

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the review of existing literature related to topic of study. Chapter is divided into two sections dealing with global context and Indian context of study. Global and Indian context literature put light on different concepts and dimensions of socio economic status of women.

2.1.1 Global context

House (1988) worked on the status of women in Sudan which is the largest country in Africa .The condition of women is not good at here .The main occupation is agriculture among people and 2/3 of population depend on it. Economic status of women can be derived from the contribution of income generating activities. But in spite of this, the majority in such a agriculture based economy make a major contribution to the production of basic food, domestic work, cleaning ,cooking, collection of water etc. These activities cannot be calculated in organized form. So in this paper, women's legal status, education attainment and labour market participation of women has used to check the women status. It is found that women with primary level education and more than this level, those living in urban area, and those husbands in 'white collar' occupation have more knowledge than others with rising level of education. Women in Sudan have been assigned by traditional, culture and nature to be the bearers of children, providers of food and other essential for family. The condition of urban women is little better than the rural due to the reason of education attainment, legal awareness and their labour market segregation. The paper also present some policies recommendation for policy makers to enhance the women contribution concurrently with upgrading their status, like employment mission for women, primarily role in farm production must be given more consideration in planning agricultural change, raising the educational opportunities of girls specially in rural areas.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2001) mentioned that women account 11587502 (50%) population out of total population of Nepal. Women play crucial role inside household as well as in agriculture and related activities. The tasks women perform are not recognized as work. In most of the Asian countries women are nearly respected in their role of mothers and housekeepers. The dual burden is very heavy on the women. In the economic setting women occupy lower status than traditionally women have been associated with reproductive rather than productive tasks. Therefore whatever job is performed by women demands lower prestige and is paid lower rate if a man does same kind of work.²⁵ According to preliminary report of population Census 2001, Nepalese women constitute more than 50percent of the total population in the country. The infant and maternal mortality rates are also higher in Nepal among the countries of South Asia. The adult literacy rate of 40 percent is one of the lowest in South Asia (CBS, 1995). Although women who comprise half of the population of the country and have always have been involved in national development, they are still marginalized from the opportunities such as economic resources, e.g. property, income, employment as well as other resources. Illiteracy, unhealthiness, poverty and conservative social taboos have been the fate of Nepalese women in general (B.P. Choudhary, 2010).

Wayack and Kabor (2013) focused on the relationship between Women Socioeconomic status and Empowerment in Burkina Faso in Africa. It specially work on participation in decision making and experience of domestic violence. Reducing levels of domestic violence and improving women's participation are important to empowering women. This study analyze data of 9,141 cohabiting or married women who successfully completed the Interview on domestic violence from the 2010 Burkina Faso Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Decision making participation can be accessed through three ways which are involvement in decisions on woman's own health care, involvement in decisions on major household purchases, and involvement in decisions on visits to family or relatives. On the other hand, domestic violence includes four variables these are physical, emotional, and sexual violence, and psychological pressure. After collecting the data, binary logistic regression applied and accessed the socioeconomic status of women. The finding of the study is that low levels of decision-making even among educated

women and women working, but also very low prevalence of domestic violence. Participation in all the three aspects of decision-making is positively associated empowering women. If women are more educated,, the greater their involvement is in decision-making for their own health care and for family visiting. Housewife wealth status has a much weaker relation with involvement in decision-making. Women's experience of physical, emotional, and sexual violence by their husbands/partners generally is weakly related to socioeconomic characteristics. Only the richest women and to a lesser extent women with formal education are significantly more likely to experience psychological pressure. So the paper sheds light on the importance of socioeconomic status to empower a woman.

Sultan and Hossen (2013) presented that woman empowerment is the most important issue in the present era. Though women have a significant contribution in development process, after that they have low status compared to men, especially in developing nation .The present study is an attempt to check the status of women empowerment and the role of women empowerment in Kulana city of Bangladesh. The sample size is divided into two categories, employed and unemployed with 60 units with random sample technique. The main objectives behind the study are to know the status of women empowerment in Khulana city and to know the role of employment in khulana city. The cumulative Empowerment index is constructed by taking seven key indicators ,those are contribution of household income, access to resources, ownership of asset ,participation in household decision making, perception on gender awareness, copying capacity to household shocks and access to the political or development activities to get a complete idea of women empowerment. With all these indicators multiple linear regression model is used to reveal casual relationship between women status and its related indicators. The findings of the study is that employed women are more empowered compared to unemployed females. Occupational status have some statistically significant effect that increased the empowerment level by 5.278 units, So the present study is based on empirical results which shows that employment plays a positive role for the female to be empowered in Khulana city.

