

# Women Participation and Role of Co-Operative in Financial Inclusion of the Women inside Pokhara Metropolis

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## **Abstract**

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*Co-Operatives are economic entity; they deliver the opportunity for poor people to raise their revenues. Financial inclusion is fundamental for building a comprehensive money-related financial system as well as the overall inclusive economy of the Nation and it will be provided by financial institutions like banks, co-operatives, finance, etc. Among them, this study has been focused on the Satyeta Saving and Credit Co-operative, located in Pokhara 26 Kaski, with the objectives: to explore the proportion of financial inclusion of women caste-wise, to measure the services provided by the cooperative to promote investment and enterprises, to analyze the financial eminence of the women afterwards involvement in the co-operative and to analyze the societal prestige of the women after connection in the co-operative. This study mainly concentrated on women because women are being differentiated against in every aspect of society.*

*Many reasons strapped women to the back of the development. In this co-operative, there are 628 members among them 324 are female which is the population of this study and out of them, 90 were nominated as a sample of this study, exhausting a simple random sampling method, selected by lottery method. By means of a questionnaire the data were composed and contingent applying statistical tools like mean, percentage, etc. This study catches that the cooperative has no methods to the Dalits and back-warded women so less number of Dalits women was convoluted in this cooperative. Young and married women were intricate in these co-operatives from the initial date but they were involved for the bonus rather than enterprises and business. The women have accounts in others banks and they essential facilities like ATMs and other services which will not deliver by the cooperative. The existence of this cooperative in financial inclusion seems dispossessed, although the economic and*

*social pointers of the women are not in a decreasing situation. Finally, women were busy in other banks and financial institutions so the changes arising due to other banks or particularly from this cooperative are problematic to recognize which is the limitation of this study. Where a single financial institution runs, and service delivered by the institution is to be dignified to mark the study more critical in a remote area.*

**Keywords:** Cooperative, Discrimination, Enterprises, Financial inclusion, Social status

## **Introduction**

Co-operative is a considerate association of people with inadequate resources to defend their wants and attention. It may also be demarcated as a business conserved and organized similarly by the people who usage its facilities or who work at it. Cooperatives assistance those people who do not have right to use to commercial banking services to improvement contact to economic services that may include consumer credit, savings deposits, productive credit, and loans (Parajuli, 2011). International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) defined a co-operative as A cooperative is an independent association of persons combined freely to meet their mutual economic, social needs and drives through a jointly possessed and democratically-controlled enterprise. It could be a trade institute appealed and functioned by a group of people for their common benefit.

The co-operative initiative also offerings an imperative model as several of the poorest and disadvantaged appearance social marginalization, lack of admittance to prospects and growing financial discrimination. As the irregular belongings of globalization have directed to an enlargement in the loose easygoing economy, workers in the informal segments have shaped shared service co-operative and links to assist in their self-employment. In rural areas, savings and credit co-operative deliver admittance to banking services which are missing in many communities. Credit co-operative also composition a vital role in the establishment of small and micro businesses. They can move the kind of financial ‘deepening’ that the World Bank imagines, as they steadily reach the poor in a sustainable approach (Thapaliya, 2009).

Different types of cooperatives established for different purposes. Among them saving and credit co-operatives is the different entity. They are economic establishments that can composition an significant role to improvement the Economic condition of developing countries like Nepal. Co-operative by some means additional to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) because of their intrinsic physiognomies. Co-operatives are financial associations; they deliver the chance for poor people to increase their revenues. Because they are independent with each member consuming one vote, they enable people to individual their resolutions,

and because they pool risks at the smooth of the initiative and compromise micro-insurance they intensification safety. In addition, there is cumulative authorization demonstrating that co-operative also underwrites openly and indirectly to consultation several of the other MDGs, such as gender equality, primary education for children, and reducing child mortality (Acharya, 2009). Credit cooperatives also composition a important role in the development of small and micro industries. They can touch the kind of financial ‘deepening’ that the World Bank expects, as they regularly influence the poor in a reasonable method (Thapaliya, 2009).

