



Homemakers' Participation in Household Decision Making: A Study of Community based Organisation's Women Member

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Abstract

Purpose: This study is conducted to identify homemakers' participation in household decision making who are the member of community-based organization.

Methods: The study was conducted in ward no. 30 of Pokhara Metropolitan City, where the ward represents the smallest unit of local government. The study interviewed homemaker women who were participating in Community-based Organization. The primary data were collected from purposively sampled 120 homemaker women using structured closed ended questionnaires schedule. The collected data are processed and analysed in SPSS software where the test of association (The Chi square test) was performed to find the relationship among the variables of household decision making, together with social-economic and demographic variables.

Findings: The findings show that homemakers included in study have actively participating in household decision making. The Chi square test result indicates that there is no association between age and number of children with level of homemakers' participation in household decision making. Also, other demographic variables such as marital status, caste or ethnicity, education, and family type have no significance association with household decision making.

Conclusion: From this study we can say that the participation level of the women in household decision making who are the member of community-based organization is high. The participation of women in community-based organization like women's group, saving and cooperatives, community committees empower the women and support to build confident in household decision making.

Keywords: Homemaker, Participation, Decision Making, Women, Community Based Organisation.

Paper type: Research Paper



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Introduction

More than half of the population that is 51.13 percent is women in Nepal (Office, 2023). In Gandaki Province 52.53 percent of total population is women and 41 percent of household are headed by women whereas only 28.3 percent of the total households have ownership of land or a housing unit or both land & housing unit in the name of female household member (Office, 2023). A household is group of people, their relationship and activities, who acknowledge a common authority in domestic matters or a group who have common fund of material and human resources and rules for practices and exchange within it. Household is the crucial unit for consumption as well as labour supply decision (Wheelock & Elizabeth, 1996). Women engagement in household management and family well-being related activities is higher compared to man in Nepal (Devkota, 1999).

The study is carried out on Role of Women for making household decision in Nepalese Societies in Dhading district. The study shows that if women were more involved in household decision making and had more control over financial resources, they would be more likely to use health services and, hence to have better health outcomes. However, results from this study reveal a more complex picture, showing diverse relations between the outcomes of interest and the four indicators of women's household position (Khanal, 2019).

The study on Women's Autonomy in Household decision-making shows that the factors such as age, employment and number of living children which associates women's autonomy in decision making shows mixed variations in the development regions across all four outcome measures. Western women are more likely to make decision in own health care, while they are less likely to purchase fewer household needs. Interestingly, rich women are less likely to have autonomy to make decision in own healthcare. By social science investigation observing variation in education, wealth quintile and development region, women from rural and terai region should be empowered through empowerment program to enable them to be more autonomous in the household decision making. A more comprehensive strategy can enable women to access community resources, to challenge traditional norms and to access economic resources which will lead the women to be more autonomous in decision making (Dev Raj Acharya, 2010).

The study on women's role in domestic decision-making in Pakistan, which examines the extent of Pakistani women's participation in household decision making relative to their husband and other family members reveals that women with greater freedom to go outside home alone are more likely to participate in domestic decision making, and the linkage is stronger for the rural than for urban women (Mahmood, 2002). Another study on women's land ownership and participation in decision-making about reproductive health in Malawi identified the women's ownership of land (sole or joint) is associated with increases in women's participation in financial decision-making in the household and women's sole ownership of land is associated with increases in women's participation in reproductive health decision-making (Behrman, 2017).

Household decision making is one of the important factors for conducive family environment. Participation on decision leads to the ownership family decision by every family member which ease well execution of such decisions. Studies shows that the participation level of women on family decision making is low. In these scenarios, this study is concerned on the study of homemaker¹ women who participate on community-based organisation and their participation level on household decision making. This study also examines some demographic indicators, socio cultural aspects and their involvement on different community groups, health issues, economic issues, the influence on decisions in these issues and level of participation. This study is more concentrated to find the answer whether the homemaker who are the part of community-based organisation involves or participate on their own

¹ A homemaker is someone who spends a lot of time looking after their home and family. Usually, homemaker is used to refer to someone who does not have a job outside the home (Collins, 2018).

household decision? and what is the level of participation? To address this quest, ward 30 of Pokhara Metropolitan City is selected for study. This ward was chosen as a research area because this place is semi urban with average literacy rate, cash-based agricultural economy and moreover, most of the homemakers are engaged in community-based organisation.

