

# Social and Economic status of Casino women in Nepal

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## Abstract

*The research aims to explore the women status in casino job. The research has been performed by the survey, interview and participant observation in their everyday job. Upon examination of this situation, it becomes clear that casino job status is meaningful in Nepalese community which has brought tremendous changes in their life world and that has brought stratification on them. Gender based society like Nepal has more peculiar obstacles effect on women where they faced more difficulties on their daily life. They are suppressed from the social deformities like teasing, touching and other verbal amusement from male on the issue of job in Casino. Using of Teenagers women in casino only for the entertainment mechanism was developed. Aged women are neglected in the job as well. Participation of such a woman in the casino, directly or indirectly help on tourism sector of Nepal. The women labourers of the casino were found enjoyed with facilities provided such as economic, transportation, allowances, medical etc. Since the labourers both male and female work in close proximity, the relationship between the female co-workers and the customers was in good condition. The concerned authorities have not paid due attention to the plight of these simple hard working labourers who has made significant contribution towards increasing gross national product and also earning foreign currency.*

**Key Words:** Casino, Casino Women, Socio-Economic Status, Co-worker and Customer

## INTRODUCTION

Nepal is a country with poor economy and even the country is underdevelopment in its every sector. To fulfill the goals of development, a country requires adequate mobilization of its human resources. Human resources refer to skill, knowledge and capabilities of the people in increasing the production of goods and services. Thus the country requires proper planning and utilization of human resources for its economic development. The thrust of development in Nepal is the elimination of poverty and the fulfillment of basic minimum needs. (Shrestha: 1983:7)

It is evident that development of a country could not be possible without the equal participation of men and women. It is, therefore, accepted that women's socio-economic status equally plays a vital role in the development activities of a nation. It is generally accepted view among development workers today, both at governmental and nongovernmental levels that development cannot be defined merely in terms of economic growth and a rise in the gross national products. (Mokopadhays: 1984:8)

Women and their needs are desirable to be the parts of development in order to have positive effects in the community.

If the status of women is high in a society, they are provided with different authorities, they are honored, they have considerably contributed in fine arts, such society and culture will be considered as superior. (BN Lunia: 1996:712)

In Nepal, women constitute nearly half of the total population (CBS 1991). But their living standards are very low and miserable in most of families due to lack of proper mobilization of human resources and also because of its low economic condition and underdevelopment. Having self standing of their own they even can't go on with their own decision. They are found to be guided by any of their male members of their family. Even the energetic and educated women can't do their work without the assistance and guidance of their male partner. That is the main cause of the women being dominated by men in our patriarchal society, which shows about the gender based hierarchies in Nepalese society.

Employment of women is essential to attain equality of sexes and also to make life easier and smoother and also to excel development of every sector. Women have job in different sectors both in governmental and nongovernmental (private sector) organization. Among the private sectors, casino gambling related institution has equal concern with the society where women are also involved. Though the gambling is not appropriate for society, casinos help the country economically and provide work for Nepalese women.

Nepal is the heart of South Asian gaming. It is to this kingdom that people from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and other neighboring nations come for their gambling holiday with good reasons too (casino time, 1996 :6)

In casino both males and females work together. Females were recruited first in 1972. Every woman has their own responsibilities for the casino. Casino is good running in night before 10 p.m. In Nepalese society which is patriarchal or gender based the women who are involved in casino are taken inferior.

The dealers are young and obviously enjoy their work waitress provide everything a guest requires, including a light for a cigarette (Casino times, 1997 FEB: 37).

Hosts are even encouraged to call on guests at their homes and invite them to dinner and ball dances (Casino times Oct. Nov. 1997: 22).

It shows that the most of customers come here to have fun from the casino related sector. However the casino help earning foreign exchange and women of casino have a role to attract the customers to the casino which makes casino trade lucrative.

This is an endeavour to find out the involvement of women through their employment in different sectors. But the study is mainly concentrated on the employment of women in casino.

Nepali society is mainly a Hindu society. In Hindu culture, there is a lot of entertaining functions which makes human life easier and happy. Among these kinds of functions,

gambling is one. Since Vedic period, gambling is one of the causes of conflict. It is also a means of gaining and losing materials/ornaments excitement, entertainment etc. to the people. Gambling is usually played by males. Thus, it is symbol of male. It is commonly played or celebrated as in Dashain and Tihar. It is though as a part of the culture, in this context gambling is taken as for fun.

