

Received Date: January 2022

Revised: March 2022

Accepted: June 2022

# Relationship between Gender Inclusion and Local Development in Context of Nepal

Dipendra Bikram Sijapati\*  
PhD Scholar

---

## Abstract

*The article is based in gender equity, inclusion and its relation with local development in the context of existing federal structure Nepalese government. Gender'' refers to the roles, responsibilities, attributes, and power relations all sector of local government, this article focused on two objective; to find out the gender inclusion and its relation with local government and to examine the gender inclusion policy provision in three level of government. This article used in secondary sources, the researcher collected and reviewed the similar literatures through the books, articles, election commission's reports, related acts, policies, constitutions, collected profiles. The require data collected through semi structure of questionnaire method. Finding this article, 31.1 percent are elected and 58.9 percent are male and 41.10 percent are female. In province number five 22.28 percent are elected and 58.78 percent are male and 41.22 percent are female. In province number six, total numbers of candidates 29.73 percent are elected and 59.97 percent are male and 40.03 percent are female. In the province 7 total numbers candidates 26.73 percent are elected and 59 percent are male and 41 percent are female. Among the elected candidates, gender equity and its relation to government is quite high than allocated by Nepal Constitution 2072 as well as election manifesto 2074 of different political parties because, the Nepal Constitution 2072 mentioned that each and every political parties should at least 33 percent women included in their political activities including election too. The gender inclusion on decision making and leading role of women. In the local development programme and policy making, the allocation of gender friendly budget, lack of participation of local development activities.*

---

**Keyword:** Gender development, equity, relation, policies, & local government.

## Introduction

In context of Nepal, Gender disparity have always been present since very beginning but recently only the discussion and issues of gender related things have come out to

---

\*Mr. Sijapati is a Lecturer at the Department of Population Studies, Patan Multiple Campus, TU, Lalitpur, Nepal.  
Email: sijapatidipendra@gmail.com

mainstream. There is huge gap in accessing the rights and power between the male and female in Nepalese society. Rural areas women are more deprived compared to the women in urban areas. Women have less access than men to productive resources, services and opportunities, such as land, livestock, financial services and education. Third gender seems to be somehow excluded from the society even though the government has made policies for them and providing them with identity Gender role development is one of the most important areas of Community development. “Gender” refers not to male and female, but to masculine and feminine - that is, to qualities or characteristics that society attribute to each sex. People are born female or male, but learn to be women and men. “Gender” refers to the roles, responsibilities, attributes, and power relations that are socially constructed by and assigned to men and women of a given society or community. These constructs vary greatly by culture, geographic region, socio-economic status, and context, and they change over time. Perceptions of gender are deeply rooted, vary widely both within and between cultures, and change over time. But in all cultures, gender determines power and resources for females and males (Sijapati & Subedi, 2020).

Gender balance is the equal and active participation of women and men in all areas of decision-making, and in access to and control over resources and services, The focus on gender rather than women was originally developed by feminists concerned about the manner in which the problems of women were perceived in terms of their sex, i.e., their biological differences with men, rather than in terms of their gender, i.e., in terms of the social, culture economic relationship between men and women, a relationship in which women have been systematically subordinated (Sijapati,2011). The female population is approximately 51 per cent in accordance with Centre Bureau of Statistics (CBS) 2011,51.04 percent Census 2021, preliminary report) which shows 67.5 percent illiterate and 43.4 percent absolute poor. Its large section female population (86 %) lives in rural areas where agriculture and small cottage industries are their major economic occupation of 62 percent female for livelihood income, food and employment. This demographic picture shows marginal, unable and poor female population. Gender inclusion is mainly distribution of opportunities, resources and choices for male and females so that have equal power to shape their own lives and contribute to the Nation (USAID, 2010). This is explained as critical state of gender exclusiveness in Nepalese development paradigm.

In this context, this study examined the knowledge and practices of gender inclusion in local governments. Specially, Local Governments (LGs) how does provide gender inclusion to address gender in equal female. Females are included on each and every effectively decision making process of local level and good governance, whether

households have socio-economic implications of gender inclusiveness and females are empowered. Women and development (WAD) is a theoretical and practical approach to development. It was introduced into gender studies scholarship in the second half of the 1970s, following its origins, which can be traced to the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975, organized by the UN. It is a departure from the previously predominant theory, Women in Development (WID) and is often mistaken for WID, but has many distinct characteristics (Razavi & Miller, 1995).