This paper firstly introduces the context of the study, stipulates the objective and rationality of the study. In second part, the literature related to the study is reviewed. Methods of study are presented in the third part. Data are presented in the fourth part and the data are analysed in the next part. The conclusion of the study is presented as the final part of the paper.

Literature review

Nepalese Policies and Periodic Plans

The Constitution of Nepal, with the commitment to end gender discrimination, has guaranteed the equal right to property, right to safe motherhood and reproductive health rights, right to ensure proportional representation at all concerned levels as well as the right to enjoy fundamental human rights for all women. To ensure women's participation in decision making the Constitution of Nepal set the provision of women's reservation in certain position for example at least one third of total parliament members must be women (Nepal, 2015). Establishing women's access to property rights and uplifting the living standards of all women are some challenges identified by the fifteenth National Plan among others. To overcome those challenges this plan proposes the policy provisions for concessional loans and access to finance facilities for women to engage in income-generating activities (Commission, 2020). Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy (2021-2023) set an objective to increase engagement and participation of women and excluded in planning, decision-making and implementation. For this, strategy to develop a model policy for engagement and participation of women and excluded groups in Local committees was proposed (Programme, 2021).

Household decisions and women in decision making

Increasing the number of women in decision-making positions has many real effects such as the development of women friendly policies was well as raising women's awareness of the different roles women can play in society. A lack of women's participation is perhaps one explanation for the failure of efforts to develop more stable democratic governance. The contribution women have to offer in this realm of decision-making is great. An example of this can be seen in the role of Sri Lankan women in the peace process where a women's committee was established specifically to examine gender issues in the peace process (Kumari, 2004).

Household decision making areas pertain to children's education, specifically in terms of whether or not a children should go to school, what school should he/she goes to and what course should the children pursue; child discipline (who handles or makes decisions on child discipline); family health, specifically, who decides on whether or not to bring a sick family member to a hospital or doctor; household expenditures (who handles household budgeting for food, clothing and other daily/usual family expenditures) and family business/investments or who handles or makes decisions on family investments and business matter (David, 1994).

The study titled Authority of Final Decision in Household Activities: Gender Perspective in Nepalese Society was conducted which comprised the five ethnic groups: Newar, Magar, Tamang, Rai and Brahama/Chettri of Kathmandu valley. All these groups have their own language and culture but there was no significant difference in practice of decision making either by husband or wife in all types of household activities. Small scale routine expenditure is decided by the female in all ethnic group whereas big scale like economic transaction, purchasing of land or house is decided by the male but it is good to know that majority of decision is made by the both husband and wife which indicates the

increasing number of women participation in decision making process (Anita Shrestha, 2017).

A Case Study of Likhu Tamakoshi Rural Municipality Ward No-2 Saipu, Ramechhap on Participation of Women in Household Decision-Making Process concluded that women have more access in selling surplus food but they have low access in fulfilling the food deficiency, whereas most of the female members of the household engage in cooking. Most of the women of the sampled households are facing problems in decision-making. Men have dominant role in the case of decision making at most of the household activities. There is a vast discrimination between men and women in the sense of household decision-making process (Paudel, 2019).

Another Study on Women's position within the household as a determinant of maternal health care use in Nepal states that few women are reported participation in household decision making, and even fewer had any control over their own earning. However, more than half reported discussing family planning with their husbands. Spousal discussion of family planning was linked to an increased likelihood of receiving skilled antenatal and delivery care. Women's secondary education was also strongly associated with the greater use of health care. Gender inequality constrains women's access to skilled health care in Nepal. The strong association of women's education with health care use highlights the need for efforts to increase girl's schooling and alter perception of the value of skilled maternal health care (Marie Furunta, 2006).

