

# Resources Distribution and Gender Development Among The Local Level in Lalitpur and Jhapa Districts

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## Abstract

*This article focused on resource distribution and Gender development at the local level. There are two objectives such as to find out the local resources distribution in the different local governments of Jhapa and Lalitpur District and to examine the involving the decision-making of council meetings and policy making process and practices in the gender development sector. Nepal highly prioritized gender development as well as at well budgetary policy formulation for adopting perception and concept of development. This paper is based on descriptive and analytical types of research design. It has used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and deductive and inductive approaches to the analysis of these collected data. Information is gathered and assessed on the process of resource distribution and Gender development at the local level. The elected local government bodies have formulated the income generated and skill development plans and programs around 5 times a year. Furthermore, the highest percent of respondents of all local areas of both districts, have a practice of allocating the gender-friendly budget in local government and budgets supporting women's capacity building and empowerment and 1-5 lakhs budgets are allocated for the above-mentioned purpose. But those allocated amounts are adequate only for one-third part of the women's development sectors. The local government have formulated the evaluation and monitoring committee for those types of program activities, male and female local government elected personnel are involved in monitoring and evaluating activities of such programs activities.*

**Keywords:** Gender development, gender response budget, local government, training and skill development.

## Introduction

Gender relations are hierarchical relations of power between women and men and tend to disadvantage women. These hierarchies are often accepted as "natural" but are socially determined culturally-based relations, and as such are subject to change over time. Gender-Sensitive: This term refers to ideas, initiatives or actions that take into account the particularities of the lives of both women and men while aiming at eliminating inequalities and promoting an equal distribution of resources, benefits, burdens, rights and obligations to

both men and women. Gender refers to the socially constructed status, power, roles, responsibility and capacity of men and women (HDR, 2011).

It refers to the rules, norms, customs and practices by which biological differences between males and females are translated into socially constructed differences between men and women and boys and girls. Now consider an inclusive democracy build on the principle that political power is dispersed and shared in a variety of ways – to protect minorities and to ensure participation and free speech for all citizens. Inclusive democracy emphasizes the quality of representation by striving for consensus and inclusion, not the brute electoral force of the majority. An inclusive democracy also appreciates the need to promote civil society organization. Human Development Report 2000, has emphasized the inclusive democracy careers rights to all the people without any discrimination based on gender, race, caste, religion and especially women can take part participation in any decision-making process even in local government (UNDP, 2000).

The pre-World War II period saw flourishing movements of various forms of feminism; however, the nexus between (economic) development and women was not clearly articulated until the second half of the 20th century. Women first came into focus in development as objects of welfare policies, including those focused on birth control, nutrition, and pregnancy (Moser, Carolne O. N. (1995). "In 1962 the UN General Assembly asked the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a report on the role of women in development. Ester Boserup's path-breaking study on Women's Role in Economic Development was published in 1970 (UN, 1995). These events marked monumental moments in developing the liberal paradigm of women in development, and the welfares approach remains dominant in development practice today. The dominant liberal approaches include women in development (WID), women and development (WAD), gender and development (GAD) and neoliberal frameworks (Singh, 2006). There is significant overlap among these approaches (for example, WID can be seen as an early version of the neoliberal framework). (GAD) is most concerned with equity and empowerment (Boserup Ester, 2011).

Generally, men and women are considered as two wheels of the same cart but in practice, women have fallen too back. Exclusion and inequality come at a high cost. Without the equal participation of all people, including individuals at risk of exclusion, society has less of an opportunity to reach its full potential, both in terms of its economy and its level of governance. In other words, gender equality and social inclusion are social goods, more than simply being something we intrinsically feel is 'the right thing to do'. In fact, not only does inclusion has a positive impact on those who are excluded, but it also positively impacts the economy and governance for the benefit of the whole society (UN, 2013). Women and Development focused on the relationship between women and development processes rather than purely on strategies for the integration of women into the development process. It emphasized that women always have been important economic actors in their societies and that the work they do both inside and outside the household is central to the maintenance of that society. WAD is also based on several assumptions, women in development and women

and development both tended to focus on the development of income Generating Activities, without taking much into account the time burden that such strategies place on women. The labour invested in family maintenance, including childbearing and rearing, care of the ill and elderly and the like has been considered to belong to the private domain and outside the purview of development projects aimed at enhancing income-generating activities (Reeves, 2000).

