

CHAPTER- VI

PRIMARY SURVEY RESULTS ON THE PATTERN OF INTRA-HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING IN JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

6.1. Introduction:

In independent India, Jalpaiguri district presently has twelve assembly constituencies and two parliamentary segments. Considering the scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population, four and five constituencies have been earmarked as reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively leaving three general category seats for the Assembly. Of the two parliamentary seats, one (Alipurduar) is reserved for scheduled tribes. The total area of Western Dooars consists of eleven blocks under Jalpaiguri district. The geographical settlement of this place is mainly agglomerated with the blocks Kumargram, Alipurduar-II, Alipurduar-I, Kalchini, Falakata (Partly), Madarihat, Dhupguri, Maynaguri, Nagrakata, Matali, Mal, Rajganj(Partly).The eco geography of this area depends upon the tea plantation and forest livelihoods.

This administration set up excludes the extent of women's participation and representation in the local governing level. Women's persistent exclusion from local governing bodies can reduce the effective democratic transformations, which by its nature has the right to vote and to be elected cannot be applied to all citizens, both men and women. The absence of women from decision-making at the local level is a hinderance to achieve gender equality in terms of agenda setting and accountability in the matters of allocation of economic activities to women(accessed from internet on 14-03-2016).

The district lies between 26° 16' and 27° 0' north Latitude and between 88° 04' and 89° 53' east Longitude. Its altitude ranges from 90 to 1750 mt. A vast texture of dense forest teeming with beautiful wildlife covers the region. There are altogether more than eighty rivers, small and big, flowing through the district besides the innumerable *Jhoras*, streams and streamlets. These rivers originate in Sikkim, Bhutan and Darjeeling hills with few flowing from as far as Tibet which passes through the fertile plains of Western Dooars. The major rivers in the Western Dooars are *Teesta*, *Jaldhaka*, *Murti*, *Torsha*, *Sankosh*, *Dyna*, *Karotoya*, *Raidak*, *Kaljani* etc.

In the Jalpaiguri districts out of 186 tea gardens 163 are in the Western Dooars. The total area under reserve forest is 1790 sq km. The forests are divided into three parts, one is core area which is basically reserved for different endangered species by some wild

life funds and the balance areas divided into buffer zone and wild life sanctuary. There are 174 forest villages in this region. Government of India termed this as protected bio-sphere in the country. The area under tea garden of Jalpaiguri district is 1987 sq. km. This geographical location or area is related with gender roles. Usually, women and girls take the role in generating family income-by providing their labours for preparing land and planting crops, and after harvesting the produce they transport it to the market. But in general, women primarily shoulder the responsibility of maintaining the household. They engage themselves in raising children, grow and prepare food, manage poultry and importantly, they collect fuel wood and water. But these role of women may not be same everywhere, it varies with the geographical area, culture and other factors. The importance of Western Dooars increases after partition of India in 1947 because it is the main entrance corridor of India with seven eastern states. The strategic importance of this place is also important due to its international boundary with Bhutan, Tibetan China and Bangladesh. The decision-making status of women has been conceptualized as having three dimensions-economic, political, and social. Women's autonomy is one aspect of women's status. Women's autonomy in different aspects of household decision-making approximately measures the decision-making status of women. Women's status generally varies according to different areas, communities and regions. Each has a distinctive feature and influence on the status of women (Sathar and Kazi, 2000).

Gender equality in representation in all aspect also includes participation of women and men in areas of decision-making and in access to and control over resources and services. To accomplish this objective in agriculture sector, action is needed by rural communities, and local administration (accessed from net on 12-03-2016).

The principal objective of this chapter is to examine the gender discrimination in terms of household decision-making of selected communities in particular, under the backdrop of district profile given above.

6. 2: Primary Survey in Jalpaiguri district:

The present chapter is based on information collected from field from respondents in selected villages of Jalpaiguri District. Jalpaiguri District of North Bengal has three sub-divisions, namely Sadar-Sub-Division, Mal-Sub Division and Alipurduar Sub-Division. Thus, in the first stage we have selected purposively two blocks, namely, Maynaguri Development Block and Alipurduar-I Development Block from Sadar Sub –Division and Alipurduar Sub-Division based on the criterion of female work participation rate. The data

was collected from concerned Block on female work participation rate. The blocks selected had higher FWP than other blocks. The blocks selected had higher FWP than the other blocks. There are seventeen Development blocks in Jalpaiguri district. Out of these blocks, one block falls under Sadar Sub-Division and another under Alipurduar Sub Division.

6.2.1: Selection of villages for survey in Jalpaiguri District

Selection of Villages

Table-6.1: Female work participation rate in the blocks of Alipurduar-I and Maynaguri Sub-Divisions of Jalpaiguri District

Sub-Divisions	Dev. Blocks	Total Work Force	Female Workers	FWPR(%)
Alipurduar	Kumargram	75710	26902	35.53
	Falakata	95801	25499	26.62
	Madarihat-Birpara	70506	25046	35.52
	Kalchini	89563	30067	33.57
	Alipurduar-I	78784	23939	30.39
	Alipurduar-II	74854	20812	27.80
Jalpaiguri Sadar Sub-Division	Rajganj	136500	26502	19.41
	Jalpaiguri	120111	38610	32.15
	Maynaguri	102232	28644	28.02
	Dhupguri	159394	44622	27.99

Source: www.census.gov.in (2001)

From the collected data as mentioned in the Table-6.1 above it has been observed that female work participation rate in Alipurduar-I block is 30.39 percent in Alipurduar Sub-division. While under Sadar Sub-division, Jalpaiguri block has highest female work participation rate 32.15percent. Thus, we have selected purposively two blocks in our first stage of sampling in the initial chapter of the study.

