

CHAPTER-V

PRIMARY SURVEY RESULTS ON THE PATTERN OF INTRA-HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING IN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS OF DARJEELING DISTRICT

5.1: Introduction

This chapter attempts an in-depth study on gender discrimination in household decision-making issues. Some important decision-making variables have been examined. The chapter specifically examines the household decision-making variables related to education, health and economic activities.

5.2: The relevant literature supporting the survey results with regard to the pattern of household decision-making.

The study on “Household Expenditure Patterns and Gender Bias: Evidence from Selected Indian States” by Lancaster, Maitra and Ray, 2008, analyzed the gender bias against girls with regard to allocation of household expenditure on consumption of adult goods. By measuring the differential between the reduction of adult consumption of goods for boys and girls within the household, the analysis revealed the presence of gender bias in the adult consumption of several items. More significant gender bias was evident with spending on education, especially on children. This item has witnessed significant gender disparity in several parts of India (Lancaster, Maitra and Ray, 2008).

The study on “Gender of Children, Bargaining Power and Intra-household Resource Allocation in China” by Li and Wu, 2009, proposed a measure for relative bargaining power in the family and examined its impact on individual nutrient intakes and health outcomes. The proposed measure used was related to the gender of children a woman has. The patriarchal system which exists in the society, prefers son in the allocation of household resources and in bringing and establishing him. Due to the patriarchal system or prevalent of son preference in China, women’s status within the family would be increased if their first child was a son. This information was used to analyse who in the family is the decision-maker in major household consumption decisions. If the first born child was a son, then, the relative bargaining position of the woman increased in the family. In turn, the finding revealed that there was improvement in the mother’s calorie and protein intake, along with a reduction in the chance of being underweight if she was having a first born son. The son preference is still prevalent in East Asia, where the women have low socio-economic status and poor nutrition condition.

Further, the study examined that if a woman did not have the son then she would not be respected by elders in the family and had therefore low status in the society (Li and Wu, 2009).

The study on “Disinherited Peasants, Disadvantaged Workers: A Gender Perspective on Land and Livelihood”, by Agarwal, 1998, focused on the pace of agrarian transformation in India which leaves the majority of the population depending on land – based livelihood options. Cultivating crops on land remains as an important source of livelihood for the bulk of rural households, and especially for women it is critical. This phenomenon has affected not only few women but majority of them. With this feature of agrarian change, a gender perspective has been considered. The analysis was concerned with the issue of women’s independent access to land and livelihood which has a bearing not just on welfare improvement but also it empowers them in terms of participation in decision-making. Further, it was examined that prevailing male bias in access to land and infrastructural support to farmers undermines the objective of enhancing production through a more gender egalitarian approach (Agarwal, 1998).

Zheng, 2015, in his findings of the study revealed that fewer resources were allocated to female members of the household. The reason given was that lower returns may be expected from investing in girl’s education as compared to boys, in countries where women have fewer opportunities than men in the labour market and where young women are expected after marriage to devote their time and resources towards their husband’s family. This in turn results in fewer girls’ education than boys due to limited allocation of household resources. Further, girls also have more responsibilities than boys, and consequently this affects their school’s attendance and performance. With regard to use of time it is not the same for men and women. Women work for longer hours and has less leisure time than men. Moreover, in the above contexts, it is characterized by allocation of limited resources, and discrimination of girls and women, the access to nutrition and paid health services also is gender biased. The limited influence which women have on allocation of resources is due to lack of participation in decision-making.

In some countries, especially in less developed regions, more so in the poorest households, significant proportions of married women have no say on the household earnings, including their own cash earnings, while spending or investing it. In some countries, with gender inequality in property and inheritance rights, most of the women are unable to participate in decision-making on the use or disposal of land. While, educated women, women owning assets and women with a visible cash contribution to the

household income may have more bargaining power within the household and may be able to influence the intra-household allocation of resources towards more investments in children's education and health. (Website accessed on 24-10-2015)

Rao's (2011) study on "women's access to and control over land" revealed that women's access to and control over land could lead to gender equality along with addressing material deprivation. As productive asset, land is not only a source of material wealth, social security, but a status of decision-making. Majority of the poor live in Asia with limited arable land, though having nearly 30 per cent of the world's arable land which is due to land ownership and distribution pattern which greatly vary in Asia. Four major types of inheritance and land management systems are relevant to women's rights to land. Namely, based on patrilineal system- land is a private asset and it can be inherited down the male line. This phenomenon deprives the women of acquiring land and cannot bargain over decision-making.

The study by Smith and Byron (2005) has reached the conclusion from the analysis for the South Asian region as a whole, that with an increase in women's relative decision-making power may indeed be an effective force for reducing gender discrimination against girl children. However, their finding is not consistent with regard to different communities and regions. Out of four countries studied, Pakistan is the only country for which there is strong evidence that increase in women's power benefits girls. Women's decision-making power within households, where most of the decisions about care for children take place, has been known to be lower than that of their husbands. But women are the predominant care takers of children in the developing countries of South Asia.

Kritz and Adebuseye (1999) in their study on 'Determinants of Women's Decision-Making Authority in Nigeria', found that ethnicity plays a vital role in shaping women's decision-making authority. Other than ethnicity, women's formal education, age and work for pay outside the home, all these factors significantly shape the women's decision – making authority.

The study on Dimensions of Women's Autonomy and the Influence on Maternal Health Care Utilization in a North Indian City by Bloom, David and Dasgupta, 2001, in their findings and also from other studies it has been revealed that women's socio-economic status is also positively correlated with decision-making autonomy. In case of India, is evident from studies that the association between women's socio-economic status and decision-making authority was stronger in states like Tamil Nadu and gender equity was also high. While in Uttar Pradesh, the women with secondary schooling were more

likely than those with no education to participate in family decisions, but they were slightly more so to do than women with no education in both the regions in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The association between women's socio-economic status and decision-making authority was stronger in Tamil Nadu and gender equity was also high. While in Uttar Pradesh, the women with secondary schooling were more likely than those with no education to participate in family decisions, but they were slightly more so to do than women with no education.

The study on "Women's Role in Domestic Decision-Implications for Reproductive Behavior" by Mahmood, 2002, found that women's participation in domestic decision-making has been recognized as an important aspect of their autonomy. Autonomous decision-making aspect has some implications for ensuring gender equality. The findings of the study revealed that women's decision-making authority is closely related to area in which they live. Further, the finding also revealed that urban women have nearly equal say in household matters, nearly equal to their husbands and other family members, where as with regard to rural women their husbands and other family members have dominant role in household decisions in the matter of seeking medical treatment for a sick child or while purchasing household items. Moreover, the result of the study indicated that women with greater freedom to go outside the home alone were more likely to participate in the domestic decisions -making. Lastly, to determine the effect of decision-making or the effect of association, multivariate analysis were carried out and the analysis revealed that the explanatory variables were mostly influenced by socio-economic and demographic factors(Mahmood,2002).

The paper on, "Women's Autonomy in the Context of Rural Pakistan" by Sathar and Kazi, 2000, in their study the elements that constitute women's autonomy in rural Pakistan. Uptill now most research on women's status in Pakistan has either been restricted to measures the women's status generally or specifically to the urban area. Community or region, each of which has distinctive features, has an important influence on women's status. Northern Punjabi women have lower economic autonomy but greater mobility and decision-making authority than women in Southern Punjab. Gender systems at the village level are also important predictors of women's autonomy. Economic class has a weak influence on women's autonomy in rural Punjab. Class influences both education and employment of women, these remains the route to empower women in rural settings. While most women in rural areas contribute economically, since majority of women works on the household farm or within the household economic unit. Even then these women do

not derive any additional autonomy as a result of this contribution. Paid employment, though offset by other restrictions on poor women, offers greater potential for women's autonomy. Education, on the other hand, has a lesser influence on female autonomy in the rural Punjabi context.

