

Empowerment of Rural Women through Drinking Water Projects

*A Case Study of Drinking Water Projects in Shankhar VDC of
Syangja*

A Thesis

Submitted to

Faculty of Humanities and social Sciences

Department of Rural Development, Patan Multiple Campus (TU)

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master Degree

in Rural Development

Submitted By

Min Prasad Basnet

Roll No: 220165 /2070

TU Regd. No: 17577-95

Department of Rural Development

Patan Multiple Campus

Lalitpur, Nepal

April 2016

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Min Prasad Basnet has completed a thesis entitled “**Empowerment of Rural Women through drinking water projects: A Case Study of Drinking Water Projects in Shakhar VDC of Syangja**” under my supervision for partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this thesis is recommended for final approval.

Gopal Khadka
Supervisor
Department of Rural Development
Patan Multiple Campus
Lalitpur, Nepal

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Mr.Min Prasad Basnet** entitled **“Empowerment of Rural Women: A Case Study of Drinking Water Projects in Shakhar VDC of Syangja”** has been approved by an evaluation committee. The committee comprises of the followings:

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

.....

Mr. Gopal Khadka
Supervisor/ Head

.....

Mr. Bimal Khadka
Coordinator

.....

.....

External

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research “Empowerment of Rural Women through drinking water projects : A Case Study of Drinking Water Projects in Shakhar VDC of Syangja was carried out to Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master Degree in Rural Development. I extend my sincere thanks to my research supervisor Mr. Gopal Khadka, Head of Department, Department of Rural Development, Patan Multiple Campus, Lalitpur, Nepal for his incessant support, astute suggestions and guidance that he provided during this research project.

Similarly, I would like to express my wholehearted gratitude to Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal, Phase II (RWSSP WN-II) and District Development Committee, DWASH Unit, Syangja for providing me with this opportunity of research.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my *teachers* and all other faculties of the Department of Rural Development for providing me with valuable insights in various issues related with this study.

My special thanks go to Mr. Bhesh Raj Adhikari and Mr. Yagya Raj Joshi, Field Coordinators and Mr. Ram Prasad Pathak, Health Promoter of DWASH Unit, Syangja, who incessantly helped and encouraged me during my whole research. Their assistance in field works especially in conducting FGDs and arrangement for Interviews were outstandingly remarkable. Likewise, I extend my special thanks to Mr. Amrit Kumar Bhandari, Lecturer, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara for his valuable support in the whole research process.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the residents of Sakhar VDC, VWASHCC Members, Representatives of different Water, Supply and Sanitation Users Committees and for their cordial support and co-operation during my fieldwork. I also thank all the team members of RWSSP

WI –II including Chief Technical Adviser, Ms. Sanna- Leena Rautanen, Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist, Mr. Chandra Bhakta Bista, Planning and Capacity Building Specialist Mr. Narayan Prasad wagle, Social Development specialist Ms. Sangita Khadka and Technical Monitoring Specialist, Mr Shirish A Adhikari for their valuable suggestions and encouragement.

Last but not the least, I express my sincere gratitude to my family members including my father Mr. Bishnu Prasad Basnet, Mother Ms. Tulasi Basnet, my spouse Sushila KC, daughter Sumina and my elder brother Bharat Bahadur Basnet for assisting and encouraging me during odd hours of day and night and again awakening me whenever I was off-track from the dissertation related works.

I have felt strengthened a lot from the cordial co-operation of all above mentioned people and parties. I am still in a learning phase in context of research-related works. Therefore, I might have made several mistakes during my research works. In fact, no one is perfect and perfection is an illusion that can never be translated into reality. Thus, I entirely bear all the errors happened during the research work.

04 April, 2016

.....

Min Prasad Basnet

Abstract

*This study, **Empowerment of Rural Women through drinking water projects, A case study of drinking water projects in Sakhar VDC of Syangja** was carried out in Sakhar VDC of Syangja district. Three-fold specific objectives of the study are; to analyze the roles of women in water projects in terms of leadership, management, decision making process and other activities of the WUSC, to assess the ways the time saved is bringing about changes in the lives of the local women in terms of their triple roles and to evaluate the way the water supply component of the intervention helped women in terms of their welfare, access, consent, participation and control.*

This study employed both exploratory as well as descriptive research designs. 119 households were sampled using stratified sampling from the universe of 1048 Households. This study was mainly based on primary information. The quantitative and qualitative primary data were collected through household survey, interview, FGD and important relevant data from secondary source.

From this study, It was found that deep concern of Women about the improved DWSS was one of the major factors behind the success, 98.3 percent of the respondents had prior-awareness about the commencement DWSSs, 94.1 percent of the respondents were found to be aware and participated in the process of formation of WUSC, 57.1% of the respondents had the feeling that women are more active than men in the WUSC, 86.5% percent respondents had continuously been involving in O&M, high proportion feels that DWSSs saved a large part of this time invested in fetching water and saved time of women was being used in productive sector and work load of women was greatly lessened after the DWSSs. Involvement in income generation, development of leadership, influential role in family and communal decision making processes, development of participatory attitude and desire for participating in development activities, increased control over family assets, etc. were the main contributions of the DWSSS in the empowerment of local women.

Women Capacity Building activities for Sustainable water supply, Integration of Livelihood & IGAs in water projects, Linkage and coordination with other development activities, Informal education along with WASH Education and gender Meaningful Women Participation in all development cycle are recommended for further empowerment of Women of Sakhar VDC.

LIST OF TABLES

Table Headings	Pages
4.1 Caste/ethnic Composition of this VDC	29
4.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity	30
4.3 Distribution of the Respondents by Religion	31
4.4 Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group	32
4.5 Distribution of the Respondents by Education	32
4.6 Distribution of the Respondents by Occupation	33
4.7 Distribution of Respondents by Average Monthly Income	34
4.8 Distribution of Respondents by Family Type	35
4.9 Distribution of Respondents by Family Size	36
4.10 Distribution of Respondents by View towards Early Concerned Ones about Drinking Water Facilities	37
4.11 Distribution of Respondents by Prior-Awareness of Drinking Water Projects	38
4.12 Distribution of Respondents by Awareness on the Formation of WUSC	39
4.13 Distribution of Respondents by Attitude towards Involvement of Women in Drinking Water Projects	40
4.14 Distribution of Respondents by their View more Activism within WUSC	41
4.15 Distribution of Respondents by their Involvement in Operation and Maintenance	42
4.16 Distribution of Respondents by Source of Fetching Water	44
4.17 Distribution of Respondents by Attitude towards Saving of Time	45
4.18 Distribution of Respondents by Time Spent for Fetching Water	46
4.19 Distribution of Respondents by the Multiple Use of Water	47
4.20 Distribution of Respondents by View towards Convenience due to Water Supply	48
4.21 Distribution of Respondents by Division of Labour in the Households	49
4.22 Distribution of Respondents by the Use of Saved Time in Productive Sector	52
4.23 Distribution of Respondents by the Area of Using Saved Time (N=111)	53
4.24 Distribution of Respondents by the Income Generating Activity (N=69)	54
4.25 Distribution of Respondents by their View on Activeness on Male and Female	55

4.26	Distribution of Respondents by Confidence Level in Meetings	56
4.27	Women Representation in WUSCs	57
4.28	Distribution of Respondents by State of Domestic Decision-Making Process	58
4.29	Distribution of Respondents by Representation of Family in Gatherings and Meetings related to Water Projects	59
4.30	Distribution of Respondents by their Desire to Participate in Up-Coming Development Activities Too	61
4.31	Distribution of Respondents by their Involvement in Development Activities	62
4.32	Distribution of Respondents by their Involvement in Different Development Related Groups	63
4.33	Distribution of Respondents by Control over Family Assets and others	64

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Headings	Pages
2.1 Conceptual Framework of the Study	23
4.1 Distribution of the Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity	30
4.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Religion	31
4.3 Distribution of Respondents by Type of Family	35
4.4 Distribution of Respondents by View towards Early Concerned Ones about Drinking Water Facilities	37
4.5 Comparison of Involvement in Drinking Water Projects	40
4.6 Distribution of Respondents by their View more Activism within WUSC	42
4.7 Distribution of Respondents by Attitude towards Saving of Time	45
4.8 Distribution of Respondents by the Multiple Use of Water	47
4.9 Distribution of Respondents by the Use of Saved Time in Productive Sector	52
4.10 Distribution of Respondents by the Income Generating Activity (N=69)	54
4.11 Distribution of Respondents by their View on More Active Members	55
4.12 Distribution of Respondents by Representation of Family in Gatherings and Meetings related to Water Projects	60
4.13 Distribution of Respondents by their Desire to Participate in Up-Coming Development Activities Too	61

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	=	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs	=	Community Based Organisations
DDC	=	District Development Committee
DWASH Unit	=	District WASH Unit
DWSSS	=	Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme
FGD	=	Focus Group Discussion
FY	=	Fiscal Year
GOs	=	Governmental Organizations
ICIMOD	=	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IGAs	=	Income Generating Activities
INGOs	=	International Non-Governmental Organizations
MA	=	Master of Arts
NGOs	=	Non-Governmental Organizations
O&M	=	Operation and Maintenance
PCL	=	Proficiency Certificate Level
RWSSP WN-II	=	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal, Phase II
SLC	=	School Leaving Certificate
UNDP	=	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	=	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	=	Village Development Committee
V-WASH-CC	=	VDC Level Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Coordination Committee
WAD	=	Women and Development
WASH	=	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCFs	=	Ward Citizen Forums
WID	=	Women in Development
WUSC	=	Water Supply and Sanitation Users' Committee

Table of Contents

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	i
LETTER OF APPROVAL	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
Abstract	v
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
Chapter I	
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the study	6
1.5 Limitation of the study	6
1.6 Organization of the Study	7
CHAPTER II	
LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2.1 Theoretical Review	8
2.1.1 Empowerment	8
2.1.2 Women Empowerment	11
2.1.3 Indicators of Women's empowerment	12
2.1.4 Gender and Gender Relations	14
2.1.5 Concept of Participation and People's Participation in Development	16
2.2 Literature Review	17
2.3 Conceptual Framework of the Study	22
2.4 Meaning of Operational Terms of the Research	23
Chapter III	
RESEARCH METHODS	24
3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area	24
3.2 Research Design	24
3.3 Universe and Sampling	25
3.4 Nature and Source of Data	25
3.5 Data Collection Techniques	25

3.5.1 Household survey	25
3.5.2 Interview	25
3.5.3 Key Informants' Interview	26
3.5.4 Focus group discussion.....	26
3.6 Procedure of Data Analysis and Presentation	26
Chapter IV	
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	27
4.1 Brief Introduction to the Study Area	27
4.1.1 Physical Setting of the Study Area.....	27
4.1.2 Cultural Setting.....	28
4.2 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents	29
4.2.1 Caste and Ethnicity of the Respondents	29
4.2.2 Religion of the Respondents.....	30
4.2.3 Age of the Respondents	31
4.2.4 Education of the Respondents	32
4.2.5 Occupation of the Respondents	33
4.2.6 Monthly Income of the Respondents	33
4.2.7 Family type of the Respondent.....	34
4.2.8 Family Size of the Respondents	35
4.3 Women Participation in the Installation of Drinking Water Projects.....	36
4.3.1 Participation of Women in the Drinking Water Projects.....	36
4.3.1.1 Early Concern of Drinking Water Facilities	36
4.3.1.2 Prior-Awareness of Drinking Water Projects	38
4.3.1.3 Formation of WUSC	39
4.3.2 Involvement of Women	39
4.3.3 Participation of Respondents in the Executive Committee	41
4.3.4 Participation of Women in Operation and Maintenance	42
4.4 Role of Water Supply Schemes in changing Domestic Roles of Women.....	43
4.4.1 Source of Collecting Water	43
4.4.2 Changing Working Pattern of the Respondent with the Project.....	44
4.4.2.1 Time Saving of Water	45
4.4.2.2 Multiple Usage of Water	47
4.4.2.3 Convenience	48
4.4.2.4 Change in Household Division of Labour	48

4.4.3 Management of Triple Roles	50
4.5 Role of Water Supply Schemes in Women Empowerment.....	51
4.5.1 Use of Saved Time	51
4.5.2 Dimensions of Women's Empowerment	53
4.5.2.1 Involvement in Income-Generation	54
4.5.2.2 Leadership Development.....	55
4.5.2.3 Involvement in Decision-Making.....	58
4.5.2.4 Participation in Development Activities	60
4.5.2.5 Control over Family Properties and Resources	63
Chapter V	
SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION	66
5.1 Summary.....	66
5.2 Recommendations.....	70
5.3 Conclusion	71

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Water resources are variable in time and space. Their availability is affected by many natural, environmental, geographical and meteorological parameters. During summer monsoon, there is plenty of water; and during other seasons, there is significant water deficit. The water availability is dominated basically by monsoon precipitation. (Chaulagain, 2003).

Water is fundamental to the material basis of both life and livelihoods. Access to safe drinking water should be considered a basic right of any citizen and the provision of drinking water ought to be the primary duty and responsibility of state. Water is life. Water serves a variety of purposes. It is used for domestic needs such as drinking, washing, bathing, kitchen garden, livestock rearing and other productive uses. Water scarcity affects the rural household economy and environment in multifarious ways, resulting in hardships such as the necessity of carrying heavy pots of water from several kilometers every day to meet household needs (ICIMOD, 2002).

Nepal, being the second richest country of the world in fresh water resources, people are depriving of safe drinking water. However, Nepal faces an enormous task in providing potable water facilities to a rapidly growing population widely scattered over its rugged terrain. Only one third of all households have access to piped water facility. Slightly more than one third obtains drinking water from tube or covered wells. The rest utilize open reservoirs and streams as sources of drinking water. Access to piped water is available to 58 percent of urban households while only 31 percent of the rural households enjoy this facility (Rana, 2001). Traditional ponds, springs, waterfalls and rivers are the major sources of drinking water.

Various reports are showing that with the lack of safe drinking water many Nepali villagers are facing waterborne diseases. Piped water is very easy to collect and few chances are there to be water dirty polluted (Thapa, 2002). Moreover this situation relates to the burden undertaken by Nepalese women to fetch water for family members and cattle that has direct manifestations in their personal health, workloads, participation in productive and community works. As women are the ones who fetch water, they value improvements in water supplies more than men and so have a vested interest in keeping the system functioning (The World Bank, 1993). Sustainability of water supply projects is dramatically enhanced when women have key responsibilities.

With the march of time and engendering of development paradigms (Women in Development and Gender and Development), more gender sensitive and women specific policies and strategies have been evolving in drinking water sector. In Nepal, no proper study are done concerning with water and society and water and gender. Various policies and planning are made focusing on fulfilling water need of people but their implementation has been remaining very weaker ones.

A study of gender relations, which encompasses the interactions between women and man in various domains and power relations between the two sexes, is a prerequisite the understanding the situations of women. Gender systems are linked to a larger social formations, such as religion, ethnic identity etc. and so are reflected in social traditions, but are also dynamic in nature, influenced by forces of social and economic changes (Rana, 2001). Any gender sensitive development information, for instance drinking water supply system, is expected to play a vital role in facilitating positive changes in gender relations. Helping to organize women users to have equal access and ownership along their male counterparts in management of drinking water supply system is an example. However, as Upreti (1999) claims, water sector activities need to be gender-sensitive at all levels, from policy down to community activities, and gender concerns need to be integrated in policies, plans, programs and

projects. Little progress has been made in this area. More gender specific data are required in the water sector. Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

Shankhar VDC, the second largest VDC of Syangja district lies in the southern part of the district. Majority of the settlements of this VDC are located in the hill slopes, so the historically the management of water supply system has proved to be really complex and challenging. Due to the lack of permanent water resources in the VDC, its dwellers were suffering greatly in the past in different ways. Local people, mostly women had to allocate about 1- 3 hrs in a day for fetching drinking water. However, the inception of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSP-WN) project, in FY 2065/66 B.S. in the VDC has greatly altered the scenario. So far, RWSSP-WN I and II funded a total of 25 water supply schemes in this VDC. Now Syangja DDC has rated this VDC as an improving in the management of drinking water sector.

RWSSP-WN is a bilateral development cooperation project funded by the Government of Nepal and Government of Finland. It's first phase was completed in FY 068/69 and completion second phase is implementing from FY 070/71 in 14 districts of Nepal, 12 districts of western region and 2 districts of mid-western region, strengthening the capacity of local governments to deliver services in water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is major cross- cutting issue of the project among the different issues.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Drinking water is a social resource necessary for every family in the community. It is a part of everyday life of individual and concern of public interest in the areas where there is lack of easy access and control of water resources cooperation, competition and conflicts among water users exist around the issues of water resources and management. Supply of drinking water system, as a technical process, cannot be isolated from and independent of social processes. Management of water system is an intervention to balance

power relations for equitable access and collective ownership of community (Dixit and Gyawali, 1997).

