Women’s In Household Level Decision Making Process among British Ex-Army Families.

A Research Proposal submitted to the

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In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master in Sociology.

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

* 1. Background
  2. Statement of the Problems
  3. Research Questions
  4. Objectives of the study
  5. Rational of the Study
  6. Organization of the Study

**CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.2 Review of Previous Studies

**CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Study Area

3.2 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area

3.3 Research Design

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

3.5 Universe and Sample Size

3.6 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

3.6.1 Household Survey / Questionnaire

3.6.2 Key Information Interview

3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

3.7 Data Processing,Analyzing and Presentation

3.9 Limitation of the Study

**CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background of the study**

To perform any task, before the implementation part a process should be concluded incorporating what to do and whar not to do. Decision making is the selection of a course of action among variations. Every decision making process produces a final choice. It begins when we need to do something but we do not know what. Therefore, decision making is a reasoning process which can be rational or irrational, and can be based on explicit assumptions ot tacit assumptions. Common examples include shopping, deciding what to eat, when to sleep, where to go and deciding whom or whar to vote for in an election of referendum (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/decision -making)

Decisoin making is said to be a selection process of the best option out of the options . This means that although we can never "see" a decision, we can infer from observable behavior that we call "decision making " has occurred. It is a construction that imputes commitment to action. That is, baed on observable actions, we assume that people have made a commitment to affect the action (Ibid)

Every one makes decision each and every time and activity. Individual's role may be more or less in his/her family, peers groups, involved organization and communities. Decision making process is influenced by economic standard, social-culture norms and values, educational level, age, health condition, influence of developmental activities etc .

A household is defined as a group of persons relatdby blood or adoption sharing the same kitchen and whole income is pooled jointly (Keynes:1961)= Head of the household is a person who takes the responsibilities for the maintenance of the household activities and is the main decision-maker in the family. Usually, the chief earner or the oldest family member is regarded as the head of a household (NCEAH:1976) . The role of women in household decision-making and the allocation of household resources depend upon a number of factors. These factors include type and composition of the household, age and life style of the women and the number of household males absent from the village (Bannet,1981).

In the contex of Nepal, women's role in decision-making process is very low though their population covers more than half sky of the country. Traditional norms and values and socio-cultural setting are major responsible factors for decision-making remains negligible in the Nepalese contex. Less than 10% representatives of poitical parties' working committee are women. Women constituted only 5% of appointees in the civil service bureaucracy(ESP,2000) .

In the developing countries, women participation in household works is proportionately higher than men. They have much more work burden at all time. The women's daily working hour ranges from 4 to 18 hours in these types of non monetized works. In average, they spent daily 4 hours in cooking, cleaning,washing clothes, caring children while men spend less than one hour in household maintenance activities. Women are more active economic activities in rural areas than urben areas. About 96% of active women are engaged in agriculture .

the high rate of illiteracy, economic dependence, lack of access to property,heavy work burden and their actual labor force participation is under reported or estimated because much of the worker women do in the subsistence farming category is not classified as economically active.

This present study is focued on women's role in household level decision-making process among British Ex-army families. Thestudy area is ward number 4,14, and 15 of Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan of Lalitpur district.

The Gurkharecruitment was started from 1815. After India's independence in 1947 and Tripartite agreement on the fate of the 10 Gurkha regiments, 4 regiments (2nd,6th,7th &10th) joined the british Army. In the beginning, the British Government used to recruit only Magar and Gurung in the 2nd and 6th regiments. Rai and Limbu were started to recruit in 7th and 10th regimrnts from 1994.

Some of the retired British Armies are engaged in business and other occupation. Moreover, after the retirement from the service,most of the British-Armies stay outside the countries for earning purpose. So, they pass their long period of the life out of own family. On the one hand, their wives have more responsibility to their family either they are in the service of British Government or after the retirement. On the other hand, their wives have more responsibility because,mostly, their family structure would be nuclear. British Ex-army women's role in household as well as extra-household activities is very important either in mobilization of resources or in handling their house/family and for community's interest.

Addressing the women's ossues in Nepal was started from the sixth-five-year-plan(2037-2042 BS) in the fields of education, health, employment, agriculture forestry, co-operative development and legal system with the help of governmental as well as non-governmental agencies. The Tenth Plan has also emphasized on women's development with some quantitative targets by implementing the targeted programs related to mainstreaming, empowerment and gender equity.

* 1. **Statement of the Problems**

Nepalese Women are disadvantaged and underprivileged in terms of their socio-economic status as compared to their male counterparts. The long-standing and deep-seated impression is that women are weak, passive and home-oriented,less intelligent and less capable than men. It is vastly internalized in our society. Women, mostly,are engaged in their household activities.

Btitish Ex=army women have important responsibility and role to decide in their house as well as outside the house due to the absence of male head and nuclear family ( mostly, they migrated in urben area so their family structure can be found nuclear). When they migrated to the urben area then they would be far from own relatives on hand and social structure would be complex in urben area. Due to these causes,British-Ex-Army women have compulsion to play roe in decision making process in their household level as well as extra-household level.

* 1. **Research Questions**

This study attempts to address the following research questions :

* What are household activities of the British Ex-army women?
* What is the sitiation of women's participation in household decision-making process among British Ex-Armies?
* What is the situation of activities based decision in their families?
* What are the influencing factors of women's role in decision-making?

1.4 **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to analyze women's role in household level decision-making process among British Ex-Army families. The specific objectives of this study are :

1. To analyze the women's role in household decision-making process among the BritishEx-Armies.
2. To study the socio-economis status of women among the British Ex-army families; and
3. To examine the influencing factors of household decision-making process among British Ex-Army families.

1.**5 Rationale of the Study**

Wives of British Army play the role as a head of the family in the absence of male head. In their families, women became as head while they live in nuclear family and migrated to the urban area. In this way, women's responsibility increases towards family as well as the community in the absence of male head and husbands. They should have play the role in decision making process of own household level as well as extra-household activities. Traditionally, males are head of the family and decision-making role is also vested with him in our society on the other hand. Among these realities, wives of British Ex-armies(in the study) participate in decision-making process as a family head. This study has attemped to examine role in household level decision-making process as well as extra household activities and influencing factors in the British Ex-Army families.

* 1. **Organization of the study**

This dissertation is organization into six chapters. The first chapter is introducetory part the study . The second chapter is devoted to literature review. The third chapter deals with methodology of the present study. The fourth chapter presents demographic and socio-economic status of the respondents. The fifth chapters analyze decision-making process among the British Ex-Army families. The last chapter includes the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the present study.

Dangi,in his study entitled women's participation to their household management A Case study of Chuhandada VDC Tehrathum District concludes that Neplese women still remains underprivileged as compared to their male counterparts. The study states that in rural context , they work 17 percent extra hours than those of men in domestic and subsistence economy,however their socio-economic status remain both less recognized and more inferior in comparison to their counterparts (Dangi.2003).The study concludes that women play greater role in household and domestic management process but they need final approval of their household head in this process.

A study done by Thapa is focused to analyze the decision-making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities. The study concludes that women have lower decision -making power than their men counter parts.They have sub-ordinate role in family and in society.They have deprived from their right and responsibilities.In the major household activities,man play dominant role in decision-making . The women who have higher educational qualification and employed have higher decision making power than merely illiterate as well as economically dependent women(Thapa,2004).The women's decision making power is positively related to the socio-economic status.

A study on household decision making shows that 58.3 percent male and 25 persent female 16.6 percent of both made decision in selling agricultural products.Women were found to be actively participating in buying agricultural products male dominated females in selling decisions.Only 46.1 percent women were decided to take job by themselves and 30.7 persent jobholder women had joined job in the decision made by their husbands.The study further shows that most of the women from higher family found literate and well educated than others but they are found weaker in decision-making power than lower caste women.Magar women are found more decisive role than others (Pandey,2005).The study concludes that the reason of male dominating culture but it is not only one cause because education,economic conditions,opportunitycan play significant role in their decision-making role inside as we as outside the households.

A study on indgnous knowledge syatems and practice,with gender perspective,on resouece mobilization among Magas in Tanahun District has been conducted in 2005/06. The study founds that male and females have different levels of understanding about the knowledge systems.Females have been playing important role in managing resource like forest,water,but their participation is not more income generation activities than males.Women do all most all household works but final decision of the house hold are left to male counterparts(Thapa,2006). Opportunities and empowerment is essential for women to enable for decision-making in their involved sectors.

**B.Studies Related to the British Ex-Army**

The history of Gurkha recruitment in Nepal dates back to the history of Anglo-Nepal war in 1814 A.D.Gurkha recruitment was started from 1815 (Gurung,2001,1). After India's independence in 1947 and Tripartite agreement on the fate of the 10 Gurkha regiments,4 regiments (2nd ,6 th , 7 th, & 10th) joined the British Army.In the starting period,the British government used to recruit only Magar and Gurung in the 2nd  and 6th regiments.Only after 1894,Rai and Limbu were started to recruit in British Gurkha service in 7th and 10thregiments(pun,2006:27).

The number of 3000 war captives was in sirmoor Battalian (Named the sirmoor Rifles).The same year in south of Simla to other battalions were organized and they were soon put together and named as "The First Gurkha Rifles".The ten Gurkha Rifles were created up to 1890(K.C.1999).

When India was declared independent on August 15,1947, the number of Gurkha soldiers serving in the British-India army was about 23,000,who were divided into10 regiments and 27 battalions.When Britain took leave of India than she could not forget the usefulness and importance of Gurkha army .Therefore,according to the Tripartite agreement made between Nepal ,Dominion of India and Britain regarding the Gurkha army just one week before India was declared independent,the army was divided between India and Britain ,according to which the second ,the sixth and the tenth Gurkha rifles were transferred to the British army whereas the rest remained in the Indian army (chene,1991,2003). The

Significance of this division was that these Gurkhas were provided with the option whether they wanted to go to the British army.The treaty made the agreement of the 11th Gurkha regiment for those who did not want to go to with the British army.Following of this division.the number of the Gurkha soldiers who went to Malaya under the British was only 10,4000(Defence Committee Report,).

But during the dreadful days of the second world war more than 250000 Gurkha soldiers fought from the side of the British in various battle fronts all over the world.Besides,there have been many ups and downs in the number of this army in relation to time.The official report of the House of commons'defence committee of the British lower House of parliament entitled 'The Future of the Brigade of Gurkhas' states that only 2,00,000 Gurkhas had participated in the second world war(The Defence Committee Report ,x).

The United Kingdom has used the Gurkhas force for the attainment,protection,and strengthening of her empire.She had found this force in the battle ground ,and she had realized their importance only after an experiment of the tremendous military valor displayed by them in a number of battles.As for the india ,the British Empire had used the Gurkhas army attainment ,protection,and promotion of the British Empire.The Gurkha army displayed it tremendous military capability and loyalty to the various decisive battles(K C,1999).

The importance of the Gurkha force not only in the context of India's internal security but also in the context of the expansion of world empire and its promotion as well as the proable challengesit might have to face (Ibid).

K.C.analyzes the Gurkhas' contribtion to British empire and descrimination of the British Government.Th Gurkha made a significant and decisive contribution during the days of various sufferings and hardships ever since the attainment and protection of the British Empire.At a time when the population of Nepal was 5 million to provide Britain as assistance with her 20 percent of total population that is with more than 2 million soldiers is by no means small contribution.

On the contrary,Britaindid not respect the contribution of even those who became handicapped,disappearedor lost their lives.The manner in which the kingdom gives them retirement without pension after hawing used in Gurkha is particularly extremely unjust and against the sprit of human rights.Even if pension is given ,the state of affairs is nonetheless unjust and descriminatory ,especially the policy regarding the terms of reference by which the Kingdom has drawn a line of discrimination between the Gurkha army and British counterparts on racial grounds in considerable(Ibid).