5.3. Primary Survey in Darjeeling District

The present chapter is based on information collected from field from respondents in selected villages of Darjeeling District. Darjeeling District of West Bengal has two sub-divisions, namely, Kurseong and Siliguri. Thus, in the first stage we have selected purposively two blocks, namely Mirik Development Block and Phansidewa Development Block from Kurseong Sub-division and another two blocks, namely, Alipurduar-I Development Block from Alipurduar sub-division and Maynaguri Development Block from Jalpaiguri sub division based on the data collected from concerned Block Development Office on criterion of female work participation. The blocks selected had higher FWP than the other blocks. There are twelve Development blocks in Darjeeling District, namely, Darjeeling-Pulbazar, Rangli-Rangliot, Jurebungow Sukhopohria, Kalimpong-I, Kalimpong-II, Gurubathan, Kurseong, Mirik, Matigara, Naxalbari, Khoribari, Phansidewa. Out of these blocks, three blocks, namely, Darjeeling-Pulbazar, Rangli-Rangliot and Jorebunglow-Sukhopohria blocks fall under Darjeeling Sadar Sub-division and Kalimpong-I, Kalimpong-II, and Gurubathan fall under Kalimpong Sub-division and next two, namely, Kurseong and Mirik Blocks fall under Kurseong Sub-division. The four blocks, namely, Matigara, Naxalbari, Khoribari and Phansidewa fall under Siliguri Sub –division. The data on female work participation collected from Block Office are as follows.

Table-5.1: Female work participation rate in the blocks of Kurseong and Siliguri Sub-Divisions of Darjeeling District

Sub Divisions	Blocks	Total Female Population	Female Workers	FWPR*(%)
Kurseong	Kurseong	42537	11746	27.61
	Mirik	21125	6962	32.96
Siliguri	Matigara	61322	11387	18.57
	Naxalbari	69084	10652	15.42
	Phansidewa	83563	18725	22.41
	Khoirbari	42781	10181	23.80

Source: www.census.gov.in, 2001

*FWPR =Female Work Participation Rate

From the collected data as mentioned in the Table-5.1 above it has been observed that female work participation rate in Mirik 32.96 percent and Khoirbari 23.80 percent are highest under Kurseong Sub-divisions and Siliguri Sub-Divisions respectively. Thus, we have selected purposively these two blocks in our first stage of sampling, as mentioned in the initial chapter of the study.

5.3.1 Selection of Villages

In the second stage of purposive sampling, two villages from each of the Blocks were selected purposively depending upon the same criterion *i.e.* female work participation rates. Hence, we have selected Bandiachaat village, FWPR, 37.25 percent and Chikenmati, FWPR, 22.69 percent and from Phansidewa Development Block and Lohaghar forest village, FWPR 9.43 percent and Panthabari Forest village FWPR, 27.94 NA from Mirik Development Block as per data collected from concerned Block Development Office. Thus, the total number of villages to be surveyed was four. All the four villages are subdivided into two groups according to their FWPR. First group includes having highest FWPR, second group contains having least female work participation rate among the selected villages.

In the third stage, we first collected a list of agricultural households from selected villages from concerned Block Development Office. Then 20 percent sample was selected

at random from the list of agricultural household from each group of farm and non farm households. The selection design has been shown in Table-5.2. So in all there were 120 households selected 30 from each selected villages.

Table-5.2: Number of Agricultural households in the sample

Name of the villages	Total number of agricultural households	Number of selected agricultural households
Lohaghar Forest	34(10)	30(25)
Panthabari Forest	154(44)	30(25)
Bandiachaat	44(12)	30(25)
Chikenmati	121(34)	30(25)
Total	353(100)	120(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

A questionnaire had been prepared to collect relevant data on the basis of personal interview method. The data collected in terms of their responses to the questions relating to the choices made or decisions taken by the husband, wife or jointly were to be analyzed. The collected data was used for analysis to examine the extent of gender discrimination with regard to income distribution, education and health.

The schedule was duly filled by interviewing respondents in order to obtain the following information:

- i) Socio-demographic indicators namely., name of the districts, Blocks, Village, whether agricultural or non agricultural household, name of the head of the family, number of family members or household size, religion, caste, educational level, primary occupation, and secondary occupation.
- ii) Household head and respective wife's role in the family.
- iii) Economic Indicators: Primary, secondary occupation, monthly income and pattern of land holding.
- iv) Social factors: mean age of men and mean age of women, education.

Therefore, the main objective of this chapter is to examine in greater detail, the role of household head and respective spouse in the household domain. In attempting to do so, we paid particular attention to household decision –making aspect.

5.4: Households Structure

Table-5.3: Types of Households of Sample Villages in Darjeeling District (in Percentage)

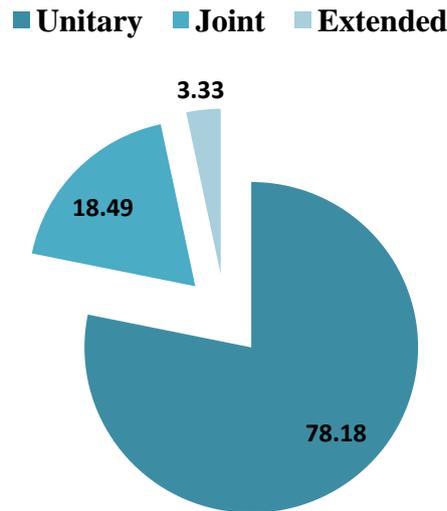
Name of the Villages	Unitary	Joint	Extended	Total
Lohaghar Forest	29(96.67)	1(3.33)	00.00	30(100)
Panthabari	23(76.67)	7(23.33)	00.00	30(100)
Bandiachaata	25(83.33)	4(13.33)	1(3.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	18(60)	12(40)	00.00	30(100)
Average	23.4(78.18)	6(20)	0.2(0.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.3 shows the distribution of household structure of the sample villages in the Darjeeling district. In Lohaghar Forest village, 96.67 percent of the households are unitary, followed by 3.33 percent of the joint households and no extended households. In Panthabari forest village, 76.67 percent of the households are unitary households, and 23.33 percent are under joint category. While in Bandiachaata village, 83.33 percent of the households belong to unitary category, 13.33 percent of the households are having joint families, and 3.33 percent have extended households. In Chikenmati village, 60 percent of the households are unitary, followed by 40 percent of joint households.

Fig 5.1: Types of Households of Sample Villages in Darjeeling District in Percent



Source: Field Survey, 2013

Kritz and Adebuseye (1999) of their study on ‘Determinants of Women’s Decision-Making Authority in Nigeria’ found that ethnicity plays a vital role in shaping women’s decision-making authority. Other than ethnicity, women’s formal education, age and work for pay outside the home, all these factors significantly shape the women’s decision – making authority. Further, their findings and from other studies it has been revealed that women’s socio-economic status is also positively correlated with autonomy in both the regions in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The association between women’s socio-economic status and decision-making authority was stronger in States like Tamil Nadu and gender equity was also high. While in Uttar Pradesh, the women with secondary schooling were more likely than those with no education to participate in family decisions, but they were slightly more so to do than women with no education.