Women And Development (WAD) arose out of a shift in thinking about women's role in development, and concerns about the explanatory limitations of modernization theory. While previous thinking held that development was a vehicle to advance women, new ideas suggested that development was only made possible by the involvement of women, and rather than being simply passive recipients of development aid, they should be actively involved in development projects. WAD took this thinking a step further and suggested that women have always been an integral part of development, and did not suddenly appear in the 1970s as a result of exogenous development efforts (Rathgeber, 1990).

The WAD approach suggests that there be women-only development projects that were theorized to remove women from the patriarchal hegemony that would exist if women participated in development alongside men in a patriarchal culture, though this concept has been heavily debated by theorists in the field. In this sense, WAD is differentiated from WID by way of the theoretical framework upon which it was built. Rather than focus specifically on women's relationship to development, WAD focuses on the relationship between patriarchy and capitalism. This theory seeks to understand women's issues from the perspectives of neo-Marxism and dependency theory, though much of the theorizing about WAD remains undocumented due to the persistent and pressing nature of development work in which many WAD theorists engage (Barriteau et al., 2000).

Women in Development (WID) is an approach used in planning, implementing and evaluating women-only focused programmes, that does not question the relation of gender inequality and therefore addresses the symptoms rather than the causes. The Gender and Development (GAD) approach recognizes that disadvantaged groups are negatively affected by existing social structures. The approach therefore seeks to create equitable and sustainable development with women and men as decision-makers through empowering these groups to ensure that they benefit equally from the development process. The WAD paradigm stresses the relationship between women, and the work that they perform in their societies as economic agents in both the public and domestic spheres. It also emphasizes the distinctive nature of the roles women play in the maintenance and development of their

societies, with the understanding that purely the integration of women into development efforts would serve to reinforce the existing structures of inequality present in societies overrun by patriarchal interests. In general, WAD is thought to offer a more critical conceptualization of women's position that does WID (Rathgeber, 1990).

The WAD approach emphasizes the distinctive nature of women's knowledge, work, goals, and responsibilities, as well as advocating for the recognition of their distinctiveness. This fact, combined with a recognized tendency for development agencies to be dominated by patriarchal interests, is at the root of the women-only initiatives introduced by WAD subscribers (Barriteau et al., 2000).

Dependency theorists opposed that liberal development models, including the attempt to incorporate women into the existing global capitalism, was in fact nothing more than the "development of underdevelopment (Frank, 1969)." This view led them to propose that delinking from the structural oppression of global capitalism is the only way to achieve balanced human development. In the 1980s, there also emerged "a sustained questioning by post-structuralist critics of the development paradigm as a narrative of progress and as an achievable enterprise." (Visvanathan, 2011). As dependency theory, the male and female should be equal in development. It has emphasized of the gender inclusion in development as equal existing prospective.

## **Objective**

- To find out the gender inclusion and its relation with the development of local government
- To examine the gender inclusion policy provision in three level of government

## **Methods**

The article applied Development Theory which emerged after 1970 as an alternative of "Modernization and Dependency Theory" for holistic development of nation, community and people itself (Subedi, 2011). Major principle of this theory is Justice, sustainability and inclusiveness of development. This paper based on gender inclusion and its relationship with development of local government and adopted from the pragmatism and anti-positivism/interpretative philosophy. Pragmatism philosophy refers distinctive methods for becoming clear about the meaning of gender development relations to the local government with all level of governments in Nepal, this article used in secondary sources, the researcher collected and reviewed the similar literatures through the books, articles, election commission's reports, related acts, policies, constitutions, collected profiles. These collected data analyzed by using SPSS.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Present laws and policies of gender inclusion in local government**

Gender mainstreaming is a perspective, process of assessing the implication for men and women of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goals are to achieve gender equality in other definition of gender mainstreaming "It is Institutionalization of gender concerns within the organization itself: relating to taking account of gender equality in administrative, financial. Staffing, and other organizational procedures, thus contributing to a long-term transformative process for the organization in terms of attitudes, 'culture', goals and procedures; gender empowerment: women's participation in decision-making processes, as well as having their voices heard and the power to put issues on the agenda (Moser & Moser, 2005). Component of gender inclusion policy; a dual strategy of mainstreaming gender combined with targeted actions for gender equality, Gender analysis, a combined approach to responsibility, where all staff share responsibility, but are supported by gender specialists; Gender training and Support to women's decision making and empowerment, monitoring and evaluation of gender inclusion. Three additional components, working with other organisations, budgets, and knowledge resources, are shared by a smaller number of institutions. The contrast very few assessments have addressed the operational and programming implementation of gender mainstreaming. The outcomes and its impact of implementation in terms of gender equality still largely unknown. Thus the next decade calls for a twofold strategy: implementation of gender mainstreaming (with far greater transparency in terms of documentation) and the development of more robust evaluation of output and outcomes processes. So while progress has been made, the next decade will provide the real test of gender mainstreaming in practice (Moser & Moser, 2005).

