	51.8% HHs are producing food grains only for less than 3 months.
	33.3% wives & 25.9% husbands are following farming occupation.
	Correlation between monthly income and satisfaction found -0.233.
	65.4% respondents are supporting family livelihood regularly.
	Women participated in various skill development training.
	Most (43.2%) households expense between 90,000-1,49,000 NRs.
	Most (46.2%) HHs invested 2,000-5,000 NRs for child education.
	Correlation between income & child education found 0.249.
	38.3% respondents are keeping income and expenditure records.
	59.3% respondents have no planning about sustainable livelihood.
	Skewness, income 0.939 & expend 0.482, normally distributed.
	Most (48.2%) HHs has 5,000-24,000 NRs credit loan.
	Most (33.9%) HHs invested credit loan in commercial farming.

lagging in getting training and other support from the VDC. So, those who already got support are confident enough to sustain the benefit that they achieved but those who never get any support still are lagging to get support cannot go ahead. According to social justice theory, in this situation local stakeholders must think on their right and duties to the members of society for making equality in opportunities (Ritzer, 2000).

Likewise, studied variables related to political indicator (see Box-C) also indicate that women from Likhu VDC are also becoming politically empowered due to the impact of target budget program. Women are now playing political role in the

society. Women are actively playing leadership role, advocating for women empowerment and mobilizing women groups for ensuring their civic rights. Now women are also creating demand while implementing target budget program. The raising level of women empowerment shows effectiveness of program from social, economic and political aspects. However, women have not any alternative solution to implement such

<b>Key Findings: Box-C</b>	
	51.8% respondents listens radio and read newspapers.
	24.7% respondents are member of mother groups.
	65.4% respondents understood women empowerment.
	20% respondents are playing leadership role in society.
	44.4% respondents planning to play leadership role.
	51.4% respondents found passive for empowering others.
	58.1% respondent found passive for political role.
	54.15% respondents found active in decision making.

programs in the absence of budget. But women can advocate and delegate for continuing such programs as they are becoming capable and empowered. Beneficiaries claimed that their capacity and skill will be sustained for running income generates activities. Theoretically this can be said target budget program has been raising human capability. Socialchoices, economic wellbeing and political freedom of women also have been increasing. Role of women has been influencing social change and influencing economic production, which is gist of capability approach(Sen, 1985).

## **6.2 Conclusion**

Social development is concept of sociology that cannot be performed without active social role of the women. Social role of women not only trigger social and local development process but also create women to play economic role in family level and political role in social level. The study came up with the conclusion that women empowerment is the process of producing active and thoughtful women in the society who can play socio-economic as well as political role in the society for betterment of social development activities. The degrees of women empowerment process thus motivates and encourages women to play socio-economic and political role in any particular society. Women from Likhu VDC are becoming empowered due to outcomes and impact of target budget program. The study shows that implementation of target budget program is one of the determinant factors for women empowerment.

Based on field observation, field survey, focus group discussion and key informant interview this research study found the mixed situations in terms of impact of target budget program in women empowerment. The study concluded that socio-economic situation of sample household found satisfactory. Women are supporting their livelihood by involving in various economic activities. Their socio-economic role has been transforming daily life styles of the family members. Most of the parents are educated and investing for child education too. There is good accessibility of women in target budget program that has been providing opportunities to participate in various capacity and skill development trainings. And Women are becoming more socially, economically and politically empowered due to implementation of target budget program.

Basically the program is found to be very relevant. If the program was not implemented there I cannot imagine such fast and rapid social change especially the changes of daily lives of the each ethnic group. And Women could not get opportunities to involve in various skill and capacity development trainings which are now becoming determinant factors for their empowerment. Now, Women are independent and they are also becoming socio-economically aware and empowered due to the program. However, limitation of budget and access and awareness of people are the area to be improved. The program is found to efficient. The study also found that local authorities are considering very good and wise utilization of resources (time, money and human resources).

For the effectiveness, the study noticed that the program is really effective. It has helped women to be aware. Now, people have started the demand. The local settlement has become neat and clean. They have developed the trend saving by operating a cooperative. The main impact is the social and economic transformation. However, for the sustainability, the study found the mixed responses. For the same level of development, study found that the size of budget is not sufficient as well as it cannot reach to each ward and each community of targeted group if the program collapses. Nonetheless, looking the achievement sustainability, as a researcher I became quite convince that the improvement in social and economic life of the targeted people will long last even if program vanishes. The raising level of Women empowerment can also help to perform developmental role of women in Likhu VDC. Now Women are becoming aware and skillful and they are supporting their livelihood, providing good parenting and also playing advocacy role in the society.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Household Survey Questionnaire

Respondents: - Married women only

Ward No. :

Date:

Name of the Respondent:

Age:

Name of VDC:

District:

S.N.	Questions: Social Empowerment	Response Categories	Code
1	What is your religion?	Hindu Buddhist Christian Others	1 2 3 4
2	What is the educational status of your husband?	Non formal Primary Lower secondary Secondary Tertiary	1 2 3 4 5
3	What is your educational status?	Non formal Primary Lower secondary Secondary Tertiary	1 2 3 4 5
4	Do you feel there are different attitudes towards the educations of males and females?	Yes No	1 2
5	What is your opinion on Women empowerment program?	Necessary for women Reduce discrimination Changing women role Developing just society	1 2 3 4
6	What could be the reasons behind target budget program?	Social security Women right Child right Pro marginal people	1 2 3 4

7	What do you think target budget program should be implemented for?	Educational opportunity	1
		Economic opportunity	2
		Capacity development	3
		Social inclusion	4