Table-5.4: Female literacy rates of sample villages under Darjeeling district, 2001-2011

Villages	2001	2011
	Female	Female
Lohaghar Forest Village	7.69	37.23
Panthabari Forest Village	31.51	43.31
Bandiachaat	40.22	45.19
Chikenmat	35.71	40.90
Average	28.78	41.65

Source: Census, 2001 and 2011

Table-5.4: Depicts the female literacy rate of sample villages under the Darjeeling district.

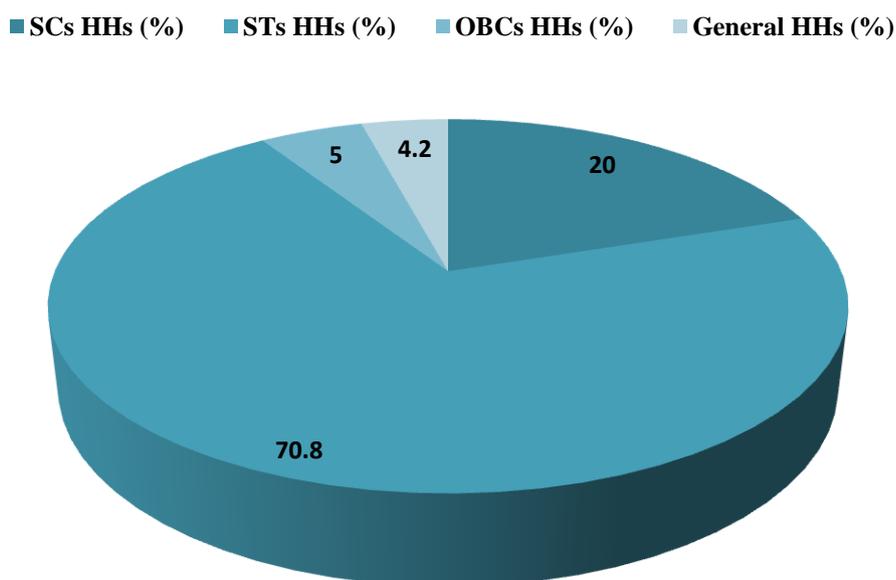
Table-5.5: Number of households of sample communities in Darjeeling district

Name of the villages	No of HHs Selected	Caste				Total
		Selected SCs HHs (%)	Selected STs HHs (%)	Selected OBCs HHs (%)	Selected General HHs (%)	
Lohaghar Forest	30	9(30)	10(33.3)	6(20)	5(16.7)	30(100)
Panthabari Forest	30	0	30(100)	0	0	30(100)
Bandiachaat	30	3(10)	27(90)	0	0	30(100)
Chikenmati	30	12(40)	18(60)	0	0	30(100)
Darjeeling District	120	6(20)	21(70.8)	2(5)	1(4.2)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Fig 5.2: Percentage of households of sample communities in Darjeeling district



Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-5.5: Depicts the number of households of sample communities in Darjeeling district. In Lohaghar Forest village, 30 percent of the households belonged to the SC community, followed by 33.3 percent of the households belonged to ST communities, 20 percent of the households belonged to OBCs and 16.7 percent of the households belonged to the General communities.

The Many important decisions that affect economic development outcomes take place at the household level, including fertility decisions, education of children, labor force participation, production activities, etc. All these decisions are related to well-being of the household. As household is the place where welfare of the household members is concerned, household is the unit of analysis in our study sample.

The pattern of participation in the household decision-making by the sample households in the four villages of Darjeeling district have been shown in Table-5.5 which shows the pattern participation in household decision-making on all aspects of the household issues among the sample villages. In Lohaghar Forest village 53.33% of the households had male participation, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 33.33 percent of the households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar village with 46.46 percent of households participating in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 70 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making; also it had the highest percent of households participating in decision-making.

5.5: Pattern of household decision-making

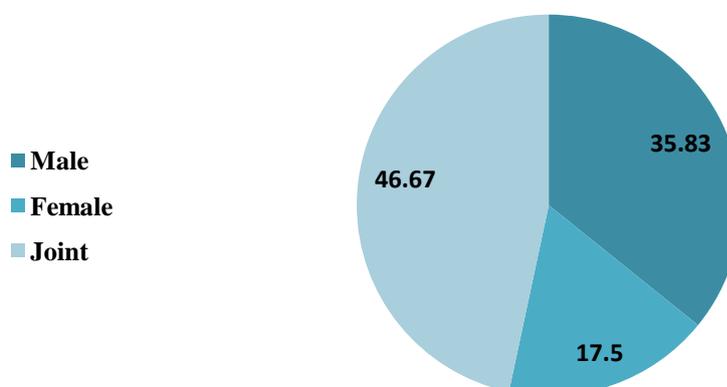
Table-5.6: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to all aspects

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	16(53.33)	3(10)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Panthabari	12(40)	8(26.67)	10(33.33)	30(100)
Bandiachaat	8(26.66)	8(26.67)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	7(23.33)	2(6.67)	21(70)	30(100)
Average	11(35.83)	5(17.50)	14(46.67)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Fig 5.3: Percentage of Household Decision Making Pattern



However, the reason for incorporating women's decision-making was that it reflected that women's needs, interests and concerns are not just those of women themselves, but reflect their primary role as mothers, wives and care-givers. The inclusion of women's decision-making expected to result in better decisions so that it would adequately reflect the needs and interests of children and families (Chakraborty, Nepal and Pariyar, 2004).

The study on "Socio-cultural, Religious and Political Aspects of the Status of Women in Pakistan" by Hakim and Aziz, 1998, in their study they have analysed about the low status of women in Pakistan society, which has not been in accordance to expected goals of development. The development body had intervened in the matter of family planning to be successful, it was so but that depended upon cooperation and involvement of women. After examining the aspects of women's participation in domestic and child related decisions, it

was found that there was little improvement with regard to participation in domestic and child related decisions.

Sathar and Kazi (1997) examined women’s autonomy in rural areas of Punjab by probing into the decision-making process in the household, women access to productive household resources, women’s mobility and purdah, valuation of children by gender, interpousal communication, and the prevalence of domestic violence. They observed that women’s involvement in economic decisions is extremely limited. The majority of women participate in decisions related to the purchase of food. In all other decisions, either economic or domestic they are consulted but do not act as major decision-makers, only in decisions related to the purchase of food. In all other decisions, either domestic or economic they are consulted but do not act as major decision –makers. This study corroborates with the sample study of Panthabari and Bandiachaat.

Table-5.7: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to food expenditure

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	12(40)	9(30)	9(30)	30(100)
Panthabari	7(23.33)	11(36.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Bandiachaat	7(23.33)	9(30)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	5(16.67)	2(6.67)	23(76.67)	30(100)
Average	8(25.83)	8(25.83)	14(48.34)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.7 shows the responses of household to the question regarding decision on food expenditure. Table-5.7 shows that for this particular pattern of household decision-making, in Lohaghar Forest village, 30 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making followed by Panthabari Forest village with 40 percent of the households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaat village with 46.67 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 76.67 percent of the households participated in joint decision-making. Among the four sample villages, the participation on joint decision-making is highest in Chikenmat village.

Table-5.8: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to ownership of property

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	21(70)	3(10)	6(20)	30(100)
Panthabari	19(63.33)	6(20)	5(16.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaata	13(43.33)	9(30)	8(26.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	24(80)	2(6.67)	4(13.33)	30(100)
Average	19(64.17)	5(16.67)	6(19.16)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Fig 5.4: Pattern of Household Decision Making in Food Expenditure & Ownerships of Property.