Jennifer, Michelle and Julie (2013) analyzed that generally, men and women of higher socioeconomic status (SES) have better health. Little is known about how socioeconomic factors are associated with changes in health as women progress through mid-life. This study uses data from six survey waves (1996 to 2010) of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH) to examine associations between SES and changes in the general health and mental health of a cohort of women progressing in years from 45–50 to 59–64. Participants were 12,709 women (born 1946–51) in the ALSWH. Outcome measures were the general health and mental health subscales of the Medical Outcomes Study Short Form 36 Questionnaire (SF-36). The measure of SES was derived from factor analysis of responses to questions in the ALSWH baseline survey (1996) on school leaving age, highest qualifications, and current or last occupation. Multi-level random coefficient models, adjusted for socio-demographic factors and health behaviors, were used to analyze repeated measures of general health and mental health. Survey year accounted for changes in factors across time. This study contributes to our current understanding of how socioeconomic and demographic factors, health behaviors and time impact on changes in the general and mental health of women progressing in years from 45–50 to 59–64.

Praveen and Leonhouser(2014) presented that the empowerment of rural women in Bangladesh at household level. it is directly related to social and economic status of women. In Bangladesh, women constitute about half of total population but their status remains low specially in rural areas. Regarding the present scenario of women status, this study follow two objectives, First one is to analyze and determine the nature and extent of rural women's empowerment and factors influencing it and second objectives is to develop a comprehensive strategic framework for improving rural women's empowerment level. It is conceptualize on three dimensions which are socioeconomic, familial and psychological dimension. area of study is Mymensingh District, it is based on primary data with stratified random sampling. Sample size of 156 rural women has been collected through three villages of this district. Effect of variables used in study examined by using tabular and multiple regression analysis. There are six dependent and seven independent variables which are used to composite a CEI(cumulative empowerment Index).The result regarding CEI shows the three basic reason behind the

backwardness of rural women. These are early marriage , dowry and domestic violence ,but these variables are not sufficient to show the situation of women empowerment. so the regression analysis suggests the need to implementing holistic strategies for women that would enhance the social and economic condition of women.

Chatterjee(2015)explained that women status is a very sensitive and emerging issue in developing countries like India, China. Women empowerment is considered to be an important part of the status of women, It can be classified in two ways ,social and economic empowerment. this paper focus on basic indicators of women empowerment as identified by National Family Health Survey³. The study focuses on inter-country comparison of women status with special references to India. Employment and control over income, decision making power, access to resources and freedom of movement are taken as indicators, there are various dimension of each indicator. the whole study is based on secondary data provide by NFHS.A women opportunity index is constructed to check the level of empowerment at globally level on SAARC and BRICS nations.Methodologically,26 facts are used to construct this index. India ranked 84,that is worse performance in term of overall index, Countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh are better than India with the rank of 108 and 104.This index provide a comparative analysis of India by which it can be considered that its performance is not satisfactory among the states.This study shows that India has not got success to achieve a better level of empowering women, the positive part is in case of accessing finance, this can be attributed by financial inclusion scheme R.B.I.,self help group implementation of Rastriya Mahila Kosh etc. Finally this paper renders some policies and suggestion in order to enhance the India rank at better level.

2.1.2 Indian Context

Satnam Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana State, emphasizes upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women who are never found as final decision maker in many matters except for case of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participation in women's organization

such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned programs should be designed which support women's potential as capable and worthily decision makers. Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. As she observes "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart".

Sahay (1998) in her book entitled "Women and Empowerment: Approaches and Strategies". In this book the author describes the approaches and strategies of empowerment of women by enhancing their participation in all dimensions of social, political, and economic life has become one of the major goals of democratic and participatory movements, as well as women's organizations throughout the world. With all these better indicators women can prove themselves in a positive manner. This book seeks to discuss the approaches and strategies for empowering women by outlining the strategies, mechanisms and tools that women are using for their empowerment.