Satyeta Saving and Credit Co-operative is a cooperative organization that is intended for financial saving and credit for the residents of Pokhara 26, 14, 27, 29, and 30. It was established in 2070. It lies in Pokhara-26, Bijayapur, Kaski. The total member of this corporative is 628 where 324 are female and 304 are male. This cooperative is mainly for the financial saving of local people as well as providing loans for businesses, homes, and agriculture to needy residents at a low-interest rate. It also works in the social sector such as conducting a cleanliness campaign, maternity benefits for the shareholder, providing birthday cake to the children on their birthday, and always respecting senior citizens by providing some presents. It organized visiting programs for its members in different parts of our country (SSCC Annual Report, 2078).

Different studies are conducted in this field same as Khanal (2019) carried out research the title Microfinance and women empowerment (A case study of Virkot Municipal). The main aim of the research was to find the influence of microfinance. The study applies structured questionnaire to collect the data and use descriptive and analytical research design and argued that there is a positive change in economic security, household economy, and decision-making, similarly, legal awareness mobility and another active role can be played by the women after participating in microfinance program. Sharma (2020) exposed the role of cooperatives in the poverty mitigation of rural farmers in Nepal. The study investigated that the persistent cooperative movement of Nepal up to 1991 and the breakthrough of the Cooperative Act 1992 has helped to improve poverty by enabling the poor community at the institutional, economic, and social levels towards increasing incomes, employment generation, improving health, education, and sanitation, women's empowerment, better physical infrastructure, and also due to food safety. Despite these remarkable results of cooperatives, there are still a lot of gaps to be adjusted in different facets like policies, managerial, R&D, and human resource management. Thus, the assertiveness of government and the simplification of the people requirement to be improved positively towards cooperative progress, since it will be too problematic to realize significant composed development without connecting profuse small farmers, for whom the cooperative approach is very causative to imprisonment economies of measure.

Rai (2021) argued that the existence of co-operatives in rural occupation and business events: The study of Sidingma Loan and Saving Cooperatives Sidingwa Rural Municipal- 6 of Taplejung District. The core aim of this study was to establish the socio-economic position of rural women, to investigate the saving and credit activities of rural women, and to decide scenarios and contests of saving and credit cooperatives for the enabling of rural women and Data were composed through the field observation, questionnaire survey, and main informer interviews. Findings display that the co-operative was strengthened on initiative care activities, social development events such as literacy classes and health attention training for the women (members) and education for person and children; having individual and personal income and savings from that occupation; improved security/reduced exposure; enhanced contact to institutions/ individuals with possessions, and liberty to create individual chosen or decision.

These days' different co-operatives are elaborate to improve the economic and social condition of women. These institutions are enthusiastically contributing in conveying a innovative transformation in the life of rural women (Bastola, 2008). It is also occupied for social welfare and performing for the progress of governance skills of the women in education provided that health service through health operations and other skill-oriented exercise. Whether a co-operative of Pokhara -26 plays a significant role to support women in financial inclusion or not? Thus, the main aim of the study is to explore the protagonist of the cooperative organization in the economic enclosure of women inside Pokhara Metropolis.

## **Research Methods**

Research is a systematic approach of conducting study for analyzing the facts of the situation so research methods were used to fulfill the objectives by investigating the various constructs and variables combination. It contains research design, population and sample, nature, and source of data, data collection procedure, and data processing and analysis. A descriptive research design has been adopted to conduct the study for establish the numerical substances. This investigation covers the collection of reliable primary data with the help of a structured questionnaire. Using the method more items were asked and more flexible but factual information was gathered. Satyeta Saving and Credit co-operative is located in Pokhara -26, Kaski. It was established in 2070 BS and its focus area are Pokhara -26, 14, 29, and 30. There are 628 members in this co-operative among them 324 are women of which 9% are Dalits, 24% are Janajati, 48% Chhetri and 19% Brahmin, is the population of this study and 90 women are selected for the study using simple random sampling by using lottery method. Therefore, to find the sample size, the following formula is used Srivastav and Vaidya (n.d.)