In the palace, kings used to entertain with the dancing of young lady who were also used to excite the king in Vedic period. The kings also had taken fun with gambling like "Pasa". According to "Mahabharat" Pandav lost their country, even their wife in gambling. On the basis of this Vedic story, the gambling is not regarded well in our society. However, many people take fun from the gambling even today.

The word 'casino' is also related to gambling. The meaning of casino is 'public building or room for gambling and other amusement'. In the casino, the people enjoy the game with beautiful girl.

"At first, casino Nepal opened its door in 1968. Since then the casino premises shifted becoming bigger and better (Casino times, Feb, 1997:9). Where the casino Nepal was the first name in gaming and will remain so.

His Majesty's government allowed more casinos to open up in the 1990s. They were to be located within five stars to complex to assure a "better-class" clientele (Casino times, Oct 1996: 11).

Now in Nepal, there are four casinos. These are Casino Anna, Casino Royale, Casino Everest and Casino Nepal. Casino Anna and Casino Royale are located centrally in Hotel Del Annapurna and Hotel yak and yeti at Durbar Marg respectively.

The present study of casino women is led by following research questions.

1. Women of what socio-economic background have been working at casino?
2. What are the problems they are facing during their working hour in Casino?

### **Objectives:**

The specific objectives of the study area:

- To describe the Socio-Economic background of Casino Women.
- To explore the problems facing by Casino women in Casino.

### **Status of Casino women in Nepal**

This study was designed to explore women's employment in the casino. It has been focused on the four main points related to the women who face customers in the casino sector as stated in the objectives of the study. In general women supposed to work in our society. There is no domination upon the women from male because of our gender based society. Nepalese society looks at the women from working outside with the pale eyes. But this social tradition is gradually changing in the present time. Women have broken the shackle of household works and have taken up job outside the boundaries of houses. This social change can be seen in the casino where women labourers are competing with the male to give the good performance with her works.

Casino service women workers are thought very much negative in our society. The feeling of that type is because of thinking in general that the casino service is inferior place where women have to work hand in hand with male workers and entertain foreign customers. And also the casino is related with the gambling where the drink is served which is extremely prohibited in our society.

### Data and Method

The article of the socio-economic status of casino women is based on simple descriptive analytical technique. It uses primary source of data mainly from different Casino situated in five stars Deluxe Hotel of Kathmandu. This report is based on quantitative nature of data which most of the obtained data are analyzed in text and tables in an organized way.

#### Results of Data Distribution of respondents by Age group

S.No.	Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
1	18-20	14	29.17
2	21-23	26	54.17
3	24-26	2	4.16
4	27-29	6	12.50
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

Women labours aged between 19 years to 29 years have been working in those sector, majority of women labours (54.17%) are of the age between 21 to 23 years.

#### Distribution of respondents by Caste/Ethnicity

S.No.	Caste/ Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage
1	Brahmin	16	33.33
2	Chhetri	12	29.17
3	Newar	10	20.83
4	Rai/Tamang/ Gurung	8	16.7
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

As regards to caste/ethnic composition, high proportion of the respondent has come from Brahmin Similarly Chhetri women comprised of 29.17 percent and Newar, Rai, Tamang Gurung women were 36.9 percent of the total respondents working in Casino Sector.

### Distribution of respondents by Religion

S.No.	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Hindu	40	83.38
2	Buddhist	6	12.5
3	Christian	2	4.17
4	Others		
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

Among the respondents, majority of the respondents (83.33%) were found as the Hindu and second largest majority of respondents were Buddhist. The reason behind this fact was that Nepal is a Hindu majority country.

### Distribution of respondents by Marital Status

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Unmarried	30	62.5
2	Married	16	33.33
3	Divorced	2	4.17
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

With regard to the knowledge of the status of respondents, 62.5% were unmarried and 33.33 percent women were married and rest of them 4.17 percent was divorced. The study showed the majority unmarried women. In the Casino sector, unmarried women were encouraged in job by casino management because the unmarried women are physically fit and attractive that who could attract the guest easily.