The Study on Women's involvement in decision-making and receiving husbands' support for their reproductive healthcare: a cross-sectional study in Lalitpur, Nepal specifies that the significant determinants for women's involvement in decision making and getting husbands' support were the woman's caste, education level, employment status, household income, age group and number of children. The report indicates that the Muslim/Janajati/other women were less likely to decide the number of babies and birth spacing as well as less likely to be accompanied by their husbands to the family planning clinic. Women who were below 20 years of age and had a single child were less likely to get involved in decision making and getting their husbands' support for family planning services. The findings call for reproductive health programs that encourage women's involvement in decision making and receiving husbands' support in women reproductive healthcare. Woman's caste, age and parity should be given special consideration when designing such a program related to birth preparedness (Alpha Pokhrel, 2023).

Women's participation on Household and Economic Decision-making process, a study on women of Bhimpheedi Rural Municipality of Makawanpur District describes that women are lagging behind in terms of land ownership and income generating activities and they have satisfactory access in terms of using the modern resources and household income possession. Married woman of age group 15-49 years is well performed about family planning and most of them are involved in making decision on choosing the proper method. Age wise, women of age greater than or equal to 30 years; education wise, women with under SLC level of education; migration wise, migrated women and caste/ethnicity wise, Magar women are found in a better self-decision-making position regarding the household activities (Chatkuli, 2018).

Methods

This research is a case study of homemakers' women who are resident of Pokhara Metropolitan city-30, Kaski district. There are around 3,396 household in this area in which total population is 17,142 with 7,191 females and 9,951 males (Office N. S., 2021). There are 42 community-based organizations in this area (City, 2023). The main source of income of people are agricultural business, employment, agriculture, poultry farming, commercial vegetable farming and foreign employment. Only 4 organizations are chosen for the study because the total population was very large for the study and may lead to over generalized result.

The respondents were selected on the basis of purposive sampling method to. Out of 425 household 120 married homemaker women were selected from 4 community-based organisations at 7.6 margin of error, 95 percent level of confidence and 10 percent level of significance. Data was collected by using purposive sampling technique. The sample size was calculated by using 'Rao soft' online software developed by Rao soft Inc., Seattle, WA, USA (Available online: <http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html>).

Descriptive and cross-sectional research design was conducted. The primary and secondary sources of the data was used for the study. A comprehensive research questionnaire was designed for primary data collection by using various structured and closed ended questionnaire. Face to face interview was taken to collect the data. Quantitative method was used to provide comprehensive analysis of data. Secondary data was collected from various sources like CBS report, municipality, journals, and reports.

The reliability of the data based on literature review, the variables were identified, and questionnaires were designed by including all the variables. The questionnaires were finalized by consulting with expert and supervisors. For validity, interview of sample population was conducted by using various methods and evidence. Self-observation was done as a researcher about the women participation in decision making in different aspects.

The data was processed by using SPSS and EXCEL. Quantitative method was used for data analysis. Frequency, percentage, tabulations, descriptive statistics, cross- tabulations, chi-square test were used to describe the findings of the survey. Further, to find the level of women participation in decision making, the given Scales of indicators of socio-culture, economic and political aspects was changed into total score. The individual mean score is calculated. Next, the mean of 120 respondents were calculated. Individual mean score less than mean is considered as passive participation and more than or equal to mean is considered as active participation.

Data Presentation and Descriptions

Age of the Respondents

The table 1 shows the age composition of the respondents of the study area. According to the data, most of the respondents were age 31-40 years group i.e., 35 percent, followed by 21-30 years group i.e., 20 percent, 41-50 years group and 51-60 years group i.e., 19.2 percent, 60 years and above years were only 6.7 percent. According to the data, most of the respondents fall under middle age group.

Table 1 Age of the Respondents

Age	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
20-29	24	20
30-39	42	35
40-49	23	19.2
50-59	23	19.2
60 years and above	8	6.6
Total	120	100

(Source: Filed Survey, 2022)

Marital Status of the Respondents

The age at marriage in Nepal is legally 20 years for both men and women (Commission N. L., 2023). The data of Marital Status of the respondents shows that a majority i.e., 75.8 percentage respondent were married. 12.5 percent of respondents were widow, 9.2 percent of respondents were divorced and the least number of respondents i.e., 2.5 percent were unmarried.

Caste/Ethnicity of the Respondents

The majority of respondents were brahmin, Chettri i.e., 45 percent, Janajati (Indigenous) constitutes of 32.5 percent of respondents. 22.5 percent of respondents were Dalit.