$$n = \frac{z^2 pq N}{e^2(N - 1) + z^2 pq}$$

n = Sample size;

z = Confidence level and value of the standard variant

p = Proportion of sample, q = 1-p

N = Population of the study;

e = acceptable error,

N = 324, confidence level 95%

z = 1.96

e = 0.03 (Estimate should be within 3 % true)

p = 0.03 (The participant women are around 3 percent of the total population)

q = 1-0.03

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{1.96^2 \times 0.03 \times 0.97 \times 324}{0.03^2(324 - 1) + 1.96^2 \times 0.03 \times 0.97} \\ &= 36.22 / 0.4024 = 90.00 \quad = 90 \end{aligned}$$

For the collection of the data of the study, a set of questionnaires was developed; this questionnaire was constructed after the pilot survey to respective respondents. Before finalizing the instrument, the items were piloted on 10 women to check their appropriateness of items. After piloting some questions were modified, some were rejected and some were corrected and validated then the questionnaire was prepared for final administration. The research work is quantitative in nature. It is largely established on primary data. These were collected from the respondent women of the cooperative through structured questionnaires from field visits. For the purpose of data collection, visited each woman along with the questionnaire to render any help needed for the study. After explaining the purpose, respondents filled up the questionnaire honestly and the study explained and clarified any confusion that arose in understanding the statements. The accessible data have been corrected, categorized, and organized in the suitable form. Dispensation of data has been completed by the computer by means of Microsoft excel. Different analysis tools were applied. For analysis, simple descriptive statistical tools like average and percentage were used.

## **Result, Analysis, and Discussion**

### **Profile of Demographic Respondents**

The ratio of the women cast-wise, the study visited the co-operative and asked the manager to provide the name list of all the women involved in this co-operative. The

detail of the cast-wise women participants in the cooperative reveals that a larger percentage of women falls under Chhetri being that of 48 % followed by Janajati 24%, Brahmin 19% and the lowest percentage i.e., 9% of Dalit. This implies that the Chhetri women seem active in this cooperative involvement. Thus, it can be noticed that Chhetri women have more financial passion than others women in this cooperative. The age of the sample women, out of 324 women participants in the cooperative 90 women were selected using a simple random by using lottery method. The sample women were asked questions about their age. According to their response, it is shown that the maximum percentage of women fall under the age of 31-40 i.e., 40%. And above 51 age, 27% of women, followed by 23% in the age range 41-50, and the lowest percentage i.e., 10% of women are in the range of 21-30 age. It reveals that relatively among all the age categories, mid-aged people are actively involved in cooperatives which show they have financial knowledge. Marital status of the respondents' women maximum percentage i.e. 87% of women is married, 2% are unmarried, 8% are divorced and 3% are a widow. It reflects that married women are more responsive to managing the household economy.

50% of the respondent women achieved basic level education whereas 28% of them achieved secondary level education and 19% of the above secondary level. Only 3% of the respondents were illiterate. The overall result of the data discloses that participants women can read understand and even mark their signatures in case of cooperative transactions and financial purposes. The details of family members and the number of children of the respondents' women, that a large percentage of respondents were 4 family members with a percentage composition of 47 percent. The representation of respondents was 8 family members to be of with that of 6 percent. Similarly, 16% of respondents have 3 family members, 13% of them have 5 family members and 9% have 6 family members, 6% have 2 family members and only 3% have 7 family members. This further implies that 4 family members' respondents are much more interested in the cooperative program and in comparison, to another family size.