Gender mainstreaming was established as a major global strategy for the promotion of gender equality in the Beijing Platform for Action from the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO, 2017) agreed conclusions, established some important overall principles for gender mainstreaming. A letter from the Secretary-General to heads of all United Nations entities (13 October 1997) provided further concrete directives. The General Assembly, twenty-third special session to follow up implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Angela & King, 2002). Local and regional governments have a long track record

of working internationally for gender equality, with a particular focus on increasing the representation of local elected women and the promoting the participation of all women in local decision-making (Anne, 2015)The International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) adopted the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government, the foundational document of international principles and commitments with regard to the action of local and regional governments in the field of women’s rights (UNCHS, 2000).

Gender inclusion and local development’s relation are ways in which a society defines rights, responsibilities and identities of men and women in relation to one another. When the gender relate with local development it is very important to change the perspective of men towards women. Unless and until the perspective of the people does not change towards women they are somehow always to be dominated in the society. When the issues of gender and local development it is very important that there is gender equity in the society. Gender equity means fairness and impartiality in the treatment of women and men in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. There is gender equity in local development is very difficult. During the local development, gender balance is very important to keep in mind in order for the sustainable development.

Table 1: Broad age group of parliamentary elected members by sex, in 2074 election

SN	Age group	Male		Female		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1	30-35	4	2.52	1	16.67	5	3.03
2	36-40	7	4.4	-	-	7	4.24
3	41-45	18	11.32	1	16.67	19	11.52
4	46-50	38	23.9	2	33.33	40	24.24
5	51-55	31	19.5	2	33.33	33	20.0
6	56-60	33	20.75	-	-	33	20.0
7	61-65	19	11.95	-	-	19	11.52
8	66-70	8	5.03	-	-	8	4.85
9	71 and above	1	0.63	-	-	1	0.61
<b>Total</b>		<b>159</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Government of Nepal, 2074*

These data analyzed by board age group of an Elected Parliament Members, highest (24.24%) percent are of aged group 46-50 years in total and as well as in both male (23.9%) and female (33.33%). Second highest percent male are in age group 56-60 years

and female are in 51-55 years age group. Third highest are in aged group 41-45 years old, 11.52 percent in total, 11.32 percent in male and 16.67 percent in female. However, majority members are aged above 40 years and below 60 year. Above 70 years members are only 0.61 percent. And below 40 years old also are minority.

Table 2: Local elected members by province level in 2074 local election (in number)

SN	Numbers	No of candidates members			Total elected members		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Province-1	15,254	9,813	25,067	3,554	2,489	6,043
2	Province -2	22,861	14,387	27,248	3,895	2,723	6,618
3	Province -3	14,726	8,887	23,613	3,433	2,359	5,792
4	Province-4	7,598	5,057	12,655	2,317	1,617	3,934
5	Province -5	14,024	9,010	23,036	3,017	2,116	5,133
6	Province -6	7,554	4,848	12,402	2,211	1,476	3,687
7	Province -7	8,502	5,841	14,343	2,262	1,572	3,834
Total		90,519	57,843	14,8364	20,689	14,352	35,041

*Source: Government of Nepal, 2074.*

*Note: Only two new candidate are in province five who have third gender.*

While analysed of number of candidates and numbers of elected members for local government by province, total 1,48,364 members were candidates for election in all 7 provinces but only 35,041 (23.62%) members are elected. As gender, among 90,519 male candidates 20,689 (22.86%) are elected. Someway, among 57,843 female candidate 14,352 (24.81%) are elected. As province wise analysed, in province 1, total numbers of candidates were 25,067. Out of them 6043 (24.11%) are elected and 58.81 percent are male and 41.19 percent are female. In province 2, total numbers of candidates were 27,248. Out of them 24.29 percent are elected and 58.85 percent are male and 41.15 percent are female. In province 3, total numbers of candidates were 23,613. Out of them 5,792 (24.53%) are elected and 59.27 percent are male and 40.73 percent are female. In province 4 total number of candidates was 12,655.