Gurung (2001),in his workshop paper entitled"Social and Cultural Effect of Gurkha Recruitment",has mentioned positive as well as negative impact of Gurkha recruitment in the field of economic,demographic,socio-cultural aspects.The history British Gorkha recruitment was started from 1816 AD.followed by the Sugauli treaty as march 3,1816 for their imperial purpose.At present we can find many nuclear families with more individualistic attitude.The selective migration to the gurkha regiment has past more enough burdens to the women. Women take all responsibilities of their household.They spent in foreign countries leaving their wives and children.Behind them at home with a few exception wives of gurkha soldiers are the heads as the household.In the sociological view ,women enjoy greater freedom in all socio-economic domains(Gurung,2001).

Gurung,(2003) has mentioned about identity of the Gurkhas in the world in such a way that until the mid 18th century ,Gurkhas were hardly known to the outside world.It was the British in India who gave the world a new meaning and a wider context and spread it all over the world.For many,the most popular image of gurkha is a "Little man"with a felt hat and a sharpe knife,"Khukuri"in his hand.Since the 19th century,the Gurkha have become famous soldiers in every theater of the world wars and theirs loyalty,bravery,and fighting spirit have been etched in tablets of stone across many continents.

The Anglo-Gurkha War of 1814 was the historical beginning of the relationship between the British and the Gurkhas.The Gurkhas were always deployed in the front lines wars to annex more provinces and also to crush rebellions.There is no place,no earth the study feet of the Gurkhas have not treaded upon,and the sons of Nepal have died in foreign lands for the sake of foreign masters and feudal lords at home.The ex-service men are scattered throughout the globe.

Gurung also describes the economic contribution of Gurkhas in motherland Nepal.They are the highest resource of foreign currency to the kingdom. Currently,there are 3643 men in the British army and over 50 thousand in the Indian Army.There are a little over 2000 men in the Singapore contingent.The sultanate of Brunei employs 2500 ex-British soldiers.Their remittances home annually could be well over several billion rupees.It is only in the last decade or so that the Gurkha soldiers and their dependents have shown better lifestyle to the extent that their own countrymen are jealous(Gurung,2003).

The "International Commission of inquire on Discrimination against British Gurkhas" independently investigated the reality of the economic and social condition of Nepali citizens,who have and are serving in the Brigade of Gurkhas under the ministry of , Defence ,UK,and their families.The Eight-Members-Commission was led by Ian Macdonald QC of UK and undertook a wide range of activities under its overall mandate in 2005. The Gurkha Veteran soldiers who fought and served from World War II until 1997 are just as much the victims of discriminatory and conditions of services as those who were discharged after the magic cut off-date of first July 1997.The resources of the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT)have to be spread widely,unfortunately,inevitable until the government provides for its Ex-Gurkhas servicemen who suffered from the discriminatory terms and conditions of service.Ex-Gurkhas appear to play no role in its decision-making ,which results in money being spent on community projects which appear to some veterans to provide no direct benefit to the veterans themselves.It appears to some veterans that there is no accountability for the charities decisions.

There is no logical cut-off point for pension anomalies.There are many ex-Gurkhas in Nepal who have no pension at all.Others have a pension but it is inadequate.It is recommended that the government consider adequately compensation to those who have suffered as a result of their war injuries and for suffering as a result of previous discriminatory terms and conditions of service of their deceased husbands.The government should spend on projects directly benefiting Gurkhas with provision of health care being a priority (Macdonald Q C,2005).

Gurung(2006),in 'GEASO Mahilaharuko Yatra Sangathan Dekhi Aandolan Samma, mentions that women consciousness,empowerment,freedom,rights and their fundamental rights and issues are raised in the society but it has not included in the inclusive or caste regional balance.Various District Committee of GEASO women actively work for the society.They undertake interaction program,awareness programs,health and drug addict awareness ,income generation activities ,etc.British Ex-army women in this concern ,have seen the very important role to participate actively in the community development and their decisive role is not less significant in this concern (Gurung,2006).

**CHAPTER III:Research Methodology**

**3.1 Study Area**

This study is limited to a small area. Lalitpur district which lies in Kathmandu Valley,Bagmati zone, ward no.1,14,and 15 of Lalitpur sub - metropolitan of lalitpur district are selected as study site.The total number of British Army's families is 940 in Lalitpur district(GEASO,2005).The total numbers of British army's families are 292,82 and 154 in those wards respetively.All sort of accesses and facilities are available there. There is a multi-cultural society of various caste and ethnic groups such as Chhetri,Bahun,Newar,Rai,Limbu,Magar,Gurung etc.

**3.2 Rationale o the selection of the Study Area**

The large number of Ex- British army lives there.All sorts of accesses and facilities are available there.Most of the Magars,Gurung,Rai,Limbu are employed in British Armies.Most of their wives are engaged in household activities.The in-service British Armies are departed abroad as the government of Britain wish.So,either old aged or young children resume at home.Normally the British armies don't allow to taking their whole family at the work station. So in the absence of male head the females has to take responsibilities to run their families.This case was judgmentally selected because of the proximity of the disserting being a female coming from the same background. The time and resource constraints to a student did not permit to go away from the residential areas,thus,the accessible area was selected.Women should participate and play the role in decision- making process of household activities as well as extra-household activities in the absence of husbands while those armies are on the jobs.

**3.3 Research Design**

In the study,descriptive research design has been applied to study the Ex-army women's participation in decision making.This research design has been considered as appropriate to know and delineate the the existing situation of decision making process among British ex-army women inside as well as outside their households and influencing factors of decision-making.

**3.4 Nature and Sources of Data**

In the present study,data are quantitative as well as qualitative in nature.Both types of data were collected from them the field by using appropriate methods,techniquesand tools data collection.Primary data were collected from the field. Similarly, secondary data were collected from the published and unpublished documents like books,journals,bulletins,reports and papers of various organizations and institutions.

**3.5 Universe and Sample Size**

There are 518 households of the British Ex-Armies have been residing in ward no.4,14 and 15 of lalitpur sub-metropolitan (GEASO,2005).Out of that 60 households were sampled randomly (20 households from each ward).The samples comes exactly 11.58% of the universe.A British Ex-army wife,who is 16-60 years age,has been considered as a unit-respondent,which is a sample for data primary collection.First of all,ward no 4,14 and 15 were selected purposively and the total number of British Ex-Army households are 292,82 and 154 respectively.The total sample size is 60 for this study.Thirdly,all wives (16-60 years) of the selected households were equally possible samples or units but only one woman of each household was selected to fill up the questionnaire.

**3.6 Data Collection Techniques and Tools**

The researcher collected required information by using techniques.Some appropriate as well as well-known techniques like Household survey,Key information Interview(with 10 teachers,social workers etc) and Focus Group Discussion (among women-3 groups) have been applied to collect primary information from the field.The primary data collection tools like questionnaire for household survey,interview schedule for key informant interview and checklist for Focus Group Discussion were administered.The primary data collection tools used in the present study is discussed below :

3.6.1 Household Survey/Questionnaire

A questionnaire was developed for household survey in such a way that it covered participant's background,her role in decision-making,influencing factors,family's support and participation in non-household sectors.

**3.6.2 Key Information Interview**

Key Information Interview was taken with knowledgeable and educated people such as teachers,social workers etc.Interview schedule covers the women's participation in household decision making as well as historical information of British Army, process of decision making, their role,influencing factors,support of family members etc. Researcher interviewed 10 key informants of the study area.

**3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion(FGD)**

Wives of the British Ex-armies of the study area were participants in the focus group discussion. Total 7 to 10 participants were in each group.Participants were gathered and researcher played the role of faciilitator.FGD was conducted about their role in household decision-making,participation in gender basisprocess of decision-making and overall objectives of the study. One focus group discussion was conducted in each ward.

**3.7 Data processing.Analyzing and Presentation**

Collected data were processed.After processing the data,some of the information is presented applying simple statistics such as tabulation,percentage and ratio,and most of the analysis rests descriptive.

**3.8 Definition of Key Concepts/Terms**

Some key concepts and terms have been defined and clarified (below) to operating them in the study.

**I ) Households**

A household is defined as group of person related by blood or adoption sharing the same kitchen and whole income is pooled jointly (Keynes,1961).A household is a single unit that is mostly private and an institutional,where one or more family members live together.

**(II) Household Head**

The 'Household Head' is a legal head of the household who plays a key role in decision-making .He or she is considered as family head and economic head also,who posses the right to make decision and is responsible to take care of all family/households members.

**(III) Household Works**

Household works include all the productive and non-monetized works such as farming,wage labor,other commercial works cleaning,washing,fetching water,fuel-wood,caring children and disables household works.

**(iv) The Main Occupation**

The primary source of income and economic activity is considered here as main occupation on which the whole family depends.

**(v) Participation**

Participation means direct involvement of male or women in any kinds of activities.In this study,participation is considered as the involvement of people in various activities for the interest of their family as well as community.

**(VI) Decision-Making**

Decision-Making is considered as the people's role to express his/her view or opinion either for acceptance or for objection about the issues/problem/works,which are directly or indirectly related to him/ her.In this study,decision-making process is considered as the women's deciding activities to reach in the conclusion about issues/problems/activities which are concerned with their family.

**(VII) British Ex-Army**

British ex-armies are considered as those militaries,who have been retired from the job of British Government's military service in the name of British Gurkha Sainik.

**3.9 Limitations of the study**

Every study has limitations.The present study has also some limitstions.The study has been conducted within the given time frame and finincial limitations.This is a micro level partial study and limited to a small cluster in an urban area.Thus,the findings of this study may not be representative in other urban area. The study basically has been concerned to a specific area to analyze the women's participation among the British Ex-army .Families of non-British army are excluded in this study.Quantitative analysis of the present study is based on only 60 surveyed households of the British Ex-army of the study area.Information and data collected from the other respondents are used for qualitative analysis in the present study.

***CHAPTER II***

***REVIEW OF LITERATURE***

Review of literature consists of two sections as theoretical framework and the review of previous studies.

**2.1 Theoretical Framework**

Decision-making is critical wether it can be men or women . It is different from nation to nation in terms of decision-maker in multi perspective. There are a number of factor that determine the decision-making power for women in Nepal but some factors may influence directly and some factors may influence indirectly.

The decision-making autonomy to women is very much neglected in developing countries like ours. The household decision-making autonomy to women is associated with their economic strata. The amount of dowery sets her marriage. Family's status, age, income ability, educational level, demographic factors, accessto socio-physical infrastructure etc. Determine women's decisoin-making ability in the household as well as in the society.

In the past, the decision-making power of women was interfered by her family's status but, this situation has been changed now. And,the issue if gender equality on the basis of rights based approach has been highlighted since a few decades. Thus,the decision-making power of women in household may be determined by these factors like independent source of income, power of retaining income, power to use income at her desire, power to save her income. If the women are powerful to maintain economic factor, definitely the power for decision-making is relatively higher. Likewise, women's personal freedom is also influenced by the degree of women participation, which consists of the household labor allocation, selection of life partner, deliver of number of children and their gap, and freedm of mobility. The decision-making on social affairs is determined by the factors such as meeting involvement, social works, public voice and educational status.

As such individual's income level is higher andmulti-sources of income that highly influence on use personal income as per her will. Saving capacity enhances in family. In their case,there are many decision-making related components like the decision of labor allocation at home, selection of marriage partner, having children(number and birth gap) and freely move outside of the home. Nowdays, women are also involvedin social affairs. The social factors for women are greatly interwoven with social work such as public relation,educational affairs and involvement in societal meetings. To sum up, the question of autonomy in terms of household decision-making to women is different from nation to nation,society to society. But, in the context of Nepal, there ismore freedom to men than women in each and every fieldofdecision-making. The decision-making power with women in urben area aswell as modern family ishigher than with rural women aswellas traditional family. There isnotonly gender issue in decision-making power, rather it isalso influenced by earning capacity, market acess, ethnicity,demographic, socio-culture, educational level, dowery that brought, modern family structure(nuclear or joint), economic status, acess to socio-physical infrastructures.