Socio-economic impact of any development program should be at least equally shared by the women folks. In case of drinking water project, such impacts would be experienced even more by women in general and rural women in particular. The social and economic implication of drinking water project on women could be viewed in two ways (i) women as recipient of the benefits of water supply program: and (ii) women's participation in the project (particularly in the construction and post construction phase). Women are involved in either managing the domestic affairs or are engaged directly in some economic activities. Both these involvements are contributing to the economic and social betterment of the household and the society concerned. More time and labour of women is spent in water fetching process. Women and girls are the primary users and collectors of drinking water, especially in the remote rural areas and hilly regions. Women are reported to have spent as much as one to six hours a day for fetching water for their family (Uprety, 1999).

Higher emphasis is laid on time saved for women from piped drinking water supply. Time saved from availability of drinking water is an important aspect, but it may not necessarily suggest that women's overall work load has decreased or that the saved time is being utilized for meeting her other needs necessary for improving her status within family and society at large. This issue must be analyzed from micro level studies with in depth perspectives to reveal the changes that have come about in the daily time management of the women.

Keeping the state of drinking water supply system in Shankhar VDC in mind, Syangja DDC, has long been prioritizing this management agenda. However, the inception of RWSSP-WN in VDC has proved to be vital as it has greatly been effective in improving the state of water supply system in the VDC with a technical and financial support of RWSSP-WN phase I and phase II in 25

numbers of water supply schemes in this VDC. Access to drinking water to the households has now been easing and people, mostly women, have been witnessing a significant saving in their time. As a result, local women are now gradually engaging in different empowerment related activities in the VDC. In this context, the present research attempted to investigate how saving of time by the easy access to water supply system to the rural households has contributed to the empowerment of rural women. In this connection, this study was focused on the following research questions:

1. How to analyze the roles of women in water projects in terms of leadership, management, decision making process and other activities of the WUSC ?
2. How to assess the ways the time saved in bringing about changes in the lives of the local women in terms of their triple roles?
3. How to evaluate the way the water supply component of the intervention helped women in terms of their welfare, access, consent, participation and control?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to explore and analyze the way change in access to drinking water contributes to women in Shankhar, Syangja. But it had three-fold specific objectives stated as follows:

1. To analyze the roles of women in water projects in terms of leadership, management, decision making process and other activities of the WUSC.
2. To assess the ways the time saved in bringing about changes in the lives of the local women in terms of their triple roles.
3. To evaluate the way the water supply component of the intervention helped women in terms of their welfare, access, consent, participation and control.

1.4 Significance of the study

Broadly, the study intends to investigate how a development intervention that is the drinking water supply system, with its claims of being gender sensitive in policy, planning and strategies is put into practice at local levels. Water, particularly safe drinking water is a scarce commodity in many part of the country. Most settlements and households so not have access to piped water. In such instances, fetching water from a distant source consumes considerable time and energy, particularly of girls and women. This is particularly true of the hill and mountain regions. The level of per-capita consumption of water therefore is very low. The highly limited use of water on the other hand, is one of the principal causes of low level of sanitation. From applied point of view, this study may also help to know the dynamics of launching drinking water projects in various regions. The study further has explored the factors that facilitated or hindered participation in community activities from gender perspective. In this connection the present study may be helpful in providing some information needed by the sectors concerned and what extent drinking water supply can become means to facilitate the process of addressing the needs of women for changing their position in society.

1.5 Limitation of the study

Each and every study has some own kinds of limitations because of time, space and situation and also this study is not an exception. Present study is only for the partial fulfillment of the Master's Degree required in Rural Development. So, extensive studies were not possible owing mainly to the lack of enough resources. This study is limited to Shankhar VDC of Syangja district. The study was undertaken limiting itself within the walls of drinking water projects of this VDC built after 2065 B.S under the funding of RWSSP-WN phase I and phase II. The findings and conclusion drawn from this study may not widely be generalized. Gender aspect of drinking water system can be viewed in a 'holistic approach. The study site is composed of multi-ethnic groups with different cultures, languages, social norms and values etc. which are difficult to

understand and analyzed in this study of short duration. In spite of these limitations, the study has tried to meet the objective and the topic of the study itself as much as possible.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into five chapters inclusive of Introduction to Conclusion. Chapter one is introduction part which presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, Significance of the study, Limitation of the study and organization of the study. Chapter two contains theoretical review, literature review, Conceptual Framework of the study and meaning of operational terms of research. Chapter three draws attention to the research methods adopted by the study. This chapter deals with the research design, study area selection, sampling, data collection and data analysis adopted by the study.

Chapter four presents a brief introduction of physical setting of the study area, cultural setting, and socio demographic profile of respondent, about women's participation in the installation of drinking water facilities, role of water supply schemes in changing domestic roles of women an role of water supply schemes in women empowerment in Shankhar. Chapter five is about the summary of the findings, recommendations and conclusions, which is followed by the references cited.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter explains basic concepts and theoretical guidelines that have guided this study. They include the concept of empowerment, gender, gender relations, participation and people's participation in development undertakings. Besides, it also includes a general description of related literatures

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Empowerment

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

Empowerment emerged as an important theme in the women's movement from 1975 onwards. In fact, empowerment as a theme arose out of a failure of "Women in Development" (WID) programs, notably the equity approach all of which failed to question the interrelationship between power and development. According to Moser (1993), empowerment approach developed out of dissatisfaction with the original WID as equity approach, because of its perceived co-option into the anti-poverty and efficiency approach.

Empowerment is multi-dimensional concept. It has been used in many different contexts and by many different organizations in the fields of education, health, social work, and psychology as well as in work of feminist and development organizations. As per Kabeer (1999) empowerment is "the expansion in

people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them.”

Here, strategic life choices means decisions that influence an individual's life trajectory and subsequent ability to exercise autonomy, which cover choice of livelihood, where to live, who to marry, whether to marry, whether to have children, how many children to have, who has rights over children, freedom of movement and choice of friends that are critical for people to live the lives they want. The strategic life choices are based on three dimensions Resources, Agencies and Achievements. In conventional economic term, resources mean materials, but in broader term resources are obtained through different social relationships operating in various institutional domains which constitute a society, connecting family, market, state and community. Agency is the capacity to define one's goals and act upon them which further explains decision making, bargaining and negotiation capacity. It provides resistance against deception and manipulation and gives cognitive process of analysis (Kabeer, 1999). Achievements are the capabilities [the potential that people have for living the lives they want] of being and doing that are evaluated by people in a given context which are gained by combining resources and agencies together (Sen as cited in Kabeer Naila, 1999, p 4).

Empowerment is a process of awakening and regenerating dormant potentials that are inherent in people/human. It is not arming them with weapons rather recognizing and respecting them as equal dignified human beings. Empowerment call for liberating them from the orthodox, superstitious and conservative constraints imposed on legislation for protection of equal legal rights, and abolition of gender inequalities are the tools of empowerment (UNDP, 2004).

Empowerment entails individual gaining control of their lives by developing competencies required to participate in their social, political, and economic areas. These competencies should render them with self-reliance thus making them more autonomous. As such, to develop the competencies needed,

assessment of the present position has to be done so as to develop as critical knowledge. Philip Tanner (2000) stressed that the complete goal of empowerment first begins psychologically. Empowerment questions the essence of "taken for granted knowledge" and stresses on making people critically aware (Luintel, 1996).

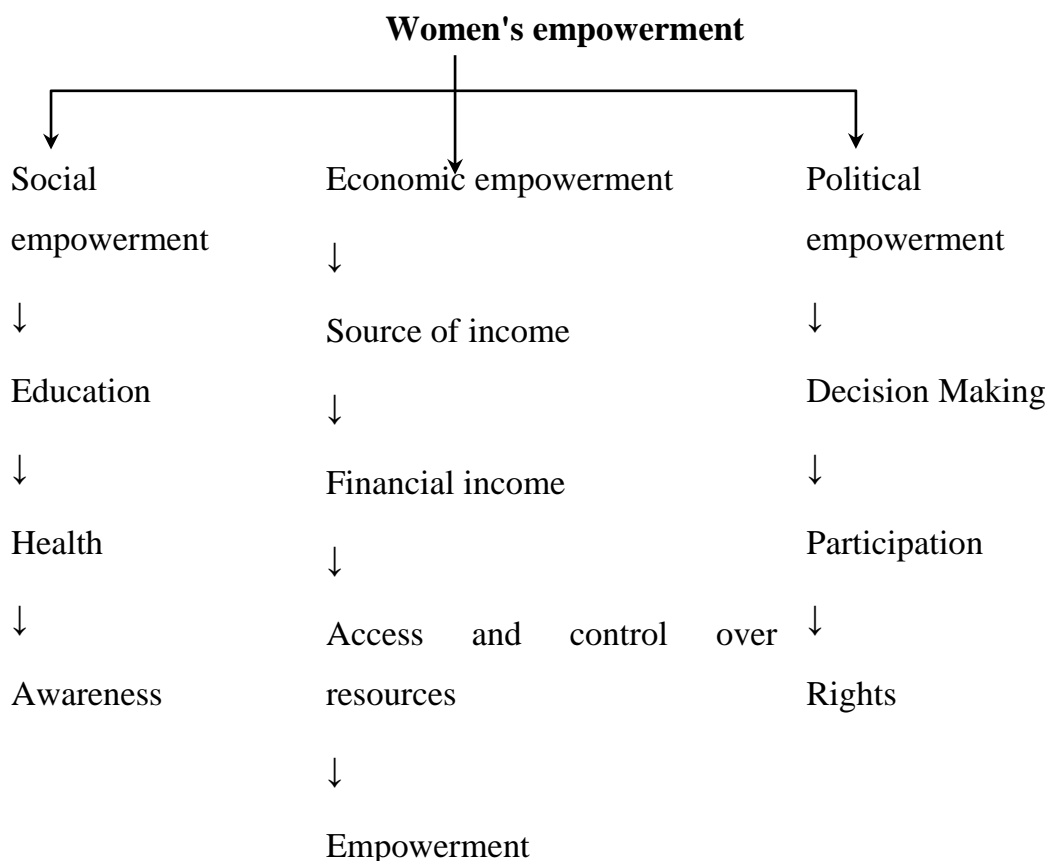
It is process of gaining control over self, ideology and the resources which determined power. Empowerment means sensitization to misbelieve and mal-practices and their rejection. It means recognizing that women's subordination and men's superior status aren't part of natural order of things but is imposed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

The empowerment approach according to Moser (1993) also puts emphasis on the importance of women increasing their power. It envisages identifying power less in terms of domination over others, more in terms of the capacity of women to increase their own self-reliance and strength. This is identified as the right to make choices in life and to influence the direction of change through the ability to gain control over crucial material and non-material resources. Batliwala (1994) also discusses the term power while dealing with empowerment, where she sees empowerment as a manifestation of balance of power in terms of resource distribution and changes in ideology or ways of thinking.

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

2.1.2 Women Empowerment

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



Social Empowerment: Meaningful access on education and health are basic factors of social empowerment because when women are properly educated and got health facilities, they will be able to compete with others and women's

empowerment gives us positive result. Moreover, awareness is another crucial factor of social empowerment which covers a wide range of consciousness not only of the people of illiterate and poor class but also of the people of educated and high ranked classes. It motivates them to provide an environment to women where women can get opportunities to empower themselves.

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

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

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 development process of Nepalese society. In fact, it is a reliable tool to enhance the qualitative development of Nepalese society and to ensure the bright future of modern Nepal (Bhattarai, 2009).

2.1.3 Indicators of Women's empowerment

According to Hashemi and Schuler (1993), main indicators of women's empowerment are as follows:

1. Mobility: A woman is considered empowered if she is able to visit places such as markets, medical stores, go outside the village if she can visit these places alone then she is considered more empowered.
2. Economic Security: A woman is considered empowered if she owns land, houses and other productive assets, if she owns cash and has savings.
3. Ability to make small purchase: if a woman can purchase small items, household goods, small personal items if she can do it on her own without asking her husband or other male members of family especially purchasing her own earned money she can be empowered.
4. Ability to make larger purchase by her own earned money what she has brought indicates her increased purchasing capacity.
5. Involvement in major decisions mostly two types of decision like house repair, small animals, leasing land or buying vehicles, rickshaws especially with her earned money then she can be considered empowered.
6. Relative freedom from domination and violation within family from her in-laws and husband especially, restricted mobility for example to antenatal care, to fathers place battering and access to resource within the will of the woman then she can be considered empowered.
7. Political and legal awareness, a woman can be given a point each for knowing the name of the local government officials, a member of parliament or even the prime minister. Further points can be given if she has attended a led a Campaign and started to advocate.
8. Participation in public protest and political campaigning. A woman is empowered if she has campaigned or protested against social issues as wife beating, unfair wages, unfair prices etc.

While we talk about ability, mobility, access to resources, purchasing capacity, bargaining capacity as some indicators of women's empowerment. Nepalese community women fall into a minimum level, however, some economic

independency has been achieved through saving and credit programs but are not economically sound yet which determines economic status of women. The above mentioned indicators of women's empowerment are applicable in Nepalese context too but till now we have less achieved due to various socio-cultural obstacles. It indicates that Nepalese women have still had a faraway to be empowered (Bhattarai, 2009).

Other indicators for women's empowerment can be her meaningful participation in development programs and saving and credit programs, decision making at the household, community and state level. How women participate and at which level do they participate remains still a big question in the process of women's empowerment in Nepal. Women's empowerment process through participation is another school of thought that gives women direction for her actions. If a woman is able to assess how she acts and reacts, express her thought and feelings freely then that is also one frame of empowerment. It determines her ability and performance that places her in some criteria of setting to achieve her set goals and her set of values will develop that way. For example, women who contribute in agriculture and production working mostly 10-12 hours a day without paying, if she starts to analyze her own work and bargain with her household head for some resources she wants for her personal use, then that is also one level of empowerment. Her confidence raises and it increases her participation next time in family setting and decision-making.

2.1.4 Gender and Gender Relations

The concept of gender makes it possible to distinguish the biologically founded, sexual distinguish the biologically founded, sexual differences between woman and man from the culturally determined differences between the roles given to or undertaken by women and men respectively in a given society. The first are unchangeable, like a destiny. The latter are workable and may be changed by political and opinion shaping influences. The concept of women in Development is concrete and may lead to marginalizing women as a

particular species with inherited handicaps. The concept of Gender in Development is abstract and opens up for the realization of women's productive potentials in development. (Ostergaard, 1997)

The terms gender relations refers to the relations of power between women and men which are revealed in a range of practices, ideas, representations including the provision of labour, roles and resources between men and women. Gender roles mean the sets of cultural expectations that define the ways in which the members of each sex should behave (Lawman, 2004). Gender analysis begins from a consideration of the ways in which men and women participate differently in the household, economy and society. Secondly it seeks to identify the structures and processes—legislation, social and political institutions, socialization practices, employment policies and practices that can act to perpetuate pattern of women's disadvantages.

Every human society is characterized by gender based social relationship. The rearing of children by the parents is also gender based. Children are taught to be male or female. Their roles are determined in the childhood consequently their growth leads them in the different psychological pattern. It reflects the oppressing, discrimination by the difference in division of labour i.e. household work and outside work. Such type of division of labour creates difference in status (as considered by society) in family, marriage, community, and society. Thus we find difference in male and female in every aspect. The gender identities are the conceptions we have of ourselves as beings male and female and the knowledge that one is a male or a female and the internalization of this fact into one's self—concept. (Lawman, 2004)

Gender relations are the term used to describe the relations between men and women that, although based on biological differences, are socially and culturally created. For example, although the biological fact of having a child

does not, in itself, make it impossible for a women to have a job, she may be prevented by a number of factors determined by gender : among them cultural norms restricting women to the home, stereotypes about 'suitable' jobs for women, or the lack of child care and family services. In spite of the different degree and forms of gender inequality, the system is universal. Women have no common the multiple activities they are expected to carry out, while their 'official' sphere is the home and family. The extent of female disadvantage, and the forms it takes, may vary but what remains constant is that women have seldom been more advantaged than men in many societies. An important aspect of gender based analysis is that it moves away from women's issues to considering structures that effect and are affected by both men and women (Bullock, 1994).

Stephen J. Bergman and Jonet survey states that on the women - man relationship, as old systems of relationship break down, new vision are called for. The historical roots of the male - female relationship are thousands of years old and are embedded in a patriarchal system which has shaped our institutions, our thinking, and the patterning of our relationships. As we work toward change, we must recognize the weight and depth of this history. Clinically as well as culturally, we see many couples struggling with very similar relations impasses. It is essential for both women and men to move out of a sense of personal deficiency, pathology or blame - as we are all called on to participate in this cultural transformation of the dynamics of relationship. So far these have not been adequate opportunities to work together on these challenges. (Clinchy et. al 1998)

2.1.5 Concept of Participation and People's Participation in Development

In its general meaning people's participation denotes to the involvement of a group of people beneficiaries in the activities related with conservation or development. It has been a popular way of incorporating a particular group of

people into a specific development or conservation program. It, now, has occupied a central place in development thinking and practice, that way it is now widely accepted that development cannot be sustainable and long lasting unless people's participation is made central to the development process.