Education of the Respondents

Education is the main indicator for the development of the society. It plays a vital role in decision making process for women in the society. In study area higher number of respondents were intermediate passed i.e.,39.2 percentage, followed by SLC passed 30 percent. 13.3 percent of respondents were illiterate, 11.7 percent of respondents had done bachelors and the least number i.e.,5.8 percent of respondents had passed master's degree.

Family Type

Family is the important unit of the society. The society cannot be built without the family. Family structure plays an important role in the decision-making process for women. Study area has majority of respondents i.e. 57.5 percent were from joint families whereas only 42.5 percent of respondents were from the nuclear family.

Number of Children

The number of children and the size of the family has dominant role in decision-making process. Majority of respondents had two children i.e., 40.8 percent, 23.3 percent of respondents had one child, 14.2 percent and 13.3 percent respondents had three and above three children respectively. The minority of respondents i.e.,8.3 percent said they have no children.

Religion of the Respondents

Out of the total 120 respondents, 70 percent were Hindu, followed by Buddhist 18.3 percent. Muslim constitutes of least population i.e. six percent of respondents.

Respondents Involvement in Women's Group

Table 2 shows that majority of women i.e., 72.5 percent were involved in the women's group whereas only 27.5 percent women were not involved in women's group. Out of total respondent's 49.2 percent decided self, 13.3 percent decided by both (Husband and Wife), 10 percent by other family members.

Table 2 Respondents involvement in women's group

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Involvement in women's group	Yes	87	72.5
	No	33	27.5
	Total	120	100
If yes, who decided	Self	59	49.2
	Both	16	13.3
	Other family members	12	10
	No	33	27.5
	Total	120	100

(Source: Survey,2022)

Respondents Involvement in Community Forest Group

Table 3 shows that majority of respondents i.e., 51.7 percent were not involved in community forest group. Only 48.3 percent of respondents involved in community forest group. Out of total respondent's 29.2 percent respondents decided self to get involved in community forest group. 10.8 percent of respondents others family members made the decision, and 8.4 percent decided by both husband and wife.

Table 3 Respondents Involvement in Community Forest Group

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Involvement in community forest group	Yes	58	48.3
	No	62	51.7
	Total	120	100
If yes, who decided	Self	35	29.2
	Both	10	8.4
	Other family members	13	10.8
	No	62	51.7
	Total	120	100

(Source: Survey,2022)

Respondents Involvement in Vocational Training Run by Government

Table 4 shows that majority of respondents i.e., 55.8 percent were not involved and only 44.2 percent respondents were involved in in vocational training run by the government. Out of total respondents, 25.8 percent responded decided self, 13.3 percent with both, and 5 percent respondent's husband made the decision.

Table 4 Respondents Involvement in Vocational Training Run by Government

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Involvement in vocational training run by government	Yes	53	44.2
	No	67	55.8
	Total	120	100
If yes, who decided	Self	31	25.8
	Husband	6	5
	Both	16	13.3
	No	67	55.8
Total	120	100	

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Respondents Involvement in Saving and Cooperative Group

Table 5 shows that majority of respondents i.e., 77.5 percent were involved in saving and cooperative group and 22.5 percent were not involved. Out of total respondents, 37.5 percent decided self, 30.8 decided with husband and 9.2 percent decided by respondents' other family members.

Table 5 Respondents Involvement in Saving and Cooperative Group

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Involvement in saving and cooperative group	Yes	93	77.5
	No	27	22.5
	Total	120	100
If yes, who decided	Self	45	37.5
	Both	37	30.8
	Other family members	11	9.2
	No	27	22.5
	Total	120	100

(Source: Survey,2022)

Fallen ill at Any Time in Last Six Months

Table 6 states that 77.5 percent respondents have said that they have fallen ill in last 6 months whereas 22.5 of respondents did not fall ill. 24.2 percent of respondents used home remedies and least number of respondents i.e., 5 percent went to health post for the treatment. Most of the respondent's decision for the treatment was made by both i.e., 19.2 and only 9.2 percent respondents' decision was made by other family members.