**2.2 Review of Previous Studies**

**A. Studies Related to the women's Participation in Decision-Making**

The first study done by Acharya and Basnet was related to the condition of rural women in Nepal. The study highlights the time allocation pattern of women and women at household activities. Women's performance almost all kind of agricultural activities expect ploughing and they spend 9 hours, however, men spent only 5 hours. The degree of involvement varies considerable across ethnic groups and social classes.The study concludes that women's involvement is more than men in farming and they perform almost all domestic task of household . The study does not highlight the situation of women living in urben and non-agriculture sectors.

Ahooja focuses on the women's participation on development. He presents the statistics about the women's contribution in various sectors. The women constitute the largest number of food producers (i.e. approximately 50%) in Africa , 30-40 percent in asia ,than in latin America. The least qualified jobs are filled by women. Women get low wages in comparison to the men counter parts. One billion women in the third wordl's countries cannot read. Education is one of the major factors of determining the decision-making (Ahooja,1982). This study focuses on the contribution of women in various sectors but does not analyze their role in decision-making in these sectors.

Mazumdar (1982) delineats that the Asian Women who have been subjected to acute social,economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and, which continues even to this day. There are three components to balance the inequality i.e. economic, political power and knowledge. Women's works in asia are considered as unproductive. It is closely associated with their inferior social status and also the loss of personal freedom (Mazumdar,1982). Mazumdar concludes that family constraints,illiteracy, traditional barries, attitude and women's ability are the major determinants of decision-making.

In a study done by Acharya and Bennet developed a model of the status of women in Nepal. The findings of that modelwere the first sphere women's participation in farming and domestic activities. The model reveals that the women's participation in farming and domestic activities constitues 86% ; however men's and children's contribution was 44% and 6% respectively. There is different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities and this subsequently relates to their decision-making power in the household.

They also found that women from Hindu society largely participate in domestic and subsistence production but they have less important rolle in major household decisions, however, in the case of Tibet-burman communities, women's participation is found more in the market economy( buying and selling in the terms of money) and have more power in household decision-making. The study further reveals that dowry has much more influence in decision-making, small number of children has higher economic participation and greater decision-making power ( Acharya and Bannet,1983). There are focuses on women' decision-making role in the economic point o view but sociological perspective in equally important.

The world Bank's document (1989) highlights about the Nepalese women, who are living in the poor households. The conclusion of the documents is that women at all ages work considerably longer daily hours than men ,so that they have limited time for self-employment and education , and the opportunity cost of their time to the household is high. This reflects that school entrollement and literacy rates are much lower for females than males, and all these are indications of their poverty(world Bank,1989). The World Bank also emphasizes on literacy and reducing poverty for enhancing women power in decision-making but social barriers are also needed to reduce.

Jiggins highlights on the condition of women who are involved mostly in household based agriculture activity. About 30% of women were supporting the household works and about 80% of agricultural labor was mainly as unpaid labor. They produce 60% of the food consumed by rural household and contribute over one third of all household income via small business,trading and causal labor. But despite their major input to household food and economic security, patriarchal family and social structure deny women's real property rights in land, they have limited control over own labor(jiggins,1989). Jigins discusses on women's participation and contribution in various sectors in the economic point of view but socio-cultural aspect is very important part in our society.

A report prepared by UNICEF highlights the women's contribution to economy and social progress is still constrained by their limited accees to education and information,which full development and utilization of their intellectual and productive capabilities .Many rural but literate women have loosened their skills because of low practical opportunities(UNICEF,1990). Women's social contribution Is not highlighted in the report.

National planning commission of Nepal has summarized that there are two major quantitative indicators of women status used the relatives input into two areas of decision-making viz. farm management, and involvement in local market economy and domestic activities. The commission has also analyzed that Hindu society is largely confined to non-market i.e. domestic and subsistence production, displaying a less significant role in decision-making. Women's participation in the market economy has improved their status and this is more conspicuous among Tibet-Burman communities (NPC,1992). Including economic factor, socio-cultural, political, educational and legal factors are also important part in the decision-making process.

A country report of Nepal describe that women are responsible for a very large share of home ,farm,agricultural production but have disproportionate access to all inputs and resources. The high rate of illiteracy, economis dependence, lack of access to property, heavy work-burden and patriarchal norms and values imply the extend of female poverty(NPC,1994). Women's actual labor force participation is under reported or estimated because much in the work women do in the subsistence farming category is not classified as economically active.

Culturlly, women's public life life is restricted and it is related to the patriarchal social system, which confines them to subordinated position. Relogion, ethnicity,culture,law,tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on wommen's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape and culture world view and governed in dividend self is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision-making position(stree Shakti,1995). Gender aspect is also important in decision-making in our society.

Acharya states that the conservative social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from full participation in economic development, which results low decision-making power in women's hand. Higher the women's participation in economic development, higher will be the decision-making power of women. On the other hand,the social conception is that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, conception delivery and upbringing of child has made it extemely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society(Acharya,1997). Due to all these reasons their status compared to men is very low.

Sharma, in his Ph.D. dissertation entitled " people participation in Local Development Planning. A Case Study of Five districs in the western Development Region", describes that people participation in the involvement of people in the process of decision-making, which directly or inderectly influences their lives. Participation makes people feel belongingness which in turn brings a sense of ownership and it imports knowledge, idea and skill along with its involved experience. There is inter-relationship between local development and people participation. It cannot be achieved and rationalized without putting the people first. Peoples are the end and means of development. He emphasized on the local people's participation in local level development planning. For it, local people should be empowered and aware of the local development and their participatory role in it. The involvement of people in the decision making process depends basically upon the socio economic and political milieu of the institutions.Finally he concludes that until and unless the development of rural economy and socio- economic upliftment of the grass root people are not accomplished, the national development cannot be achieved(Sharma,2000). This study focuses on the people participation at local level but it does not highlight the women's role in the local level development planning.

A report of Enabling state program state that Nepalese women's participation in decision-making level remains negligible, however, despite constitutional assurance and the flowery words of the leaders. After the election of 1999, only 5.8 percent parliament members and 2.4 percent of high level bureaucracy post as special class in Nepal were women who state minister of the cabinet.Less than 10 persent women are in the working committee of the political parties.Only 8 percent of the civil servants are women and most of them are in lower and middle level of jobs(EPS,2000).Therefore,women's participation is very negligible in national level of decision making.

Pandit's thesis entitled 'women's participation in decision making :A Case study of RCIW programme in Doti district,'based on primary data analyse the womens participation in decision-making activities at the local level with special focus on their involvement in the Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) programme.Women's participation at local level,especially villege level in the development as well as decision making process has increased ,though it not satisfactory . It is effective where they are directly involved (e.g.in livestock,borrowing loan ,keep to earning etc).The male dominate society doesnot allow women to involve in decision making, exposure visit,and representation in meeting(Pandit:2000). He concludes that women's participation in the decision activitieshas been less effective due to social structure and cultural norms.

Dangi in his study entitled"women's participation to their household management:Case study of chuhandanda VDC, tehrathum district ,concludes that Nepalese women still remains underprivileged as compared to their malecounterparts. The study states that, in rural context, they work 17 percent extra hours than those of men in domestic and subsistence economy however their socio-economic status remain both less recognized and more inferior in comparison to their male counterparts(Dangi,2003). The study concludes that women play greater role in household and domestic management process but they need final approval of their household at in this process.

A study done by Thapa is focused to analyzed the decision-making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities. The study concludes that women have lower decision -making power than their men counterparts.They have sub-ordinate role in family and in society.They have deprived from their right and responsibilities.In the major household activities,man play dominant role in decision-making . The women who have higher educational qualification and employed have higher decision making power than merely illiterate as well as economically dependent women(Thapa,2004).The women's decision making power is positively related to the socio-economic status.

A study on household decision making shows that 58.3 percent male and 25 persent female 16.6 percent of both made decision in selling agricultural products.Women were found to be actively participating in buying agricultural products male dominated females in selling decisions.Only 46.1 percent women were decided to take job by themselves and 30.7 persent jobholder women had joined job in the decision made by their husbands.The study further shows that most of the women from higher family found literate and well educated than others but they are found weaker in decision-making power than lower caste women.Magar women are found more decisive role than others (Pandey,2005).The study concludes that the reason of male dominating culture but it is not only one cause because education,economic conditions,opportunitycan play significant role in their decision-making role inside as we as outside the households.

A study on indgnous knowledge syatems and practice,with gender perspective,on resouece mobilization among Magas in Tanahun District has been conducted in 2005/06. The study founds that male and females have different levels of understanding about the knowledge systems.Females have been playing important role in managing resource like forest,water,but their participation is not more income generation activities than males.Women do all most all household works but final decision of the house hold are left to male counterparts(Thapa,2006).Opportunities and empowerment is essential for women to enable for decision-making in their involved sectors.

**B.Studies Relatedto the Ex-Army**

The history of Gurkha recruitment in Nepal dates back to the history of Anglo-Nepal war in 1814 A.D.Gurkha recruitment was started from 1815 (Gurung,2001,1). After India's independence in 1947 and Tripartite agreement on the fate of the 10 Gurkha regiments,4 regiments (2nd ,6 th , 7 th, & 10th) joined the British Army.In the starting period,the British government used to recruit only Magar and Gurung in the 2nd  and 6th regiments.Only after 1894,Rai and Limbu were started to recruit in British Gurkha service in 7th and 10thregiments(pun,2006:27).

The number of 3000 war captives was in sirmoor Battalian (Named the sirmoor Rifles).The same year in south of Simla to other battalions were organized and they were soon put together and named as "The First Gurkha Rifles".The ten Gurkha Rifles were created up to 1890(K.C.1999).

When India was declared independent on August 15,1947, the number of Gurkha soldiers serving in the British-India army was about 23,000,who were divided into10 regiments and 27 battalions.When Britain took leave of India than she could not forget the usefulness and importance of Gurkha army .Therefore,according to the Tripartite agreement made between Nepal ,Dominion of India and Britain regarding the Gurkha army just one week before India was declared independent,the army was divided between India and Britain ,according to which the second ,the sixth and the tenth Gurkha rifles were transferred to the British army whereas the rest remained in the Indian army (chene,1991,2003).The

Significance of this division was that these Gurkhas were provided with the option whether they wanted to go to the British army.The treaty made the agreement of the 11th Gurkha regiment for those who did not want to go to with the British army.Following of this division.the number of the Gurkha soldiers who went to Malaya under the British was only 10,4000(Defence Committee Report,).

But during the dreadful days of the second world war more than 250000 Gurkha soldiers fought from the side of the British in various battle fronts all over the world.Besides,there have been many ups and downs in the number of this army in relation to time.The official report of the House of commons'defence committee of the British lower House of parliament entitled 'The Future of the Brigade of Gurkhas' states that only 2,00,000 Gurkhas had participated in the second world war(The Defence Committee Report ,x).

The United Kingdom has used the Gurkhas force for the attainment,protection,and strengthening of her empire.She had found this force in the battle ground ,and she had realized their importance only after an experiment of the tremendous military valor displayed by them in a number of battles.As for the india ,the British Empire had used the Gurkhas army attainment ,protection,and promotion of the British Empire.The Gurkha army displayed it tremendous military capability and loyalty to the various decisive battles(K C,1999).

The importance of the Gurkha force not only in the context of India's internal security but also in the context of the expansion of world empire and its promotion as well as the proable challengesit might have to face (Ibid).

K.C.analyzes the Gurkhas' contribtion to British empire and descrimination of the British Government.Th Gurkha made a significant and decisive contribution during the days of various sufferings and hardships ever since the attainment and protection of the British Empire.At a time when the population of Nepal was 5 million to provide Britain as assistance with her 20 percent of total population that is with more than 2 million soldiers is by no means small contribution.

On the contrary,Britaindid not respect the contribution of even those who became handicapped,disappearedor lost their lives.The manner in which the kingdom gives them retirement without pension after hawing used in Gurkha is particularly extremely unjust and against the sprit of human rights.Even if pension is given ,the state of affairs is nonetheless unjust and descriminatory ,especially the policy regarding the terms of reference by which the Kingdom has drawn a line of discrimination between the Gurkha army and British counterparts on racial grounds in considerable(Ibid).