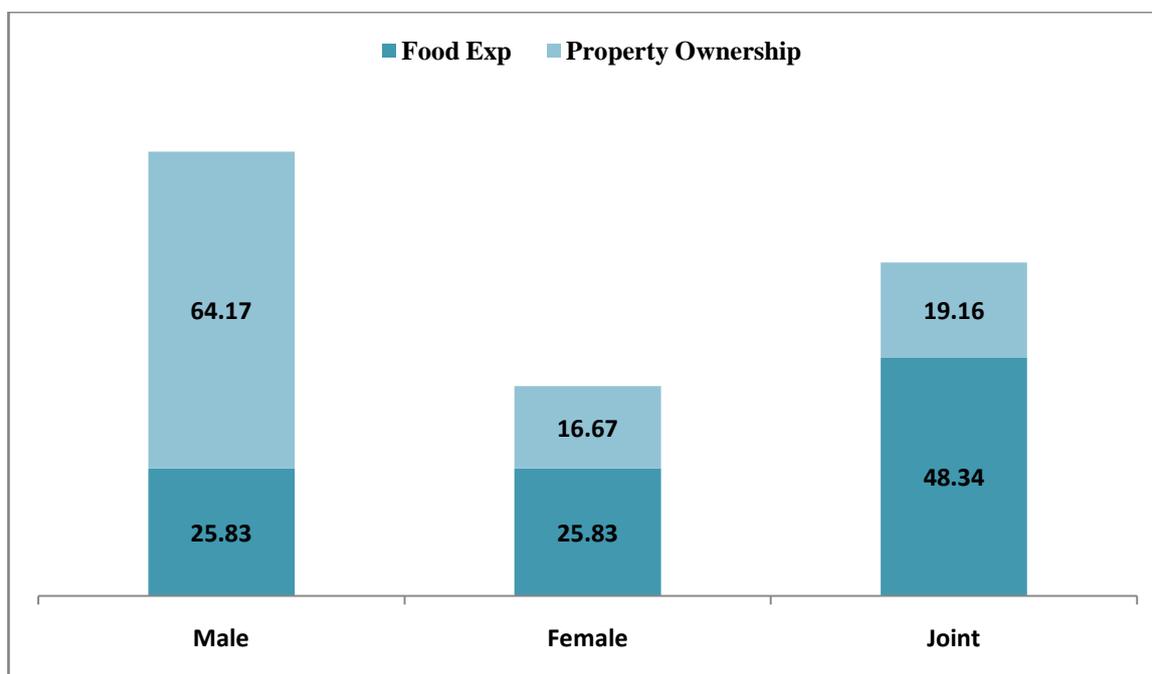


Table-5.8 shows the responses of a household with regard to ownership of property. In Lohaghar Forest village, 70 percent of the households participated in male decision-making in owning property followed by Panthabari Forest village with 63.33 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaata village with 43.33 percent of

in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 80 percent of the households participated in male decision-making.

Table-5.9: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to Children's education

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	13(43.33)	5(16.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Panthabari	8(26.66)	7(23.33)	15(50)	30(100)
Bandiachaata	5(16.67)	9(30)	16(53.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	6(20)	6(20)	18(60)	30(100)
Average	8(26.67)	7(22.50)	15(50.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.9 Show the pattern of household decision-making with regard to children's education. In Lohaghar Forest village, 40 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Panthabari village with 50 percent of the households participating in joint decision-making and Bandiachaata with 53 percent of the households, which had the second highest percent of households participating in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 60 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making. This village had the highest percentage of households participating in joint decision-making.

Table-5.10: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to use of health Care Services

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	13(43.33)	5(16.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Panthabari	6(20)	13(43.33)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaata	5(16.67)	12(40)	13(43.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	6(20)	7(23.33)	17(56.67)	30(100)
Average	8(25)	9(30.84)	13(44.16)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.10 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to health care for the family members of the household. In Lohaghar Forest village, 40 percent of the households had jointly participated in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 36.67 percent of the households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaat with 43.33 percent of the households participating in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 56.67 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making, this village had the highest percent of households participating jointly in decision-making.

Table-5.11: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to contraceptive use (female health)

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	10(33.33)	8(26.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Panthabari	2(6.67)	16(53.33)	12(40)	30(100)
Bandiachaat	3(10)	10(33.33)	17(56.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	2(6.67)	8(26.67)	20(66.67)	30(100)
Average	4(14.17)	11(35)	15(50.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.11 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to use of contraceptive. In Lohaghar Forest village, 40 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 40 percents of households participating joint decision-making and Bandiachaat village with 56.67 percent of the households participating in joint decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 66.67 percent of the households participated jointly in household decision-making. As Mahmood (2002) has claimed in his work that women's role in domestic decision-making support the finding in the above sample study concerning the use of contraceptive by the wife of the household and other female household members. The study examined that women's involvement in domestic decision-making was recognized as distinct aspect of their autonomy with implications for reproductive behavior. The result of the study also indicate women with greater freedom to go outside home alone were also more likely to participate in domestic decisions and use more of contraceptive as healthy step to have fewer children.

The issue here is whether spouses' responses are so in-consistent with each other that interviewing only one spouse biases the picture of their decision-making process. For instance, upon investigating cases where spouses' responses differed by only one category (typically referred to as general agreement), it has been found that one spouse usually reported egalitarian decision making while the other claimed personal responsibility for the decision (Wilkening and Morrison, 1963).

Syed Mubashir Ali and Mehboob Sultan in a previous study by Siyal and Sultan (1995)], we observed a big gap between behaviour and desires. Only 35 percent women had the number of children that they had desired. Whereas, a very large number of women had more children than their stated ideal number of children. The same data set also showed that a majority of women (54 percent) either wanted to stop having children or wanted to wait at least two years before having another child [Ali and Rukanuddin (1992)]. In practice, all of these women were not protected; instead only 12 percent were practicing contraception [Shah and Ali (1992)]. An argument was put forward that, had these women been empowered to decide about the number of children to be born, the scenario would have been different and small family size norms would have prevailed.

Table-5.12: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard family planning Services

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	10(33.33)	5(16.67)	15(50)	30(100)
Panthabari	2(6.67)	8(26.67)	20(66.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaath	2(6.67)	8(26.67)	20(66.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	6(20)	7(23.33)	17(56.67)	30(100)
Average	5(16.66)	7(23.34)	18(60)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.12 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to family planning. Lohaghar forest village had 50 percent of the households had joint involvement in decision-making concerning family planning, followed by Panthabari and Bandiachaath villages which had second highest percentage of households participating in family

planning. Chikenmati village had 56.67 percent of the households having joint participation in decision-making.

Sole female participation in decisions on family planning is quite high compared to males in Panthabari, Bandiachaar and Chikenmati, reflecting their relative autonomy compared to the women in Lohaghar forest village. This possibly also has a relation to the female literacy rates in these villages.

Table-5.13: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to obtaining of permission before leaving the house

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	8(27.67)	11(35.67)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Panthabari	8(26.67)	11(35.67)	11(37.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaar	3(10)	13(43.33)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	5(16.66)	25(83.33)	0(00)	30(100)
Average	6(20.25)	15(49.50)	9(30.25)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.13 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to obtaining permission by wife of the household head for visiting the natal family members. In Lohaghar forest village, with 36.67 percent of the households joint participating in the decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village, with 37.67 of the households participation in decision-making. Bandiachaar village had 46.67 percent of the households participating jointly but higher than the above two villages. In Chikenmati village, 83.33 percent of the households had the women solely deciding on their visits to natal family, reflecting their independence and autonomy.