Shrestha, Maharjan and Rajbhandari (2006) presented a comparative study of socioeconomic status of women in Nepal with the special reference of two districts Lalitapur and Bhaktapur of Jyapu community (a sub-caste of Newar ethnic group). Nepal is predominantly a patriarchal society, there are high levels of gender inequality and women lag behind men both socially and economically. This study explains the social and economic status of Jyapu women by investigating their productive/economic roles, their social/community engagement, and their role in decision making processes, with a special focus on water use and the conservation of stone spouts and traditional wells. Data were collected through interview and observations with different age groups and secondary data were taken from reports and studies published by the government of Nepal and other Organizations of two districts. The Chi square test has been used. In Bhaktapur more women are involved in income generating activities than in Lalitapur. In social activities more women from Bhaktapur district are involved in cultural activities than women from Lalitapur. Decision making process is complex in this society, Overall men are the decision makers in the Jyapu communities in both districts. The conclusion is that the majority of Jyapu women are educated, agricultural workers, becoming aware

of the importance of their economic roles in increasing their participation in decision making process. The paper suggests that gender equity policies must give priority to women's participation in society affairs that can make them more empower in every field.

Subramanian (2010) explained the social and economics status of sanitary women of municipal workers in tanjavur town. This study was proved to be a valuable and worthwhile one as the inferences drawn throw a good deal of light in understanding and gain meaningful insights in the selected components and aspects pertaining to the profile of the Women Sanitary Workers. The area of the research was two municipalities, Kumbakonam and Pattukkottai in Tanjavur District. The size of the sample was 270 sanitary workers and the following sample design was Census sampling design. Interview method has been used to collect the data and for analysis hi-square was used. Indicators used in study were health status and working status. It is finding that their health status is very low, and the children of those workers were not getting basic needs and education. so the paper suggest that the government of Tanjavur should take some reasonable steps for the betterment of their status.

Sharma, Manjusha (2010) explained that the socio-economic status of working women in a society is the true index of its economical, social, cultural and spiritual levels. No doubt socio-economic and official background of working women play an important role in determining their decision making at home and interim their decision making at workplace. Generally it is expected that working women enjoys higher status in the society as compared to housewife. Socio-economic status is an indicator of social cultural advancement of a society. As things stasnd today, working women can broadly be classified into three categories (i) Government Servants, (2) Private Servants (3) Self Employed. It is interesting to compare socioeconomic status of working women across these three categories. A composite Socio-Economic Index has been constructed using the seven socio-economic indicators viz age, education, earning, place of residence, type of family, control over income and caste.

Hazarika (2011) explained that Women empowerment is a debatable subject. At earlier time they were getting equal status with men. But they had faced some difficulties during

post-Vedic and epic ages. Many a time they were treated as slave. From early twenty century (national movement) their statuses have been changed slowly and gradually. In this regard, we may mention the name of the British people. After the independence of India, the constitutional makers and national leaders strongly demand equal social position of women with men. Today we have seen the women occupied the respectable positions in all walks of the fields. Yet, they have not absolutely free some discrimination and harassment of the society. A few of women have been able to establish their potentialities. Therefore, each and every should be careful to promote the women statuses.

Mahalakshmi (2012) explored that there is a study on socioeconomic status of women employees in tea plantation in south India which include three states Taminladu, Kerala and Karnataka. These three states together contribute one-fourth share of total tea production in India. Tea in south India cultivated in the area of 1,20,181 HA account for 20.69% of the national average. Human resource is an important factor for any industry to develop their level. Compared to all other resources its role in the development of industry is unbeatable.. In tea plantation Industry both male and female workers are engaged in both permanent and temporary basis but the participation of women is more than Men workers. so the ratio of working women is high in this area .To measure the status of women primary type of data is used in which sample size of 60 employee have been taken of various tea plantation industries .For the collection of data a questionnaire has been developed which is divided into four segments with different dimensions. The study used a cross-sectional research method, the pilot study and the actual survey as the main procedure for data collection. The use of this method would contribute to accurate and high quality data. The data collection process, the researcher begin with an interview for which interview question covering three issues: Living condition, wages and earning and social security benefits of the women workers of Tea plantation Industries. These three issues help to predict the social and Economic status of women workers at the tea plantation sectors. As a conclusion the study finds that the nature of work is very hard which is done by the women of this area. There are not availability of other employment at this place due to the surrounding undeveloped regions. The salary of them is not good enough to run their family, so they are leading poor status. Though the women are

working in this region after that their social and economic status is low here. The suggestion is that the government and Planter should take some initiatives for the upliftment of women of this area.

Mundra (2012) found in his study that economic status of women is one of the most important criteria for estimating with precision the degree of the women development of a particular country in various periods of history. It is generally accepted that a change in the economic status of women is a good indicator of development of women as well as development of nation. In the present paper the word 'Economic Status of Women' has been used in terms of aggregate of Material Economic Status and Abstract Economic Status. In the present study the Economic Status of Women of different caste groups, is viewed by considering its relationship with Income Level of the family (ascriptive status / man achieved status) and Level of Exposure (achieved status/ women achieved status) respectively. The study finds that the parameters which are taken under the variable, Level of Exposure of Woman, presents the true and achieved status of the women of the different caste groups irrespective of the high level of family Income. Regression test is used to analysis the results.