Gurung (2001),in his workshop paper entitled"Social and Cultural Effect of Gurkha Recruitment",has mentioned positive as well as negative impact of Gurkha recruitment in the field of economic,demographic,socio-cultural aspects.The history British Gorkha recruitment was started from 1816 AD.followed by the Sugauli treaty as march 3,1816 for their imperial purpose.At present we can find many nuclear families with more individualistic attitude.The selective migration to the gurkha regiment has past more enough burdens to the women. Women take all responsibilities of their household.They spent in foreign countries leaving their wives and children.Behind them at home with a few exception wives of gurkha soldiers are the heads as the household.In the sociological view ,women enjoy greater freedom in all socio-economic domains(Gurung,2001).

Gurung,(2003) has mentioned about identity of the Gurkhas in the world in such a way that until the mid 18th century ,Gurkhas were hardly known to the outside world.It was the British in India who gave the world a new meaning and a wider context and spread it all over the world.For many,the most popular image of gurkha is a "Little man"with a felt hat and a sharpe knife,"Khukuri"in his hand.Since the 19th century,the Gurkha have become famous soldiers in every theater of the world wars and theirs loyalty,bravery,and fighting spirit have been etched in tablets of stone across many continents.

The Anglo-Gurkha War of 1814 was the historical beginning of the relationship between the British and the Gurkhas.The Gurkhas were always deployed in the front lines wars to annex more provinces and also to crush rebellions.There is no place,no earth the study feet of the Gurkhas have not treaded upon,and the sons of Nepal have died in foreign lands for the sake of foreign masters and feudal lords at home.The ex-service men are scattered throughout the globe.

Gurung also describes the economic contribution of Gurkhas in motherland Nepal.They are the highest resource of foreign currency to the kingdom. Currently,there are 3643 men in the British army and over 50 thousand in the Indian Army.There are a little over 2000 men in the Singapore contingent.The sultanate of Brunei employs 2500 ex-British soldiers.Their remittances home annually could be well over several billion rupees.It is only in the last decade or so that the Gurkha soldiers and their dependents have shown better lifestyle to the extent that their own countrymen are jealous(Gurung,2003).

The "International Commission of inquire on Discrimination against British Gurkhas" independently investigated the reality of the economic and social condition of Nepali citizens,who have and are serving in the Brigade of Gurkhas under the ministry of , Defence ,UK,and their families.The Eight-Members-Commission was led by Ian Macdonald QC of UK and undertook a wide range of activities under its overall mandate in 2005. The Gurkha Veteran soldiers who fought and served from World War II until 1997 are just as much the victims of discriminatory and conditions of services as those who were discharged after the magic cut off-date of first July 1997.The resources of the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT)have to be spread widely,unfortunately,inevitable until the government provides for its Ex-Gurkhas servicemen who suffered from the discriminatory terms and conditions of service.Ex-Gurkhas appear to play no role in its decision-making ,which results in money being spent on community projects which appear to some veterans to provide no direct benefit to the veterans themselves.It appears to some veterans that there is no accountability for the charities decisions.

There is no logical cut-off point for pension anomalies.There are many ex-Gurkhas in Nepal who have no pension at all.Others have a pension but it is inadequate.It is recommended that the government consider adequately compensation to those who have suffered as a result of their war injuries and for suffering as a result of previous discriminatory terms and conditions of service of their deceased husbands.The government should spend on projects directly benefiting Gurkhas with provision of health care being a priority (Macdonald Q C,2005).

Gurung(2006),in 'GEASO Mahilaharuko Yatra Sangathan Dekhi Aandolan Samma, mentions that women consciousness,empowerment,freedom,rights and their fundamental rights and issues are raised in the society but it has not included in the inclusive or caste regional balance.Various District Committee of GEASO women actively work for the society.They undertake interaction program,awareness programs,health and drug addict awareness ,income generation activities ,etc.British Ex-army women in this concern ,have seen the very important role to participate actively in the community development and their decisive role is not less significant in this concern (Gurung,2006).

**CHAPTER III:**

**Research Methodology**

**3.1 Study Area**

This study is limited to a small area. Lalitpur district which lies in Kathmandu Valley,Bagmati zone, ward no.1,14,and 15 of Lalitpur sub -metropolitan of lalitpur district are selected as study site.The total number of British Army's families is 940 in Lalitpur district(GEASO,2005).The total numbers of British army's families are 292,82 and 154 in those wards respetively.All sort of accesses and facilities are available there. There is a multi-cultural society of various caste and ethnic groups such as Chhetri, Bahun, Newar, Rai, Limbu, Magar, Gurung etc.

**3.2 Rationale o the selection of the Study Area**

The large number of Ex- British army lives there.All sorts of accesses and facilities are available there.Most of the Magars,Gurung,Rai,Limbu are employed in British Armies.Most of their wives are engaged in household activities.The in-service British Armies are departed abroad as the government of Britain wish.So,either old aged or young children resume at home.Normally the British armies don't allow to taking their whole family at the work station. So in the absence of male head the females has to take responsibilities to run their families.This case was judgmentally selected because of the proximity of the disserting being a female coming from the same background. The time and resource constraints to a student did not permit to go away from the residential areas,thus,the accessible area was selected.Women should participate and play the role in decision- making process of household activities as well as extra-household activities in the absence of husbands while those armies are on the jobs.

**3.3 Research Design**

In the study,descriptive research design has been applied to study the Ex-army women's participation in decision making.This research design has been considered as appropriate to know and delineate the the existing situation of decision making process among British ex-army women inside as well as outside their households and influencing factors of decision-making.

**3.4 Nature and Sources of Data**

In the present study,data are quantitative as well as qualitative in nature.Both types of data were collected from them the field by using appropriate methods,techniquesand tools data collection.Primary data were collected from the field. Similarly, secondary data were collected from the published and unpublished documents like books,journals,bulletins,reports and papers of various organizations and institutions.

**3.5 Universe and Sample Size**

There are 518 households of the British Ex-Armies have been residing in ward no.4,14 and 15 of lalitpur sub-metropolitan (GEASO,2005).Out of that 60 households were sampled randomly (20 households from each ward).The samples comes exactly 11.58% of the universe.A British Ex-army wife,who is 16-60 years age,has been considered as a unit-respondent,which is a sample for data primary collection.First of all,ward no 4,14 and 15 were selected purposively and the total number of British Ex-Army households are 292,82 and 154 respectively.The total sample size is 60 for this study.Thirdly,all wives (16-60 years) of the selected households were equally possible samples or units but only one woman of each household was selected to fill up the questionnaire.

**3.6 Data Collection Techniques and Tools**

The researcher collected required information by using techniques.Some appropriate as well as well-known techniques like Household survey,Key information Interview(with 10 teachers,social workers etc) and Focus Group Discussion (among women-3 groups) have been applied to collect primary information from the field.The primary data collection tools like questionnaire for household survey,interview schedule for key informant interview and checklist for Focus Group Discussion were administered.The primary data collection tools used in the present study is discussed below :

**3.6.1 Household Survey/Questionnaire**

A questionnaire was developed for household survey in such a way that it covered participant's background,her role in decision-making,influencing factors,family's support and participation in non-household sectors.

**3.6.2 Key Information Interview**

Key Information Interview was taken with knowledgeable and educated people such as teachers,social workers etc.Interview schedule covers the women's participation in household decision making as well as historical information of British Army, process of decision making, their role,influencing factors,support of family members etc. Researcher interviewed 10 key informants of the study area.

**3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion(FGD)**

Wives of the British Ex-armies of the study area were participants in the focus group discussion. Total 7 to 10 participants were in each group.Participants were gathered and researcher played the role of faciilitator.FGD was conducted about their role in household decision-making,participation in gender basisprocess of decision-making and overall objectives of the study. One focus group discussion was conducted in each ward.

**3.7 Data processing.Analyzing and Presentation**

Collected data were processed.After processing the data,some of the information is presented applying simple statistics such as tabulation,percentage and ratio,and most of the analysis rests descriptive.

**3.8 Definition of Key Concepts/Terms**

Some key concepts and terms have been defined and clarified (below) to operating them in the study.

**I ) Households**

A household is defined as group of person related by blood or adoption sharing the same kitchen and whole income is pooled jointly (Keynes,1961).A household is a single unit that is mostly private and an institutional,where one or more family members live together.

**(II) Household Head**

The 'Household Head' is a legal head of the household who plays a key role in decision-making .He or she is considered as family head and economic head also,who posses the right to make decision and is responsible to take care of all family/households members.

**(III) Household Works**

Household works include all the productive and non-monetized works such as farming,wage labor, other commercial works cleaning, washing, fetching water,fuel-wood,caring children and disables household works.

**(iv) The Main Occupation**

The primary source of income and economic activity is considered here as main occupation on which the whole family depends.

**(v) Participation**

Participation means direct involvement of male or women in any kinds of activities.In this study,participation is considered as the involvement of people in various activities for the interest of their family as well as community.

**(VI) Decision-Making**

Decision-Making is considered as the people's role to express his/her view or opinion either for acceptance or for objection about the issues/problem/works,which are directly or indirectly related to him/ her.In this study,decision-making process is considered as the women's deciding activities to reach in the conclusion about issues/problems/activities which are concerned with their family.

**(VII) British Ex-Army**

British ex-armies are considered as those militaries,who have been retired from the job of British Government's military service in the name of British Gurkha Sainik.

**3.9 Limitations of the study**

Every study has limitations.The present study has also some limitstions.The study has been conducted within the given time frame and finincial limitations.This is a micro level partial study and limited to a small cluster in an urban area.Thus,the findings of this study may not be representative in other urban area. The study basically has been concerned to a specific area to analyze the women's participation among the British Ex-army .Families of non-British army are excluded in this study.Quantitative analysis of the present study is based on only 60 surveyed households of the British Ex-army of the study area.Information and data collected from the other respondents are used for qualitative analysis in the present study.

**CHAPTER IV: Data Analysis and Presentation**

4.1 Population Distribution of the Family Members of the Respondents by sex and Age-group

The total population of the sample households is 294.There are 141 male and 153 females’ members (table 4.1). On the basis of age group distribution of population of the sample households, below 5 years population is in the smallest number, 16-25 age group population occupy the largest number of the population (i.e.29.25%) and 41-60 age group population occupy the second largest number of the population (i.e.28.91 %).Population between age of 16-60s is found in large number because age of all couple of Ex-armies is adult, children are young and a few, and their families are nuclear.

Similarly, out of the total 60 respondents (all are wives of the British Ex-armies), age of 21 respondents (i.e. 35 %) is between 26 and 40, and age of remaining 39 respondents (i.e.65 %) is 41 to (Table no.4.1).

**Table 4.1: Distribution of respondent by family pattern**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age Group | Male | Female | Total | Percent |
| 0-5 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 3.40 |
| 6-15 | 25 | 22 | 47 | 15.99 |
| 16-25 | 41 | 45 | 86 | 29.25 |
| 26-40 | 24 | 26 | 50 | 17.01 |
| 41-60 | 39 | 46 | 85 | 28.91 |
| 60+ | 8 | 8 | 16 | 5.44 |
| Total | 141(47.96%) | 153(52.04%) | 294 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018,

Populations of 16-25 age-groups (i.e.29.25%) and 41.60 age group (i.e. 28.91 %) cover the highest and second highest share of the total population. Age of all most all couple of British Ex-armies is between 35 to 60 years. On the one hand, population of 41-60 groups is found high due to the numbers of Armies' couple .Similarly, old aged population is less due to the nuclear family or there are not parents/elder family members of the Ex-armies in the most of families. Population of 16-25 age group covers the largest portion (i.e.29.25 %) of the total population and population of below 5 year covers the smallest portion (i.e.3.40 %) because children of all most all Ex-armies are teenagers and youths. Most of the children below 5 years are in the joint families they are grandsons and daughters. Likewise, old aged population is also their (Armies') parents in the joint families.