Table-5.14: Pattern of Household Decision-making regarding household head wife's joining a social group (DRHW)

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	7(23.33)	11(36.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Panthabari	1(3.33)	18(60)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaata	3(10)	16(53.33)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	0(00)	10(33.33)	20(66.67)	30(100)
Average	3(9.17)	14(45.83)	13(45)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.14: shows the pattern of participation household decision-making on to wish to join a social group. The Table-5.13 revealed that in Lohaghar Forest Village, 40 percent of the households had joint participation, followed by Panthabari village, with 36.67 percent of households participation and Bandiachaata with 36.67 percent of the households participated jointly in the decision-making. Chikenmati village had 66.67 percent of the households having joint participation but with no male participation. This variable, however reveals the complete women's autonomy in mobility of women of Chikenmati.

Table-5.15: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to visits of natal family members by the wife of household head

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	7(23.33)	10(33.33)	13(43.33)	30(100)
Panthabari	1(3.33)	15(50)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaata	4(13.33)	15(50)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	(00)	6(20)	24(80)	30(100)
Average	3(10)	11(38.33)	16(51.67)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.15 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to visit to natal family members by the wife of a household head. In Lohaghar Forest Village, 43.33 percent of the households had joint participation, followed by Panthabari Forest village having 50 percent of the households sole female participation along with Bandiachaar village. Chikenmati village had the highest at 80 percent of the households having joint participation in decision-making with regard to visit to natal family members by the wife of the household head.

Table-5.16: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to control of finance

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	9(30)	8(26.67)	13(43.33)	30(100)
Panthabari	8(26.67)	7(23.33)	15(50)	30(100)
Bandiachaar	5(16.67)	15(50)	10(33.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	6(20)	12(40)	12(40)	30(100)
Average	7(23.34)	11(35)	12(41.66)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.16 shows the responses of household to a question regarding control of finance. The Table-5.16 revealed that in Lohaghar Forest village, 43.3 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 50 percent of households and Bandiachaar with 33.33 percent of households participated in household decision-making. In Chikenmati village 40 percent of households jointly participated in decision-making.

The Table-5.16 reveal that principal decision-makers were husband and wife having joint control on finance in Darjeeling district as some authors have (Grabka, Marcus and Sierminska, 2013) found in their works. They have examined the wealth gap within partnerships by exploiting unique individual wealth data. Their study found that in 29 percent of all couples, that female owns more than her partner. Among 19 percent of all partnerships, there is parity between the wealth levels of the partners. While in 19 percent of all partnerships there is parity between wealth levels of the partners and further, in 52 percent of all couples the male partner has more wealth. Moreover, male head of the household participates in most of the financial decisions in the richest households.

Table-5.17: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to Visit to Doctor for child treatment

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	(30)	(36.67)	(33.33)	30(100)
Panthabari	2(6.67)	16(53.33)	12(40)	30(100)
Bandiachaath	3(10)	(46.67)	(43.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	2(6.67)	10(33.33)	18(60)	30(100)
Average	4(13.33)	13(42.50)	13(44.17)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.17 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on visit to a doctor for child treatment. The Table-5.16 revealed that in Lohaghar Forest village, 33.33 percent of the households participated in joint decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 40 percent of the households participating in joint decision-making and Bandiachaath village with 43.33 percent of the households participating in decision-making. In chickenmati village, 60 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making, expressing a more egalitarian decision-making.

Table-5.18: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to pooling of income

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	10(33.33)	5(16.67)	15(50)	30(100)
Panthabari	1(3.33)	5(16.67)	24(80)	30(100)
Bandiachaath	6(20)	10(33.33)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	1(3.33)	5(16.67)	24(80)	30(100)
Average	5(15)	6(20.83)	19(64.17)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.18 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on pooling of income. In Lohaghar Forest village, 50 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making , followed by Panthabari Forest village with 80 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar village with 46.67 percent of households participated in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 80 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

The study on ‘Development, Demography and Family Decision-Making’ also supports the above finding. Wolf (1991) shows that women’s access to financial resources was important for their ability to affect household decisions. The more a husband earned, the more he had a say about household matters, while the more she earned, the less control he was able to exert in the process. A woman’s control over resources, however, does not necessarily lead to control over the decision to contraception or stop having children.

Table-5.19: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to ownership of productive assets

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	14(46.67)	4(13.33)	12(40)	30(100)
Panthabari	17(56.67)	5(16.67)	8(26.67)	30(100)
Bandiachaar	9(30)	10(33.33)	11(36.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	21(70)	2(6.66)	7(23.34)	30(100)
Average	15(50.83)	5(17.50)	10(31.67)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.19 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to ownership of productive assets. Table-5.18 revealed that in Lohaghar Forest village, 46.67 percent of the households had male participation in decision-making with regard to ownership of productive assets. In Panthabari village, 56.67 percent of the households had male participation, followed by Bandiachaar, with 30 percent of the households having male participation in the decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 70 percent of the households had male participation, again revealing the dominance of men’s decision in the household. Control and ownership of productive assets is prerequisite to empowerment and autonomy of a woman. Thus this variable assumes most importance in the case of a woman to

exercise her participation in decision-making and subsequently elevating her status within the household.

Table-5.20: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to participation in economic activities by women

Name of the Villages	Male	Female	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	10(33.33)	3(10)	17(56.67)	30(100)
Panthabari	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	25(83.33)	30(100)
Bandiachaar	6(20)	9(30)	15(50)	30(100)
Chickenmati	3(10)	2(6.66)	25(83.33)	30(100)
Average	5(16.67)	5(15)	20(68.33)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Table-5.20 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on participation on economic activities. with regard to economic activities. In Lohaghar Forest village, 56.67 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 83.33 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar village with 50 percent of households participated in joint decision-making. In Chickenmati village, 83.33 percent households participated jointly in decision-making. Joint participation in household decision-making was quite high compared to sole decision-making by males in Lohaghar and Bandiachaar compared to the joint decision in Panthabari and Chickenmati villages.

The study on Determinants of Women's Decision-Making Authority in Nigeria: The Ethnic Dimension 'revealed that wives who had a significant say in reproductive matters and tended to be more educated, and spend more time on household economic activities. This study is consistent with the above finding.

5.6: PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING OF SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN DARJEELING DISTRICT

Table 5.21 shows the pattern of household decision-making on the basis of community. Now in the study we have tried to decompose the data in terms of community also. For

such purpose the categories are chosen as General, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories only. In our methodology we have purposively chosen the blocks which had higher concentration of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. In Darjeeling district firstly such decomposition allowed to test the effect on household decision-making due to change in food expenditure (Table5.20). In Scheduled Tribe, joint participation on allocation of food items is quite high compared to sole male and female participation in, Panthabari Forest village, Bandiachaata and Chikenmati.