### Distribution of respondents by Educational status

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Under SLC		
2	SLC Passed	26	54.17
3	Intermediate Passed	22	45.83
4	Bachelor Passed		
5	Above Bachelor		
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

The above tables showed the educational status of respondents were found between SLC passed 54.17 percent to Intermediate passed 45.83 percent. The reason behind the educational status of women, Casino management employed who have just passed SLC or Intermediate.

### Distribution of respondents by Family Types

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Joint Family	22	45.83
2	Nuclear Family	26	54.17
	Total	48	100

Sources: Field Work 1998

The above table showed that the respondents belong to the nuclear family was 54.17 percent and those who comprise the joint family were 45.83 percent which was gradually coming into practice those days.

### Relation of the respondents with their Family

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Full Co-operation	44	91.7
2	Partial Co-operation		
3	Negative Co-operation	4	8.3
4	Do not care		
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

It has been found that the main reason behind the women labours are interested in the casino is to be independent herself, attracted to good salary and also due to their poverty. Most of the respondents are fully co-operated from their family (91.7%) members.

### Respondents Co-operation from the Male Workers

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Full	42	87.5
2	Partial	6	12.5
3	Negative		
4	Dominative		
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

The above table showed that most of the respondents 87.5 percent were fully co-operated from the male workers and only 12.5 percent workers were partially co-operated them. No negative and dominative responses from the male workers were observed.

### Types of Abusement Faced by Respondents

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Touching		
2	Teasing	10	20.83
3	Using Vulgar Words	20	41.83
4	Not at all	12	25.00
5	Others	6	12.5
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

From the casino customer side, while the respondents are working inside the casino, they were abused by using vulgar words were 41.83 percent, by teasing were 20.83 percent and some of them had been suffering from different types of abusement in casino.

### Annual income of the Respondents

S.No.	Income Range	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 60000 Rs.	16	33.33
2	60000 Rs to 120000 Rs.	32	66.67
3	120000 Rs to 180000 Rs.		
4	Above 180000 Rs.		
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

So far as the economic status of the respondents is concerned, the job they hold has made their life comfortable. 66.67 percent respondents can earn 60000 Rs to 120,000 Rs. Per annum while only 33.33 percent of respondents fall in the category of earning below 60000 Rs. Per Annum.

### Distribution of respondents by Job Satisfaction

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfaction	30	62.33
2	Partially Satisfaction	16	33.33
3	Not at All	2	4.17
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

The Above tables showed that majority of the respondents were fully satisfied 62.5 percent while 33.33 percent of respondents were partially satisfied and only few of them about 4.17 percent were not satisfied on their job.

**Distribution of respondent advice to other about the casino job**

S.No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1	It is Good	24	50.00
2	It is not Good		
3	It is Mixed	24	50.00
	Total	48	100

Source: Field work 1998

Among the respondents 50% of women advised others that this job was good for ladies whereas 50% of the women advised others that this job was of the mixed type for ladies. This is the overall condition of the women working in the casino.

**Conclusion**

This study is carried out at the casino situated at the center of kingdom of Nepal in 5 star deluxe hotels. It was found from the study that women labours are more attracted to the work in this sector (mainly SLC to I.A. passed literate women were required for the job). Majority of the women were found to be out of Kathmandu valley.

The women working at the casino service in particular is not thought good for womenfolk in our society. On the basis of the job nature and the problem faced by women and their socio-economic as a job holder, working condition of the women has something to do with the view that whether the casino service is fit for the women or not. The working women are abused from the customers by using vulgar words as well as teasing and touching. Similarly some male worker likes to harsh the women for just ill treating. The work place of the casino was found to be unhygienic, due to sound, air, noise pollution made from both the customers and workers inside the casino. The women are used in the casino as the show piece for attracting the customers as a commodity. Women have to deliver good performance in her work to complete the male with strong self determination.

The women labourers of the casino were found enjoyed with facilities provided such as economic, transportation, allowances, medical etc. Since the labourers both male and female work in close proximity, the relationship between the female co-workers and the customers was in good condition.



The concerned authorities have not paid due attention to the plight of these simple hard working labourers who has made significant contribution towards increasing gross national product and also earning foreign currency. After all, both sexes are equally important and responsible for developing every sector to uplift society. The women could also compete with male if they are provided opportunity and facilities as the male are getting.

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