According to Kohen and Uphoff (1977), participation includes people's involvement in decision making processes, in implementing programmes, their sharing in benefits of development programmes and their involvement in efforts to evaluate such programmes. Similarly Paul (1987) defines community participation as an active process by which beneficiary or client groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view of enhancing their well-being in terms of increase, personal growth, self, reliance, in other values they cherish. (cited in Paudel, 2005)

From these definition also, it becomes clear that people's participation stresses for the involvement of beneficiaries in every step of the development i.e. planning process, decision-making, implementation, benefit sharing, monitoring and evaluation. True participation must encompass the involvement of all kinds of groups; gender, castes/ethnicity, religions and economic levels of the community. So this approach has been taken as the most important strategy to achieve the goals of sustainable development all over the world including Nepal. In fact the principal of sustainable development also demands an active and effective participation of all the concerned parties such as local people, locally active CBOs, GOs, NGOs and INGOs etc.

2.2 Literature Review

There are a number of published and unpublished literatures on gender, gender equality, women empowerment, property rights and other issues related to women. However, there review only some of such literatures have been reviewed.

USAID Nepal has published "Women in Development Resources Manual Nepal" in 1990. The manual is collection of experience of 96 organizations (Governmental Organisations, NGOs) and other activities, which are involving in the sector of moment development. Some of the activities which has implemented by many organizations for women empowerment. A source book for ender issues at the policy level in the water and sanitation sector is a result of research published by UNDP-world Bank in 1996. It presents ideas, methods and experiences concerning gender issues in policy level on water and sanitation sector. The source book includes various case studies of Nepal, India, Pakistan and Brazil on women's participation in various activities. Women often benefit more directly then men from improved water and sanitation facilities and so they would have greater incentive to work for project success.

In her article, Nepal 'Women Rising', Subedi (1993) describes the various aspects of women development in Nepal and position of women in socio-economic fields. Similarly, women's accent to natural resources and their participation in the management of resources are covered. Problems faced by Nepali women like trafficking and AIDS are also covered.

Shrestha (1994) stresses on gender sensitive planning in the projects being run in rural Nepal labeling most of them gender insensitive. They are formulated on the basis of an assumption that an intervention program benefits equally to all, without comprehensive information on the condition and position of women and men in the country and without analysis specific situations and needs of women and men in specific areas, which overlooks the position of women entirely. In doing so, projects have had a negative effect on women by increasing their burden of labour by relegating them into sex stereotyped, labour - intensive work, as knitting and sewing, by ratifying unequal gender based distribution of labour, power and resources in the family and in the society which has contributed to the disempowerment of women and not development.

According to a study of Ranabhat (1995) women are underrepresented in different sectors of development such as education, health, politics, administration and economic activities. Women who work longer hours than men are perceived as weak, incapable and dependent. Usually their contribution in the household level is made invisible and insignificant. To uplift their social status and to make them self-reliant, women entrepreneurship development has to be undertaken as an effective instrument.

Gyawali (2001) argued that water is one aspect of the whole that is the Nepali society and her resources. Breaking the whole into components is akin to slicing an apple one ends up seeing only one cross-section and is left with the lingering doubt as to whether one has not missed a vital element that fell in some other cross-section used for introduction.

In his book Procuring “Water: Foreign Aid and Rural Water Supply in Nepal” Sharma, 2001 shows that poor people, particularly those belonging to Dalits, one discriminated against in claiming access to clean drinking water prodded by foreign donors. These poor people end up in getting only the waste water (off flow from the taps used by wealthier households) from the taps. External intervention did not improve the situation. Rather, it helped the upper-caste household to legitimize their access to safe drinking water.

Subba (2002) in his dissertation titled “Gender inequality and property right of Nepalese women” expresses his views that women are suppressed by their male counterparts in the property right or in the name of gender equality. It is necessary to eliminate the gap between men and women in every sector, which is the obstacle for development while property right of women is one of the issues of gender inequality in the context of Nepal. Those two issues are serious problems.

Silawal-Giri (2003) in her article ‘Literary’ Education and women’s Empowerment’ describes about women’s empowerment, their literacy and

about gender equality. In her article, she focuses in providing universal primary education to participate women in all various activities.

Subedi (2003) in her article “Sustainable Development and Women’s contribution” describes that the women are contributing a lot to our country’s economy but due to lack of gender sensitive data collection, women’s contribution and concerns remain invisible. She also describes about the government and NGOs initiatives and their weaknesses.

Dhakal (2007), in her dissertation entitled “Educated Women in Government Employment: A Study of Gender Situation” has found that the life pattern of educated employed women in Pokhara have been remarkably changed after their involvement in the job. They feel that it has also increased their confidence, self-reliance, responsibility, reliability, leadership ability and opportunity to show own capacity. Majority of the employed women have managed their household work by partial or full sharing of difficult work with their husband and family members. Since there is found a vast difference in the status of the employed women before and after their involvement in the job, employment opportunity has significant role to promote living standard of their family. It has promoted their role in various social activities. Since education, employment, information and transformation are the major factors which affect development, it is necessary to provide some privilege to the women for specific period to promote them up to the level of the men.

In her thesis entitled “Socio-economic Status of Educated employed Women in Bandipur VDC, Tanahun”, Piya (2007) has found that most of the employed women occupied quite higher social status. They got varied salary according to job and which they used mainly for family consumption. Respondent women experienced discriminatory behaviors in household tasks, decision making in family, allocation family property. Women were found to be dominated in terms of the ownership of land. Motivational factor for majority of the educated

employed women for seeking job was the economic security. More than half respondents were satisfied with their present job. Large number of respondents inclined to feel difficulty in adjusting between house and office works. All the respondents held that there should equal opportunities for getting job for male and female. Most of the respondents were satisfied with male staff's behaviors while the rest respondents felt domination from their male counterparts. From the above findings it becomes apparent that the socio-economic condition of the employed women is bettering.

Tulachan (2007) has under taken a study on gender roles in the livestock production and management at the household level of Jhyalungtar, Chapagaun VDC, Lalitpur. In her study she has explained about the responsibilities of males and females in Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Newar and Dalit community. She has found that the women belonging to the Tamang and Newar community have the strong decision making right, access to and control over the livestock resources. But in the case of Brahmin, Chhetri and Dalit community females are still marginalized in playing the active roles in making decisions of household affairs. They have limited right in the access to and control over the resources.

In his thesis entitled, 'Status of Women's Empowerment in a Rural Setting: A Study of Phaparthum VDC of Syangja District, Nepal', Sapkota (2014) found that comparatively poor status of women comparing to men in terms of education, health, access in job opportunities, decision making process, access and control over resources etc. Still most of the women are not aware about their rights and duties. Though the government has granted women right to reproduction but all the people are not aware about this. Actually women empowerment means to make women capable to compete with men in every sectors of human life. until and unless women get a conducive environment to equally participate in different sectors, their life style cannot be changed. Therefore, Sapkota concludes that to change the living standard of Nepalese

women, it is necessary to make them capable to grab opportunities, which is possible only through the proper implementation of women's empowerment.

2.3 Conceptual Framework of the Study

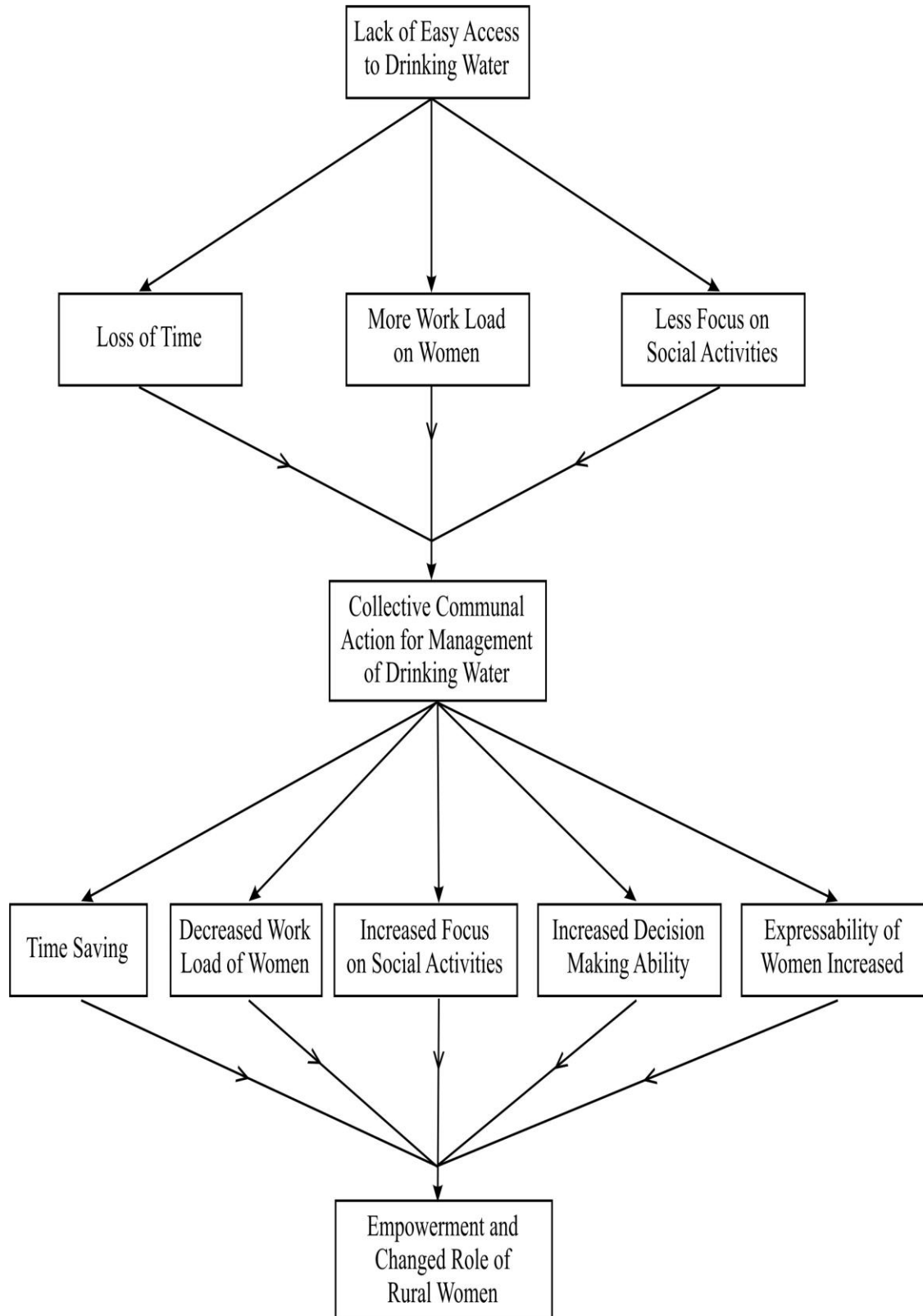


Fig. 2.1 Conceptual Framework of the Study

The above conceptual framework makes it clear that lack of easy access to drinking water had been a curse for women in Shankhar. They faced heavy work load as they had to allocate more time for collecting water and they had little attention on social activities. But their collective awareness and participation of women along with other members of society ensured the construction of drinking water project. Their continuous engagement in construction and management of drinking water project has increased their decision making power, promoted the attitude of participation, and saved their time subsequently, now we can see them getting empowered and contributing more and more in the welfare of self, family and the whole society. This is not adequate.

2.4 Meaning of Operational Terms of the Research

Triple Roles of Women: Three types of roles that women have to perform; those related to a) activities within household chores, b) activities outside households and c) Procreation.

Women's Participation: The participation of women of Shankhar, Syangja in the planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of different drinking water projects being run in the VDC.

Women's Working Pattern: The way women of Shankhar, Syangja perform their household related tasks and roles.

Women Empowerment: The empowerment and capacity building of women of Shankhar, Syangja.

Chapter III

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area

Situated in the southern part of Syangja district, Shankar VDC is the second largest VDC in district. Being a VDC of a hill district, majority of the settlements of this VDC are located in the hill slopes, where the management of water supply system is really complex and challenging. Due to the lack of permanent & reliable water resources nearby the settlements of the VDC, its dwellers were suffering greatly in the past. Local people, mostly women had to allocate about 1- 3 hrs in a day for fetching drinking water. However, after the inception of RWSSP-WN in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector, in 2065 B.S., the scenario is changing. Access to drinking water to the households is easing and people, mostly women, have been witnessing a significant saving in their time. As a result, they are now gradually engaged in different empowerment related activities. Thus, this VDC, one of the remote VDC of Syangja is perfectly suited to analyze how saved time of rural women can contribute to their empowerment. Therefore, this VDC was chosen for this study.

3.2 Research Design

The major focal point of this study was to explore and analyze the way change in access to drinking water contributes to women in Shankhar, Syangja. This study employed both exploratory as well as descriptive research designs. Using these designs, it has explored the present state of drinking water supply in the study area and assessed the ways people are benefited with drinking water projects launched in the VDC. It has explained the roles of women in water project in terms of leadership, management, decision making process and other activities of the committee. Importantly, it has evaluated and elaborated the ways the income generating component of the intervention helped women in terms of their welfare, access, consent, participation and control and the ways

the time saved from drinking water facility is bringing about changes in the lives of the women in terms of their triple roles.

3.3 Universe and Sampling

In the study area, there were a total of 1048 households, which were taken as universe of the study. Out of the total households, 119 households were sampled using stratified sampling in which caste/ethnicity was used to form strata. 53.8 % samples from Brahmin, Chhetri & Giri, 36.1 % samples from Janajati and 10.1 % Samples from Dalit were taken. Percentage of Sample as caste/ Ethnicity group was taken as about proportionate distribution of the population of the VDC from CBS, 2014. From each sampled household, one senior woman was selected for interview as respondent. While selecting the respondent woman from each household, that woman prioritized, who had directly participated since the beginning of the water project.

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

The study is mainly based on primary information. The primary data collection method is very important which provides fresh information. The primary data were collected during the field work, which are of both qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. Some important secondary data were also collected from the different sources like published and unpublished works, document and reports and article and journals for present study.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques

3.5.1 Household survey

Household survey was conducted to get basic socio-economic and other information from the sampled households. Senior women member of each sampled family was chosen as primary respondents of the household survey.

3.5.2 Interview

Interview schedule was used as the main tool for primary data collection in this study. Since the study area is largely a rural one and most of the respondents were literate only, this tool was used. An interview schedule was prepared for research interview. Both open and closed questions were included in the

interview schedule. The questions included in the interview schedule were prepared and finalized through discussions with various stake holders and the Thesis Supervisor. The interview schedule was pre-tested in 10 households from the adjoining Shekham VDC, Syangja and errors in it were corrected and brought into final shape. A copy of the interview schedule used in this study has been included in appendix too.

3.5.3 Key Informants' Interview

A total of 7 key-informants were interviewed in order to get more insights in the research problem proposed. Those key-informants were selected from members of VDC Level Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee (V-WASH CC), local social servants, political leaders, teachers, WCFs and others who were involved in management of drinking water in Shankhar VDC. Questions pertaining to drinking water projects induced women empowerment in the VDC were asked to the key-informants. The list of key-informants of this research has been included in the appendix too.

3.5.4 Focus group discussion

Some of the important qualitative data were gathered through a focus group discussion. This information was helpful to triangulate quantitative information. A checklist was prepared and finalized by the help of supervisor and stake holders for conducting this discussion. Ten participants were selected from amongst those engaged in the management committees of different drinking water projects and local mothers' group for this discussion.

3.6 Procedure of Data Analysis and Presentation

The primary and secondary collection data were coded, edited, tabulated, and analysis in appropriate format. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS program in computer. The quantitative data of the study were analyzed and verified comparing with the information obtained from other source. Some basis statistical tools like frequency, percentage and distribution have been used. Apart from this map, tables, chart, diagrams, figures, have also been used. Descriptive method was used for the analysis of qualitative data. Data analysis was done in close supervision of the supervisor.

Chapter IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this chapter, at first the introduction of the study area is explained, which is followed by the introduction of the respondents based on some selected demographic and social characteristics, the contributions made by the respondents during the construction and management of water supply and sanitation systems have been explained. The role of respondents after the intervention of drinking water projects as well as know working pattern of their daily life. The section explain their role of empowering by involving in the drinking water projects and supporting by the project to empower for rural women. The focuses on the ways these water supply and sanitation schemes have played their role in women empowerment in this village focusing specifically in terms of their welfare, access, consent, participation and control.