Table-5.21: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to expenses on food items in Darjeeling district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Lohaghar Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	8 (26.67)	13 (43.33)	9 (30)	30 (100)
Panthabari	5 (16.67)	0	4 (13.33)	1 (3.33)	0	0	10 (33.33)	2 (6.67)	8 (26.67)	30 (100)
Bandiachaata	0	0	0	0	0	2 (6.67)	8 (26.67)	8 (26.67)	12 (40)	30 (100)
Chikenmati	0	0	0	1 (3.33)	4 (13.33)	5 (16.67)	5 (16.67)	1 (3.33)	14 (46.67)	30 (100)
Average	1 (4.17)	0(0)	1 (3.33)	0.5 (1.67)	1 (3.33)	1 5.84)	9 (22.50)	6 (20)	10 (35.84)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

N.B.: Figures in the brackets are percentages

Fig 5.5: Community wise Household Decision Making Pattern with regard to expenses on food items (%)

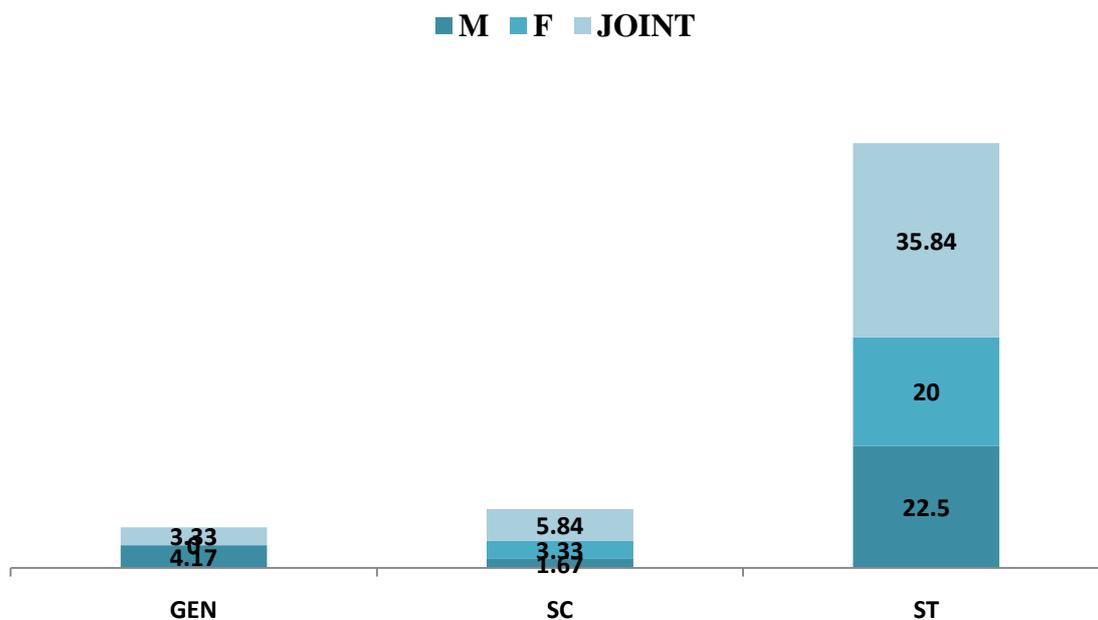


Table-5.22 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on ownership of property. In Scheduled Tribe, sole male participation in decision-making compared to female is much higher in Lohaghar Forest, Panthabari, Bandiachaat and Chikenmati. In Panthabari Forest village, 33.33 percent of the households had the men solely participating in decision-making.

Table-5.22: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to ownership of property in Darjeeling district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Lohaghar	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	7	6	30
Forest							(56.67)	(23.33)	(20)	(100)
Panthabari	10	0	0	1	0	0	11	3	5	30
	(33.33)			(3.33)			(36.67)	(10)	(16.67)	(100)
Bandiachaat	0	0	0	1	0	1	14	7	7	30
				(3.33)		(3.33)	(46.67)	(23.33)	(23.33)	(100)
Chikenmati	0	0	0	1	4	4	5	4	12	30
				(3.33)	(13.33)	(13.33)	(16.67)	(13.33)	(40)	(100)
Average	2	0	0	1	1	1	12	5	8	30
	(8.33)			(2.50)	(3.33)	(4.17)	(39.17)	(17.5)	(25)	(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Fig 5.6: Community wise Household Decision Making Pattern with regard to ownership of property (%)

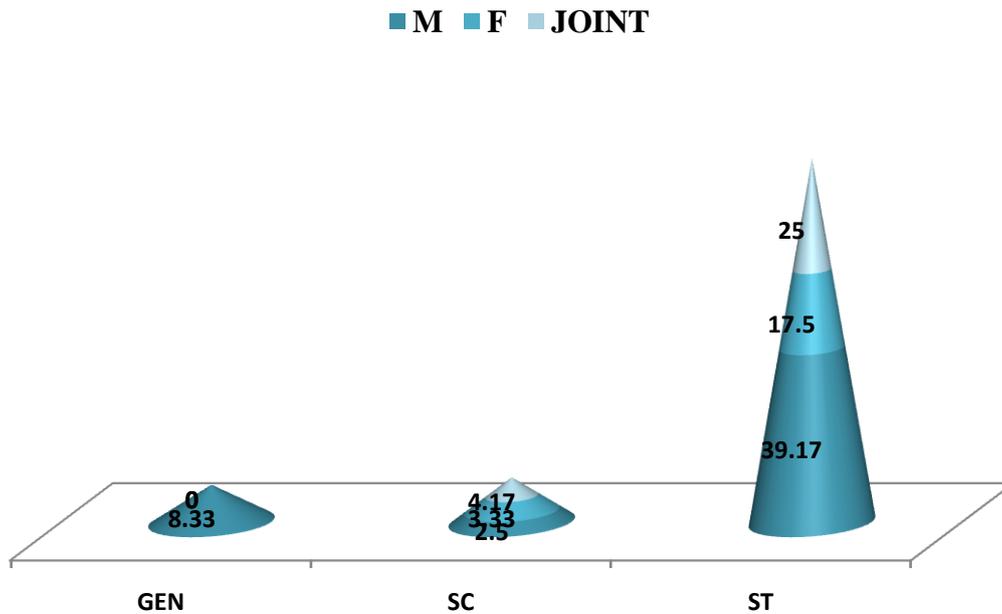


Table-5.22 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on education of children. In Lohaghar Forest village among Scheduled Tribe, 46.67 percent of household jointly participated in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village, with 13.33 percents households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar with 33.33 percent of households participating in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 26.67 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

Table-5.23: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to children’s education in Darjeeling district (%)

	General			SC			ST			
Villages	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	TOTAL
Lohaghar Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	9(30)	7(23.33)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Panthabari	6(20)	3(10)	2(6.67)	1(3.33)	0	0	8(26.67)	6(20)	4(13.33)	30(100)
Bandiachaat	0	0	0	2(6.67)	0	0	5(16.67)	13(43.33)	10(33.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	0	0	0	(23.33)	1(3.33)	5(16.67)	3(10)	6(20)	8(26.67)	30(100)
Average	1.5(5)	0.75(2.5)	0.49(1.66)	2.4(8.33)	0.2(0.83)	1.2(4.22)	6.2(20.83)	7.9(26.66)	9(30)	(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-5.23 depicts the pattern of household decision-making with regard to female health care in the Darjeeling district. In case of General community, in Panthabari Forest village, 17.24 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

In case of SC community, in Panthabari Forest village, 3.45 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Bandiachaar village with 3.34 percent of households participated in decision-making and Chikenmati village had the highest with 26.67 percent of households participating in decision-making.

In case of ST community, in Lohaghar Forest village, 40 percent of the households had joint participation in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 20.69 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar with 53.33 percent of households participated in joint decision-making and this village had the highest percentage of households having joint participation. In Chikenmati village, 40 percent of the households participated jointly in decision-making.