The Gender approach holds that "Gender differences and the experience of differences, are socially and psychologically created and situated they are created relationally and we cannot understand the differences apart from this relational construction, gendering is not a simple or single process but highly complex. All discriminatory performances from birth to death are an example of gendering people who are born without gender but with sex. A very simple example is of dressing a child. We dress up girl babies with fancy skirts and frocks, bangle and earrings whereas for boy babies trousers and pants, no bangle no earrings, no control over mobility is insisted upon. Then we tend to say that girls by nature love fancy skirts and fancy things which is wrong. People in this society make them love such things through a persistent effort by offering, dictating, complementing falsely, and by trading through media. Gender and Development approach began from a holistic perspective looking at the totality of social organization, economic and political life to understand the shaping of the particular aspects of society." Gender and development are not concerned with women per se but with the social construction and social structure of gender and the assignment of specific roles, responsibilities and expectations to women and men. Gender and development projects would examine not only the sexual division of labour "who is doing what", but the sexual division of resources who has what and recognize the burden and psychological stress of women and men. This is a dynamic approach. It believes that there are always shifts in gender relations as men and women bargain, negotiate, act allies, pull back etc. It does not focus singularly on the productive or reproductive aspects of women's and men's lives to the exclusion of the other. It does focus on productive, reproductive and community aspects of both genders; Harmonization of social life without domesticating, subordinating or marginalizing either gender is the mission of the gender and development approach. It welcomes everybody who shares a concern for the issues of equity and social justice. (Shrestha S.L, 1994).

### **Objective**

- To find out the local resources distribution in the different local governments of Jhapa and Lalitpur Districts
- To examine the involving decision-making of council meetings and policy-making process and practices in gender development sectors.

### **Methodology**

This paper is based on cross-sectional as well as descriptive and analytical types of research design. It attempts to present the gender des-segregated data relating to the elected members of local government and it has used quantitative methods and deductive and inductive

approaches to analyse those collected data. Information is gathered and assessed on the issues- what and how the process of using resources and distribution from the local government, whether the local people participate in different ways to utilise the gender response budget and other local resources. Primary and secondary sources are used in the data collection procedure. The questionnaires were designed for information collected through the literature review and quantitative approaches. All available secondary data related to this paper through different relevant publications of seminar papers, reports, journals, constitutional books, local government act, election commission reports and CBS reports are reviewed and analysed. The results are presented through the percentage by the cross-tabulation.

## Result and Discussion

### Women Related Issues Rising in Regular Meetings of Local Government

Gender and local development is a process toward a sustainable way of community development incorporating all the gender with equal participation and involvement. If there is no equal say/ participation of both male and female. Gender role development is one of the most important areas of local development. "Gender" refers not to male and female, but too masculine and feminine - that is, to qualities or characteristics that society attributes 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, socioeconomic 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. In the context of Nepal, gender disparity has always been present since the very beginning but recently only the discussion and issues of gender-related things have come out to the mainstream. There is a huge gap in accessing the rights and power between the male and female in Nepalese society.

### Invited of Women in the Regular and Council Meeting

As sex ratio, 98 female in 100 female said that they have invited women in the regular meeting by calling the telephone, and 61.4 females in 100 male invited by sending a letter. However, the highest numbers of women are invited by calling the telephone rather than sending letters. It seems that the telephone is more effective for inviting women to the meeting.

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Invited of Women in the Regular and Council Meeting of Local Government.**

Types of invitation	Sex of the respondent						Female per 100 Males
	Male		Female		Total		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
By telephone	199	57.5	126	36.6	325	93.9	98
Through Letter	96	27.7	59	17.1	155	44.8	61.4

Cal leader only by phone	26	7.5	19	5.5	45	13.0	73.0
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Sources: Field Survey- 2076.