4.1 Brief Introduction to the Study Area

Introduction of the study are is briefly explained below and map of the study area; Sakhar VDC of Syangja district is presented in appendix.

4.1.1 Physical Setting of the Study Area

Shankhar VDC lies in the Southern part of Syangja district that is located in Gandaki zone, Western Development Region of Nepal. This VDC is situated at an altitude range of 336 meters (Keladighat,) to 1200 meters (Gadubhanjyang) from the sea level. The climate pattern of this VDC is mixed one that of tropical and sub–tropical types. This VDC receives summer monsoon rainfall from Jestha to Ashoj which gives support on all agricultural activities like to cultivate the crops as well as fodder to the reared animals.

The major landform of this VDC includes sloppy, however flat land is also available in Kali Gandaki basin. It's the second largest VDC of the district with an area of 27.7sq.km. In terms of geographical boundary, Baidi VDC and Gajarkot VDC of Tanahun district lie towards its east, while Shekham VDC and Chapakot Municipality of Syangja lie towards its west. Similarly, towards its north lie Kyakmi VDC and Shekham VDC of Syangja, while its southern boundary is formed by Kali Gandaki River. Towards the other side of Kaligandaki lie Rampur Municipality of Palpa district.

Kaligandaki river flows through some villages of Sankhar such as Bankata, Murchaur, Majuwa, Bhattarai Danda, at the edge of Keladighat. Kali Gandaki itself is known for rafting. Many tourists visit Sankhar each year for rafting. Tourists can go for trekking as Sankhar is surrounded by hills on all sides. The view of mountain Makalu and Annapurna has added more beauty to Sankhar. The tourism industry has not yet been developed because of the lack of resources. For visiting tourists in Sankhar the most known and most famous places Keladighat and Ramghat. Majuwa is mainly known as the heart of Sankhar as it has plain land with fertile land for agriculture. But, nowadays it is developing to a highly populated area. Mohami, a village in Sankhar, is famous for its historical place because it had a palace for royal family at the period of kingship in Nepal.

4.1. 2 Cultural Setting

Shakhar VDC has mixed types of caste/ethnic groups. Hill Brahmin and Magar are the main caste/ethnic groups in this VDC in terms of population. Besides, Kami, Sarki, Thakuri, Damai, Bhujel, Newar, Gurung, Giri, etc. are other major caste/ethnic groups of this VDC. The following table presents the caste/ethnic composition of this VDC as per the census report of 2068 B.S.:

Table 4.1
Caste/ethnic Composition of this VDC

Caste/Etnicity	Population	Percent
Brahman – Hill	1772	38.3
Magar	1271	27.5
Kami	408	8.8
Sarki	296	6.4
Thakuri	278	6.0
Gharti/Bhujel	164	3.5
Damai/Dholi	131	2.8
Chhetree	105	2.3
Gurung	75	1.6
Sanyasi/Dashnami	60	1.3
Newar	57	1.2
Others	13	0.3
Total	4630	100.0

Source: CBS, 2014

This area is a Hindu dominant area in terms of religion. Besides, people following Buddhism also reside in this VDC. People of this area celebrate all types of Hindu religious festivals. In every *Ekadasi* and major *Sanskranti*, they go to the river to take a holy dip in Kali Gandaki, visiting temple at Keladighat and giving *Tika* and donation (*Dakshina*) to girls and respected guests. Keladighat is the historical place ;by the point of view for tourism. In Keladighat, there is a temple and different parks to visit. In temple Radha Krishna is worshiped in 24 hours nonstop. Most of the people go there to worship as they said their wishes are fulfilled.

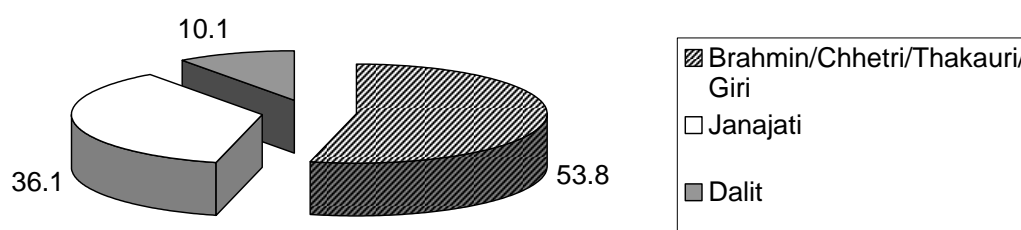
4.2 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

4.2.1 Caste and Ethnicity of the Respondents

The study area is mainly inhabited by people belonging to castes like Brahmin, Chhetri, Thakuri, and Giri; ethnic groups like Magar, Gurung, Newar, Bhujel, etc. and Dalits like Kami, Sarki, Damai, etc. The caste and ethnicity distribution of the respondents is shown table below:

Table 4.2**Distribution of the Respondents by Caste/ Ethnicity**

Caste/Ethnicity	No. of Household	Percent
Brahmin/Chhetri/Thakauri/Giri	64	53.8
Janajati	43	36.1
Dalit	12	10.1
Total	119	100.0

**Figure 4.1 Distribution of the Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity**

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As the table 4.2 shows 53.8 percent of the respondents were from so-called higher twice-born caste groups of Brahmin, Chhetri, Thakuri, and Giri followed by 36.1 percent of the Janajatis, which mainly include Magar, Gurung and Bhujel and rest 10.1 percent of the respondents were Dalits. Main Dalit castes of this VDC are Kami, Sarki, Damai, etc. From this table, it is clear that so-called higher castes are in majority in the study area. Sometimes this majority is found to be characterizing some severe cases of caste-opposition and caste based discrimination.

4.2.2 Religion of the Respondents

This study area is mainly inhabited by Hindu people. In this study, religious affiliation of the respondents was also taken into account, which has been presented in the table given below:

Table 4.3
Distribution of the Respondents by Religion

Religion	Number of Respondents	Percent
Hindu	112	94.1
Bouddha	2	1.7
Hindu-Bouddha	2	1.7
No response	3	2.5
Total	119	100.0

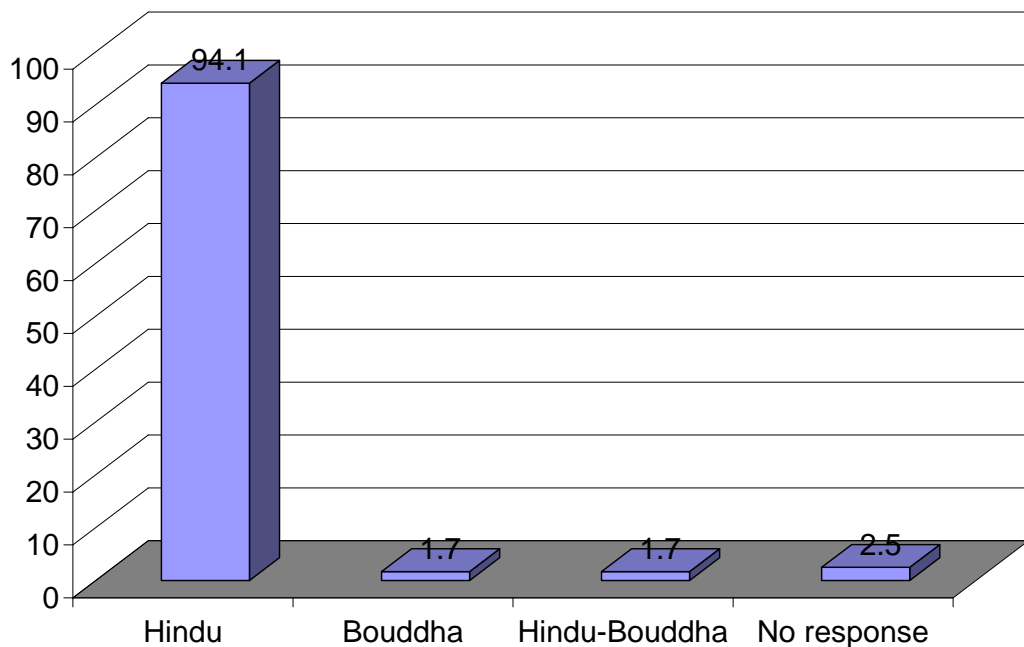


Figure 4.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Religion

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The data in the table above reveal that 94.1 percent of the respondents of this study were Hindus and only 1.7 percent each was Buddhists and Hindu-Buddhists. This shows the prevalence of Hindus as dominant religious community in the study area. In fact, this more or less characterizes the religious composition of the study area.

4.2.3 Age of the Respondents

Age is another important demographic factor. The respondents of this research were elder woman of each sampled household, who belonged to different age groups. The table below presents the age of the respondents.

Table 4.4
Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group

Age Group	Number	Percent
Below 25	10	8.4
25-35	32	26.9
35-45	32	26.9
45-55	29	24.4
55-65	7	5.9
Above 65	7	5.9
No response	2	1.7
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the above table, out of the total respondents, 26.9 percent each belonged to the age group 25-35 years and 35-45 years. Similarly, 24.4 percent of them belonged to 45-55 years age group. The respondents from below 25 years were 8.4 percent and respondents from 55-65 and above 65 years were 5.9 percent each.

4.2.4 Education of the Respondents

Education of the respondent is also important variable to determine their life in term of getting job opportunity, leadership, social status and prestige etc. The perception of educated and less educated respondents may have different so that the different perceptions draw new and varieties of idea to know their empowerment. The following table supports sharing the educational status of respondents. The educational qualification of the respondents is presented in the table below:

Table 4.5: Distribution of the Respondents by Education

Education	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	17	14.3
Literate	86	72.3
SLC passed	6	5.0
+2/PCL	4	3.4
Bachelor	1	0.8
No response	5	4.2
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As we see in the above table, about two-third of the respondents i.e. 72.3 percent were literate while 14.3 percent of them were illiterate. Similarly, 5.0 percent of them were SLC passed, 3.4 percent were +2/PCL passed and 0.8 percent had an academic qualification of Bachelor Level.

4.2.5 Occupation of the Respondents

Being a typical rural area of hilly region of Nepal, the majority of the people of the study area are farmers. So, naturally most of the respondents are farmers. Regarding the occupation of the respondents of this study, the following table illustrates more:

Table 4.6
Distribution of the Respondents by Occupation

Occupation	Number	Percent
Farming	100	84.0
Trade/business	6	5.0
Service	5	4.2
Caste-based traditional occupation	2	1.7
Others (Labour work in others farm, daily wages etc)	6	5.0
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the above table, about 84.0 percent of the respondents were involved farming. Similarly 5.0 percent were involved in trade/business, 4.2 percent in service sector and 1.7 percent in caste-based traditional occupations. This clearly suggests that Shankhar is primarily an agriculture-based society like most of the Nepalese societies.

4.2.6 Monthly Income of the Respondents

Income is an important factor that decides the position of a person in the social hierarchy. It has been one of the important bases for social stratification. Table 4.6 has already shown the main occupation of the respondents. There most of the respondents had furnished the popular answer farming as their main occupation. This encouraged the researcher to inquire further about their

approximate monthly income of the family of the respondents. The results obtained from this inquiry have been shown in the table given below:

Table 4.7
Distribution of Respondents by Average Monthly Income

Income	Number	Percent
Below Rs. 5000	16	13.4
Rs. 5000-10000	11	9.2
Rs. 10000-20000	19	16.0
Rs. 20000-30000	32	27.0
Rs. 40000-50000	16	13.4
Rs. 50000 or Above	20	16.8
No response	5	4.2
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table above reveals that 13.5 percent of the respondents' families had the average monthly income of below Rs. 5000, while 9.2 percent had Rs. 5000-10000. Similarly, 16.0 percent respondents' families had a monthly income of Rs. 10000-20000, 26.9 percent had Rs. 20000-30000, 13.4 percent Rs. 40000-50000 and 16.8 percent had a monthly income of Rs. 50000 or above.

4.2.7 Family type of the Respondent

Traditionally, Nepalese families tend to be extended and joint one. But factors like modernization, urbanization, westernization, etc. have been contributing to the decline of joint family. As a result, the number of nuclear families is always on the rise. Change is a common thing so it is not sure that Nepal has the same pattern of family. Type of family affects the role of family members and also determines opportunity to improve life-style. The types of family in the respondents have been presented in the table below:

Table 4.8

Distribution of Respondents by Family Type

Type of Family	Number	Percent
Nuclear	60	50.4
Joint	59	49.6
Total	119	100.0

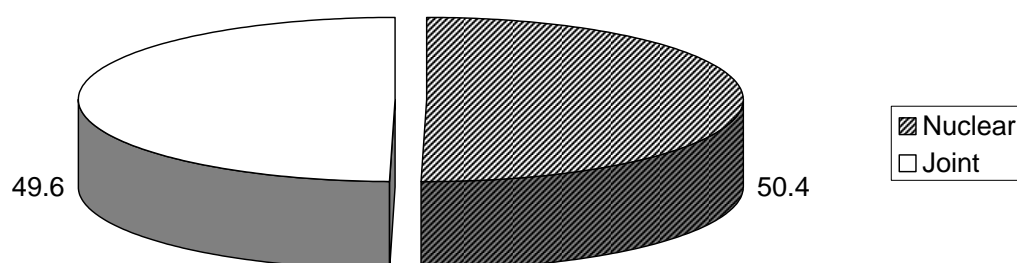


Figure 4.3 Distribution of Respondents by Type of Family

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

Above figure shows that almost a half of the respondents' i.e. 50.4 percent were from nuclear families whereas 49.6 percent of the respondents' families were joint ones. So, the number of both types of houses was almost equal. However, as quoted by one of the key-informants of this study, joint families are decreasing gradually with a gradual increase in nuclear families.

4.2.8 Family Size of the Respondents

After knowing their family type, the respondents were further asked about the size of their families. National data have continuously been indicating that average household size of the respondents is gradually decreasing. Here comparable data were not found; however the present family size has been recorded, which has been given below:

Table 4.9
Distribution of Respondents by Family Size

Family size	Number	Percent
Up to 4	45	37.8
5-7	73	61.3
8 and above	1	0.8
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As revealed by above table and figure, most 61.3 percent of the respondents had 5-7 members in their family, 37.8 percent had 4 or less members and only one respondent had a family size of eight or even more. The families with members more than 5 can be considered bigger one in the changed context or world, so it would be fair to argue that most of the families of this VDC are relatively bigger ones.

4.3 Women Participation in the Installation of Drinking Water Projects

4.3.1 Participation of Women in the Drinking Water Projects

Water is always an issue of concern for all people since it is one the basic needs for life. Any development undertaking begins with the needs assessment activity. There are twenty five RWSSP-WN I and II funded water supply schemes in this VDC. So, efforts were made to understand who, either men, women or both, first raised the issue of the need of improved and easy drinking water facility in their locality and thereby compare the participation of local women in those twenty five water supply schemes as compared to their male counterparts.

4.3.1.1 Early Concern of Drinking Water Facilities

Being a village of rural Nepal, historically the task of fetching water needed for the household was women in the study area too. Before the installation of these twenty five drinking water projects, all villagers in general and women in

particular had to face a great difficulty in fetching water from far-off places. Thus it was natural for local people to be greatly concerned about changing this situation of drinking water in their locality. The following figure speaks more about respondents' view towards more concerned amongst men and women about the need of improved drinking water facilities:

Table 4.10
Distribution of Respondents by View towards Early Concerned Ones about Drinking Water Facilities

Response	Number	Percent
Female	21	17.6
Male	4	3.4
Both	94	79.0
Total	119	100.0

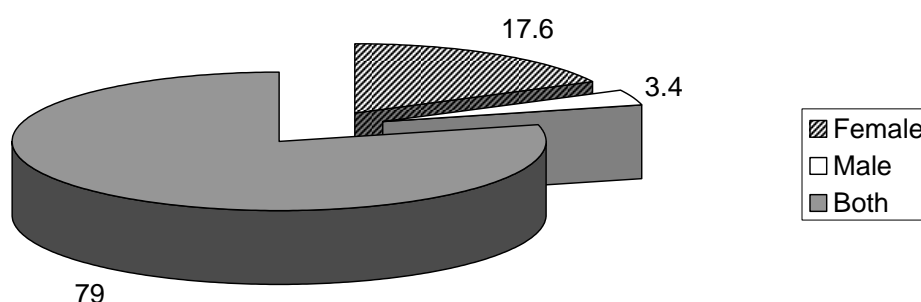


Figure 4.4 Distribution of Respondents by View towards Early Concerned Ones about Drinking Water Facilities

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the table 4.10, 17.6 percent of the respondents feel that women were more concerned with the construction of the drinking water project while just 3.4 percent feel men as more concerned and a vast majority i.e. 79.0 percent believe that both men and women were concerned about drinking water project. As reported by one of the female members of WUSC in Ward No. 5, women used to talk amongst themselves about the development of drinking water facility so that they heavy burden of fetching water gets lowered greatly. In the words of a monitoring team member of Syangja DDC who was involved in almost monitoring team , the concern shown by women was very much

encouraging right from the need assessment of most of the drinking water and sanitation projects running in the VDC. Their deep concern about this project was one of the major factors behind the success of this project as interpreted by one of the key informants concerned with the users' committee of the project.