Table 6 Respondents Decision on Treatment Method When Fallen ill

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Fallen ill in last 6 months	Yes	93	77.5
	No	27	22.5
	Total	120	100
If yes, where did you go for the treatment	Health post	6	5.0
	Private clinic	9	7.5
	Hospital	12	10
	Home remedies	29	24.2
	No ill	64	53.3
Who made the decision?	Total	120	100
	Self	22	18.3
	Both	23	19.2
	Other family members	11	9.2
	No ill	64	53.3
Total	120	100	

(Source: Survey,2022)

Decision on Attending Social and Religious Function

Out of the total 120 respondent, highest number of respondents i.e., 53.3 percent decided with both husband and wife to go to religious and social function. 26.7 percent decided self, 19.3 percent respondent's other family members made the decision while only 0.8 percent respondent's husband decided to go on social and religious function.

Decision on Use of Family Planning Method

Table 7 states that most of the respondents i.e., 50.8 percent did not use but only 49.2 percent use the family planning method. Majority of respondents i.e., 44.2 percent respondents said that they have decided jointly with the husband (both) and five percent respondent's husband decided the family planning method.

Table 7 Decision on Use of Family Planning Method

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Respondents use of family planning method	Yes	59	49.2
	No	61	50.8
	Total	120	100
	Husband	6	5
	Both	53	44.2
	No	61	50.8
	Total	120	100

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Decision on Delivery of Children

Out of 120 respondents, 91.7 percent respondents had children and 8.3 percent respondents did not have children. 69.2 percent respondents had hospital delivery whereas 22.5 percent of respondents had home delivery. In terms of delivery place, the decision made by respondent jointly with husband was 62.5 percent. 19.2 percent respondent's other family members made the decision, 5.8 percent respondent's husband made the decision and 4.2 percent respondents made the decision solely.

Table 8 Decision on Delivery Place of Children

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Do you have children?	Yes	110	91.7
	No	10	8.3
	Total	120	
Delivery place of children	Hospital	83	69.2
	Home	27	22.5
	No children	10	8.3
	Total	120	100
Who made the decision	Self	5	4.2
	Husband	7	5.8
	Both	75	62.5
	Other family members	23	19.2
	No children	10	8.3
Total	120	100	

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Decision on Choosing College and School for Children

According to table 9, 90 percent of respondent's children go to or had been to school or college whereas 3.3 percent of respondents children do not go to or have never been to school or college. 6.7 percent respondents do not have children. While deciding school or college for children majority i.e., 34.2

percent respondents husband made the decision, 31.7 percent respondents made decision with both, 13.3 percent respondents made decision by self and 11.7 percent respondents other family members made the decision.

Table 9 Decision on Choosing College and School for Children

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Do your children go to school/ college?	Yes	108	90
	No	4	3.3
	No children	8	6.7
	Total	120	100
If yes, who decided	Self	16	13.3
	Husband	41	34.2
	Both	38	31.7
	Other family members	14	11.7
	No	4	3.3
	Total	120	100

(Source: Survey,2022)

Respondents Family Involvement in Agriculture

Table 10 shows that majority i.e., 59.2 percent respondents reported that their family members are engage in agriculture whereas 40.8 percent of respondents family are not engaged in agriculture. In terms of decision on crop pattern, 29.2 percent of respondent's other family members decided on crop pattern,22.5 percent decided self, 4.2 percent decision is made by husband and 3.9 percent by respondents' husband only. Majority of decision on seeds to use is made by respondent's other family members i.e., 28.3 percent whereas only 4 percent of decision is made by both husband and wife. likewise, about decision on harvesting crops, majority of decision was done by respondent's family member i.e., 28.3 percent and least decision was done by both husband and wife.

Table 10 Respondents Family Involvement in Agriculture

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Respondents' family involvement in agriculture	Yes	71	59.2				
	No	49	40.8				
	Total	120	100				
				Decision on crop pattern	Decision on seeds to be used	Decision on harvesting crops	
	Self	27	22.5	28	23.3	28	23.3
	Husband	5	4.2	5	4.2	5	4.2
	Both	4	3.9	4	3.3	4	3.3
	Other family members	35	29.2	34	28.3	34	28.3
	No	49	40.8	49	40.8	49	40.8
	Total	100	100	120	100	120	100

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Ownership in Property

Table 11 shows that more than half of the respondents have ownership in property i.e., 58.3 percent. 41.7 percent do not have ownership in property. Out of the total respondents who have ownership in property, majority of respondents i.e., 19.2 percent reported that both have control in capital. Least number of respondents other family members i.e., 9.2 percent other family members have control over capital.