In the same manner, 52 percent of respondents have 2 children which is the maximum percentage, and 22 percent of respondents have only 1 child. And 16 percent have 3 children, 3 percent have 4, and 7 percent do not have any children. It also reveals that they don't have more children which control the financial burden in the future of the family. Maximum percentage i.e., 63% of them was involved in this cooperative before 6 years to 9 years. Similarly, 27% were between 3 and 6 years and only 10% of them were involved in recent years, which is less than 3 years. It discloses that the majority of the women involved in these co-operatives from the starting phase also signify that the co-operatives have been supported in the financial awareness part from their establishment.

The majority of the women are from less than half an hour's distance. It is 71% of the respondent's women. Next, 11% of the respondents are from half an hour to one hour distance. Similarly, 10% from one to two hours and 8% from more than two hours distance. The result indicates that the maximum number of women has easy access to visit the co-operative and also the co-operative can attract the women of the nearer area. The majority of respondents have accounts in banks. Among 90 respondents 81 i.e. 90% of them have bank accounts and the rest of 10% have no accounts in banks. It concludes that the majority of the respondents are getting facilities from other banks too. Among 90 respondents 24% of respondents open multiple accounts in banks for ATM mobile banking and digital banking services. 14% of them opened an account in other banks and cooperatives for Mero share and Demat accounts. 12% of respondents open accounts for saving and fixed deposits as well as for remittance. The other 11% opens for financial security and getting an allowance. Similarly, 10% of them opened an account to take the loan and 6% of them have any other propose. The reason given by the respondents reflects that they are capable of financial management as well as responsible for their household economy. The majority of the respondent women i.e., 30% have opened a bank account after joining this co-operative whereas 70% of them have already account opened in other banks. It reflects that this cooperative has not empowered, aware, and supported the women in financial inclusion and built the additional knowledge because they knew the financial system before they joined this cooperative.

### Objectives of a Loan of the Respondents

**Table 1**  
*Objectives of Loan of Respondents*

Objectives of the Loan	Frequency
Manufacturing or Production (Furniture, candle making, pickle making, food processing)	0
Trade of business (Groceries, Cosmetics, etc.)	18
Services (Tailoring, Beauty Parlour, Hotel/Restaurants, etc.)	12
Agriculture and livestock (Crops, vegetables, fruits, poultry, beekeeping, goat & others farming)	42
Lending to others (Earning Interest)	0
Repayment of others' Loan	38
Others (Education, health, house construction, marriage, etc.)	47

*Source: Survey of field, 2022*

Table 1 shows the rank of the objectives of the respondents taking a loan. This is the result of those women who have taken loans from the co-operative. Around 20% of women have not taken a loan from this cooperative. The main objectives of taking a loan are agriculture and livestock as 42 women ranked it, similarly, 47 women ranked others like education, health, marriage, etc. and it is followed by repayment of other loans ranked by 38 women. For trade and business 18 women and for services, 12 women have ranked. Earning the interest and manufacturing or production has not ranked by anyone of them. Overall results replicate that agriculture and livestock are the main objectives of taking a loan and it also reveals that there is a production field and area nearby the co-operative and maximum women are engaged in farming and household activities. This further implies that respondents are much more interested in the cooperative program for agriculture and livestock.

**Table 2**

*Respondents Received Loan as per Demand to the Business*

*Source: Field survey, 2022*

Respondents received the loan as per the demand of the business	Frequency	Percent
Yes	42	47
Not required	48	53
Total	90	100

Table 2 summarizes the loan received by the respondent as per their demand or not required the loan. It shows 47% of them received but 53% of them didn't take any loan from this co-operative. It replicates the major respondents didn't receive from this cooperative.