Reproductive aged (16-45) women cover 28.23 % of the total population .Woman of 26-45 aged are only 12.92% of the population but they are in small number. So, number of the children below 6 year is less i.e.10.(Table no.4.2).

**Table 4.2: Distribution Reproductive Age-Group of Females.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age Group | Total | Percent |
| 16-25 | 45 | 15.31 |
| 26-40 | 26 | 8.84 |
| 41-45 | 12 | 4.08 |
| Total | 83 | 28.23 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Age of the most of Ex-Armies' couple is 40 above. Some of them are below 40 but near to the 40 because Armies get retire in their age of 35 around.

**4.2 Ethnic Composition**

In the study area, British Ex-army families are found from various ethnic groups such as Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu and Tamang .The number of the British Ex-Army families are also found higher to lower of those ethnic groups accordingly. Out of the total 194 family members of the 60 respondents, the Magars occupy the largest portion of the total population. They cover 81.97% of the total population. Population of Gurung is 7.14 %,Rai 4.76 % limbu and Tamang equally are 3.06 %.

The average size of the sampled households is 4.9 which is lower than national average (i.e.5.4).The largest family size is found in Gurung families (i.e.5.25) followed by Magar (i.e.4.92) and the smallest size of Limbu and Tamang is 4.5 (table no.4.3).

**Table 4.3: Distribution of Ethnic Composition of the Respondents and Their Family Members**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Respondents | | Family Members of The Respondents | | | | |
| Ethnic Group | No. | Percent | Male | Female | Total | Percent | Family Size |
| Magar | 49 | 81.67 | 115 | 126 | 241 | 81.97 | 4.92 |
| Gurung | 4 | 6.67 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 7.14 | 5.25 |
| Rai | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 4.76 | 4.67 |
| Limbu | 2 | 3.33 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3.06 | 4.5 |
| Tamang | 2 | 3.33 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3.06 | 4.5 |
| Total | 60 | 100 | 141 | 153 | 294 | 100 | 4.9 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Magar respondents are in large number in the present study because their number in British Armies is comparatively higher than other ethnic group like Rai,Gurung,and they are in large number in the study area.

**4.3 Types of Family**

Family structure is one of the influencing factors of the decision-making process. There are two types of families found in the study area. One is nuclear family, in which family parents and children are members and live together. Another type is jointly, in which family parents, children and others like grandfather-mother, uncle-aunt, cousin etc. live together. Out of the total 60 sampled families 47 families are nuclear (i.e.78.33 %)and remaining 13 families are joint families (Table no.4.4).This figure shows that parents and children are the members of the family living together in the most of the families and family size is small.

**Table 4.4: Type of the Respondents' Family.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Family structure** | **No. of Families** | **Percent** |
| Nuclear | 47 | 78.33 |
| Joint | 13 | 21.67 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Causes behind to be nuclear families are for the future of children, to live easy life with access to facilities, to reduce economic burden and responsibilities in large size joint family.

**4.4. Household Head**

Legal headship in a family refers to the legally head or main member of the family. He/ She play the decisive role for a family. Economic headship refers to the economies-decision or decision-making role in economic activities. All families of British Ex-army of the study area are legally headed by male but some families are economically headed by females due to the absence of male heads. Out of the total 60 households, 26 families (i.e.43.33 %) are found economically headed by females and remaining 34 families (i.e.56.67 %) are found economically headed (legally also)by males (Table no.4.5) . It is found that if the British Ex-armies are absent in the families then their wives playing the role of household head for economic decision. 26 British Ex-armies of the nuclear families are in abroad and their wives are playing the role of household head.

**Table 4.5: Family of the Respondents Economically Headed by Sex**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | No. of Families | Percent |
| Male | 34 | 56.67 |
| Female | 26 | 43.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Some Ex-Army families keep their properties in the name of female for use comfortably in the absence of husbands. Likewise, there is competition among them to keep properties in the name of females.

**4.5 Educational Status**

Out of the total 60 respondents, 95 % respondents are literate. Educational status of 13.33 % respondents is just primary level. Similarly, Secondary, SLC and Certificate level are academic qualification of 60 %, 11, 67 % and 5 %respondents respectively. It concludes that comparatively highly educated women play more decisive role in household decision-making rather than low educated women of the British Ex-armies. Similarly, out of the total 284 family members of the respondents, 96, 48 % family members are literate .Out of the 137 male members of the respondents ‘family, 97.81 percent males are literate and out of the 147 female members, 96.48 percent females are literate. Primary, secondary, SLC, PCL, and diploma and above are academic qualification of 9.86 %, 51.76 %, 15.85 %, 10.91 % and 4.23 % family members of the respondents respectively. The literacy as well as educational status of women is lower than male members of the respondents' family (Table no.4.6).

Table 4.6: Educational Status of the Respondents and their Family Members.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SN |  | Respondents | | Total No. of their Family Members | | | |
| 1 | Education | Total | % | Male  (%) | Female (%) | Total | Percent |
| 2 | Illiterate | 3 | 5 | 3(2.19) | 7(4.76) | 10 | 3.52 |
| 3 | Literate | 3 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 3.87 |
| 4 | Primary | 8 | 13.33 | 7 | 21 | 28 | 9.86 |
| 5 | Secondary | 36 | 60 | 71 | 76 | 147 | 51.76 |
| 6 | SLC | 7 | 11.67 | 26 | 19 | 45 | 15.84 |
| 7 | PCL | 3 | 5 | 18 | 13 | 31 | 10.91 |
| 8 | Diploma & + | - | - | 9 | 3 | 12 | 4.23 |
|  | Total | 60 | 100 | 158 | 164 | 322 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Literacy rate of respondents as well as their family members is found very high. Only old age members of joint family are illiterate and remaining all members are literate (who can read and write although they might have academic education or not).Education of the 60 percent respondents is only secondary level. On one hand they married before completion the study and on the other hand they have had no time to continue due to the responsibility in the family. Similarly, education of the Ex-Armies is from secondary to PCL only due to the entry in the service in early age.

**4.6 Sources of Income**

The main income source of British Ex-armies is remittance. Services, foreign employment, business, rent of house, interest, bonus from share etc. are also common sources of their families' income**.** The total 43.33 percent British Ex-armies are still in the foreign employment. This fact reveals that foreign employment is the main source of their income. They have been getting pension also. Some families have been getting income from investment on share of the banks, finance, cooperative, institutions etc. Some families have been earning rents and business (in one single investment or partnership).

**4.7 Occupational Status**

Occupation is field of involved job and source of income. The main occupation refers the main engaged job. Out of the total 60 respondents, 81.67 percent respondents have not any special occupation that is directly getting income. Service and business sectors are other main occupation of 8.33 percent and ten percent respondents respectively. Business is the main occupation of 13.12 percent economically active people. Similarly, foreign employment is the main occupation of the 11.76 percent of economically active population ,service is the main occupation of 3.17 percent people and 2.72 percent people are involved in social works (Table no.4.7).Out of the 60 sampled households,26 Ex-armies are working in the foreign countries and 11 Ex-armies are involving in business within Nepal. It is noted that Children ,school's student and old aged people (age below 15 and above 60)(i.e.73) are excluded in this table because they are considered as economically inactive.

**Table 4.7 Occupational Status of the Respondents and their Family Members.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Respondents | | | Family Members of the Respondents | | | |
| Main Occupation | Total | Percent | Male | Female | Total | Percent |
| Idle | 49 | 81.67 | 4 | 46 | 50 | 22.64 |
| Service | 5 | 8.33 | - | 7 | 7 | 3.17 |
| Business | 6 | 10 | 11 | 18 | 29 | 13.12 |
| Foreign Employment | - | - | 26 | - | 26 | 11.76 |
| Study | - | - | 57 | 46 | 103 | 46.61 |
| Other(Social work etc) | - | - | 6 | - | 6 | 2.72 |
| Total | 60 | 100 | 104 | 117 | 221 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Some respondents are working as a service holder in Nepal. Their service sectors are FM radio, commercial bank and finance. Similarly, their involved business areas are beautician centre, cosmetic shops, micro-credit, departmental stores. Other family members are also involved in these kinds of service and business sectors in Nepal.

**4.8 Investment of Income on productive Sectors**

British Ex-armies have invested their income on productive sectors like business, finance, bank, cooperative, school and college etc. Besides, they all save their large amount of income on bank. Nearly, 40 percent families have invested some percentage of their income on productive sectors such as real estate, super markets production, distribution and sales, finance, bank, cooperative, school, college. Some of them have invested on more than one sector but limited Ex-armies are actively involved as an occupation.

**4.9 Ownership of Land and House**

All sampled households of the British Ex-army have their house. Out of the 60 sample households, 11 families have both house as well as land. There is no any family without land or house or both. All their houses are registered in the name of males, but, mostly, other lands (Lands for construction building) are in the ownership of females. Out of the total sampled household, only, 18.33 percent wives of the British Ex-army are owner of the family's lands. But remaining respondents have neither house nor land in their ownership (Table no.4.8)

**Table 4.8: Ownership of Land and Houses of the Respondents' Family**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Both  House &land | House only | Land only | None | Total |
| No.of family | 11(18.33 %) | 49(81.67 %) | - | - | 60 |
| No.of Owner Females | - | - | 11(18.33 %) | 49(81.67%) |  |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Out of the 60 sampled households, females are owners of houses and land in 15 households (i.e.25 %).Only males are owner in 20 households or (i.e.33.33 %).Both male and female are owners of houses and lands in 25 households or i.e.41.67 % (Table no.4.9) (e.g. male is owner of house and or land of family, and female is owner of next house and or land of the family.)

**Table 4.9: Houses and Land Owner in the Sample Households.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Owner** | **No. Of households** | **Percent** |
| **Female** | **15** | **25** |
| **Male** | **20** | **33.33** |
| **Both** | **25** | **41.67** |
| **Total** | **60** | **100** |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

This figure delineates that females are also household and land owner in their families.

**4.10 Possession of Personal properties.**

Most of the respondent women have not found their personal property except family's ownership. Nobody respondent has her personal house and land. Out of the total 60 respondents, only 9(i.e.15 %) respondents have own ornaments and 12 (i.e.20 %) respondents have money as their personal assets or wealth (Table no.4.10).Those respondents, who are job holders and those, who have got money and ornaments from their relatives, have personal ownership over these assets.

**Table 4.10: Personal Properties Holding by Respondents.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Kind of Properties | Yes | No | Total |
| House | - | 60 | 60 |
| Land | - | 60 | 60 |
| Ornaments | 9 | 51 | 60 |
| Money | 12 | 48 | 6 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Respondents (Females) have not own house as well as lands purchased by their personal earning. But some of them have ornaments and cash money/bank balance earned by themselves.

**4.11 Social Position of the Respondents**

Socio-economic, educational, political background of the respondents play very important role in decision-making process. High status of the respondents in this study concludes high education, high socio-economic status, political participation and involvement in the organizations. On this basis, background of the 80 percent respondents is comparatively higher than other respondents. Out of the total 60 respondents, overall background of 20 % respondents is general (Table no.4.11).It is noted that Respondents' Background comprises Educational, Socio-economic, political, participation etc.

**Table 4.11: Background of the Respondents.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Overall Background | No of Respondents | Percent |
| Very High | - | 0.0 |
| High | 48 | 80 |
| General | 12 | 20 |
| Low | - | - |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

If the husband earn more than economic status of the females increases on one hand and if females get opportunity to earn themselves then their economic status also increases on the other. Similarly, if educational status, involvement in social activities, involvement in various organizations, and leadership role in the community is high then social status of the females become high. In overall, female’s socio-economic status is high in these aspects.