Table 11 Ownership in Property

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Respondents' ownership in property	Yes	70	58.3
	No	50	41.7
	Total	120	100
If yes, who has control over capital	Self	15	12.5
	Husband	21	17.5
	Both	23	19.2
	Other family members	11	9.2
	No	50	41.7
	Total	120	100

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Decision on Taking and Giving Loans

Table 12 shows the decision on taking loan in the family. 70.8 percent of respondents family have taken loan and only 29.2 percent of family have not taken loan. Majority of the decision was made by respondents husband i.e., 22.5 percent. 21.7 percent respondents' other family members made the decision on taking loan and only 5.8 percent of respondents made the decision by themselves.

Table 12 Decision on Taking and Giving Loans

Variables	Category	Family taken loan		Family giving loan	
		Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Family Loan	Yes	85	70.8	54	45
	No	35	29.2	66	55
	Total	120	100	120	100
If yes, who made the decision?	Self	7	5.8	9	7.5
	Husband	27	22.5	15	12.5
	Both	25	20.8	17	14.2
	Other members	26	21.7	13	10.8
	No	57	29.2	57	55
	Total	120	100	120	100

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Table 12 also shows the decision of family on giving loan. Majority of respondents family members i.e., 55 percent have not given loan while 45 percent have only given loan. Most of the decision on

giving loan i.e.,14.2 was done by both husband and wife. 12.5 percent decision was made by husband and only 7.5 percent of respondents made the decision.

Decision on Purchasing Property

From the survey it is found that most the decision i.e.,31.7 percent was made my respondents other family members, 29.2 percent decision was made by respondents' husband, 28.3 by both husband and wife and minority i.e., 10.8 percent decision was made by respondents' self.

Political Aspects of the Respondents

Politics is the action or activities concerned with achieving and using power in a country or society. Table 13 shows the political aspects of the respondents. Out of the total respondent's majority of respondents i.e., 70 percent were involved in political party whereas only 30 percent respondents were involved in the political party. Majority of respondents i.e., 85.8 percent have used the voting right and 14.2 percent have not used the voting rights. Likewise, 70 percent respondents have not participated in any programme organized by political party and 30 percent respondents have participated in any programme organized by the political party. Majority of respondents i.e.,20 percent solely involved in political parity and only 0.8 percent of respondents' husband made the decision about the involvement in political party. 55 percent of the respondents used the voting rights self, whereas 3.3 percent of respondents husband made the decision about the voting rights.

Table 13 Political Aspects of the Respondents

Question	Category	Involvement in political party		Used voting rights		Participate in any political party	
		(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
Political Involvement	Yes	36	30	103	85.8	36	30
	No	84	70	17	14.2	84	70
	Total	120	100	120	100	120	100
Who made the decision?	Self	20	16.7	66	55	16	13.3
	Husband	1	0.8	4	3.3	4	3.4
	Both	13	10.8	20	16.7	15	12.5
	Other family members	2	1.7	13	10.8	1	0.8
	No	84	70	17	14.2	84	70
Total	120	100	120	100	120	100	

(Source: Survey, 2022)

Data Analysis and Discussion

Level of Homemaker Women Participation in Household Decision Making

To find out the level of women participation in households decision making the indicators of socio-culture, economic and political aspects were changed into total score. Then the individual mean score of 120 respondents were calculated and less than mean is considered as passive participation. More than or equal to mean is considered as active participation.

Table 14 Level of Homemaker Women Participation in Household Decision Making

Level of participation	Frequency	Percentage
Passive Participation	58	48.3
Active Participation	62	51.7
Total	120	100.0

Min= 3.00, Max=17.00, Mean=10.5 S. D=3.25

(Source: Field survey and Author's calculation 2022)

Out of 120 respondents, more than half of the respondents i.e., 51.7 percent have active participation in household decision making whereas nearly half i.e., 48.3 percent of respondents have passive participation in household decision making. According to the table 14, the active participation in decision making of homemaker women is high.