**Table 3**

*Total Co-operative Loan*

Loan	Frequency	Percentage
Below Rs. 1 Lakh	7	17
Rs. 100001 to Rs 3 Lakhs	21	50
Rs. 300001 to Rs 5 Lakhs	10	24
More than Rs 5 Lakhs	4	9
Total (N)	42	100

*Source: Field survey, 2022*

Table 3 displays the total loan taken from the co-operative by the participants. It depicts that a large proportion of respondents were taken 1 lakh to 3 lakhs loan with the percentage composition of 50 percent, and 24 percent of respondents were taken 3 lakhs to 5 lakhs loan from the cooperative. 17 percent of respondents were taken below 1 lakhs as well as more than 5 lakhs loan. This further implies that 1 to 3 lakhs micro loan taken respondents were much more interested in the cooperative program.

**Table 4**  
*Frequency of Loan Taken by Respondents*

Frequency of Loan Taken	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 3 times	12	29
3 to 5 times	22	52
More than 5 times	8	19
Total (N)	42	100

*Source: Survey on field, 2022*

Table 4 shows the larger percentage i.e., 52 % of respondents were loan taken three to five times, 29% of them were taken less than 3 times and only 19% of them had taken a loan more than 5 times from this cooperative.

**Table 5**  
*Loan Repayment System of Respondents*

Loan Repayment System	Frequency	Percentage
Weekly	0	0
Every 15 Days	0	0
Monthly	42	100
Others	42	100

*Source: Field survey, 2022*

Table 5 exhibits that 100% of the respondent women reported, they have a monthly loan repayment system.

**Table 6***Difficult to Pay off loan and Reasons for Difficulties*

Difficult to pay off the loan	Frequency	Percentage	Reason for the difficulty to pay off the loan	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	17	40	Low Earning	4	24
No	25	60	Huge Debt	3	18
			High-Interest Rate	8	47
			Others	2	11
Total	42	100	Total	17	100

*Source: Survey on field, 2022*

The difficulty of a repayment of loan and the reason for the difficulty exposed that, out of 90 respondents, only 42 have taken the loan and 17 of them only have difficulties in the loan repayment process. When asked about the reason for the repayment, 24% of them reported low earnings, 18% reported huge debt, and 11% reported other reasons, but 47% of them claimed that the rate of interest is high. It reflects that the co-operative has taken a high rate of interest so that low-income holder didn't uplift their level of income by taking the loan from it.

**Table 7***Training or Field Visit of Respondents*

Training or Field Visit	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	72	80
No	18	20
Total (N)	90	100

*Source: Survey on field, 2022*

The mainstream of the contributors' women were joined in training or field visit programs conducted by the cooperative.

## Economic Position of Women after Engaged in the Co-operative

Co-operative can play a significant role in the household economy. Various economic indicators can be measured to find the status of the participants' women in the cooperative. In our survey, nearly half the percentage of the women has not taken a loan from the co-operative. While asking them the common answer was, they become a member and regularly they deposit the money for saving, and to receive the bonus. Despite it, there are other indicators and their changes are mentioned as follows.

**Table 8**  
*Key Impacts on economic dimensions of Respondents*

S. N.	Indicators	After involving in co-operative		
		Improved	No Change	Declined
1	Income level	75	15	0
2	Livelihood status of family members	60	30	0
3	Health status of family members	57	33	0
4	Educational status of family members	63	27	0
5	The habit of saving	90	0	0
6	The habit of investment	90	0	0
7	Structure of house	27	63	0
8	Structure of toilet	24	66	0

*Source: Field survey, 2022*

Table 8 displays the details of economic indicators and their effect according to the respondent's women. Eight different variables were used to find the economic condition of the women. The result exhibits that 75 women accepted that their income level is improved but 15 women didn't accept it. Similarly, 60 women reported that their livelihood status has improved but the rest 30 didn't change. In the same manner, 57 women supported the health status of their family but 27 couldn't do it. Every 90 women agreed about the improvement in saving habits as well as investment habits after joining this cooperative. But 63 and 66 women have not changed the structure of their house and toilet respectively.