**4.12 Involvement of the Respondents in Various Community Based Organizations.**

Some respondents are involved in various kinds of groups and/or organizations such as Gurkha Bhutpurba Mahila Sangh (GEASO Women's Association which is an organization of wives of British Armies and works for the interest of them), women's organizations related to the ethnic community of socio-cultural group (which is an organization of a specific ethnic community for preserving their rights and identity e.g.Kirat Rai Yayokhkha),consumer’s committee (e.g. Tole Sudhar Samiti) ,professionals institutes(e.g. cooperative, finance).

Out of the 6o respondents, only 17 percent respondents are involved in various kinds of community based groups like user groups, saving groups, socio-cultural groups. All respondents are involved in more than one organization. However, remaining 83 percent respondents are not involved any groups.13.33 percent respondents are in involving in GEASO's women organization (Table no.4.12).

**Table 4.12: Involvement of the Respondents in various CBO's**.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organization or Group | Involved | Not Involved | Total |
| Consumers' committee | 18(30 %) | 42 | 60 |
| Saving Groups | 4(6.67 %) | 56 | 60 |
| Socio-cultural Groups | 12(20 %) | 48 | 60 |
| GEASO | 8(13.33 %) | 52 | 60 |
| Other Groups(Females organization | 9(15 %) | 51 | 60 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Consumers' committees in the study area are Tole Sudhar samitis for drinking water, road construction, sanitation etc. Saving group is a group for micro-credit activities. Socio cultural groups are related to the ethnic groups (like Magar Samaj Sewa, Tamu Sewa Samaj) which are functioning for their identity. Rights and cooperation. Similarly, GEASO is an organization of Gurkhas Armies formed for their rights and it is also formed for women's. Female groups are especially related to the women e.g. GEASO, women Association, Magar Women Association. Because of their responsibility in the family, their education and interest, most of the females are not holding any post of the CBO's executive committee but all families are members of these CBO's. Some of the females acting as an active member in these CBO's executive committee due to their interest, education and compulsion.

**CHAPTER V: Decision-Making among the British Ex-Army Families**

**5.1 Overall Household Decision-Making by Women**

The husbands of the respondents make all most all the household decisions inside the house as well as outside if they are present in the houses. Only those females, who are head of the family, decide in the most of the cases especially economic decision. But, at all time, they do not decide and they consult with husbands and other family member. Sometimes, other housewives decide about the family in the absence of male guardian of the family**.**

Out of the 60 respondents (women), the 36.67 percent respondents decide about their families at all times because of the absence of their husband and other male head. In the most of the cases, 45 percent (i.e.27) respondents play decisive role in household decision-making process, however 18.33 %( i.e.11) respondents decide sometimes. If the male guardians come then females consult with them before making decision.

**5.1.1 Decision on Buying and Selling Fixed Assets (Houses and Land)**

The decision related to the buying and selling fixed assets or properties of the family (e.g. house, lands etc.) is one of the major household decisions. In this regard, role of the family member is very important inside the household. All women cannot decide to purchase and sell any fixed assets like houses, lands, vehicles.

Out of the total 60 sampled families, with consultation of both male and female, they decide for buy and sale land in 90 % families. Similarly, with consultation and understanding of both male and female, they decide for transaction other assets like lands, vehicles in remaining (i.e.86.67 %) households. Even male heads do not decide without consultation of wives for buying and selling or constructing houses.

**5.1.2 Decision on Choosing Occupation and Business (after retirement)**

After retirement, business and foreign employment are than main occupations of British Ex-armies. These sectors are the main occupations of 13.12 percent, 11.76 percent and 3.17 percent of the total economically active members of the sample households. For choosing the occupation, females of 13.33 percent households decide to choose the occupation in the family for themselves. With the consultation of male heads, females decide to choose the occupation in the 60 percent. So we conclude that there exists combine role of both sexes in decision-making process (Table no.5.1)

**Table 5.1:Decision on choosing Occupation and Business.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Decision Maker | No. of Households | Percent |
| Male | 16 | 26.67 |
| Female | 8 | 13.33 |
| Both | 36 | 60 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

As a responsible member, females play very important role in decision-making at household level. Their husbands also consult with them before to start any profession.

**5.1.3 Decision on Purchasing Goods**

Women make decision to purchase goods required for the family in the most of the families in the study area. Those women, who are household head, play very important role in the family. Females decide in the 76.67 percent families about foods purchasing in the 70 percent families about clothes purchasing and in the 43.33 percent families about other goods required for family. In the consultation of both male and female, decision about purchasing vehicles is made in 80 percent families but they consult to purchasing other kinds of goods required for family in less than 50 percent families (Table no.5.2).It is noted that other goods are fridge, computer, TV, furniture’s etc.

**Table 5.2: Decision on Purchasing on Goods for Household.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goods | Male | % | Female | % | Both | % | Total |
| Foods | - | - | 46 | 76.67 | 14 | 23.33 | 60 |
| Clothes | - | - | 42 | 70 | 18 | 30 | 60 |
| Other Goods | 6 | 10 | 26 | 43.33 | 28 | 46.67 | 60 |
| Vehicles | 12 | 20 | - | - | 48 | 80 | 60 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

This fact reveals that females have authority to spend small amount of money due to the social norms and values existed in the society. Consultation with husband is compulsory to spend large amount of money. Husbands may present or not, females of the most of families play key role to purchase food items and clothes for the family members because they have more responsible and active and active role inside the households.

**5.1.4 Decision on Lending and Borrowing Money and Goods.**

Decision about lending and borrowing money and goods for fulfillment the requirement of household are very important task. In the case of British Ex-army, females play the very important role in the household decision-making because of the absence of the husbands in house. If husbands are present in the house then females make decision in his consultation.

Females of households (i.e.30 %) decide about for lending and borrowing money. In 30 households (i.e.50 %),they decide about it with the consultation husbands. Females of 60 % households decide alone about lending and borrowing goods for the requirement of family whereas they decide about it with the consultation of husbands in 13.33 % households.(Table no.5.3)

**Table 5.3: Decision on Lending and Borrowing Money and Goods.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Decision on | Male | % | Female | % | Both | % | Total |
| Lending and Borrowing Money | 12 | 20 | 18 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 60 |
| Lending and Borrowing Goods | 16 | 26.67 | 36 | 60 | 8 | 13.33 | 60 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Females always stay at home and husbands mostly stay outside from the house. So, females have more responsibility to lending and borrowing goods but in case of money in large amount they do not take risk or they consult with husbands. For the exchange of goods and small amount of money, females do not need to permit from husbands but for large amount of money they consult. From this fact, among the British Ex-army families, we conclude that the role of women in decision-making of lending and borrowing money is less than lending and borrowing goods required in the family because money is considered as more important than goods.

**5.1.5 Decision on Household Expenditure**

Most of the women are engaged in household chores and they spend more time for these activities than men. Men play dominant role in decision for household expenditure. Out of the 60 households, females of 18 household (i.e. 30 %) play dominant role to spend money for purchasing. Combine of male and female, they decide in 31 householders (51.67%) on householder expenditure (table no. 5.4). British Ex-armies cannot purchase all things required for their family for daily life because of their absence in the house. Females get authority to purchase for the household's requirements.

**Table 5.4: Decision on Household Expenditure.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Decision maker | No.of Household | Percent |
| Male | 11 | 18.33 |
| Female | 18 | 30 |
| Both | 31 | 51.67 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Out of the 60, females of 31 families consult with husbands for household expenditure due to the absence of husband and immediate requirement in the family.

**5.1.6 Decision on Education of Children**

Females of 28 households (i.e.46.67 %) alone decide about children's education (like choosing school, campus, tuition, expenditure on it) and in the consultation of husbands, they decide about it in 20 households (i.e.33.33) (Table no.5.5).

**Table 5.5: Decision on Education of Children**.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Decision Maker | No. of household | Percent |
| Male | 12 | 20 |
| Female | 28 | 46.67 |
| Both | 20 | 33.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Survey: Field Survey, 2018.

The total 160 children of the British Ex-army are students. Out of them, 50.62 percent children are school students and remaining (i.e.49.38 %) is college students.52.5 percent students are male and 47.5 percent students are females. All most all British Ex-armies enroll their all children in private school because of their economic capability and for quality education. The 96.30 percent school students study in private school (i.e. Boarding) and remaining 3.70 percent children study in foreign (especially where fathers are on the job). Total 34.18 percent children study in government campus because graduate and post graduate level of all subjects in not available in private college.However,48.10 percent children study in private higher secondary and private campus, and 21.52 percent campus students study in foreign countries (Table no.5.6).Due to the economic capability, they send their children in private school and campus.

**Table 5.6: Number of Students and Kind of Educational Institution, where the Children of British Ex-Armies Study.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | Government | | Private | | Foreign | | Total | | Sum Total |
| Sex | School | Campus | School | Campus | School | Campus | School | Campus |
| Male | - | 11 | 42 | 20 | 1 | 12 | 43 | 43 | 86  (52.5%) |
| Female | - | 13 | 36 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 38 | 36 | 74(47.5%) |
| Total | - | 24 | 78 | 38 | 3 | 17 | 81 | 79 | 160  100% |
| Percent | - | 34.18 | 96.30 | 48.10 | 3.70 | 21.52 | 100(50.62) | 100(49.38) | 100 |

Source: Field Survey,2018.

**5.1.7 Decision on Investment of Income**

All families of the British Ex-army save their income on bank for future consumption, Nearly half of the sampled families have invested on productive sectors like finance, bank, cooperative, business, school, college etc. The total 53.33 percent (i.e.32) households have invested their income on productive sectors like production, departmental stores, real states, finance, cooperative etc. Out of the investor households, only males decide to invest the income in 40.63 percent households. But, in the consultation of both husband and wife, they decide in remaining households (i.e.59.38%).In the case of investment, women have not special authority among to the British Ex-army families because it is risky business as well as they are not also experienced(Table no.5.7).Females do not want to take risk by investing money. It is noted that only 32 families of the British Ex-army (out of the 60 families) have invested their income on productive sectors

**Table 5.7: Decision on Investment of Income**.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Decision Maker | No.of Household | Percent |
| Male | 13 | 40.62 |
| Female | - | - |
| Both | 19 | 59.38 |
| Total | 32 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

**5.1.8. Decision on Insurance**

Most of the families of British Ex-army have invested on insurance for future security of life and capital. Mostly, they have done insurance for life insurance of their own and children. Few of them have done life and property insurance of vehicles. The total 71.67 percent households (i.e.43 households) have done life and property insurance (any insurance of family members or vehicles).Out of them, males have solely decided about this in 55.81 percent families. However, females have decided only in 13.95 percent families and in the consultation of males in 55.81 percent households. This figure states that decision about insurance about has been made in the consultation of both male and female.(Table no.5.8).It is noted that only 43 families of the British Ex-army (out of 60 families)have invested on insurance.

**Table 5.8: Decision on life and Property Insurance.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Decision Maker | No. of Households | Percent |
| Male | 13 | 30.23 |
| Female | 6 | 13.95 |
| Both | 24 | 55.81 |
| Total | 43 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

**5.1.9 Decision on Health Treatment of the Family**

Health treatment is considered as all kinds of treatment like go to the health institute and choosing, buying medicine, adopting family planning etc. The field survey shows that out of the 60 sampled households, female members have dominant role on decision about health treatment in 26 families (i.e.43.33 %).In the consultation male, females decide in 21 families (i.e.35 %) in this case (Table no.5.9).

**Table 5.9: Decision on Health Treatment of the Family**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Decision Maker | No. of Household | Percent |
| Male | 13 | 21.67 |
| Female | 26 | 43.33 |
| Both | 21 | 35 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

**5.1.10 Household Activities**

All household activities like cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, caring children and disable members of the family, bringing fuel(gas, kerosene)and other domestic activities are not only considered as unproductive in our society but also the non-works, which all are mostly done by the female members of the family. Wives of the British Ex-army only do these activities in the family.

Out of the total sampled 60 households, the females of the 46 households (i.e.76.67 %) percent care to the children and disable members of the family and in the 14 households(i.e.23.33 %),females mostly care them. Similarly, only females cook and clean in all sampled household; however, the males sometimes cook only in 6 households (i.e.10 %).