These data clearly show that women have more concern about drinking water facilities than that of men. This is due to the fact that like in other Nepalese societies, in Shankhar also women are allocated with the responsibility of collecting drinking water and previously the major water sources/water fetching points for them were located at far off places from their locality.

4.3.1.2 Prior-Awareness of Drinking Water Projects

Always the concern of people only cannot guarantee the commencement of any development intervention in the actual ground as there requires materialization of the concern through planning. In the initial planning phase, Shankhar VDC, RWSSP-WN, DDC Syangja, etc. were involved. The activities of these authorities are not always noticed by the local people unless they develop a significant interest about the activities of those formal authorities. With the aim of uncovering respondents' pre-awareness about the construction of drinking water and sanitation project in their village/*tole*, the respondents were inquired. The following table presents the findings of this inquiry:

Table 4.11

Distribution of Respondents by Prior-Awareness of Drinking Water Projects

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, I had	117	98.3
No, I didn't have	2	1.7
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table above depicts that a vast majority i.e. 98.3 percent of the respondents had prior-awareness about the commencement of drinking water and sanitation projects in their locality. As claimed by one of the key-informants of this study, the women of this village, like those in other rural villages of Nepal, had a huge

burden of fetching water from a water source located far from the household. So they were seeking for a way out from this. This was the main reason behind that awareness amongst respondents.

4.3.1.3 Formation of WUSC

In the initial implementation phase of all twenty five water supply schemes, formation of Water User and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) were formed with the facilitation support of Shankhar VDC, RWSSP-WN, DDC Syangja. In this context, the researcher attempted to uncover respondents' pre-awareness about the formation of WUSC in their village/*tole*. The following table presents the findings of this inquiry:

Table 4.12
Distribution of Respondents by Awareness on the Formation of WUSC

Response	Number	Percent
From the meeting of all people (<i>Aambhela</i>)	112	94.1
From VDC/DDC	5	4.2
Don't know	2	1.7
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As the table above demonstrates, 94.1 percent of the respondents said that the committee was formed by organizing meeting of all of the concerned local people, which is popularly called mass meeting (*Aambhela*). Similarly, 4.2 percent said those committees were formed by VDC/DDC and 1.7 percent were not aware about how it was done. As vindicated by the formal documents of those water supply schemes, the WUSCs were formed through *Aambhela*, so a vast majority of the respondents were found to be aware about this fact. Moreover, most of the respondents had participated in that *Aambhela*.

4.3.2 Involvement of Women

As encouraged by their concern about easy access to water, women were very actively engaged in the construction of the project, which has been continuing till now also. Their self-concern encouraged them to participate in drinking water project activities. The respondents were asked to inquire about the way they rate their contribution in the water supply schemes. The given table shows some data regarding this matter.

Table: 4.13

Distribution of Respondents by Attitude towards Involvement of Women in Drinking Water Projects

Comparison of Man & Women	Number	Percent
As equal as men	44	37.0
Less than men	7	5.9
More than men	68	57.1
Total	119	100.0

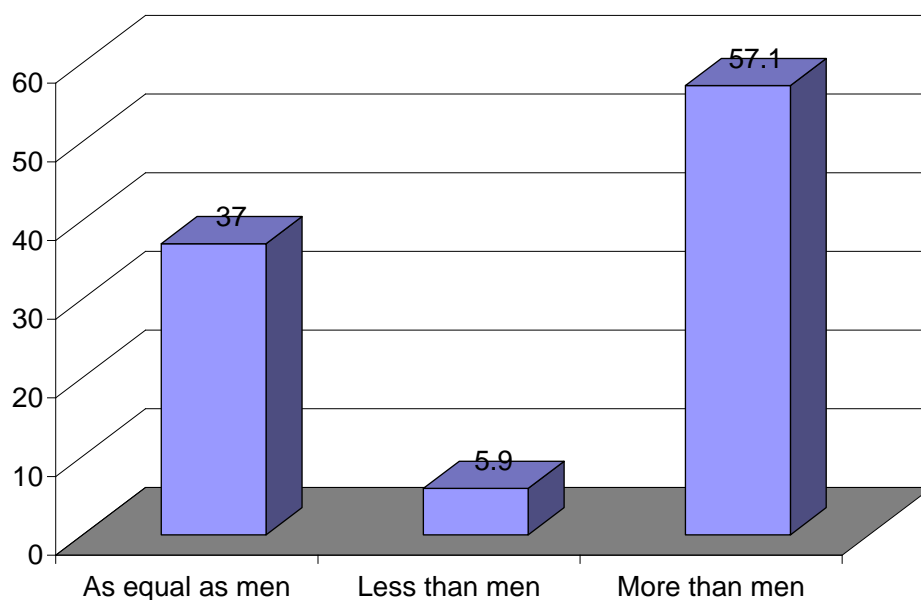


Figure 4.5 Comparison of Involvement in the Drinking Water Projects

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As demonstrated in the above table 4.13, more than half i.e. 57.1 percent of the respondents thought that women participated more actively than men in the various activities of drinking water projects launched in their localities.

Likewise, 37.0 percent view their participation as equal as men. Only 5.9 percent of them feel that their involvement is less than men.

One of the interviewee, who is the Chairperson of one of the drinking water and sanitation schemes, is of the view that the participation of women in various activities of drinking water projects was exclusively high as compared to their male counterparts. He further maintained that women were more active while accomplishing the assigned tasks related to the construction and operation of the schemes. These also clearly show the level of desperation of having an easy access to drinking water facilities for these women. Definitely they desired to lessen the workload on them regarding the management of water for household uses.

4.3.3 Participation of Respondents in the Executive Committee

The type of activism that women showed during the construction of different drinking water projects remained almost the same even after the completion of the project as quoted by the Chairperson of one of the drinking water and sanitation projects. The researcher also noted such activism in the meetings of their respective committee amongst the local women during the fieldwork too. In this context, the respondents were asked about, who they think as more active in WUSC. The following table demonstrates data obtained during this:

Table: 4.14

Distribution of Respondents by their View on more Activism within WUSC

Response	Number	Percent
Female	68	57.1
Male	39	32.8
Can't say	12	10.1
Total	119	100.0

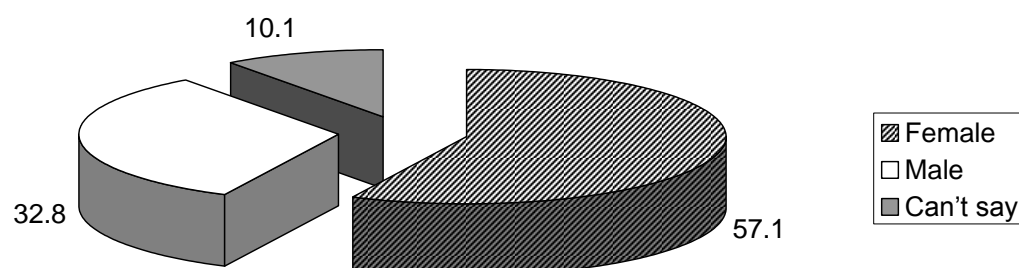


Figure 4.6 Distribution of Respondents by their View on more Activism within WUSC

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table above portrays that majority (57.1) percent of the respondents feel that women representatives are more active in the activities of WUSC as compared to that of men. Similarly, 32.8 percent present men as more active members in WUSC meeting, general assemblies, etc.

4.3.4 Participation of Women in Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance is one of the important activities of any drinking water program. The longevity of any project rests on the level of commitment shown by its stakeholders in its promotion and maintenance. Women of Shankhar have played extremely important role in the processes of operation and maintenance of the drinking water supply schemes. The researcher also recorded some cases supporting this fact during field observation. The following table 4.15 shows the real scenario of women's participation in the operation and maintenance of this drinking water project.

Table: 4.15

Distribution of Respondents by their Involvement in Operation and Maintenance

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, I have been involving	103	86.5
No, I haven't been involving regularly	39	13.5
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

After the completion of water supply schemes, 86.5 percent of the women respondents said that they have continuously been involving in the operation and maintenance of the project after its successful completion assuming varied types of roles and responsibilities, while 13.5 percent of them expressed that they are not doing so on a regular basis. It means their involvement was sporadic one. Higher involvement of women in the operation and maintenance may be due to the presence of low number of men in the village since a large number of them are now in the foreign employment. This scenario is now becoming a characteristic feature of most of the Nepalese villages.

Local women of Shankhar contributed in the process of planning, implementation and operation & maintenance of these twenty five drinking water and sanitation schemes and the ways they have been playing their role in the effective functioning of these schemes now. During the process of planning and implementation, women were compelled to attend meetings due to the out-migration of the male members of their family. First the frequency of their participation increased as a result their participation rate became higher qualitatively as time went on. Now they have established themselves as the integral components of these DWSSSs being run in the VDC.

4.4 Role of Water Supply Schemes in changing Domestic Roles of Women

4.4.1 Source of Collecting Water

As mentioned before, collecting water for the household use was quite difficult before the interventions of drinking water supply projects. They had to walk for a long distance for this purpose. So, significant time was spent on it. It used to place them a very heavy and difficult workload to be accomplished. The following figure 4.16 shows the source of collecting water before the project construction.

Table: 4.16

Distribution of Respondents by Source of Fetching Water

Source of Water	Before		After	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Public tap	74	62.2	100	84.0
Private tap	9	7.6	14	11.8
Kuwa	12	10.0	2	1.7
Others	24	20.2	3	2.5
Total	119	100.0	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As we see on the above table 4.16 that before the establishment of water supply schemes 62.2 percent of the respondent households used to get water from public tap. But 84.0 percent of the respondent households get water from public tap after the completion of water supply schemes. Likewise, the number of households getting water from private tap also increased from 7.6 percent to 11.8 percent after the establishment of water supply schemes.

The most important message of this table is that the dependence of households on public and private taps has increased after the completion of water supply schemes with the decrease in the dependence on kuwa and other sources. As put forward by the participants of the focused group discussions, the sources for fetching water, whether they be taps or wells, were unsafe/unprotected one. But the water supply schemes have altered this situation.

4.4.2 Changing Working Pattern of the Respondent with the Project

Obviously, 25 water supply schemes have brought significant changes in the working pattern of the women of this VDC in terms of managing water for household purpose and others. Putting in other way, now they are tasting the fruit of their honest labour and contribution made in the process of the project implementation. The major changes brought by the project in women's working pattern in the village have been described as follows:

4.4.2.1 Time Saving of Water

The availability of water near the courtyard has definitely saved their time allocated for managing water significantly. The data in the table 4.17 shows the respondent women's attitude towards time saving due to water supply schemes:

Table: 4.17

Distribution of Respondents by Attitude towards Saving of Time

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	113	95.0
No	6	5.0
Total	119	100.0

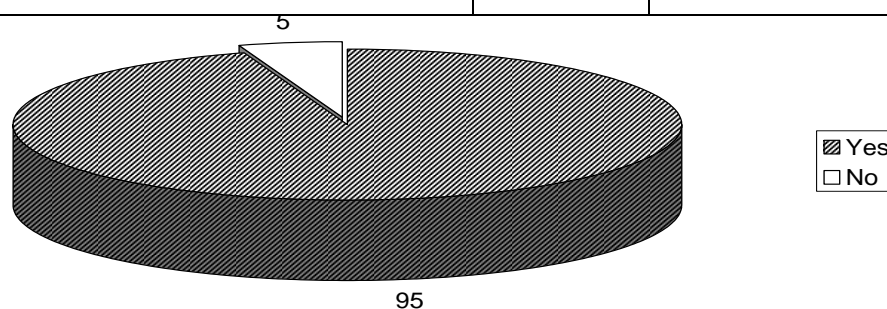


Figure 4.7 Distribution of Respondents by Attitude towards Saving of Time

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As illustrated by the data of the table 6.2, 95.0 percent women respondents feel that the project construction has saved a large part of this time invested in fetching water. After the construction of these water supply schemes, the women are quite happy to find easy supply of water in or near their courtyard. This has eased the basic processes of bathing to general irrigation of the kitchen garden. As a result, now women are gradually managing to engage themselves in more activities related to their empowerment. Due to their changed focus one can see the early symptoms of improvement in the living standard of not only women but also the whole families. The following table 4.18 shows the way the time of these women to fetch water has now been saved.

Table: 4.18
Distribution of Respondents by Time Spent for Fetching Water

Time	Before		After	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-5 minutes	33	27.7	94	79.0
6-10 minutes	15	12.6	10	8.4
11-15 minutes	13	10.9	7	5.9
16-30 minutes	39	32.7	7	5.9
More than 30 minutes	19	16.0	1	.8
Total	119	100.0	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The above table 4.18 above compares the time that sampled households had to spend for fetching water. As it clearly demonstrates that almost a half of the respondent households had to invest more than 15 minutes for fetching water before the construction of these 25 water supply schemes. It also shows that only 27.7 percent of the households had an easy access to water source i.e. they had to spend less than five minutes for fetching water before, but now a vast majority of the households i.e. 79.0 percent have to spend only about 5 minutes or less to fetch water for domestic purpose.

The strongest message of this table is that the work load of these women is greatly lessened after the installation of water supply and sanitation schemes. As a result, women are gradually shifting towards some productive as well as creative activities. This has added a new dimension towards the empowerment of these rural women. This is because now they are increasingly involved in what is called the main way of empowering and raising the status of rural women *i.e.* IGAs.

4.4.2.2 Multiple Usage of Water

Since the project has brought water supply to an easily accessible place, now women are starting make more benefits from this. They are now able to use this water not only for household daily uses but also for other productive purposes such as irrigating vegetables in the farm and kitchen garden. More regarding this is shown in the table given below:

Table: 4.19

Distribution of Respondents by the Multiple Usage of Water

Purpose	Number	Percent
Use water to irrigate vegetables farm	72	60.5
Use water for kitchen garden	93	78.1
Total	165*	-

**Multiple response type question.*

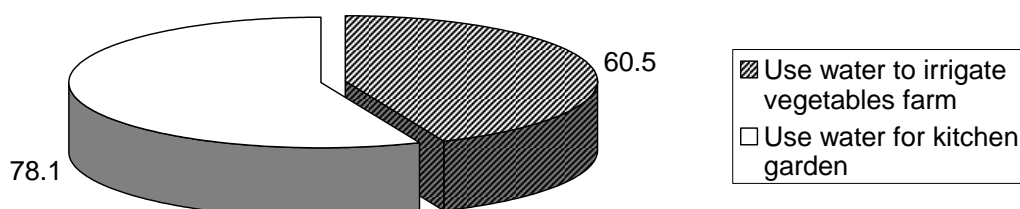


Figure 4.8 Distribution of Respondents by the Multiple Usage of Water

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the above table 4.19, 60.5 percent of the respondent women have started seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable farming near their households after the project construction in their locality. From this they have been able to generate certain income at the household level. This practice was very less common when there was difficulty of managing drinking water in the past. Likewise, 78.1 percent of the respondent women use this water for kitchen gardening. This has aided a lot of boosting of the self supportiveness of the family to some extent. Some of them have also been to make economic profit from vegetable farming. This has lessened their economic dependency on their husbands. In this way, they are getting empowered economically too.

4.4.2.3 Convenience

The installation of water supply schemes have not only saved time for collecting water for these women of Shankhar but also has made their difficult task of managing water for household uses a convenient one. The table 4.20 shows some views of the respondents related to this issue.

Table: 4.20

Distribution of Respondents by View towards Convenience due to Water Supply

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, it has become much convenient	113	95.0
No, it hasn't become much convenient	6	5.0
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As exhibited by the data of the table 4.20, a large portion of the respondents *i.e.* 95.0 percent have felt convenience in fetching water after the establishment of water supply system in their locality. Now, they no longer need to carry the water pots in their back from far-off places. Due to this surely their work burden in lessened which may have some indirect implications in other creative tasks for the betterment of them and their families' life.

4.4.2.4 Change in Household Division of Labour

Nepalese society is traditionally male dominated. As a result of this men are ranked higher to women and the activities that men perform are considered to be more superior to women. This scenario prevails in the households of Shankhar too. In the other words, the society of Shankhar is not devoid of such salient features of Nepalese society so far. However, after the installation of 25 different water supply and sanitation schemes, some significant changes have been recorded regarding the household division of labour among men and women. The given table 4.21 shows more on this.