## Social Status of Women after being involved in the Co-operative

Co-operative is succeeding to play a significant part to empower women in their social activities. Various social indicators can be measured to find the status of the

participants' women in the cooperative. In our survey, women expressed their confidence level and some kind of changes in their social life. Although it is difficult to measure directly while collecting the data; we deeply observe their expression and when the researcher asks the additional information to measure their social status they expressed themselves scientifically and clearly without any hesitation so it is proven that there are some changes in the social status of the women.

**Table 9**  
*Key Impacts on Social dimensions of Respondents*

S. N.	Indicators	After involving in cooperative		
		Improved	No Change	Declined
1	The confidence level in speaking	63	27	0
2	Participation in community work	69	21	0
3	Respect from family and society	75	15	0
4	Household and community Leadership	72	18	0
5	Training and Excursion	72	18	0
6	Use of technology in financial services	81	9	0
7	Listening and reading financial information	84	6	0

*Source: Survey on field, 2022*

The details of social indicators and their effect according to the respondents' women is presented in Table 9. Seven different variables were used to find the social condition of the women. The result exhibits that 63 women accepted that they have increased their confidence level in speaking but 27 of them didn't accept it. Similarly, 69 women reported that they were involved in community work but the rest 21 didn't do so. In the same manner, 75 women felt that they got respected by their family members and society whereas 15 didn't realize it. Similarly, 72 women improved their status in leadership in the household and community as well as through training and excursion. Then, 81 women were aware to use technology like mobile and other devices to find information and services and 84 women replied that from the regular visit and discussion of the co-operative activities', they tried to listen to financial information while listening to the radio; television as well as other media.

## Discussion

From the data, it is found that the larger percentage of women falls under Chhetri followed by Janajati, Brahmin, and Dalit. The result reveals that the co-operative has extended the services among Chhetri women. This implies that the Chhetri women seem active in this cooperative involvement. It also reveals that the financial inclusion of Dalits women seems less percent. Still, Dalits women are back warded in financial services Lederle (2009) explore the Influences of Upgraded Financial Inclusion on the Exists of Disadvantaged People also explicated that more requirements to be completed to stimulate significant practice of financial yields and change the life position of those who are exaggerated by the financial marginalization. Similarly, Harmeet and Bhawdeep (2014) explored that financial Inclusion: A technique to justifiable growth recognized that financial inclusion elite in developing economies in the last few years but static, it is far from suitable, banks essential to generate consciousness among people through several means of mass communication like newspapers, television channels, etc. Sherline (2017) argued that financial Inclusion: Inventiveness and Accomplishments in India concluded that financial literateness and level of attentiveness continue to stay an issue about the practice of financial services/products. It is the findings of similar conditions in financial inclusion in our context.

The demographic variables show the maximum percentage of the sample women falls under age of 31-40 years followed by the age of 41-50 years and 21-30. The maximum percentage of sample women is married in this study. Fifty percent of sample women achieved basic level education. The data depicts that a large percentage of respondents were 4 family members. Data shows that the maximum percentage i.e. 63% of them was involved in these co-operatives before 6 years to 9 years. The majority of the women were from less than half an hour's distance. Demirgüç-Kunt, and Klapper (2012) assessed financial inclusion, the global index database, degree how adults in 148 make payments, thrifts save, borrow, and manage risk. The study reported the obstacles are physical distance, high cost, and lakhs of appropriate records and stated the physical distance but most women are less than half an hour distance, so it is not a barrier to the women in our context.

Among 90 respondents 81 i.e. 90% of them have accounts in another bank whereas 70% of them have bank accounts before joining this cooperative. This explicitly that, a maximum number of women were involved from the establishment of this cooperative. The overall result reflects that women joined this cooperative after getting financial knowledge from other banks and institutions. It is justified by the reasons that they need ATM cards, share, and D-mat accounts and for more loans. Data shows 47% of them received but 53% of them didn't take any loan from this cooperative. A large percentage of respondents were taken from 1 lakh to 3 lakhs. Out of 90 respondents,

only 42 have taken the loan and 17 of them only have difficulties in the loan repayment process. This reflects that most of the women are motivated in this cooperative for the bonus amount as they have not taken any loans and developed businesses and enterprises.