Shrinivasan and Lango (2012) aimed at gaining the socioeconomic condition of female beedi worker at Khajamalai near Trichirapalli in Tamil Nadu. Beedi worker are vulnerable segment of the country's labor force which has increased involvement of women in beedi rolling activities. The condition of beedi worker at present as well as in the past has not been conducive. The main objective of the study was to understand the socioeconomic of the female beedi worker of that area. Data were collected from both primary and secondary resources. Majority 98 percent of beedi worker were from the marginalized section of the society and therefore they were socially and economically backward. Majority 72 percent of the respondents stated that their health problem were due to their occupation. Women organization working for the unorganized sector like AIDWA (All India Democratic Women's Association) ,need to conduct awareness programs among the female beedi workers at Khajamalai and enable them to fight against all forms of exploitation .The finding of study is helpful for NGOs and Social Welfare

Development ,Government of Tamilnadu to launch necessary scheme for the welfare of female beedi workers.

Banerjee(2013) found that condition of women was appalling during independence. The deprivation of women in getting the equal level of opportunities relating , health, Education, decision making as men due to prevalence of patriarchal society and socioeconomic backwardness in India put women at a backstage. The present paper is a contribution that reflects the present scenario of status of women among different states. This paper tries to evaluate the status and position of women in India in the light of some important gender –related indicators. It makes a comparative analysis of different states of India with the effect of these indicators. The indicators chosen cover wide spectrum of socio-economic status of women. The analysis observes a convergence among states on some indicators like female literacy rate, IMR for females, life expectancy of females over the period. But a wide difference across states is observed regarding some indicators like sex ratio, crime against women. There is no use of any type of index to show the women status, it may be false or predicted so to avoid this wrong result, all the indicators have been examined separately. The overall study is based upon secondary data and data has been collected through authentic sources like Census, India Human Development Report, Various NSS Round and NCRB report, 2011 etc. The study finds that The BIMARU states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) are though experiencing some kind of betterment\ over the years but are still lagging far behind attainment level of some of developed states, So in conclusion it can be said that government of theses states should frame policies and enforce it through the proper channel so that these extreme gap of gender discrimination can be reduced as soon as possible.

Das (2013) explained that men and women share the same space, but everywhere in the world, women are accorded a lower status than men. The North Eastern Region of India has been considered as a backward region in terms of growth in per capita income. However, there is a perception that the status of women is higher in the North Eastern Region of the country in comparison with the status of women in all India average. In this study, an attempt has been made to examine the status of women in the North Eastern

Region in comparison with all India average. It is found from the analysis that the status of women in the region is comparatively better than the rest of the country only in some selected indicators. The indicators reveal that women have a very low degree of freedom of movement and low level of control over themselves in North Eastern Region

Ali (2014) found that the study is empirical information into the realistic pertaining to the socio economic status profile of women in rural areas. The aim of the study is to investigate the social and economic status profile of the respondents and this further seeks to ascertain the socio-economic problems and so forth. The investigation also extends to study the opinions and attitudes of the respondents, awareness about social and economic development. The data was collected by personal interview method. The total number of ten villages was selected at randomly in five Taluqs of Raichur District of Karnataka. The total respondents were 200, which were selected by random method. In each village, about 20 respondents were selected by random method. The study tries to understand the socio-economic problems faced by the rural women. The paper stress for policy interventions to provide work opportunities and better wages to rural women workers and builds the case for improving the education, information and skill level. Finally the paper recommends policy initiatives and research to improve the socio economic status of women in rural areas.

Asha and Somashekher (2014) analyzed the social and economic profile of working women in organized sectors of Bangalore city in the State of Karnataka. Social profile, which presents an integrated personality sketch based on socio-economic background of working women, is an important variable in social research on various occupational groups and its members. These status of individuals in general and working women in particular in a given social structure. In traditional societies, an individual has always been a part of his or her family, kinship organization, caste, occupation or in the wider context he or she has been a part of the total culture. Hence, atomized and separate existence of an individual, without taking into consideration his or her socio cultural background, has been unthinkable in the traditional social structure. In spite of the fact that contemporary society is characterized by a high degree of individualism and achievement orientation, the socio-economic background factors cannot be overlooked.

Thus, the factors in the individual's socioeconomic background have a great deal to do with the occupational world of woman.