



# Gender Role in Livestock Farming System: A Case from Kanchanpur District of Nepal

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## ABSTRACT

Between September and October 2017, a study was carried out to examine gendered participation in livestock activities. Eighty farmers were selected purposively from Majhgau-14, Bhuda-02 and Baghphata-19 village of Kanchanpur district using a simple random sampling technique. Results showed gender specific domains in different livestock activities. Activities like feed preparation (83.78%), feeding (83.78%), cleaning of shed (95.94%), milking (89.18%) and milk processing (95.94%) are mostly carried out by women. Cow dung collection was done only by women. Only 10.81% and 20.27% of men are engaged in milking and selling of the milk, respectively. However, in taking care of sick animals, men (48.64%) have a more dominant role than women (31.08%). Females were found to have higher independent decision making power for rearing of livestock, buying and selling of small and large livestock. It was found in the surveyed area that 30% household had no access to bank, 26.25% had no access to co-operatives, 43.75% had no access to extension services, 56.25% had no access to government subsidy, 13.75% had no access to labor, and 23.75% had no access to training and services. None of the female of the surveyed area had control over banking services. Only 3.75% female had control over land, 6.25% had control over extension services and 10 % to government services. Male had significantly greater control over resources as compared their counterpart female in land (90%), bank (70%), loan for agriculture (56.25%), extension services (23.75%), and government subsidy (20%). Majority of female (46.25%) had control regarding co-operative resources as compared to their counterpart male. Therefore, suitable policies and positive interventions are required from the government to address the needs of women in livestock rearing activities.

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## INTRODUCTION

About 43% of workers engaged in agricultural activities around the globe are women (Akter, et al., 2017). In Asian and African countries, about half of all agricultural workers are women (Agarwal, 2015). Most of the women's of rural Nepal are illiterate and are found to involve in subsistence agriculture (Bhandari, 2015). Thus this study aimed to evaluate the role of women in different livestock activities, share in decision-making and access to, and control over, different farm resources.

## METHODOLOGY

A survey study was conducted in three villages of Kanchanpur district (Majhgau-14, Bhuda-02 and Baghphata- 19) to examine gender participation in livestock activities, decision-making, and control over different resources. Eighty households were chosen by random sampling technique and a scheduled interview was carried out during September-October, 2017. All the data were assembled in IBM SPSS 20. Different descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the analysis.

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

- 1. Land Ownership**  
Study showed that 88.8% of male have the ownership of land while only 11.2% of land are owned by the female (Field Survey, 2017)
- 2. Gender role in Livestock Activities**  
Out of total surveyed household, only six household did not rear livestock. Most of the work are carried out by female as shown in Figure No.1

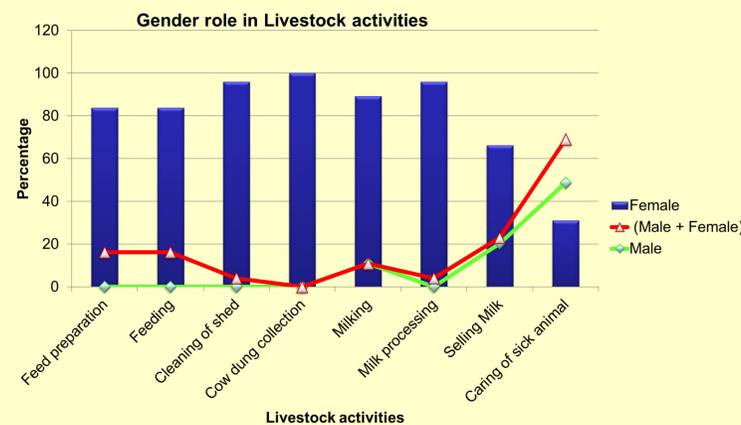


Figure no. 1: Gender role in livestock activities

FAO, (2010) also reported that women contribution was higher in feeding, collecting fodder, cleaning sheds, and grazing of livestock while men involvement was noticed more in case of management such as disease treatment, milking, and buying and selling of animals and their products.

### 3. Gender Role in decision making

Only 2.5% female own full decision making power for buying and selling land whereas 35% male hold full power in decision making. Female members were involved more in decision making regarding rearing of livestock (41.2%) while male plays vital role in decision making about the livestock health. Female enjoys full decision making (48.8%) regarding busying and selling of the small livestock which is not same for large livestock as shown in figure-2. Ogato, et. al, (2009) reported man as the principal decision taker being household head.

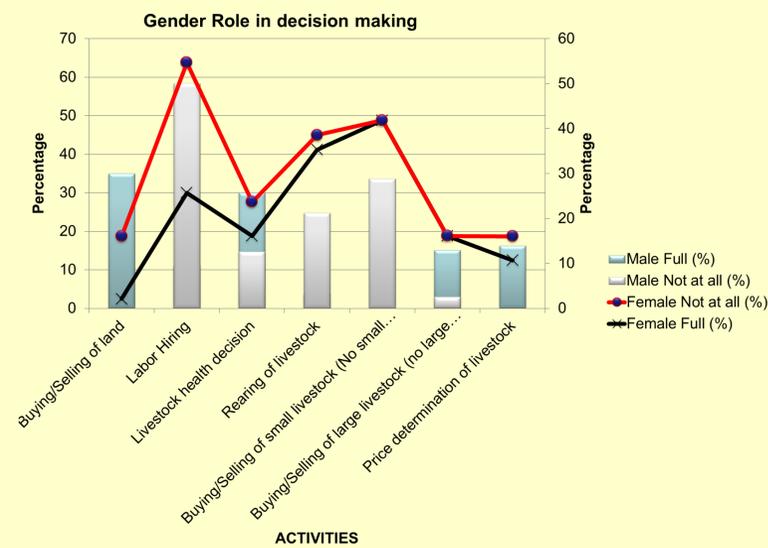


Figure no. 2: Gender role in decision making

### 4. Access to and Control over resources

Men had greater access to banking services (46.25%) and land (83.75%), whereas only 3.75% and 10% female had access to banking services and land respectively. Our findings showed that females had greater access to co-operatives (43.75%), training and services (43.75%) than males who had 13.75% and 6.25% access in respectively. Subedi, (2008) also stated that women were found to had limited opportunities to access and control over productive resources.

None of the female of the surveyed area had control over banking services. Only 3.75% female had control over land, 6.25% had control over extension services and 10 % to government services

Majority of female (46.25%) had control regarding co-operative resources as compared to their counterpart male.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study clearly showed that livestock rearing activities was found exclusively dominated by females expect for caring of sick animals. In general, males are the overall decision-maker for purchasing of land, livestock care, and marketing, whereas women played a dominant role in decision-making on the rearing and marketing of small livestock. Males were found to have relatively more access to, and control over, farm resources.

Despite of the greater contribution of the women in the livestock sector their access to resources was quite low. They have limited control over different farm resources and restricted decision making ability. Thus suitable policy intervention is need to uplift the status of women in the rural part of Nepal.

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