The economic prominence of the women afterwards being intricate in the cooperative is designed. The result exhibits that 75 women accepted that they have increased their income level. Similarly, 60 women reported that their livelihood status of family members is improving level. 57 and 63 women shared that their health status and the education status of their family members are at increasing levels respectively. 100% of respondent women accepted that their saving and investment habits improved after their involvement in this cooperative. Very few 27 and 24 women agreed about the changes in the structure of houses and toilets respectively. The above data reveals that women were involved in bonuses rather than enterprises and businesses. Economic indicators are not in a declining situation. Pathak and Gyawali (2010) have investigated on Role of microfinance in employment generation and they concluded that the loan mostly invested in livestock, Argo-based enterprises, and small-scale businesses but it contradicts findings that more than 50% of the women didn't take a loan from the co-operative. On the other hand, Sharma (2015) exposed the association between the numerous phases of economic inclusion and the growth of the developing Indian financial surroundings. The research specifies that economic inclusion is vital for generating a concrete and actual financial system that helps economic growth. Financial inclusion is essential for women but the role of a particular co-operative or bank is difficult to determine as they will be involved in various banks and financial institutions, on the other hand, if the study can focus on remote areas where the particular bank or financial institution are providing the financial services.

The social position of the women subsequently being collaboration of the cooperative is also designed. 75 women felt that they got respected by their family members and society whereas 15 didn't realize it. Similarly, 72 women improved their status in leadership in the household and community as well as through training and excursion. Then, 81 women were aware to use technology like mobile and other devices to find information and services. This data reveals that the social indicators are positive. Siddaraju (2012) has assessed the role of cooperatives' effects on financial inclusion in India; the study concluded that financial inclusion deeds as a foundation of enablement and permits people to take part more successfully in the financial and social practice. The study also supported our findings as the women are economically and socially empowered and developed confidence. Our study indicates that the financial part indirectly supported the women in their social status also. Women were motivated to deposit the amount, yearly earn bonuses and if necessary, they can take a loan from the co-operative which increases their independence in their home and with family

members. It also reveals that the job holder women can pay the regular monthly saving whereas others from their business it doesn't mean it is a compulsion to take a loan from this co-operative only. Lal (2019) examined to extent the influence of economic inclusion on rural improvement through cooperatives. The outcomes of the study exposed that economic inclusion through cooperatives has a straight and major effect on rural development. But the findings show that this cooperative has no more support for women in financial inclusion.

From the findings of the study concludes that Chhetri women seem active in this cooperative involvement whereas Dalits women seem less active so it is realized that financial inclusion needs to be extended to the Dalits women of this area through this cooperative. It is also understood that this cooperative has less trust among Dalits women. Young, literate, and married women are involved in this cooperative, so they can analyze the profit, benefits other matters of the company themselves. Maximum women were involved from the establishment of this cooperative so it is concluded that they had financial knowledge as they already joined other banks which made them clear all about financial inclusion. It is also concluded that the account in the co-operative is not enough because women need more facilities like ATM cards, shares, D-mat accounts, etc. Less than 50% of women were not taken any loan from the co-operative and out of the large percentage of respondents were taken 1 lakh to 3 lakhs. This reflects that the cooperative has supported the seed money as well as a small investment.

## **Conclusion**

Analysis of the different aspects reveals that women were involved in bonuses rather than enterprises and businesses. Economic indicators are not in declining trends. It is concluded that normal economic growth can be made from the bonus; interest amount provided by the financial institutions. The social indicator also looks positive, but the role of this cooperative seems normal. It reflects that financially literate and socially independent women are involved in this cooperative and this co-operative has been taken as a supportive but not the main institution in their financial scarcity. Finally, this cooperative has no more significant support for women in financial inclusion.