More than 57 percent male and 36.6 percent female said that there are practice to called women in regular and council meetings through telephone, 27.7 percent male and 17.1 percent female said that there is the practice to call women in the meeting through letter and 7.5 percent male and 5.5 percent female said that they have practice to call women in the regular and council meeting of local government. The highest number of women are called by telephone.

### Respondents' Responses about the Gender Responsible Budget

A gender-responsive budget is a budget that works for everyone (women and men, girls and boys) by ensuring gender-equitable distribution of resources and by contributing to equal opportunities for all. It also involves transforming these budgets to ensure that gender equality commitments are realized. In Lalitpur district, more than one-third of the male respondents (34.1 %) and 18 percent female said that the gender-responsive budget is to participate women's planning, management and implementation, 24.6 percent male and 14.7 percent female said to increase women capacity, 28.4 percent male and 17.5 percent female said to ensure programme benefit and control by women, 4.3 percent male and 1.4 percent female said that the gender-responsive budget is the women's employment and income generation and 4.7 percent male and 1.4 percent female said to decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work. In Jhapa district, 31.3 percent male and 6.6 percent female said that gender responsive budget is to participate women's planning, management and implementation, 31.3 percent male and 6.6 percent female said to increase women's capacity, 31.3 percent male and 6.6 percent female said to ensure programme benefit and control by women, 20.9 percent male and 2.8 percent female said that women's employment and income generation and 20.9 male and 4.7 percent female said that the gender-responsive budget is to decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents' Responses to the Gender Responsible Budget**

Gender Responsive budget District	Sex of the respondent					
	Male		Female		Total	
Lalitpur	N	%	N	%	N	%
To participate women's planning, management and implementation	72	34.1	38	18.0	110	52.1
To increase women's capacity	52	24.6	31	14.7	83	39.3
To ensure programme benefit and control by women	60	28.4	37	17.5	97	46.0

Women's employment and income generation	9	4.3	8	3.8	17	8.1
To decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work	10	4.7	3	1.4	13	6.2
<b>Jhapa</b>						
To participate women's planning, management and implementation	66	31.3	14	6.6	80	37.9
To increase women's capacity	66	31.3	14	6.6	80	37.9
To ensure programme benefit and control by women	66	31.3	14	6.6	80	37.9
Women's employment and income generation	44	20.9	6	2.8	50	23.7
To decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work	44	20.9	10	4.7	54	25.6

Sources: Field Survey, 2076.

In a metropolitan city, 27.5 percent male and 13.7 percent female said that gender-responsive policy is to participated women planning, management and implementation, 18.5 percent male and 10.1 percent female said to increase women's capacity, 18 percent male and 10 percent female said that to ensure program benefit and control by women, and 4.7 percent male and 1.4 percent female said that to decrease women's work load and improve the quality of women's work. However, highest (41.2%) of respondents said the gender-responsive budget is to participate in women planning, management and implementation.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents' Responses to the Gender Responsible Budget**

Types of gender-responsive budget	Sex of the respondent					
	Male		Female		Total	
Election area	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Metropolitan city</b>						
To participate women's planning , management and implementation	58	27.5	29	13.7	87	41.2
To increase women's capacity	39	18.5	22	10.1	61	28.9
To ensure programme benefit and control by women	38	18.0	21	10.0	59	28.0
Women's employment and income	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

generation						
To decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work	10	4.7	3	1.4	13	6.2
<b>Municipality</b>						
To participate in women's planning, management and implementation	64	30.3	22	10.4	86	40.8
To increase women's capacity	63	29.9	22	10.4	85	40.3
To ensure programme benefit and control by women	72	34.1	29	13.7	101	47.9
Women's employment and income generation	46	21.8	13	6.2	59	28.0
To decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work	35	16.6	10	4.7	45	21.3
<b>Rural Municipality</b>						
To participate women's planning, management and implementation	16	7.6	1	0.5	17	8.1
To increase women's capacity	16	7.6	1	0.5	17	8.1
To ensure programme benefit and control by women	16	7.6	1	0.5	17	8.1
Women's employment and income generation	7	3.3	1	0.5	8	3.8
To decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work	9	4.3	0	0.0	9	4.3

Sources: Field Survey, 2076.