Table 3: Local elected members by province level in 2074 local election (in Percentage)

SN	Province	No. of candidates members			Total elected members		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
1	Province-1	16.85	16.96	16.89	7.26	17.34	17.25
2	Province -2	25.26	24.87	18.37	18.92	18.97	18.89
3	Province -3	16.27	15.36	15.92	16.67	16.44	16.53
4	Province-4	8.39	8.74	8.53	11.25	11.27	11.23
5	Province -5	15.49	15.58	15.53	14.65	14.74	14.65
6	Province -6	8.35	8.38	8.36	10.74	10.28	10.52
7	Province -7	9.39	10.10	9.67	10.99	10.95	10.94
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Local Elected Members by Province level in 2074 Local Election (in total number and percent)							
1	Province-1	60.85	39.15	25,067	58.81	41.19	6,043
2	Province -2	83.9	16.1	27,248	41.15	27.23	6,618
3	Province -3	62.36	37.64	23,613	59.27	40.73	5,792
4	Province-4	60.04	39.96	12,655	58.9	41.10	3,934
5	Province -5	60.88	39.11	23,036	58.78	41.22	5,133
6	Province -6	60.91	39.09	12,402	59.97	40.03	3,687
7	Province -7	59.28	40.72	14,343	59.0	41.0	3,834
Total		61.01	38.98	14,8364	59.04	40.96	35,041

Source: Government of Nepal, 2074

Out of them 3,934 (31.1 %) are elected and 58.9 percent are male and 41.10 percent are female. In province No. 5 total numbers of candidates were 23,036. Out of them 5,133 (22.28%) are elected and 58.78 percent are male and 41.22 percent are female. In province no. 6 total numbers of candidates were 12,403. Out of them 3,687 (29.73%) are elected and 59.97 percent are male and 40.03 percent are female. In the province 7 total numbers candidates were 14,343. Out of them, 3834 (26.73%) are elected and 59 percent



are male and 41 percent are female. Among the elected candidates, gender inclusion in local government is quite high than allocated by Nepal Constitution 2072 as well as election manifesto 2074 of different political parties because, the Nepal Constitution 2072 mentioned that each and every political parties should at least 33 percent women included in their political activities including election too.

Table 4: Broad age group of local elected government body by sex, 2074 election

Age Group	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Chairman	Vice. Chairman	Ward President	Male Members	Female Members	Total
21-40	52	111	112	237	2,036	4,542	6,610	13,700
41-60	205	172	293	215	4,057	7,542	6,096	18,584
61 and above	36	10	53	8	649	1399	603	2,757
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>4,267</b>	<b>13,484</b>	<b>13,309</b>	<b>35,041</b>
Percentage distribution of Age Group of Local Elected Government Body by Sex, 2074								
21-40	17.75	37.88	24.35	51.52	30.2	33.68	49.67	39.1
41-60	69.97	58.70	63.7	46.74	60.8	55.94	45.80	53.0
61 and above	12.29	3.41	11.52	1.74	9.0	10.38	4.53	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Government of Nepal, 2074*

As a broad aged group of elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman, vice chairman, ward president, male members and female members of local government personality. Highest (53%) percent are aged group 41 - 60 years old aged group and 39.1 percent were aged group 21-40 years old and only 7.9 percent were aged group 61 years and above. While analysed as a post, Majority (69.97%) Mayors are aged 41 – 60 years old, 58.70 are Deputy Mayor, 63.7 percent are Chairman and 60.8 percent are Ward president. But, among the Vice Chairman majority (51.52 %) are aged group 21-40 years old. Likewise in Deputy Mayor, 58.70 percent are aged 41.

Table 5: Number of elected members for local government by sex and local government level and number of districts in each province

Province No.	No. of Dist.	Metropolitan city		Sub metropolitan city		Municipality		Rural Municipality (Gaunpalika)	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	14	56	41	118	86	1513	1035	1922	1290
2	8	95	66	229	157	2451	1711	1116	789
3	13	178	264	156	41	1417	984	1709	1156
4	11	98	69	-	-	967	675	1262	886
5	12	-	-	241	167	1139	805	1652	1162
6	10	-	-	-	-	926	631	1285	855
7	9	-	-	57	39	1069	746	1126	787
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>9482</b>	<b>6587</b>	<b>10072</b>	<b>6925</b>

Source: Government of Nepal, 2074

Table 6: Elected members for local government of study area (Jhapa district), (in Number)

S.N	Name of R.M/ Municipality/	Mayor/ Chairman		Depu. Mayor		Ward president		Members	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Jhapa</b>									
1	Gauradaha Municipality	1	0	0	1	9	0	20	20
2	Gaurejung Gaupalika	1	0	1	0	6	0	13	17
3	Siva Sataksthi								
<b>Lalitpur</b>									
1	Lalitpur Metropolitan city	1	0	0	1	29	0	67	54
2	Godawari Municipality	1	0	0	1	14	0	31	33
3	Konjosom Gaupalika	1	0	0	1	5	0	12	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>

Source: Government of Nepal, 2074.