Financial support and awareness about the services are to be provided among Dalits women and another financially back warded families. Likewise, Young, literate, and married women are to be focused on the productive sector and the cooperative is to be provided with different schemes to establish new enterprises and businesses. Then, the co-operative is to be focused to add extra support to the clients like remittance, service in holidays, etc. which will motivate the clients.

Similarly, the cooperative is to be developed a strategy to attract investors who want to invest more than 5 lakhs. Package loan settlement period can be completed longer by observing into the nature of the payment design. Ultimately it will support creating a job for women for extra income. More economic growth and social changes for the participants' women are to be expected from the cooperative by launching different programs, training, and other activities. Further research in the same sector is expected in different areas of the country with the different aspects of financial inclusion.

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## Appendix-I

### Questionnaire

#### Women Participation and Role of Cooperative in Financial Inclusion in Pokhara Metropolis

Dear Respondent, I am (Baburam Lamichhane) Lecturer from Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara going to research on the topic Women Participation and Role of Cooperative in Financial Inclusion in Pokhara Metropolis. Please share your views and experiences. The information provided by the respondents to utilized for academic research purpose only. I request your kind cooperation in this regard.

#### Demographic Profile:

1. Name (Optional):
2. Age:
3. Education: Illetrate ( )      Primary Education ( )  
Secondary Education ( )      Above Secondary Level ( )
4. Cast: Brahmin( ) Chhetri( ) Adhibasi/Janajati ( ) Dalit( ) Others( )
5. Martial Status: Married( ) Unmarried( ) Divorced/Separated( ) Widow( )
- 6.Total no of Family member:..... No of children  
i) Son..... ii) Daughter.....iii) Having no children
7. Age: a. 20-30 ( ) b.31-40 ( ) c.41-50 ( ) d.More than 50 ( )

#### Cooperative helps to promotes investment and enterprises: [Entrepreneurship development]

8. How long have you been involved in this co-operative?  
a. 0-3 years ( ) b. 3-6 years ( ) c.6-9 years ( ) d. more than 9 years ( )
9. How far the co-operative from your home to reach?  
a. Less than half an hour [ ] b. Half an hour to one hour [ ]  
c. 1 to 2 hrs [ ] d. More than 2 hrs [ ]

10. Do you have account in banks? a. Yes [ ] b. No [ ]

11. If yes, how many banks?

Banks	Reason for Multiple Accounts

12. Have you open the account in other banks before or after this co-operatives?  
 a) after opening in this co-opertive b) before opening in this co-operative

13. Have you taken any loan from the co-operative? If yes what is the main objective? (If you have multiple objectives, please rank)

S. N.	Objectives of the Loan	Rank
1	Manufacturing or Production (Furniture, candle making, pickle making, food processing)	
2	Trade of business (Groceries, Cosmetics etc.)	
3	Services (Tailoring, Beauty Parlour, Hotel/Restaurants etc.)	
4	Agriculture and livestock (Crops, vegetables, fruits, poultry, bee keeping, goat & others farming)	
5	Lending to others (Earning Interest)	
6	Repayment of others Loan	
7	Others (Education, health, house construction, marriage etc.)	

14. Have you received loan as per your demand to the business? a. Yes [ ] b. No [ ]

15. If no, reasons for not getting sufficient loan:

- a. Loan limitation [ ]
- b. Higher interest rate [ ]
- c. Poor busines performance [ ]
- d. Complex loan process [ ]
- e. Others (if any): .....

16. Total Cooperative loan:



**Changes in the social status of women after being involved in the saving and credit co-operative: [Social Mobility]**

23. Key Impacts on social dimensions.

S. N.	Indicators	After involving in cooperative		
		Improved	No Change	Declined
1	Confidence level of speaking			
2	Participation in community work			
3	Respect from family and society			
4	Household and community Leadership			
5	Trainings and Excursion			
6	Use of technology in financial services			
7	Listening and reading financial information			

24. Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions?

.....

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your valuable time

Thank you