Table: 4.21**Distribution of Respondents by Division of Labour in the Households**

Task	Before		After	
	Men & women	Women only	Men & women	Women only
Cooking Food	1 (0.8)	118 (99.2)	5 (4.2)	114 (95.8)
Preparing Tea	17 (14.3)	102 (85.7)	35 (24.1)	84 (75.9)
Fetching Water	35 (24.1)	84 (75.9)	70 (58.8)	49 (41.2)
Washing dishes	1 (0.8)	118 (99.2)	21 (17.6)	98 (82.4)
Repairing Tasks	90 (75.6)	29 (24.4)	80 (67.2)	39 (32.8)
Shopping	12 (10.0)	107 (90.0)	43 (36.1)	76 (63.9)
Caring Animals	40 (33.6)	79 (66.4)	50 (42.0)	69 (58.0)
Caring Children	70 (58.8)	49 (41.2)	52 (43.7)	67 (56.3)

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage).

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the above table, not only collecting water but local men also have started to engage more in certain domestic activities too after the water supply has become easier. These figures reflect the version of the women respondents. They have clearly indicated that after the launching of water supply schemes, men have started to contribute in the household activities too like cooking, making tea, fetching water, washing dishes, shopping, etc. which fall under the traditional category of activities to be done by women in a household. Similarly, women's involvement is increasing in caring of children and repairing tasks due to the saving of time that they had to allocate for fetching water from a source located at far-off place from the households. From this we can say that the installation of water supply and sanitation schemes in the different settlements of Shankhar has been playing an important role in strengthening the bonding between men and women by encouraging them to share the domestic tasks between them.

The participants of FGD were also sharing similar views regarding the changes in domestic division of labour after the commencement of drinking water supply systems, but not only from the WASH project intervention, might be from the positive impact of other development activities also.

4.4.3 Management of Triple Roles

In a patriarchal society like ours, women have to perform three types of roles a) roles within household chores, b) roles outside households and c) procreation or reproduction and the women of Shankhar are not an exception. They too have been compelled to perform those triple roles. Due to their biology, reproduction is unavoidable fact. Besides, they have to be engaged in various activities within as well as outside domestic spheres. Maintaining a balance between them is obviously a challenging affair as engagement in one may make it difficult to engage in other one.

As explained in earlier paragraphs, women played very important roles in the activities of water supply and sanitation scheme in Shankhar, which are the activities beyond their household chores. Contributing significantly in those activities demands careful planning of the tasks to be performed within and outside households. During the fieldwork, the researcher attempted to inquire respondents about this also. In the words of one of the respondents, *Bihana saberai uthera gharko kamdhanda sakinthyo ani diuso yojanako kam garinthyo* (I used to get up early in the morning and finish household activities and then used to go to perform the activities of the project). She was explaining on how she managed to maintain a balance between the activities within and outside the households. Like her many of the other respondents also shared similar views in this regard.

Another respondent presented a different answer in relation to this question. According to her, *mero sano babu thiyo tara sasurale timi jau ma herchhu yeslai vannuhunthyo, gai bhaisilai ghas pani uhale nai vyavastha garnuhunthyo ani diuso khaja khane belama dudh chusauthe uslai* (I had a

little baby, but my father-in-law used to send me to the project saying he'd look after my baby and provide grass and fodder to cattle, I used to suckle my baby during the *Khaja* break in the day time). Based on her and three other respondents' answer, it can be said that the supportive nature of the family members was another factor that fostered and enabled the local women to maintain a balance between their triple roles. In the words of one of the key-informants, local women were able to contribute, despite their heavy domestic workload, in the water projects because of their sheer interest of easing the easy availability of water, cooperative nature of family members and individual skills of women to manage their own multi-faceted responsibilities.

Thus, this chapter explained the role that the drinking water schemes have played to change the working pattern of local women of Shankhar VDC, Syangja. The working pattern of the women in the households of Shankhar is not much different from that of most of the Nepalese rural women. Most of their time is spent on domestic affairs. In the past, fetching water from distant source was a familiar but one of most difficult household tasks for rural women. They had to spend a long time for fetching water in Shankhar too. But once these twenty five drinking water schemes were installed, significant changes have occurred in the working pattern of these women.

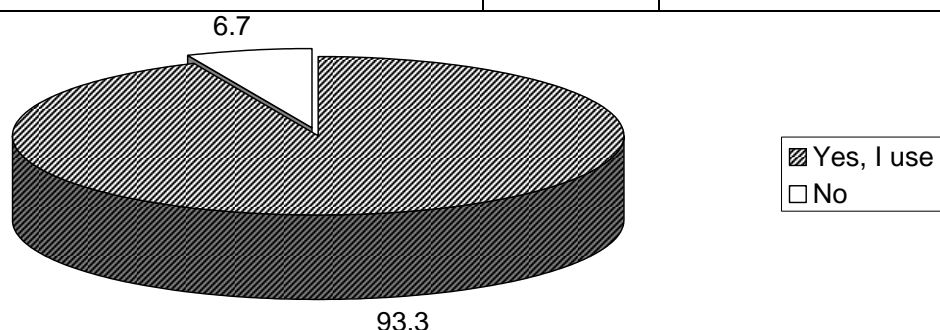
4.5 Role of Water Supply Schemes in Women Empowerment

4.5.1 Use of Saved Time

One of the most the significant contribution of this drinking water supply project on women's lives has been the duration of time saved that they had to allocate for fetching water. The respondents were asked if they could use the saved time in creative and productive activities. The following table shows the respondents' answer regarding this:

Table: 4.22**Distribution of Respondents by the Use of Saved Time in Productive Sector**

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, I use	111	93.3
No, I don't use	8	6.7
Total	119	100.0

**Figure 4.9 Distribution of Respondents by the Use of Saved Time in Productive Sector**

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table above is evident that 93.3 percent of the respondents have been using the saved time in various creative and productive sector, only 6.7 of them have not been able to do so. From this it is clear that the water supply and sanitation schemes launched in the VDC have been enabling a vast majority of local women for the use of saved time in different activities. As a result now they have been able to involve themselves in various creative activities. The following table shows the areas in which these women have been using the time saved for fetching water after the construction of the different water supply schemes in the village.

Table: 4.23**Distribution of Respondents by the Area of Using Saved Time (N=111)**

Area of Using Saved Time	Number	Percent
Taking care of children	41	36.9
Social and development works	58	52.2
Economic/Income Generating activities	69	62.2
Education/Adult Education	6	5.4
Farming	90	81.0
Total	264*	-

** Multiple response type question.*

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the above table 4.23, 62.2 percent of the respondents have been able to add more time in IGAs from both agricultural and non-agricultural sector. Similarly, 81.0 percent of them are now able to add more time to agriculture. From this, they are not only fulfilling their daily need of vegetable, food crops and others but also are making some economic gains by selling vegetables, fruits, etc. This has been very helpful for the farm-based families of the study area. Likewise, 52.2 percent of the respondents have been able to invest the saved time for social and development related works in the society. In the same way, 36.9 percent of them have been able to provide extra time for child caring while 5.4 percent of them have now managed to use saved time for adult literacy classes. As a result of this, their knowledge and awareness level has increased and it also has shown other different types of positive impacts on the social life.

4.5.2 Dimensions of Women's Empowerment

In the section above, use of saved time by these local women has been adding a new dimension to women empowerment in women empowerment. The reality of women's empowerment brought up after the installation of water supply schemes contributed significantly in the issues of welfare, access, consent,

participation and control. These multi-faceted issues have been described on the basis of following dimensions.

4.5.2.1 Involvement in Income-Generation

As shown in the table 4.23, 62.2 percent of the respondents have been able to generate some income by using the saved time from fetching water. Most of these women have been using that saved time in IGAs related to agriculture. The researcher tried to investigate the main income generating activities that local women have been engaging after the easy availability of water. The following table shows then data produced from this investigation:

Table: 4.24

Distribution of Respondents by the Income Generating Activity (N=69)

Income generating activities	Number	Percent
Selling vegetables	4	5.8
Selling chicks/goat	57	82.6
Doing service	2	2.9
Selling milk and ghee	6	8.7
Total	69	100.0

** Multiple response type question.*

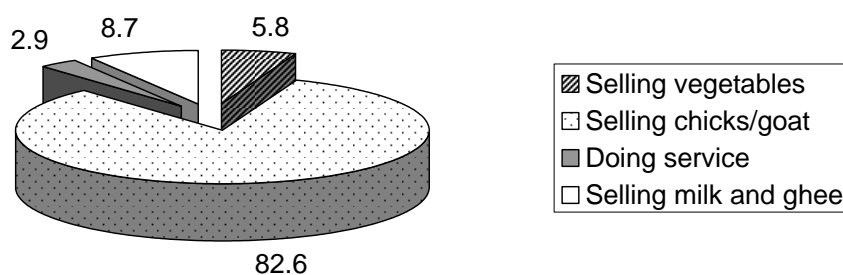


Figure 4.10

Distribution of Respondents by the Income Generating Activity (N=69)

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As the table 4.24 demonstrates, 82.6 percent of the respondents practice rearing of goats and chicks as income generating activity. Besides, they are also

engaging in selling vegetables (5.8%), selling milk and ghee (8.7%) and service (2.9%). The income that they have been making from these activities has been a supplement to support the household economy.

4.5.2.2 Leadership Development

Another very important and significant contribution of the water supply and sanitation schemes has been the leadership development among women as explained by one of the key-informants concerned with VDC. The following table shows the respondents' attitude towards more active among those in executive committee of WUSC.

Table: 4.25

Distribution of Respondents by their View on Activeness of Male and Female

Response	Number	Percent
Female	68	57.1
Male	39	32.8
Can't say	12	10.1
Total	119	100.0

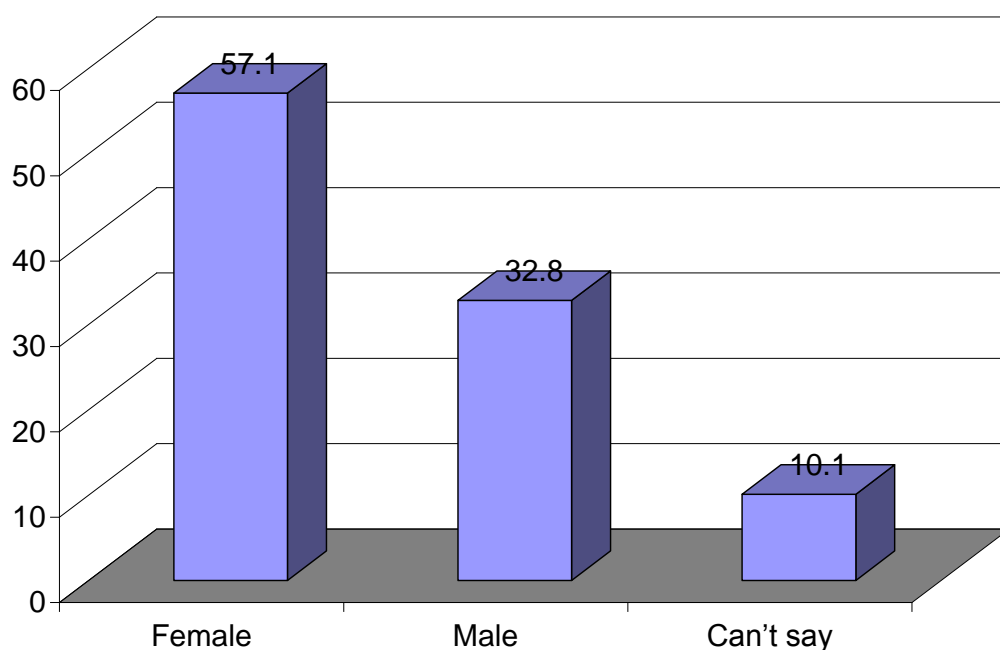


Figure 4.11 Distribution of Respondents by their View on More Active Members

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

According to above table, 57.1 percent of the respondents have seen women members more active in executive committees, while 32.8 percent have seen male members more active. However, respondents' comparison also After discovering that women have been more active in the activities of WUSC, the researcher further attempted to discover the way the women members express their views in regular meetings and other gatherings of the committee. The way women present their views in the meeting of their respective committee, general assembly of users committee, etc. is shown in the table given below:

Table: 4.26
Distribution of Respondents by Confidence Level in Meetings

Response	Number	Percent
Can express confidently	104	87.4
Cannot express confidently	15	12.6
Total	119	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As the above table demonstrates that a large proportion of the women respondents i.e. 80.4 percent can confidently present their views in any kind of the meeting or gatherings of the committee or group they are involved, while 12.6 percent of them are still hesitant about this issue. It means due to their repeated and frequent involvement in various activities related to drinking water and sanitation, most of the women feel empowered to express their views with confidence thereby increase their say in those community related activities. Their perception was further vindicated during information discussions with the researcher by a number of representatives of different WUSCs active within Shankhar VDCs who explained that women have been more active than in the past to make project durable as they rarely hesitate to express their views in the key decision making activities of the projects .

After discovering that women have been very influential in construction and management of the drinking water schemes, the researcher was encouraged to find out the positions occupied by in the WUSC of these twenty five DWSSSs. This is particularly significant as it signifies the way women's activism has been materialized while forming WSSSs, The following table shows their representation in all twenty five DWSSSs:

Table: 4.27
Women Representation in WUSC

Post in Executive Committees	Total Posts	Number of Women	Percent
Chairperson	25	1	4.0
Vice-Chairperson	25	1	4.0
Secretary	25	2	8.0
Joint-Secretary	25	3	12.0
Treasurer	25	23	92.0
Members	94	79	84.0
Total	219	109	49.8

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The participants of the FGD had a more or less common opinion that due to local women's continuous involvement in the construction and management of these twenty five Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes has contributed to lift their confidence level. As a result most of them feel that they now can express what they feel regarding various issues socio-cultural change, development, women empowerment etc. In the past when such incident occurred, they used to remain silent as if they had no express-ability. Now they easily give their opinion when they are asked. Not only this new whenever any meeting or gathering is held in the society, women's representation remains encouraging. Their regular participation in meeting in the course of construction and management of water supply systems has made them more conscious and aware about various issues related to leadership development.

4.5.2.3 Involvement in Decision-Making

Along with leadership development, involvement in decision making in the family and the society has been another dimension of women empowerment. Here women's involvement in decision making processes has been analyzed by dividing into two categories namely those within households and those at societal/communal level.

4.5.2.3.1 Involvement in Domestic Decision-Making

In a patriarchal society like ours, household decision making is largely lead and finalized by male members of a family. They are dominant over their female counterparts in such processes. The researcher attempted to discover whether the respondent households characterize the basic feature of Nepalese society or not. The following table demonstrates data generated during this effort:

Table: 4.28

Distribution of Respondents by State of Domestic Decision-Making Process

Task	A	B	C	D	E	F
Food management	4 (3.4)	86 (72.3)	2 (1.7)	5 (4.2)	6 (5.0)	
Purchasing clothes	8 (6.7)	87 (73.1)			6 (5.0)	2 (1.7)
Purchasing electronics	32 (26.9)	24 (20.2)	15 (12.6)		26 (21.8)	10 (8.4)
Medical Treatment	10 (8.4)	52 (43.7)	2 (1.7)	11 (9.6)	19 (16.0)	13 (10.9)
Arrangement of tour and outings	17 (14.3)	42 (35.3)		4 (3.4)	32 (26.9)	8 (6.7)
Procreation	12 (10.1)	13 (10.9)			69 (58.0)	
Care of children		38 (31.9)		18 (15.1)	32 (26.9)	8 (6.7)
Education of children	6 (5.0)	30 (25.2)	18 (15.1)		34 (28.6)	8 (6.7)

A = Husband, B = Wife, C = Other male member, D = Other Female member,

E = Husband and wife together, F = Collective decision of family

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage).

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table above reflects some interesting figures as women have appeared to be the central authority for making household level decisions most of the issues related to domestic life. Respondents play quite dominant role in making final decisions related to in the issues of managing foods and purchasing clothes in their families. Besides, their roles in other issues like medical treatment, arrangement of tours or family outings, caring of children, etc. is more influential than those of other family members. In important issues like purchase of electronic goods, procreation and education of children, they take final decisions by working together with their husbands. As the respondents posited during informal talks, they have made some vital learning while engaging in the drinking water projects, so their families tend to have a tremendous faith over them, as a result, they have been assigned with special authority of making family decisions.

4.5.2.3.2 Involvement in Societal/Communal Decision-Making

In a patriarchal society like ours, societal or communal decision making is also largely lead and finalized by male members. As explained before, women were involved actively in new decision-making regarding the construction activities of the water supply projects. The table 4.29 presents some useful information on the participation of women in the activities related to the water supply and sanitation schemes launched in the VDC.