Factors Association Between Level of Women's Participation in Household Decision with Demographic Variables

Table 15 shows the different factors associated with the level of women participation in household decision making with demographic variables. For this, chi-squared test was applied taking level of women's participation in household decision making as dependent variable and other variables such as Age, Marital Status, Educational level, Family Types, Number of Children, Caste and Ethnicity as independent variables.

Table 15 Factors Association Between Level of Women Participation in Household Decision with Demographic Variables

Demographic variables	Level of women participation in household decision making				p-value
	Passive Participation		Active participation		
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	percentage	
Age					
19-39 years	33	58.9	23	41.1	0.091*
40-59 years	19	38.0	31	62.0	
60 and above	6	42.9	8	57.1	
Marital status					
Married	46	50.5	45	49.5	0.311
Unmarried	2	66.7	1	33.3	
Widow	4	26.7	11	73.3	
Divorced	6	54.5	5	45.5	
Education level					
Illiterate	21	58.3	15	41.7	0.210
Below SLC	24	51.1	23	48.9	
+2	3	21.4	11	78.6	
Bachelor	3	42.9	4	57.1	
Master	7	43.8	9	56.2	

Family types					
Nuclear family	21	41.2	30	58.8	0.177
Joint	37	53.6	32	46.4	
No. of children					
Below 3	38	49.4	39	50.6	0.051*
3 and above	12	36.4	21	63.6	
None	8	80.0	2	20.0	
Caste/ ethnicity					
Brahmin/Chhetri	25	46.3	29	53.7	0.198
Janajati	16	41.0	23	59.0	
Dalits	17	63.0	10	37.0	

(Source: Survey,2022)

Majority (62.0%) 40-59 years age group respondents had active participation in household decision making and majority of age group (19-30) had passive participation in household decision making. Similarly, 73.3% widow respondents had active participation in household decision making. Respondents having education level of +2 had active participation in household decision making i.e.,78.6 percent whereas illiterate respondents had passive participation i.e., 58.3 percent in household decision making. Similarly, respondents having nuclear family had actively participated in household decision making i.e.,58.8 percent. Respondents having children 3 and above had active participation in the decision-making process i.e.,63.6 percent whereas respondents having no children had passive participation i.e.,80 percent. Likewise, respondents from janajati had actively participated in household decision making and respondents from brahmin Chettri had passive participation i.e., 25 percent.

There is association between age and number of children with Level of women participation in household decision making at 10 percent level of significance ($p < 0.1$). However, other demographic variables marital status, caste/ethnicity, education, and family types has no significant association with Level of women participation in household decision making. Hence age and number of children are the major factors associated with level of women participation.

On the basis of data and analysis of data it is found that most of the respondents are educated and have some sort of income of their own. More than half of the respondents have actively participated in households' decision making. More than half of the homemaker women participation level in decision making is active. In many cases, the women having lower education background, unemployment have lower level in decision making.

Nepal, being a democratic country, where women and men have equal rights by law, the patriarchal thinking of people are still the same as before. Women are still prohibited to go out and earn. Women are still discouraged to enhance their skills and knowledge. There is a lack of women participation in various political and legal bodies. There should be understanding that the contribution of both men and women can only make the family, community and the nation developed.

Conclusion and recommendation

Based on the information collected from 120 respondents who were homemaker, it is found that most of the respondents are educated and are active in various women's group and social organization. As this study is to find out the level of homemaker women's participation in households decision making, it can be concluded that women are actively involved in household decision making. Out of 120 respondents nearly half of the respondents have low level of participation in households' decision making. More than half of the respondents have active participation in household decision making.

This study shows that most of the women who are the member of community-based organization has influence in household decision making while more than half of such women actively participate in household decision making.

The education status makes the women earn the decision-making power within the households and capable of making important decisions. Equal opportunity should be given to women. Women should be encouraged to form and participate in various social organization, women's group, saving and cooperatives so that it can make women confident and strong in decision making in house as well as outside.

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