Table-5.24:Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to female health care in Darjeeling district (%)

	General			SC			ST			
Villages	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	Total
Lohaghar Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	2(6.67)	16(53.33)	12(40)	30(100)
Panthabari	3(11.44)	2(6.90)	5(17.44)	2(6.90)	1(3.45)	1(3.45)	6(20.6)	3(10.34)	6(20.69)	30(100)
Bandiachaata	0	0	0	0	0	1(3.34)	4(13.33)	9(30)	16(53.33)	30(100)
Chikenmati	0	0	0	0	5(16.67)	8(26.67)	0	5(16.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Average	0.7(2.58)	0.5(1.72)	1.3(4.34)	0.5(1.72)	(5.03)	(8.36)	(10.17)	(27.58)	(38.50)	(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-5.24 depicts the pattern of household decision-making with regard to family planning in Darjeeling district. In case of General community, in Panthabari Forest village 13.33 percent of households jointly participated in decision-making.

In case of SC community, in Panthabari Forest village, 13.33 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Bandiachaata village with 10 percent of households participating in decision-making and Chikenmati village with 30 percent of households participating jointly in decision-making.

In case of ST community, in Lohaghar Forest village, 73.33 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making, this village had the highest percentage of households in joint participation, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 20 percent of households participating

jointly in decision-making and Bandiachaat village with 46.67 percent of households participating jointly in decision-making. This village had the second highest percentage of households involving in joint participation. In Chikenmati village, 40 percent of households participated jointly in household decision-making.

Table-5.25: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to family planning in Darjeeling district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Lohaghar Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(3.33)	7(23.37)	22(73.33)	30(100)
Panthabari	3(10)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	1(3.33)	0	4(13.33)	5(16.68)	6(20)	6(20)	30(100)
Bandiachaat	0	0	0	0	0	3(10)	3(10)	10(33.33)	14(46.67)	30(100)
Chikenmati	0	0	0	0	4(13.33)	9(30)	0	5(16.67)	12(40)	30(100)
Average	0.75(2.5)	0.24(0.83)	0.9(3.33)	0.24(0.83)	0.9(3.33)	3.9(13.33)	2(6.67)	7(23.34)	30(45.84)	(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.7: Pattern of household decision-making of Paid and Unpaid women belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities:

The power to take decisions is extremely important from the view point of empowerment of women. The decision making power of women should not be ignored. Real development cannot take place without active participation of women. So in the present study, the involvement of women in decision making in the economic and social spheres, both at household and community level has been examined. This section examines the household decision-making status of paid and unpaid women belonging to General community, Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe communities.

Table-5.25. depicts the pattern of household decision-making with regard to allocation of expenses on food items in Darjeeling district. In case of paid women among general community in Panthabari Forest Village, 3.34 percents of the households had solely female participation in household decision-making on allocation of expenses in food items, followed by Chikenmati village with 6.66 percent of households having female participating in decision-making.

In case of unpaid women of General community, in Panthabari Forest village 13.34 percent of households had solely male participation.

In case of SC community of paid women, in Bandiachaar village 6.67 percent of households jointly participated in decision-making. While among unpaid women, Chikenmati village had 23.34 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

In case of ST community of paid women, in Lohagar Forest village, 16.66 percent of households had sole female participation, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 3.34 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar at 20 percent households participates in decision-making.

In case of General community of unpaid women, in Panthabari Forest village, 13.34 percent households solely participated in male decision-making. In SC community of unpaid women, in Bandiachaar, 6.67 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

Among ST community of unpaid women, in Lohagar Forest village, 16.66 percent of households had sole female participation in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 3.34 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar with 26.67 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

Chickenmati village had 40 percent of households participating jointly in household decision-making; this village had the highest participation.

Figure-5.7: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to food expenditure of paid and unpaid women belonging to General, SC and Sc communities in Darjeeling district



Figure-5.8: Depicts the Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to food expenditure of unpaid women belonging to General, SC and ST communities in Darjeeling district

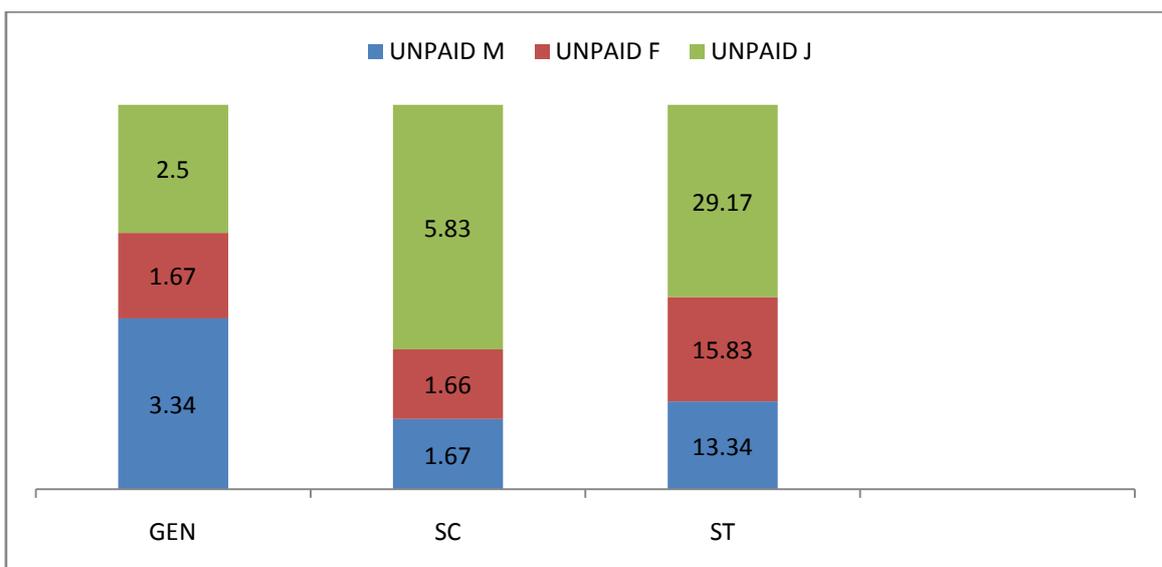


Table-5.26: below depicts the pattern of household decision-making on ownership of property in Darjeeling district. Among general community of unpaid women, in Panthabari Forest village, 26.67 percent of households solely male participated in decision-making. In case of SC community of paid women, in Panthabari 6.67 percent of households had solely female participation in decision-making, followed by Bandiachaar with 6.67 percent of households participating in decision-making and 3.34 percent of households in Chikenmati participated in decision-making.

In case of ST community of paid women, in Lohaghar Forest village, 13.33 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with 3.33 percent of households participating in joint decision-making and Bandiachaar village with 20 percent of households participating in joint decision-making; and it had the highest percent of participation. In General community of unpaid women in Panthabari Forest village, 26.67 percent of households had male participation in decision-making.

In case of SC community of unpaid women, in Chikenmati village, 23.33 percent of households participated in male decision-making.

In case of ST community of unpaid women, in Lohaghar Forest village, 33.33 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making, followed by Panthabari Forest village with again 33.33 percent of households participating in decision-making and Bandiachaar village with 40 percent of households, as the highest percentage of households participated in decision-making. In Chikenmati village, 33.34 percent of households participated jointly in decision-making.