Table: 4.29

Distribution of Respondents by Representation of Family in Gatherings and Meetings related to Water Projects

Participant from Family	Number	Percent
Female	107	89.9
Male	10	8.4
None	2	1.7
Total	119	100.0

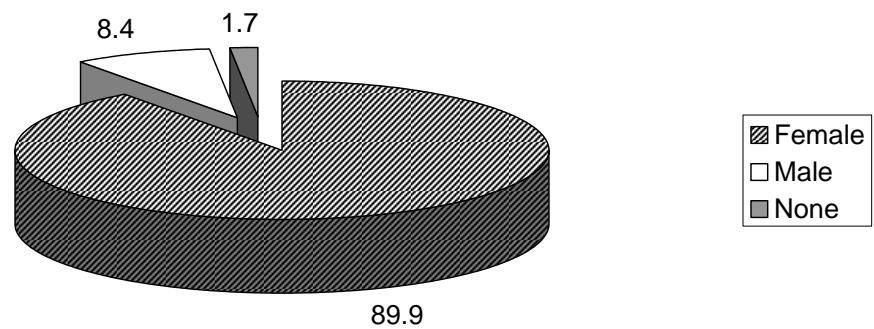


Figure 4.12 Distribution of Respondents by Representation of Family in Gatherings and Meetings related to Water Projects

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table 4.29 shows that 89.9 percent of the respondents represented their households in the meetings and gatherings organized to make decisions in various phases of the installed water supply and sanitation schemes in the village. It means women participated in all, earlier, middle and, latter stages of those schemes. Moreover, some of the women respondents said that they were/are the members in the WUSC. This also clarifies their involvement in decision-making related to activities of water supply and sanitation schemes.

4.5.2.4 Participation in Development Activities

The data and explanation presented above clearly reveal that women's attendance in social meeting and gathering is quite appreciable. As informed by one of the key-informants, now most of the women do not hesitate to express their views in such occasions. With the construction of the water supply systems in the village, the participatory attitude of women is also enhancing. Their interest of participating in development activities is also gradually increasing. Table 4.30 shows data about it.

Table: 4.30

**Distribution of Respondents by their Desire to Participate in Up-Coming
Development Activities Too**

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	111	93.3
No	2	1.7
Can't say	6	5.0
Total	119	100.0

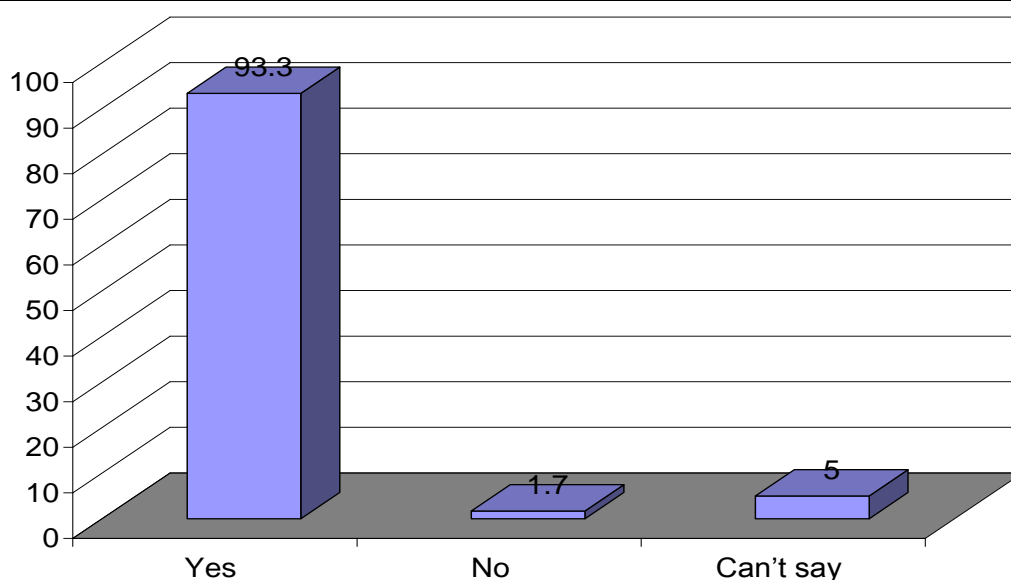


Figure 4.13 Distribution of Respondents by their Desire to Participate in Up-Coming Development Activities Too

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

As shown in the above table, 93.3 percent of the women have a strong desire of participating in development activities in the future too while 5.0 percent of them weren't sure about it and 1.7 percent of them don't like to do participate in such activities in future. Probably they might have got tired while contributing to the existing water supply and sanitation schemes.

Among those 111 respondents, who expressed their strong desire to participate in future development undertakings too, the researcher also attempted to

investigate the sector that they contributing further to diversify development activities in the village. The result of this attempt has been shown below:

Table: 4.31

Distribution of Respondents by their Involvement in Development Activities

(N=111)

Development Activities	Number	Percent
Forest management	9	8.1
School management	16	14.4
Health related programme	26	23.4
Sanitation programme	52	46.8
Adult education	25	22.5
Political activities	34	30.6
Co-operative or other small industry	26	23.4
Total	188*	-

** Multiple response type question.*

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table shows that currently 8.1 percent of the respondents are involved in forest management while 14.4 percent of them are engaged in school management. Similarly, 23.4 percent of them are participating in health related development activities, 46.8 percent in community sanitation programmes, 22.5 in adult literacy programme, 30.6 in political filed and 23.4 percent in cooperative and small scale industries. As interpreted by one of the local political leader, encouraged by their own participation in water supply and sanitation schemes, the local women have become habituated to contribute in the village level development activities. As a result, the local women are increasingly involved in diversified types of development undertakings in the study area.

Moreover, the local women's engagement in local level development activities is not limited to above explained fields only. Now, they have established and

run activities that exclusively focus on women. The following table shows the types of institutions, programs, and groups formed by local women primarily for the helping local women:

Table: 4.32

Distribution of Respondents by their Involvement in different Development related Groups

(N=111)

Women related initiatives	Number	Percent
Mother's group	93	86.9%
Women development programme group	4	3.7%
Women loan and saving group	27	25.2%
Total	124*	-

** Multiple response type question.*

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The table shows the initiatives made by local women for assisting women themselves. As it demonstrates a huge majority of the respondents i.e. 86.9 percent are involved in mothers' groups, while 3.7 percent of them are engaged in women development programme. Similarly, 25.2 percent of them are participating in women loan and saving group. As informed by one of the key-informants, the local women have become increasingly aware that women themselves have to contribute for uplifting the living standard of women themselves. But contrary to her points, in the researcher's observation the activities of mothers group in particular are focused on the benefits of whole society rather than women only.

4.5.2.5 Control over Family Properties and Resources

Control over resources is another important indicator of women empowerment. As explained in the preceding sections, the leadership capacity, the level of awareness and others have greatly increased with the active participation of women in WSSS. The following table presents data on control over selling or

purchase of family resources and financial activities in the respondents' households:

Table: 4.33

Distribution of Respondents by Control over Family Assets and others

Assets	Before WSSS			After WSSS		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Land	53 (44.5)	30 (25.2)	10 (8.4)	37 (31.1)	44 (37.0)	10 (8.4)
House	73 (61.3)	23 (19.3)	10 (8.4)	50 (42.0)	31 (26.1)	10 (8.4)
Livestock	28 (23.5)	68 (57.1)	10 (8.4)	22 (18.5)	59 (49.6)	10 (8.4)
Jewelry	16 (13.4)	80 (67.2)	10 (8.4)	1 (0.8)	80 (67.2)	10 (8.4)
Bank deposit	35 (29.4)	37 (31.1)	23 (19.3)	25 (21.0)	45 (37.8)	10 (8.4)
Loan	36 (30.3)	37 (31.1)	23 (19.3)	26 (21.8)	45 (37.8)	23 (19.3)
Business	24 (20.2)	47 (39.5)	23 (19.3)	16 (13.4)	55 (46.2)	10 (8.4)

Source: Field Survey, 2015/16

The above table compares the state of control over family assets before and after the implementation of Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes. Here the researcher was particularly interested to discover the member of each family, who holds an edge over others in terms of regulating family assets. This table clearly portrays that women's control over family assets like jewelry and livestock is higher as compared to others. Similarly, their control over family's land, houses, bank deposit, loan management, business etc. has increased after the installation of WSSS in the VDC. These water supply and sanitation schemes have proved to be very helpful to empower the women in Shankhar VDC, Syangja as quoted by one of the key informants, who is affiliated to Syangja DDC. As the participants of FGD posited women's awareness level and resource controlling and mobilization capacity vastly improved due to their continuous engagement in the WSSS activities.

In this way this chapter analyzed and explained the direct and indirect way in which the easy access to water resources has led to the empowerment of local

women. As explained above, the empowerment has led to a number of positive outcomes in the social/communal level as well as family level. With numerous meeting held in the process women eventually become accustomed to attending meeting alongside the men and they could grasp the discussions more. The women presently get opportunities and encouragement for men of their household and villagers to participate in community activities. In family issues, other family members including husbands were aware about those changes taking place in the local women. As result, their faith over women kept on increasing, which ultimately increased women's control over family assets and financial activities.

Chapter V

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

This study was carried out among the users of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSP-WN) project supported twenty five Drinking Water and Sanitation Schemes in Shankhar VDC, Syangja with the general objective to explore and analyze the way change in access to drinking water contributes to women in Shankhar, Syangja. But it had three-fold specific objectives stated as follows:

1. To analyze the roles of women in water projects in terms of leadership, management, decision making process and other activities of the WUSC.
2. To assess the ways the time saved is bringing about changes in the lives of the local women in terms of their triple roles.
3. To evaluate the way the water supply component of the intervention helped women in terms of their welfare, access, consent, participation and control.

Situated in the southern part of Syangja district, Shankar VDC is the second largest VDC in district. The V.D.C has mixed types of caste/ethnic groups. Hill Brahmin and Magar are the main caste/ethnic groups in this VDC in terms of population. Besides, Kami, Sarki, Thakuri, Damai, Bhujel, Newar, Gurung, Giri, etc. are other major caste/ethnic groups of this VDC.

This study employed both exploratory as well as descriptive research designs. All the households of this VDC i.e. 1048 households constituted the study universe and household was taken as the unit of analysis. Of the total households, 119 households were sampled using stratified sampling in which caste/ethnicity was used to form strata. This study is mainly based on primary information. The primary data were collected during the field work, which are

of both qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. Some important secondary data were also collected from the different sources like published and unpublished works, document and reports and article and journals for present study. Primary data were collected using techniques and tools like, household survey, interview, key informants' interview and focus group discussion.

The primary and secondary collection data were coded, edited, tabulated, and analysis in appropriate format. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS program in computer. The quantitative data of the study were analyzed and verified comparing with the information obtained from other source. Some basis statistical tools like frequency, percentage and distribution have been used. Apart from this map, tables, chart, diagrams, figures, have also been used. Descriptive method was used for the analysis of qualitative data.

The major findings of this study have been summed as given below:

- Women were more concerned about the need of improved drinking water supply system so that they heavy burden of fetching water gets lowered greatly. Their deep concern about this project was one of the major factors behind the success of this project.
- A vast majority i.e. 98.3 percent of the respondents had prior-awareness about the commencement of drinking water and sanitation projects in their locality.
- Most i.e. 94.1 percent of the respondents were found to be aware about and even participated in the process of formation of WUSC in the locality.
- The participation of women in various activities of drinking water projects was found to be exclusively high as compared to their male counterparts as they desired to lessen the workload on them regarding the management of water for household uses.

- Majority (57.1%) of the respondents had the feeling that women representatives are more active in the activities of WUSC as compared to that of men.
- A vast majority i.e. 86.5 percent of the women respondents have continuously been involving in the operation and maintenance of the project after its successful completion assuming varied types of roles and responsibilities.
- The dependence of households on public and private taps has increased after the completion of water supply schemes with the decrease in the dependence on *kuwa* and other sources.
- Significantly high proportion of respondents feels that the project construction has saved a large part of this time invested in fetching water. Now, about 4/5th of the respondents have to spend only about 5 minutes or less to fetch water for domestic purpose.
- The work load of local women is greatly lessened after the installation of water supply and sanitation schemes. As a result, women are gradually shifting towards some productive as well as creative activities.
- It has been found that about 3/5th of the respondent households have started seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable farming near their households after the project construction in their locality. Likewise, about 4/5th of them use this water for kitchen gardening too.
- After the launching of water supply schemes, men have started to contribute in the household activities too like cooking, making tea, fetching water, washing dishes, shopping, etc. which fall under the traditional category of activities to be done by women in a household.
- Similarly, women's involvement is increasing in caring of children and repairing tasks due to the saving of time that they had to allocate for fetching water from a source located at far-off place from the households.

- It has found that the local women were able to contribute, despite their heavy domestic workload, in the water projects because of their sheer interest of easing the easy availability of water, cooperative nature of family members and individual skills of women to manage their own multi-faceted responsibilities.
- An overwhelmingly high percentage of the respondents have been using the saved time in various creative and productive sectors. As a result of this, their knowledge and awareness level has increased and it also has shown other different types of positive impacts on the social life in Shankhar.
- Involvement in income generation, development of leadership, influential role in family and communal decision making processes, development of participatory attitude and desire for participating in development activities, increased control of women over family assets, etc. are the main contributions of the DWSSS in the empowerment of local women.
- It has discovered that women's control over family assets like jewelry and livestock is higher as compared to others. Similarly, their control over family's land, houses, bank deposit, loan management, business etc. has increased after the installation of WSSS in the VDC.
- It has found that percentage of female in WUSC is 49.8 which is very much appreciated but women representation in must influencing vital positons in decision making of WUSC i.e. Chair Person, Secretary and Treasurer; is only about 35 percentage. Out of 25, Only 1 woman is chairperson and only 2 women are in secretary position.
- 84 percent (100 out of 119) of women respondents are fall in farming occupation and only the 9.2 percent women are in service and trade/business occupation. So, it shows that about 91 percentage of women are doing traditional farming, caste- based occupation and other occupation.

- 84 percent women are using public tap, 11.8 percent are using private tap connected water and 4.2 percent of respondents are still using unprotected water sources like kuwa, streams etc. but all of respondents. This is not desirable because all of the respondents were from community with drinking water supply systems.
- 14.3 percent respondents are illiterate, 72.3 percent of respondents` are just literate and only 9.2 percent of respondent women has the education above the SLC. This shows the poor educational status of women of Sakhar VDC.
- It has found that women involvement in other development activities, 8.1% in forest management, 14.4 % in School Management, 23.4 % in Health related program, 46.8 % in sanitation program, 22.5 % in adult education, 30.6 % in political activities and 23.4 % in Cooperative or other small industry. It shows that most of the women of Sakhar are not empowered well for their involvement in other development activities which are very essentials.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the major findings from the research study, recommendations are as followings:

- Leadership Development training for women of Sakhar will be added value for the women empowerment in Sakhar.
- Capacity Building activities for women to manage drinking water supply system will be fruitful for the sustainability of DWSSs.
- Livelihood support activities (IGAs, Agriculture, Livestock etc) integration with water, sanitation and hygiene would be the milestone for women empowerment in Sakhar because of high involvement of women in traditional farming.
- Linkage and Coordination should be established to empower the women from Sakhar in other development activities.

- Informal education (Adult Literacy Program) with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene awareness teaching materials is recommended to address the women illiteracy with WASH education.
- Water supply systems should be accessible for all of the settlement and awareness raising events on importance of safe drinking water should be conducted to stop the water fetching from unprotected traditional water sources.
- Gender inclusion along with GESI Policy of RWSSP-WN should be replicated in all other development practices to empower the rural women.

5.3 Conclusion

In a traditional society like ours, a man is supposed to be outgoing, aggressive, brave, independent and intelligent while a woman is expected to be shy, motherly fragile, emotional, courteous, and dependent. Such format of gender roles since birth leads women to an endless discrimination that women's place is home and dearth. Due to such social environment, Nepalese women are forced to live a measurable life. It is the national scenario of the country which is also reflected in the study area. The most significant contribution of these twenty five RWSSP-WN supported Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes (DWSSS) in Shankhar VDC has undoubtedly been the easier access to water for household uses. These schemes have been successful in saving time of the women, due to which they have been able to invest the time saved in livestock raising, vegetable farming, etc., which subsequently has contributed to their household economy.

The gender relationship in Shankhar has been witnessing changes although the differences are not astonishing. During the process of construction, women were compelled to attend meetings; qualitatively their participation rate becomes higher. This step brought out the realization among the men that women should be a part of the community development activities. With

numerous meeting held in the process women eventually become accustomed to attending meeting alongside the men and they could grasp the discussions more. As a member who earns, women have increasingly begun to intervene at the decision have begun to acquire more significance. The women presently get opportunities and encouragement for men of their household an villagers to participate in community activities like cooperative, school management, forest management, *Kulo* committee etc. women may not be as active as men during the meetings but unlike earlier time women now seek clarification on matters they are not able to understand. There has been an impact on the autonomy of the women.