Note: Two Municipality, Two Gaupalika and One Metropolitan City

## **Conclusion**

Gender equity, development, and local government perspective has been a burning issue at present world. Several international meetings, seminars and conferences frequently and regularly organized in different countries on different issues of women. The Nepalese government laws and protocols in gender social, economic and political spheres have already implementing the local election 2074. It is reflected in the representation of women in different social, economic and political sectors. The number of women as head of the state, mayor, deputy mayor, chairman and vice- chairman and other ward chairman and other members 41 percent elected in local government. It means that they are only elected but not empowered and are dominated by men in different sectors of development. In the Nepalese context status of the women is slowly encouraging and involving decision making development sectors in local level. Women are being empowered and have been involving in different sectors like household economy, environment conservation, infrastructures development and social sectors. The gender inclusion on decision making and leading role of women. In the local development programme and policy making, the allocation of gender friendly budget, lack of participation of local development activities. The local government personnel have formulated the different gender relation policy program activities including women friendly budget and others required policy programs as guided by the Nepal Constitution 2072, national and local government policy after they have elected in the local government. There is practice demand the budget without policy and act even justice establishment, all decisions are male oriented. Equal participation and decision making process to social development sectors in local level are addressed the Nepalese constitution and policies. Gender relation a significant goal of the national government for a 'new Nepal' is to restructure the Nepali state in the spirit of inclusive democracy. While the 2015 Constitution includes provisions for women and other marginalized groups in all levels of government, these alone are unlikely to be effective in improving the quality of representation and meaningful participation for these groups. A very important issue to understand is whether inclusiveness of women and minorities, as mandated in the Constitution, being adequately addressed by local government. The indicators to evaluate positive steps towards greater inclusion include constituent support for and assessment of inclusion practices and whether women and minorities are able to participate in local government policy-making. One of the most important factors in the ability of local governments to effectively operate lies in their financial capacity. However, significant challenges with regard to subnational expenditure have emerged, and the major question remains as to whether the local governments have adequate financial resources and fiscal autonomy to meet their budgetary needs and aspirations

## References

- Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). (2011). *Population and housing census 2011*. National Report, Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Ramshah Path, Nepal.
- Eudine, B., Patricia. C., & Jane L. (2000). *Theoretical perspectives on gender and development*. IDRC, Ottawa: International Development Research. URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/10625/29659>
- Frank, A. G. (1969). *Capitalism and underdevelopment in Latin America: Historical studies of Chile and Brazil (Rev. and enl. ed.)*. New York, Frank, Andre Gunder (1969). *Capitalism and underdevelopment in Latin America: historical studies of Chile and Brazil (Rev. and enl. ed.)*. New York: Monthly Review P. ISBN: 0853450935
- Hidalgo, A. (2015). *The role of local governments promoting gender equality for sustainability*. Paris.
- King, A. E. V. (2002). *Gender mainstreaming an overview*, United Nations, New York.
- Moser, C., & Moser A. (2005). Gender mainstreaming since Beijing: A review of success and limitations in international institutions. *Gender and Development 13* (2), Mainstreaming a Critical Review (2005), 11-22, Taylor & Francis, Ltd. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20053145>
- Rathgeber, E. M. (1990). “WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in research and practice.” *The Journal of Developing Areas*, 24 ( 4). URL:<https://www.jstor.org/stable/i390018>
- Razavi, S., & Carol. M. (1995). *From WID to GAD: Conceptual shifts in the women and development discourse*. UNRISD Occasional Paper, No. 1, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva. URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/10419/148819>
- Sijapati, D. B. (2013). *The status of gender inclusion in community forestry of Nepal: A case study of Lalitpur District*. An Unpublished Thesis of M. Phil., CDPS, T.U.
- Sijapati, D. B., & Subedi, G. (2020). Impact of gender inclusion in Local Government: A study based on Lalitpur and Jhapa Districts. *Patan Pragya 7* (1) TUTA Unit , Patan Multiple Campus. October 2020, DOI: [10.22214/ijraset.2020.31483](https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2020.31483)
- Subedi, G. (2011). *Population and social justice: Concept, theories and imperial evidences*. Kirti Prakashan, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, ISBN: 9789994673049

- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). (2000). *Local government, policies for women. Women and governance. Argentina. Habitat best practice database. Nairobi*: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). (2017). *Social and human sciences commission, 2017*. Geneva
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID). (2010). *FACT sheet; gender equality, female empowerment, and social inclusion*. New York.