8	Target Budget Program has positively affected lives of Women	Strongly agree	1
		Neutral	2
		Disagree	3
9	Is there significant role of education and training in women empowerment?	Strongly agree	1
		Neutral	2
		Disagree	3
10	What types of training are provided to the women?	Awareness raising	1
		Health and sanitation	2
		Skill development	3
		IGA and leadership role	4
		Financial management	5
		Advocacy for Women	6

11	Participated in specific trainings?	Tailoring	1
		Seed production	2
		Food processing	3
		Embroidery	4
		Food/fruit cropping	5
		Mushroom cultivation	6
		Animal caring	7
12	What is the impact of such training in your life?	It has raised my voice	1
		Raised awareness level	2
		Increased my earning	3
		Motivated for leadership	4
13	How many children you have?	1-2	1
		2-4	2
		4-6	3



14	In which school you are enrolling your children?	In community school In institutional school Out of school	1 2 3
15	Subject enrollment by your child's in higher education?	Hotel management JT/JTA Arts/Education Commerce Health related Engineering No status	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
16	Are you facing caste based discrimination even in public places?	Yes No	1 2
17	Relationship with other so called dominant women groups?	Mutual relationship One way relationship Poor Jealousy	1 2 3 4
18	How you feel your social status in your society?	High Medium Low Significant low	1 2 3 4
<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Questions: Economic Empowerment</b>	<b>Response Categories</b>	<b>Code</b>
1	Status of land property?	< 5 Ropani 5-9 Ropani 10-24 Ropani Landless	1 2 3 4
2	If yes, how many months does your family have food sufficiency in a year?	< 3 months 3-6 months 12 months	1 2 3
3	Primary occupation of husband?	Agriculture Business Seasonal Business Private Job Government Job	1 2 3 4 5

		Foreign Job	6
4	What is your primary occupation for livelihood?	Agriculture Business Daily Wages Private Job Government Job Foreign Job	1 2 3 4 5 6
5	Are you equally likely to engage in economic activities?	Yes Sometime Never	1 2 3
6	Annual Income of HH?	<1,00,000 1,00,000-1,49,000 1,50,000-1,99,000 2,00,000-2,99,000 >3,00,000	1 2 3 4 5
7	Approximately monthly expenditure of the respondents	<99000 100000-149000 150000-199000 >200000	1 2 3 4
8	How many working hour you spend for livelihood activities?	6 Hours 8 Hours 12 Hours	1 2 3
9	How much is your monthly income to contribute livelihood?	<10000 10000-15000 >15000	1 2 3
10	Do you frequent keep record of your expenditure and investment?	Yes Not yet	1 2
11	Why you involve in IGA training?	To involve in business To involve in enterprises To contribute livelihood To provide good parenting	1 2 3 4
12	Do you have any credit/loan? How much?	5000-24000 25000-49000	1 2

		50000-99000 >100000	3
13	In which purpose you invest your loan?	Commercial farming Business Animal Husbandry Personal Enterprise	1 2 3 4
14	Have you and your husband ever discussed about sustainable livelihood?	Yes No	1 2
<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Questions: Political Empowerment</b>	<b>Response Categories</b>	<b>Code</b>
1	Do you usually read a newspaper at least once a week?	Yes No	1 2
2	Dou you usually listen to the radio?	Yes No	1 2
3	Do you frequent participate in VDC level meeting and program?	Yes No May be in future	1 2 3
4	What is decision making role of women in your family?	Active Passive	1 2
5	Member of organization?	Mother group Community forestry Political party Micro credit NGO Ward committee	1 2 3 4 5 6

6	Are you familiar with women empowerment process and impact?	Yes No	1 2
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7	How many working hour do you spend for empowerment of Women?	<3 Hours >3 Hours	1 2
8	Should women be involved in politics?	Of course	1

		No	2
	Are you playing leadership role in the society?	Yes Not yet May be in future	
9	How much is your monthly invest to child education?	<2000 2000-5000 5000-9000 >10000	1 2 3 4
10	Do you have knowledge on Target Budget Program for women empowerment?	Yes No	1 2
11	Source of information about Target Budget Program and Women Empowerment	Radio TV Local FM Newspapers Books Friends Political Cadres Above all	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
12	What are the determinant factors for women empowerment program?	Law Target Budget program Society Family	1 2 3 4

**Thank you for your better cooperation!**

## **Appendix B: Focus group discussion guideline (Women Groups)**

1. Knowledge about the 35% budget for targeted group
2. Budget and social harmony/ social conflict
3. Budget and livelihood of targeted group
4. Knowledge of VDC council and participation
5. Target program detail
6. Claim and complain about the budget
7. Capacity enhance by budget/ examples
8. Demand created--- accepted or rejected
9. Social audit and public hearing budget/ implementation
10. Positive or negative change due to budget or no change
11. What are the changes? List them.
12. Sustain the project in absence of budget

**Appendix C: Focus group discussion guidelines (VDC secretary and women activist)**

1. Budget/ social harmony/ social conflict
2. Budget amount sufficient or less is okay or needs more?
3. Budget and livelihood of target group/ examples
4. VDC council meeting/ participant who when?
5. Demand created or not? How happened?
6. Budget when? How? Implementation? Examples.
7. Claim of beneficiaries?
8. Budget/ capacity enhancement/ examples
9. Social audit and public hearing.
10. Who are responsible to continue the program? How can the change be sustained?

#### **Appendix D: Key informant interview guidelines**

1. Knowledge about target budget program
2. Budget and social harmony/ social conflict
3. Budget and livelihood of targeted group
4. Knowledge of VDC council and participation
5. Target program detail
6. Claim and complain about the budget
7. Capacity enhance by budget/ examples
8. Demand created--- accepted or rejected
9. Social audit and public hearing budget/ implementation
10. Positive or negative change due to budget