The foundation of gender discrimination has a long history. Therefore a complete transformation in gender relationship cannot be expected within a few years time period. It is thus imperative to encourage and build confidence of women to be active at the community level rather than restrict themselves within the domestic chores. More important is for men to develop an attitude of acceptance and adaptation to the fact that women are their equal partner and not subordinate beings. It's the high time for the men to regard their female counterparts as the responsible component of the community, with an enormous strength and potential, thus contribute in their empowerment. If the strength and potential of both men and women are combined, any of the development undertaking can easily be implemented with greater success.

References

- Batliwala, S.(1994). *Women's Empowerment in South Asia: Concepts and Practices*. Delhi: FAO/FFHC.
- Bullock, Susan (1994. *Women and Work Women and World Development Series*, London: Zed Publications.
- Bhattarai, M. (2009). “Role of Women's Empowerment in the Development Process of the Society”. An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Patan Multiple Campus.
- Chaulagain, Narayan P. (2003). “Impacts of Climate Changes on Water Resources of Nepal: A Case Study of Tsho Rolpa Glacial Lake”. An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to International Institute of Management, University of Flensburg, Germany.
- Clinchy, Blythe & Julie Norem (1998). *The Gender and Psychology Reader*, New York University Press.
- Dhakal, M. (2007). “Educated Women in Government Employment: A Study of Gender Situation”. An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, P.N. Campus.
- Dixit, Ajaya and Dipak Gyawali (1997). Political Economy of water (in South Asia in Nepali Dakshin Asia ma Paniko Artha Rajniti), Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Kathmandu.
- Gayawali, Dipak (2001). *Water in Nepal*, Himal Books and Panos South Asia, with Nepal Water Conservation Foundation.
- ICMOD (2002). Mahesh Baskota and Suresh R. Chalise (Eds.), International Center for Integrated Mountain Development. Kathmandu, Nepal: ICIMOD.

- Kabeer, Naila, (1999). *The Conditions and Consequences of Choice: Reflections on the Measurement of Women's Empowerment*, UNRISD Discussion Paper No. 108.
- Lawman, Niomi (2004). *Illustrated Dictionary of Sociology*. New Delhi: Lotus Press.
- Lise, Ostergaard (1997). *Gender and Development*. A Practical Guide.
- Luintel, S. (1996). *Empowerment? What Being Literate Means to Maithali Women in Nepal*. PhD Dissertation. Edmonton: University of Alberta.
- Moser, Caroline M. (1993). *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*. London: Routledge.
- UNDP (2004). *Empowerment and Poverty Reduction, Nepal Human Development Report*. Kathmandu, Nepal: UNDP.
- Paudel, I.B. (2005). *Socio-cultural Factors in Development*, Kathmandu: Sujata Prakashan,
- Piya, R. (2007). "Socio-economic Status of Educated Employed Women in Bandipur VDC, Tanahun". An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, P.N. Campus.
- Ranabhat, B.R. (1995). *Women Entrepreneurs in Nepal, Their Profile, Problems and Prospects*.
- Rana, Sheetal (2001). "A Gender Analysis of Participation in Piped Water Supply System. A Case Study of Naliban Village of Daman VDC, Makwanpur District", An Unpublished Dissertation, T.U.
- Sapkota, C. S. (2014). "Status of Women's Empowerment in a Rural Setting: A Study of Phaparthum VDC of Syangja District, Nepal". An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, P.N. Campus.

- Sharma, Sudhindra (2001). *Procuring Water: Foreign Aid and Rural Water Supply in Nepal*, Kathmandu: Nepal Water Conservation Foundation.
- Sharma, C. (2061 B.S.), "Empowerment Process of Community Women." An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, T.U.
- Shrestha, Shanta Laxmi (1994). *Gender Sensitive Planning What, why and How in Nepal*, Kathmandu: WACN.
- Silwal, G. (2003). "Literary Education and women's Empowerment" In Regmi, R .K. (ed. 2003): In *Sustainability, The lasting fuel*". Kathmandu: Forum for Sustainable Development Nepal.
- Subba, Gyan Bahdur, (2002). *Gender Inequality and Property Right of Nepalese Women*. An unpublished M.A. Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Population Studies. (Kathmandu: CDPS, TU).
- Subedi, P. (2003). "Nepal Women Rising" in Adhikari & Ghimire (ed. 2002): *A Bibliography on Environmental Justice in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Martin Chautari.
- Thapa, Janardan, (2003). "Water, Culture, Society and Diseases in Nepal A Study of Cultural Knowledge on Water Borne Diseases in Katari VDC Udayapur District", An Unpublished Dissertation, T.U.
- Tulachan, Srijana. (2007). "Gender Roles in the Livestock Production and Management at the Household Level: A Case of Jhavalungtar, Chapagaon VDC, Lalitpur District". An Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, P.N. Campus.
- Uprety Laya, P. (1999). A Review Paper on Social Component in Water Resources Strategy formulation, A paper submitted to consolidated management services, Nepal (P): Ltd. Nepal.

World Bank, (1993). *Water Resource Management Policy Paper*, World Bank.

Appendix -1

Empowerment of Rural Women through Drinking Water Projects

A Case of Shankhar VDC, Syangja

- **Min Prasad Basnet**

Department of Rural Development,

Patan Multiple Campus

Lalitpur, Nepal

A Research Tool for Primary Data Collection

A. Household survey

House No:

Name of Respondent:

Family Profile

S.N.	Age/Sex	Relation with Household Head	Education	Occupation	Current Place of Residence
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Background Information

S.N.	Question	Answers	
1.	Age		
2.	Sex	1. Male	2. Female
3.	Education	1. Illiterate 4. Intermediate	2. Literate 5. Bachelor or Above 3. SLC passed
4.	Religion	1. Hindu 4. Islam	2. Buddhism 5. Others (Specify) _____ 3. Hinduism-Buddhism
5.	Caste/Ethnicity	1. Brahmin 5. G.T. 9. Giri/Puri 12. Others (Specify) _____	2. Chhetri 6. Thakuri 10. Gandharva 3. Gurung 4. Magar 7. Newar 8. B.K. 11. Nepali
6.	Family Structure	1. Nuclear 2. Joint	3. Others (Specify) _____
7.	Occupation		
8.	Source of Income		
9.	Average Monthly Income (Rs.)	Agriculture Sources	Non-agricultural Sources
10.	Source of Water	1. Public Tap 4. Kuwa	2. Private Tap 5. River 6. Others (Specify) _____ 3. Other's Private Tap
11.	Distance to Water Source for a roundtrip	1. 5 Minute 4. 21-30 Minute	2. 6-10 Minute 5. More than 30 Minute 3. 11-20 Minute
12.	How many trips in a day in water fetching?	

C. Interview Schedule

1. Questions related to the Water Project

Q.No.	Questions	Answer
1.	Who had put more interest in the construction of this water project?	1. Men 2. Women 3. Both equally
2.	How were the Water User and Sanitation Committee formed?	
3.	How have women been involving in system management and maintenance works of this water project?	1. As equally as men 2. More than men 3. Less than men
4.	How many people are there in the WUSC?	1. Men 2. Women
5	Who is more active in the WUSC?	1. Men 2. Women
6.	How were women encouraged to participate in this project?	
7.	Do women share their views in WUSC self-confidently?	1. Yes 2. No
8.	Who plays the leadership role in decision making related works of the water project management?	1. Male members of the committee 2. Female members of the committee 3. Both 4. Local men 5. Women's group
9.	Who is more participating in water project related work from your house?	1. Female member 2. Male member 3. Children
10.	How have you been managing your household roles and project related roles?	
11.	Is there time saving because of water supply of water project?	1. Yes 2. No
12.	Where you are investing your saving time made by water project?	1. Caring for children 2. Social work 3. Economic activities 4. Adult literacy class 5. Agricultural work
13.	Are you supporting for household expenditure by making income?	1. Yes 2. No

14.	If, yes how?	1. By selling vegetables 2. By selling hens and goats 3. Service 4. By selling firewood 5. By selling dairy products
15.	Are you making kitchen garden in your home?	1. Yes 2. No
16.	Is it possible to irrigate kitchen garden by water?	1. Yes 2. No
17.	Are women involving in other development work because of availability of water facility?	1. Yes 2. No
18.	If yes, where are they involving?	1. Forest management 2. School management 3. Health programme 4. Sanitation & Hygiene works 5. Adult literacy programme 6. Ward citizen forums/ Citizen Awareness Centre 7. Cooperatives and Micro Enterprise Development
19.	Are here any special organizations formed by women?	1. Mothers group 2. Women development programme 3. Women literacy programme 4. Women saving & credit group
20.	Is it possible to use water in other purpose than household use?	1. Yes 2. No
21.	If yes for what purposes?	1. 2. 3.
22.	Are traditional sources of water are being used and protected here?	1. Yes 2. No
23.	If they are protected, why?	1. To fulfill the regular need of water 2. Alternative source in case of water system blockade/Maintenance 2. To protect the sources 3. Religions importance

2. Household Division of Labor

Who are more responsible to perform the following household works before and after the water project?

S.N.	Activities	Before			After		
		Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
1.	Cooking two meals a day						
2.	Making tea						
3.	Fetching water						
4.	Washing the dishes						
5.	Repairing						
6.	Marketing						
7.	Others						

Seeking assistance

Q.No	Questions	Answers	Skip
2.1	Do you ask the male members to help you?	1. Yes 2. No →	2.1
2.2	If yes, in what activities?	1. 2. 3. 4.	
2.3	Why do you ask them?		

3. Capacity building

3.1	Do you believe that women are underprivileged than men?	1. Yes 2. No	
3.2	If yes/no, why?		
3.3	Do you think interventions like this project will help?	1. Yes 2. No	
3.4	Do you feel that women can fair better if given opportunities like training, skill management etc.?	1. Yes 2. No	
3.5	Do you feel that involving oneself in an organization help?	1. Yes 2. No	

4. Participation in decision making

Domestic Expenditure (Economic decision making)

4.1	Who generally keeps the household money?	1. Husband 2. Myself 3. Others
-----	--	--------------------------------------

Decision making in various issues

Issues	Decision Maker (Please fill the number as indicated below)		
	Who first initiates the	Who are consulted	Who makes the

	idea		final decision
1. Food items			
2. Clothing			
3. Household goods (eg radio, furniture)			
4. Medical treatment			
5. Travel (eg pleasure, temple)			
6. Procreation			
7. Child rearing			
8. Children's education			
Others			

1. My spouse 2. Myself 3. Other male household member

4. Other female household member

Participation in Water Supply Scheme and Sanitation Issues

- Did you have any information about the new water supply scheme in your village before the project implementation?
 - Yes
 - No
- Did you have participated in any mass meeting, meeting, and orientations during implementation or after the implementation of the water supply scheme?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you know the chair person, secretary and treasurer of the WUSC?
 - Yes
 - No
- Had you participated the meeting regarding place selection of your house/toile's tap stand? Or was your suggestion taken by your male female members?
 - Yes
 - No
- Is there Female Tap User's Committee in your toile's public tap stand?
 - Yes
 - No

If yes,

Are you member of Female Tap User's Committee?

- Yes
- No

Is FTUC functioning well?

- Yes
- No

6. Is there toilet in your house ?

- Yes
- No

If Yes,

Who made the decision for toilet construction?

- Male members of Family
- Female Members of the Family
- Both

Who made the decision for toilet location?

- Male members of Family
- Female Members of the Family
- Both

Is the toilet location appropriate for female users in face of accessibility and security ?? and Is it gender friendly ?

- Yes
- No

If No, what is your suggestion to make it accessible, secure and gender friendly?

.....

5. Control

5.1 Control over family investment

S.N.	Kind of asset	Main Controller of Purchasing or selling					
		Before			After		
		Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both

1.	Land						
2.	House/Building						
3.	Animals						
4.	Jewelries						
4.	Deposits in Bank						
5.	Loans						
6.	Small Business						

6. Participation in the community level

6.1	Who represents your family in various community level groups?	1. Men 2. Women 3. Both
6.2	What are those groups?	1. Yes 2. No
6.3	Groups represented by men 1. 2. 3. 4.	Groups represented by men 1. 2. 3. 4.
6.4	Posts occupied by men 1. Vital posts 2. Members of executive bodies 3. Others	Posts occupied by men 1. Vital posts 2. Members of executive bodies 3. Others

7. Do you have any suggestion and comments for the smooth development of water project?

Thanks for your kind cooperation !!!

Appendix -2

List of Key-Informants of the Study

S.No	Name	Affiliation
1.	Mr. Uday Raj Devakota	VWASHCC, Chairperson/VDC Secretary
2.	Ms. Tara Devi Pokharel	Social Mobiliser/ Sakhar VDC
3.	Mr. Bhesh Raj Adhikari	Field Coordinator, DWASH Unit, Sakhar VDC
4.	Ms. Rita Khanal Parajuli	Live Stock Health Worker, Sakhar
5.	Ms. Shrijana Thapa	V-WASHCC, Member/FCHV
6.	Ms. Shyam Maya Rana	V-WASHCC, Member/ Coordinator. WCF
7.	Ms. Prem Kala Bhattarai	Mothers Group, Chairperson

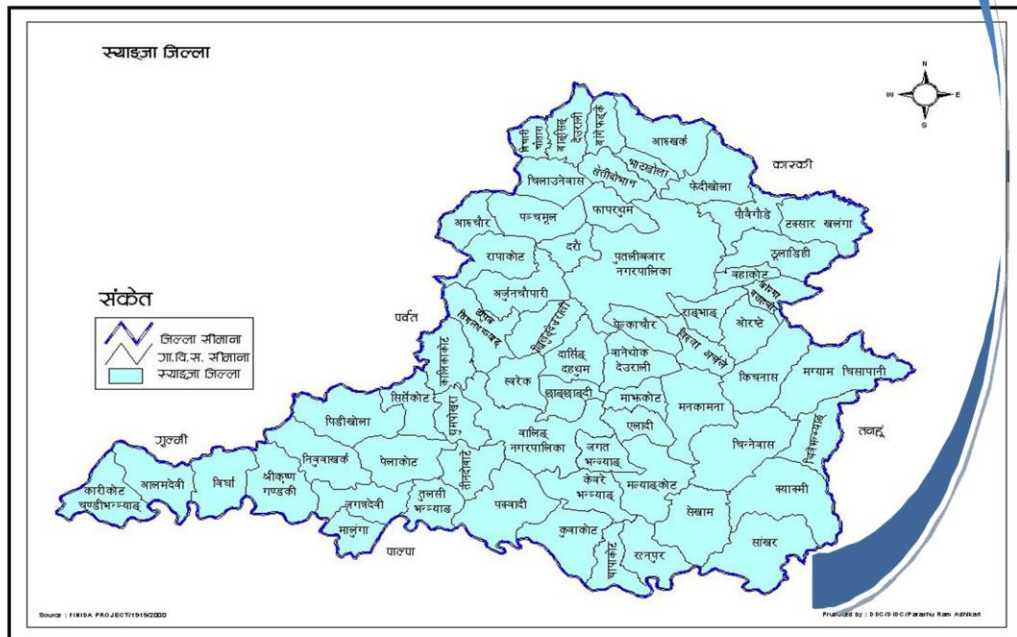
Appendix - 3

List of Participants of Focused Group Discussion

S.No	Name	Affiliation
1.	Ms. Indira Neupane	Office Assistant, VDC, Sakhar
2.	Ms. Kubija Bhattarai	WUSC Member, Dharapani DWSS
3.	Ms. Parbati Thapa	WUSC, Secretary, Padhera Solar Lift DWSS
4.	Ms. Kubija Nepali	Member, V-WASHCC
5.	Ms. Radha Bastakoti	Member , V-WASHCC/ Dharapani DWSS
6.	Ms. Mathura Bhattarai	Member, V-WASHCC
7.	Ms. Pema Thapa Magar	User , Tarkeni DWSS
8.	Ms. Bijaya Laxmi Bhattarai	User, Thumka Chapleti Kusunde DWSS
9.	Ms. Deva Bhattarai	User, Murtichaur DWSS
10.	Ms. Sumitra Nepali	User, Jhakrepani DWSS

Appendix – 4

Map of the Study Area



Appendix – 5

Photo Gallery



Reservoir Tank, Bhulke Solar Lifting DWSS



Researcher attending VWASHCC Meeting at Sakhar VDC



Researcher in Focus Group Discussion (people from non-sample HHs) with research facilitators



Ms. Maya Rana, Shakhar VDC-2 using her water tap

Researcher taking interview



Livelihood opportunities after drinking water project