Table-5.26: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to ownership of property in Darjeeling district

	General						SC						ST						Total
	Paid			Unpaid			Paid			Unpaid			Paid			Unpaid			
Name of the Villages	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	
Lohaghar Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	3	9	10	30
													(6.67)	(6.67)	(13.33)	(10)	(30)	(33.33)	(100)
Panthabari	0	0	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	10	30
				(26.67)		(6.67)		(6.67)							(3.33)		(23.33)	(33.33)	(100)
Bandiachaat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	2	5	12	30
							(3.33)	(6.67)						(6.67)	(20)	(6.67)	(16.67)	(40)	(100)
Chikenmati	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	2	2	0	0	0	2	5	10	30
							(3.34)	(3.34)		(23.33)	(6.66)	(6.66)				(6.67)	(16.67)	(33.34)	(100)
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	2	(0)	0.5	0.5	1.2	(0)	1.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	2.7	1.7	6.4	10.5	(100)
				(6.67)		(1.67)	(1.66)	(4.17)		(5.83)	(1.67)	(1.67)	(1.66)	(3.35)	(9.16)	(5.83)	(21.66)	(35)	

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Figure-5.9: Depicts the Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to ownership of property of paid and unpaid women belonging to General, SC and ST communities in Darjeeling district

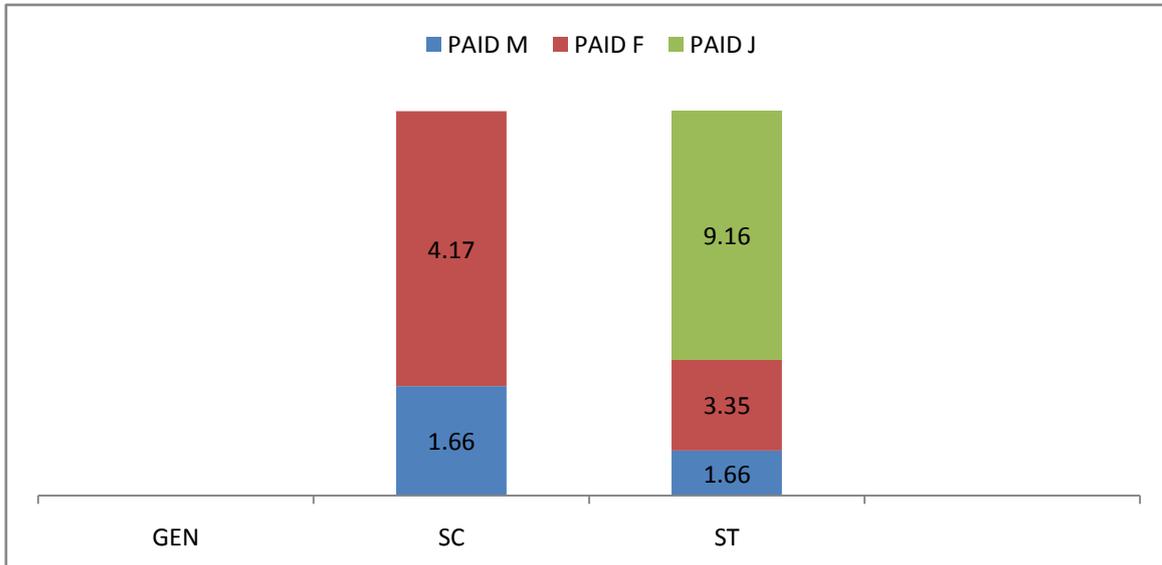
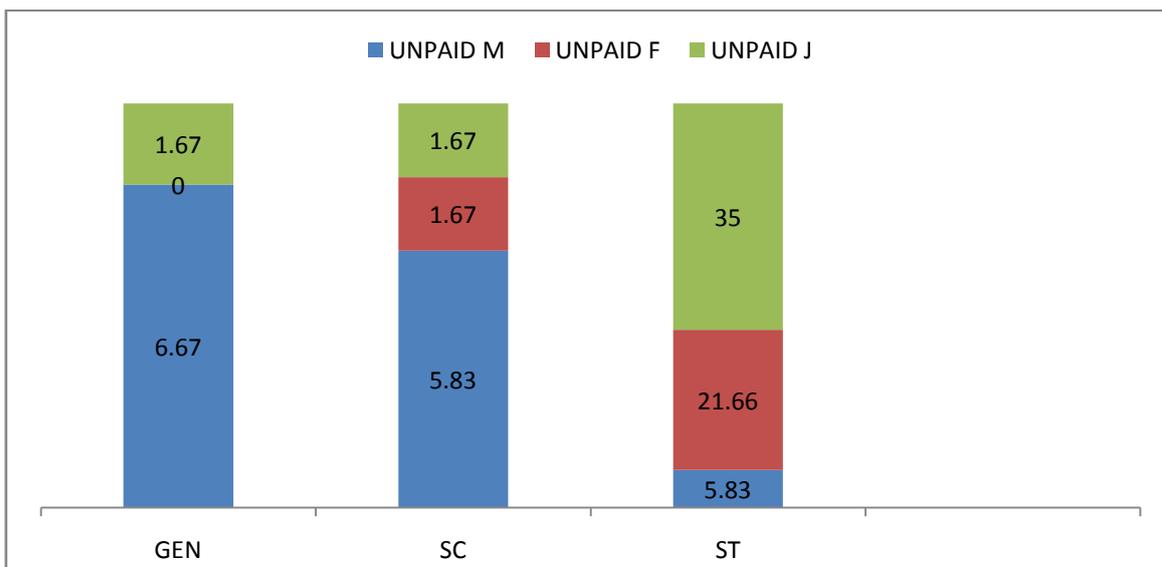


Figure-5.10: Depicts the Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to ownership of property of unpaid women belonging to General, SC and ST communities in Darjeeling district



Conclusion

It is observed that household decision-making pattern of all the sample households were different. Participation in household decision-making on allocation of expenses on food items, participation in household decision-making on children's education, participation in household decision-making on care of female health, participation in household decision-making on contraceptive use, on obtaining permission by the wife for visiting natal family members, participation in household decision-making on wish of the wife in joining a social group, participation in decision-making on control of finance, participation in decision-making on visit to a doctor for child treatment, participation in decision-making on pooling of income, participation in decision-making on involvement in economic activities were jointly decide in these aspects, Chikenmati village had the involvement of both husband and wife in rest of the villages husband and wife participated in all the sample villages. Participation in household decision-making on owning property was solely decided by male in all the sample villages.

PATTERN OF PARTICIPATION ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNITY

It is observed that pattern of participation in decision-making on allocation of food item on the basis of Scheduled Tribe community, joint participation in decision-making was quite high in Panthabari Forest village, Bandiachaar, and Chikenmati, In Scheduled Tribe, participation in decision-making on education of children was quite high in Lohaghar Forest village, Panthabari, Bandiachaar and Chikenmati, joint participation in decision-making on family planning also was high and joint participation in decision-making on female healthcare was observed to be higher in all the sample villages.

In general community of paid women, participation in decision-making on allocation of expenses on food item involved high sole female participation in Panthabari forest village, Bandiachaar and in Chikenmati. While among paid women of general community, sole male participation was high in decision-making on allocation of food items. In general community among of unpaid women, Panthabari forest village had 26.67 percent of households participating in male decision-making on owning property.

In scheduled caste among paid women, Bandiachaar village had joint participating in decision-making on allocation of expenses on food items. While among unpaid women Chikenmati village solely male participation in decision-making. In scheduled tribe, among paid women, Lohaghar forest village had sole female participation in decision-making, followed by Panthabari forest village participating in decision-making. Among unpaid women of ST category, Lohaghar Forest village, Panthabari Forest village, Bandiachaar and Chikenmati had joint participation in decision-making.

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