Out of the total sampled 60 households, the females of the 66.67 percent families always wash clothes and females of the 33.33 percent families mostly wash clothes. Similarly, the females of the 26 households (i.e.43.33 %) always bring cooking fuel like gas, kerosene.

Likewise, Due to the absence of males, hospitality to the guests and neighbors is a duty of wives of the British Ex-army .They always welcome the guests and neighbors in 86.67 percent households and mostly welcome the guests and neighbors in remaining families (i.e.13.33 %) because of the their busy on job or business and presence of other responsible family members. The females in the same number of households mostly do these works and in remaining households(i.e.17 or 28.33 %) they always do these works(Table no.5.10).

**Table 5.10: Decision-Making about Household Activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Caste/Ethnicity |  | All Times | Mostly | Sometimes | Never | Total |
| Caring Children and Disable Members | Male | - | - | 45(75 %) | 15(25 %) | 60(100%) |
| Female | 46  (76.67%) | 14(23.33%) | - | - | 60(100%) |
| Cooking | Male | - | - | 6(10 %) | 54(90%) | 60(100%) |
| Female | 60(100%) | - | - | - | 60(100%) |
| Cleaning | Male | - | - | - | 60(100%) | 60(100%) |
| Femle | 60(100%) | - | - | - | 60(100%) |
| Washing Clothes | Male | - | - | 20(33.33%) | 40(66.67%) | 60(100%) |
| Female | 40(66.67%) | 20(33.33%) | - | - | 60(100%) |
| Cooking Gas | Male | - | - | 34(56.67%) | 26(43.33%) | 60(100%) |
| Female | 26(43.33%) | 34(56.67%) | - | - | 60(100%) |
| Entertaining Guests | Male | - | 21(35%) | 39(65 %) | - | 60(100%) |
| Female | 52(86.67%) | 8(13.33 %) | - | - | 60(100%) |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

From the above analysis, British Ex-armies of 43.33 percent (i.e.26) sample households are employed in foreign countries but remaining armies are in Nepal. Women's role in decision-making process at household level is depends on the absence/presence of husbands other male guardians (in case of joint family), types of activities. Role of those British Ex-Army women whose husbands are absent in the house is found more decisive in many activities rather than those women whose husbands are present in house.

Women's role is found more powerful in general types of household activities like purchasing goods, borrowing goods, healthcare and treatment, tuition for children etc. Adversely, they have limited role in the case of specific types of household activities like buying and selling house, lands, vehicle, choosing school and college for children, lending and borrowing money, investing money, doing insurance, etc. In the economic cases, their role depends on the amount of the money.

In conclusion, women's role in household level decision-making process primarily depends upon presence or absence of the husbands in the British Ex-Army families. Its other determining factors are education level of the women, types of family, socio-economic condition, occupation, participation in the organization etc.

**5.2 Influencing Factors of Women’s Role in Decision-Making**

**5.2.1 Influencing Factors of Women’s Role in Decision-Making among British Ex-army Families.**

Various factors influence the household decision-making. Socio-economic status, social structure, social norms, values, and traditions, families role, employment situation, existing caste system, rights to property, economic dependency or independency families role, empowerment, opportunity, awareness, participation, legal provision, and socio-physical infrastructure are major influencing factors of household decision-making. These factors, directly or indirectly, determine the participation and role of women inside as well as outside the house. On the basis of respondents' view and the previous studies, situation of these factors in the study area are discussed below:

**5.2.1.1 Education**

Out of the total, 75 percent respondents view the education as the main determining factors of women's role in decision-making among British Ex-army. Indeed, education is one of the major factors to make capable the people. Literacy level of the women in the British Ex-army families is good.95.24 percent females are literate in the study area. In the 60 sampled households, 23.81 percent females have their academic qualification of SLC and above (see table no.4.6). Women's decision-making power is found high in their families. Thus, education is one of the major influencing factors of women's role in decision-making inside as well as outside households.

**5.2.1.2 Social Status**

Social status of the people is reflected in terms of his position, prestige in the society, family background, economic condition, educational level, participation and role in the society. Social status of the family of the respondents is good in the study area. Social status of the people depends upon the social structure of the society, economic status, and prestige of forefathers, structure of the family etc.Female has lower decision-making power in the patriarchal families than matriarchal families. In overall, social status of the British Ex-armies takes place the good position the society. Women's role in household decision-making depends on the social status. To decide inside as well as outside the houses, families having good status and female members of those families have more decision-making power than women of the low status families. Thus, social status also influences the women's role in household decision-making.

**5.2.1.3 Social norms, Values and Traditions**

Existing social norms, values and traditions of the society influence the women's role in household decision-making. The largest number of the people is Hindu in the study area. Social norms, values and traditions are based on the Hindu religion. Besides, the social norms and values are also guided by patriarchal principle. Due to the social norms, values and traditions, British Ex-Army women cannot play decisive role in each and every activity in the family although they are capable. So, definitely, women's role in decision-making is dominated by these norms, values and traditions. In conclusion, in the case of British Ex-Army, women's role in decision-making has also been influencing by social norms, values and traditions.

**5.2.1.4 Structure of the Study**

The structure of the study is mixed up of various caste and ethnic groups like Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Tamang and Newar. Social structures determine the societal norms and values. Social norms and values would be flexible and liberal in this sort of society like the study area. British Armies are from Mager, Rai Limbu, Gurung and Tamang ethnic groups. So, to some extent, there is freedom to women in the British armies' society. Wives of the British Ex-army have more roles to decide inside as well as outside their households.

**5.2.1.5 Caste System**

Caste system also determines the women's status in the family as well as the society. The women's decision-making power in indigenous people (like Gurung, Magar) is higher than Brahmin and Chhetri (Bhattachan,2005).In the case of British Ex-Army, since all sampled families are indigenous, women have more autonomy and power in decision-making in comparison to the other castes' women. So, women's decision-making role depends on the caste system of the society.

**5.2.1.6 Structure of the Family**

There are two kinds of family's structure viz. joint family and nuclear family. The total 78.33 percent sampled families of the British Ex-army are nuclear families and remaining (i.e.21.67 %) families are joint families. In the joint family, elder members of the family can play the role of guardian and wives of the British Ex-Army may have less responsibility in comparison to the nuclear families. In the nuclear family, and if the husbands are in foreign employment then women as a guardian have more responsibilities and also more decision-making power. We conclude that British Ex-Army women's role in household level decision-making process in nuclear family is higher than joint family.

**5.2.1.7 Presence/Absence of Husband and Guardian**

In an average, 16 year s is the tenure of the British armies. After retirement, most of the armies go to the foreign countries for employment. In this case, there is absence of husbands and guardians in the families. Those women whose husband and guardians are absent, have more responsibilities and role in decision-making in comparison to those women, whose husbands or guardians are absent for a long time. If the husbands are present at house then wives' responsibility and decision-making role would be lowered or shared with husbands. Thus, in the case of British Ex-army, absence or presence of husbands and guardians is the main influencing factor of women's role in decision-making among.

**5.2.1.8 Economic Status**

Economic status of the family as well as the women is also important factor that influence the decision-making. There is positive relationship between the economic level and role in decision-making. The economic status of the British Ex-army is high and they get large amount of remittance as a pension. After retirement, some of the British Armies have been gone to work in foreign country for earning, using retire life and age. On one hand, if there is good source of income than women get chance to expense because need also increases. On the other hand, if she earns herself then she can spend more. Besides, women have significant role to purchase for household requirements due to the absence of husbands and guardian. If husbands are present at house then her role decreases.

**5.2.1.9 Employment Situation**

Level of income depends on kind of employment. If the women are employed in respectable and high earning jobs then they become empowered, economically strong, they get more power to make decision in the family. Some British Ex-armies are doing job in foreign countries, some are engage in business within the country. Therefore, their wives as a guardian have more responsibility. Some women are also engaged in business and service and they executrices more role in decision-making (see table no.4.7).Thus, employment situation either may in the case of husbands or in the case of wives determines in the household level decision-making.

**5.2.1.10 Rights to Property**

Rights to property provide the authority to transact, sell or buy. In the Nepalese society, male members of the families hold such rights. Some females have ownership of lands (her own and family's) but they do not have complete authority to mobilize it. So, they are nominal landholder, who cannot alone decide about lands. In the present study, lands of 18.33 percent families are registered in the name of women but they have not actual authority over it. Therefore, women's real right to lands shows the more decision-making power in the household.

**5.2.1.11 Family's Role.**

If the family provides opportunity to the female members to handle the house or provides the opportunity to participate in the decision-making activities then they can perform. If the female members are able but male members dominate in each and every decision of the family then female's power becomes low. So, family's positive role enhances the women's power in household decision-making. It is found that British Ex-armies provide opportunity to their wives in the most of the activities. Due to this cause, females are practicing the more decision-making roe in their families.

**5.2.1.12 Legal Provision.**

The existing legal provision also influences the women's role in household decision-making. If the legal provisions strongly exist then females can get chance to decide more inside as well as outside of the households. If the laws preserve the women's rights,(e.g. rights to property, rights to reproduction, rights to schooling, rights to participation on development etc) then they get opportunity to enhance the decision-making capability. If the laws do not exist then they cannot enjoy the rights to decide inside as well as outside the family. Thus, legal provision is one of the major influencing factors of women's decision-making in the households. But, land is registered in the name of women in 18.33 percent families of the British Ex-army but they have no complete authority to transact the lands.

**5.2.1.13 Awareness**

Family members should have awareness about the role of the women in household decision-making. In the absence of awareness, female members of the family are deprived from the decision-making in the households. If the people become aware then they encourage the women to enhance their role in household decision-making, otherwise they don't pay attention about the women's role in decision-making. Thus, women's role in household decision-making also depends upon the awareness. In the case British Ex-army, husbands are aware and they have realized. Thus, they don't restrict wives unnecessarily. They always encourage support and provide opportunities to the wives. In short, the level of awareness can be found high among the British armies' family. Thus, women have been playing the important role in decision-making.

**5.2.1.14 Opportunity**

According to the respondents, opportunity to the women is very important for their role in decision-making. Opportunity should be given to the women and then they perform own responsibility or they make decision. To some extent, British Ex-armies have high level of understanding about the role and responsibility of wives in the family. They pass their very productive and youth age of life and at the mean time, their wives handle the whole households. Most of them go outside the country for further employment.

In this way, their wives get opportunities to handle the household and they play significant role in decision-making inside as well as outside the house. There is positive relationship between opportunity and women's role in decision-making. If more opportunity is given then women's role would be enhanced in decision-making and vice versa.

**5.2.1.15 Participation**

There is positive relationship between women's participation and their role in decision-making. If the females get chance to participate in various kinds of organizations, groups then they earn experience and confidence. In other words, women's participation enhances their ability or power in decision-making inside as well as outside of the households. In the absence of husbands and guardians, wives of the British army’s participate in own community based on organizations, professional organizations, socio-cultural organizations and social works. So, they have more participation and role in decision-making. It is found good among the respondents.

**5..1.1.16 Role of Empowerment Program**

Empowerment programs significantly help to enhance the role in decision-making. Targeted programs to the women empower them and they would be able to enjoy own rights and to complete own responsibilities. Empowerment programs enable the women and strengthen their role in decision-making inside as well as outside the household. By targeting the women of British army's, any empowerment program has not been carried out in the study area. If they become empower then they can hold more right and play role on decision-making in their household as well as outside the households.

**5.2.1.17 Socio-Physical Infrastructure**

Various kinds of socio-physical infrastructures (such as transportation, communication, health and educational facilities, electricity) also indirectly influence on the role of decision-making. If these infrastructures are easily available then the people gets more chance to make decision-making. For instance, if electricity facility is available in a households then that family can purchase (assume that family is economically able and desire) a computer, a fridge, an internet line etc. In this regard, (assume that that is British army's family and husband is not present) women decide what to do about it. But in our case, there is availability of all kinds of socio-physical infrastructures in the study area and women have more roles to make decision in comparison to those women, who do not have access of these facilities of infrastructures.