Out of 30.3 percent male and 10.4 percent female said gender responsible budget is to participate women planning, management and implementation, 29.9 percent female and 10.4 percent female said to increase women capacity, 34.1 percent male and 13.7 percent female said to ensure programme benefit and control by women, 21.8 percent male and 6.2 percent female said women's employment and income generation and 16.6 percent male and 4.7 percent said to decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work. The highest percent of respondents said that the gender-responsive budget is to ensure programme benefit and control by women and the lowest percent of respondents said to decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work. In rural municipalities, 7.6 percent of respondents said that the gender-responsive budget is to participate women planning management and implementation, 7.6 percent male and 0.5



percent female said to increase women's capacity, 7.6 percent male and 0.5 percent said to ensure programme benefit and control by women, 3.3 percent male and 0.5 percent female said women's employment and income generation and 4.3 percent male said to decrease women's workload and improve the quality of women's work.

However, the highest (8.1%) respondents said the gender-responsive budget is to participate in women's planning, management and implementation, to increase women's capacity and to ensure programme benefit and control by women and the lowest percent of respondents said to decrease women's work load and improve the quality of women's work. In total, 78 female in 100 male said that they have faced problems during performing the program activities related the gender inclusion after they have been elected to local government. Same way, 12.3 percent male and 15.1 percent female said the same. As the district, 92 male in 100 female of Jhapa district and 67 female in 100 male of Jhapadistrict said they have faced problems during the performed program activities on the basis of gender inclusion after they have elected. Furthermore, 6.4 percent of respondents of Lalitpur district and 7 percent of respondents of Jhapa district have faced problems and obstacles after they were elected during performing program activities on the basis of gender and 57.3 percent of respondents of Lalitpur district and 29.3 percent of respondents of Jhapa have not faced any problems of same cases. Lalitpur has not faced the same problems compared to Jhapa district.

#### **Demanded the Budget without Policy and Act**

The thrust of needs in respect of women is to fully integrate them through enhancing their capacity to participate in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country. This will be achieved by mainstreaming women's concerns and perspectives in all policies and programs. The overall policy environment for gender equality promotion is positive and evidences commitment and political will. However, to be effective, gender commitment and targets need to be explicitly expressed at the level of sector strategies, planning and budgets, district development plans and budgets, and finally within the annual operational plans.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Demanded the Budget without Policy and Act**

Types of Problems District	Sex of Respondents						Female Per 100 males
	Male		Female		Total		
Lalitpur	N	%	N	%	N	%	
To demand the budget without policy and act (Darkhane, Jatrapuja, picnic, staff tour etc)	9	18.8	8	16.7	17	33.5	89
To increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA	3	6.2	3	6.2	6	12.4	100
<b>Jhapa</b>							



To demand the budget without policy and act( darkhane , Jatrapuja, picnic, staff tour,etc)	13	27.1	10	20.8	23	47.9	77
To increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA	2	4.2	0	0.0	2	4.2	0
<b>Election Area</b>							
<b>Metropolitan city</b>							
To demand the budget without policy and act( Darkhane , Jatrapuja, picnic, staff tour, etc)	6	12.5	6	12.5	15	25.0	100
To increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA	2	4.2	2	4.2	4	8.4	100
<b>Municipality</b>							
To demand the budget without policy and act( Darkhane , Jatrapuja, picnic, staff tour, etc)	13	27.1	10	20.8	23	47.9	77
To increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA	3	6.2	1	2.1	4	5.3	33.3
<b>Rural Municipality</b>							
To demand the budget without policy and act (Darkhane , Jatrapuja, picnic, staff tour, etc)	3	6.2	2	4.2	5	10.4	67
To increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0	0

Sources: Field Survey, 2076.