In the conclusion, the existing factors, which are discussed above, in the study area directly or indirectly influence the women's role in household decision-making although to some extent, these determining factors of women's role in decision-making is good in comparison to the non-British army’s families. Survey shows that decision would be made in the consultation and understanding of both husband and wife of the British Ex-army in the most of the important cases. This fact indicates that females are also important part of decision-making in their families. To enhance the women's role in decision-making, there is needed to pay attention about these factors without which women's participation in decision-making would be limited only in theory. And status of the Nepalese women cannot be uplifted. So, women's role should be enhanced for gender equality as well as balanced development of the society.



Economically active populations 75.17 % of the total population. Out of them,46.71 % population is students and business, foreign employment and service sectors are the main occupations of 13.12 percent,11.76 percent and 3.17 percent of the total economically active members of the surveyed households. 95 % respondents are literate and 96 % family members of the respondents are literate. Out of the total 137 male members, 97.81 % males are literate and out of the 147 female members, 96.48 % females are literate.

Nearly 40 percent families have invested some percentage of their income on productive sectors like business, finance, bank, cooperative, school and college etc. In overall background of the 80 percent respondents is comparatively higher than other respondents in terms of socio-economic, educational, political, participation in various field and level and so on. In 25 percent families of British Ex-army, females are owners of their family's land and houses. Only 17 % respondents are involved in various kinds of community based groups or organizations such as GEASO Women's Association, women's organizations related to the ethnic community, user groups, professional institutes (e.g. cooperative, finance).Out of them,13.33 % respondents are involving in GEASO's women organization.

Only 36.67 % respondents (women) decide at all times about their families because of the absence of their husband and guardians. Consultation of both male and female, they decide to buy and sale lands in 90 % families. The females of only 13.33 % households decide to choose the occupation in the family. Decision about choosing the occupation of the family members is made in 60 % families in the consultation of both male and female. The females only decide in the 76.67 % families about foods purchasing.

The females decide alone about lending and borrowing money in 30 % households, however, in 50 % households with the consultation of male counterparts. The female members have dominant role on decision of children education in 46.67 % households, whereas, males alone and both decide in 20 % households and 33.33 % households about it respectively. Only, 53.33 % households have invested their income on productive sectors like finance, bank, cooperative, business, school, college etc. The males decide to invest the income in 40.63 % households and in remaining households (i.e.59.38 %), they decide in the consultation of both husband and wife.

The total 71.67 % households have done insurance(any insurance of family members or vehicle).Out of them, females decided in only 13.95 % families and in the consultation of both male and female, decision about this have been made in 55.81 % households. The female members have dominant role on decision about health treatment in 43.33 % families. In the case of wives of the British Ex-army, major influencing factors of decision-making are education, socio-economic status, social structure, family's structure, social norms, values and traditions, employment situation, presence/absence of husband and guardian, existing caste system, rights to property, economic dependency or independency, family's role, empowerment, opportunity, awareness, participation, legal provision and socio-physical infrastructure.

Out of these factors, some factors play dominant role in women's decision-making process at household level and some factors play secondary role.

**6.2 Conclusion**

The different factors determine the decision-making role of British Ex-Army wives at household level which are as: on the absence or presence of husbands and male guardians, educational level family type, employment and economic condition involvement in the organizations etc. In household decision-making, the women have been playing more roles in the absence of husbands rather than the presence of husbands in the households. Some factors influence primary role and some factors influence secondary role in the decision-making process.

Among the British Ex Armies, role of both male as well as female are found significant in decisions-making at most cases. As a household head, women's role is found dominant in the most of the house activities because of the absence of husbands (husbands are working in foreign countries after retirement from the service).Though, in the important cases, women decide in the consultation and advice of the husbands. These types of case are primarily buying and selling house and lands, lending and purchasing money, choosing school and college for children etc.

If the husbands are present in the house, women's role is found comparatively lower than those women whose husbands are outside the house. They are not work as a household head but they have role to play in decision-making at household level. In this case also, women become a significant part of decision-making with their husbands. In the economic point of view, decision-making role of the women depends of the amount of the money. If the decision is associated to the small amount of money then women can decide alone and if the decision is associated with large amount of money then she cannot do alone without consultation about husband. The most important aspect is found that both male and female decide in the consultation of each other for all important cases of the families. Among the British Ex-Army families, females have more authority for decision-making process or they have been playing significant role on decision-making at household level. They take place good position in case of household decision-making in their families.

**6.3 Summary**

Efforts to empower the females socially, economically, and educationally have been made by government as well as non-governmental organizations. On the basis of the findings of the study, followings points are recommended to improve the status of females and to increase their participation in decision-making process in the British Ex Army families:

* Educational level of women should be raised.
* Proper management should be made to empower the women and training institutes to provide employment opportunities them.
* Women's participation in household decision-making issues must be encouraged.
* Women should have access over land and property to improve women's decision-making.
* There should be increased the access of women for gainful economic activities.
* Awareness programs should be launched to eliminate the gender discrimination, traditional norm, values and tradition, which are in existing in the society.
* There should be brought into the main stream of the development, moreover in the nation building.
* Women should be participated in the restructuring Nepal through the social inclusion.
* Encouragement should be done to the women to participate in the social activities.
* Women should not be bounded only in household activities.
* Opportunities should be given to the women in decision-making inside as well as outside their houses.
* Policies and programs related to the women's participation, their empowerment should be implemented effectively.
* Legal provision should be practiced in behavior.

**Recommendation for the further Researcher:**

Researcher also recommends carrying out further research in other field. The present study is only focused on the women's role in household decision-making among the British Ex-armies residing at ward no.4,14 and 15 of Lalitpur sub-metropolitan. For policy implication in the field of enhances the women's role in decision-making through household, community level and the national level as a whole, there is needed to carry out the further research in the same topic but in the other areas. Likewise, there are open many fields of research in the study area. There is needed to undertake the research related to the women such as socio-economic status of the women, women's participation in politics, community development and resource mobilization, other influencing factors of the women's role in decision-making, gender issue, women's participation in decision-making in the ecological basis and in different level and fields, women's participation in nation-building through social inclusion.

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**Question Schedule**

1. **Personal information (Bio data)**

**1.Name of the interviewee……**

**Ward no…………….. Tole/villege………….. Age………..**

**Sex…………………… Caste………………… Occupation………**

**Academic qualification………… Language………**

**Religion…………. Nationality…………………**

**Marital Status: Married/unmarried**

**2.What are your family members?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **Percentage** |  |
|  |  |  |  | **Male** | **Female** |
| **0-9** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10-19** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **20-39** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **40-59** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **60 and above** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |  |

3.What is your family type?

a) Joint( ) b. Nuclear ( )

4.How long have you been living in this villege?

………………………………………….

5.Is there any members of your family who have migrated temporally or permanently from this place ?

a) Yes ( ) b. No ( )

6.If yes

Number of migrated person…………..

7.Why she/he was migrated

a) Marriage

b) Job Opportunity

c) Economic

d)Unsustainable agriculture

e) Depletion of forest resource

f) Difficult in grouping

g) Lack of water

h) Others

(B) Economic Condition

8. Does your household own any land?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( )

8.1. If yes how much cultivated on other land?

a) Bigha ( ) b) Katha ( ) c) Other ( )

9.Have you got your own house ?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( )

10. How much land do yau have?

a) Bigha ( ) b) Katha ( ) c) Dhur ( )

11. What is your main source of income?

i) Agriculture ( ) ii) Wage/Labor ( ) iii) Job ( )

iv) Other ( ) v) Business ( )

12.Is your family economically depending ?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( ) c) Other ( )

13.Who make decision concerning income and expenditure in your family?

a) Husband ( ) b) Wife ( ) c. Both ( ) d.Other ( )

14. What is your main source of water ?

a) Private connection b)Public tap/tank c)Tube well

d)River/Spring/Stem e) Rain water f) Kuwa

15.Where do you collect your fire wood from ?

Major sources of fire wood

1. VDC forest
2. Government forest
3. Private forest
4. Community forest
5. Agriculture and animal wastes

16.How is your annual average income?

Rs…………………………….

17.Does your family grow any cash crops ?

a) Yes b) No

If yes:-

Amount (in Kg)

* Mustard ……………………….
* Potato ……………………..
* Lactic ……………………
* Vegetable ……………………
* Others …………………

18.What is your food sufficient level in family ?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0-3 month | 3-6 month | 6-9 month | 9-12 month |

19.Do you keep any poultry birds ,animals if yes how many ?

i.Goat……………….

ii. Sheep…………….

iii.Cow………….....

iv.Buffalo…………..

v.Pigs……………

vi.Chicken………..

vii. Duck……..

viii. Specify if any……….

20. What is your way of solving financial problems ?

A) By borrowing b) By Selling live stock

C)Wage labor d) Other

21. Where do you go for job when your earning income does not fulfill your basic needs ?

i) Neighboring side ii)Within District

iii) Witthin Country iv) Foreign Country

v) Which Country (………………………..)

22. Do you work as tenat ?

a.Yes ( ) b) No ( )

23) If you work as tenat,what is the system of sharing products ?

……………………………………………………………………..

Is your own agricultural products enough for your family ?

1. Yes ( ) b) No

24.Have you borrowed any land ?

a) yes ( ) b) No ( )

25.If yes ,where from and what is the percent of interest rate ?

Bank…………. Interest Rate…………..

Co-operative………… Interest Rate………..

Money lender………… interest Rate……….

26.How many people in your family read and write ?

a) Number of people…………………………..

27. Do your children go to school?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( )

28.If not why ? Give reason………………………………………

29. How far is the school from your house ?

a) Less than half and hour b) Half an hour

c) More than one hour

31.Literacy Level

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Male | Female |
| Literate |  |  |
| Illiterate |  |  |
| Total |  |  |

32. If literate, what is literacy level?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.N. | Level | Male | Female |
| 1 | Primary Level (1-5) |  |  |
| 2 | Lower secondary alevel(6-8) |  |  |
| 3 | Secondary Level (9-10) |  |  |
| 4 | Higher level (11 and above) |  |  |
|  | Total |  |  |

33.Do you have knowledge of family planning ?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( ) c) Social and cultural practices ( )

**© socio and Cultural condition.**

34. Who is the priest of your community?

…………………………………………………………………

35.What are your main festivals ?

a) Maghi b) holi c) Dashain d) Atawari e) Astimki

36. How do you celebrate in festival?

a) In group b) in family c) other

37. From where do you manage the money for the festival?

a) Loan from the bank b) Self c) Village Zamindars d) others

38. Where is the name of your main god?

a) ………………………………………………………………………

39. Where do you suggest going for treatment of illness first?

a) Visit Guruwa b) Hospital c) family guidance d) Others

40. Gender Role in your family ?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.N | Responsibility | Decision making | | |
| Male | Female | Both |
| 1 | Farming Activity/ Agriculture work |  |  |  |
| 2 | Buying goods and daily expenses |  |  |  |
| 3 | Buying and selling land |  |  |  |
| 4 | Decision making of children' marriage |  |  |  |
| 5 | Children's Education |  |  |  |
| 6 | Property Right |  |  |  |
| 7 | Joining local / indigenous group |  |  |  |

41. From where do you bring money for treatment?

a) self b) Money lender c) NGO/INGO d) Others

42. What sorts of behavior of your community people are the problems for development?

a) Drinking alcohol b) playing cards c) Family problem d) others

43. At what age people get married in your community?

…………………………………………………………………………..

44. Generally, what sorts of marriage do you tribe in practiced?

a) Arranged b) Love c) Others

45 . What is your skill in your community?

a ) Fishing and weaving net b) carpentry c) Sweater weaving d) Mystery e)Tailoring f) Skillness

46. What is your provision for toilet? Yes/ No If yes,

a) Best b) Medium c) Low