While analysing the sex ratio by district, 89 female in 100 male of Lalitpur district and 77 female in 100 male of Jhapa district have reported the demand the budget without policy and act (darkhane, Jatrapuja, Picnic, staff tour etc. and 100 female in 100 male reported the increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA. Same way, in Lalitpur district, 18.8 percent male and 16.7 percent female said that they faced problems of the demand the budget without policy and act (Dar Khane, Jatra puja, picnic, staff tour, etc. and same way 6.2 percent male and 6.2 percent female said they faced problems of increase meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA.

In Jhapa district, 27.1 percent male and 20.8 percent female said that they faced the problems of demanding the budget without policy and act (Dar Khane, Jatra Puja, Pinnic,

staff tour etc). Furthermore, 4.2 percent male said that they faced the problems of increasing meeting incentives and allowance TA/DA. Comparing these two districts, the respondents of Jhapa district faced more problems than Lalitpur district. As election area by sex ratio, 100 female in 100 male of the metropolitan city have reported the problems of demand the budget without policy act (Darkhane, Jatrapuja, Picnic, staff tour etc. and same-sex ratio said the increased meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA 77 female in 100 male of the municipality said they have problems of demand the budget without policy and act for Darkhane, Jatrapuja, picnic, staff tour etc. and another 33.3 female in 100 male said to increase the meeting incentive and allowance TA/DA. And 67 female in 100 male of rural municipality said they have reported the problems to demand the budget without policy and act for Darkhane, Jatrapuja, picnic and staff tours etc. However, the same-sex ratio in a metropolitan city has reported the highest problems.

Same way, 12.5 percent male and 12.5 percent female of the metropolitan city, said that they faced the problems of demanding the budget without policy and act ( Darkhane, Jatra puja, picnic staff tour etc.) and same way 4.2 percent male and 4.2 percent female said that they faced the problems of to increase meeting incentives and allowance TA/DA. In a metropolitan city, the local government personnel highly faced the problem of demanding the budget without policy and act. In the municipality, 27.1 percent male and 20.8 percent female said that they faced the problems of to demand the budget without policy and act ( Dar khane, Jatra, Puja, picnic staff tour, etc.) and same way, 6.2 percent male and 2.1 female said that they faced the problems of to increase meeting incentives and allowance TA/DA. However, local government personnel highly faced the problems of demands on the budget without policy and act (Darkhane, Jatra, Puja, picnic, staff tour etc. In the rural municipality, 6.2 percent male and 4.2 percent female said that they have faced the problem of demanding the budget without policy and act (Darkhane, JatraPuja, picnic staff.

## Conclusions

Increasing local government authority over service provision is pursued in part to reduce the gap between citizens and government authorities. The LGs are able to continue providing the budget and improve the gender disparity of the federal governance structure. In particular, to choose and assess some of the indicators based on local government service provision in gender development sectors, such as; health, education and leadership. Female participation is massively increased in local government after the formulation of gender-inclusive policies in Nepal. The majority of female are involved in the decision-making process of the local government's development infrastructure consumer committee. Concepts of male toward female have been improved socially, culturally, and religiously at all local levels. Women are gradually taking leadership basically in physical infrastructure development work, and local justice committee in local areas of both districts. A discussion with local justice committee and local people, family/ home and children are being worse due to the women who went to foreign labour work and female spent their money with out any purposes. In that situation, it is very difficult to provide justice to a man (husband) those who are suffering from such types of problems as their wife.

Very limited budgets are allocated in gender development sectors by the selected study areas. The allocated budget is unnecessarily utilizing the name just for finishing the budget. All the conducted training are still traditional types which are ineffectiveness, non-productive, non-job oriented, non-capacity building, those are just budget finishing purpose. At condition, females' problems and issues are not properly addressed and discussed. Equal participation in the decision-making of local government is addressed in the Nepalese constitution and policies. But on the practical side, the majority of male are involving the decision-making level in local government but in some local areas, female are more leading role in all local level and gender development sectors. Gender relations and development are the ways in which a society defines the rights, responsibilities and identities of men and women. It is very important to change the economic status of men and women at the local level. The perception of local people changed about gender development through the local development.

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