In the second stage of purposive sampling, two villages from each of the Blocks were selected purposively depending on the same criterion *i.e.* female work participation rates. Hence, we have selected Uttarchakwakheta village, FWPR, 46.52 percent and Parpatlakhawa, FWPR, 1.71 percent from Alipurduar-I Development Block and Uttarmarichbari village, FWPR, 24.43 and Khaerkhal village, FWPR, 7.77 from Maynaguri Development Block as per data collected from concerned Block Development Office. Along with these criteria, female literacy is also considered for the selection of the villages. Thus, the total number of villages to be surveyed becomes four. In the third stage, we first collected list of farm and non-farm households from selected villages from the concerned Block Development Office. Then 20 percent sample was selected at random from each village. The selection design has been shown in Table-6.2. So in all there were 120 households selected, 30 from each selected villages.

In the third stage, we first collected a list of farm and non-farm households from selected villages from the concerned Development Office. Then 20 percent sample was selected at random from each village. So in all there were 120 households selected from each selected villages.

.Table-6.2: Distribution of Agricultural households of sample villages

Name of the villages	Total number of agricultural households	Number of selected agricultural households
Uttarchakwakheta	241(13.6)	30(25)
Parpatlakhawa	98(5)	30(25)
Uttarmarichbari	1000(56.5)	30(25)
Khaerkhal	428(24.22)	30(25)
Total	1767(100)	120(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

A questionnaire had been prepared to collect relevant data on the basis of personal interview method. The data collected in terms of their responses 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 scheduled included all the relevant

questions, considering the objectives of the study. This questionnaire was also tested for checking the reliability of the questions to be asked through pilot study. As far as the primary data was concerned, the questionnaire was filled up through interviewing the respondents from each household with the selected household head and respective spouse. 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 family 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 the household head and respective spouse within the household. In attempting to do so, we paid particular attention to the household decision-making aspect.

Table-6.3: Distribution of sample households on the basis of communities in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the villages	No of HHs Selected	Caste			
		Selected SCs HHs (%)	Selected STs HHs (%)	Selected OBCs HHs (%)	Selected General HHs (%)
Uttarchakwakheta	30	24(80)	6(20)	0	0
Parpatlakhawa	30	5(16.6)	0	25(83.3)	0
Uttarmarichbari	30	30(100)	0	0	0
Khaerkhal	30	30(100)	0	0	0
Jalpaiguri District	120	89(74.16)	6(5)	25(20.84)	0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.3 shows the distribution of households on the basis of chosen communities in Jalpaiguri district. In Uttarchakwakheta village, 80 percent of the households belonged to the SC communities, followed by Parpatlakhawa with 83.3 percent belonging to OBC category, Uttarmarichbari with 100 percent of SCs households and Khaerkhal also with 100 percent belonging to SCs households.

6.3: Types of households of sample villages

Table-6.4: Distribution of Households on the basis of structure among sample Villages in Jalpaiguri District (%)

Name of the Villages	Unitary	Joint	Extended	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	30(100)	0	0	100
Parpatlakhawa	29(96.67)	1(3.33)	0	100
Uttarmarichbari	29(96.67)	1(3.33)	0	100
Khaerkhal	29(96.67)	1(3.33)	0	100
Average	29.25(97.50)	0.75(2.50)	(0)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Fig 6.1: Types of Households of Sample Villages in Jalpaiguri District (%)

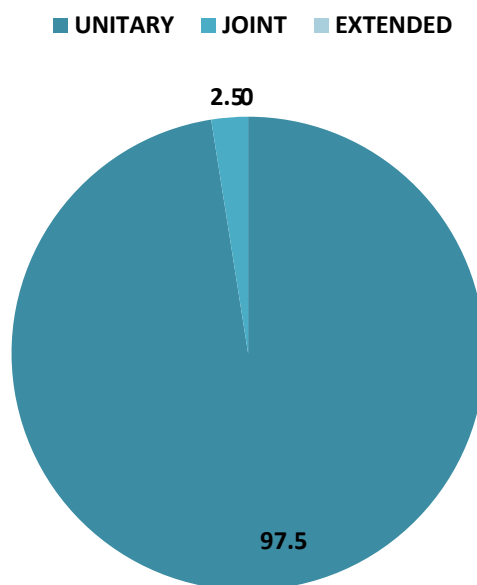


Table-6.4 shows the distribution of household structure of the sample villages in the Jalpaiguri district. In Uttarchakwakheta village, 100 percent of the households are unitary followed by Parpatlakhawa with 96.67 percent and 3.33 percent as the joint households and no extended households. In Uttarmarichbari village, 96.67 percent of the households are unitary households, and 3.33 percent are under joint category. Khaerkhal village has 96.67 percent as the unitary households and 3.33 percent as joint households.

Table-6.5: Demographic Profile of the Jalpaiguri district

Name of the villages	No of Total population			Sex Ratio	Household Size
	Hhs	Males	Females		
Uttarchakwakheta	30(25)	80(58.4)	57(41.6)	137(100)	708
Parpatlakhawa	30(25)	77(55.3)	62(44.7)	139(100)	797
Uttarmarichbari	30(25)	73(58.8)	51(41.2)	124(100)	698
Khaerkhal	30(25)	67(47.8)	73(52.2)	140(100)	1104
Average	30(25)	74.25(55)	60.75(45)	135(100)	819

Source: Field Survey, 2013

It has been observed from Table-6.5 that the percentage of male is higher compared to the percentage of females in Jalpaiguri district. The highest percentage of males were surveyed in Uttarchakwakheta village.

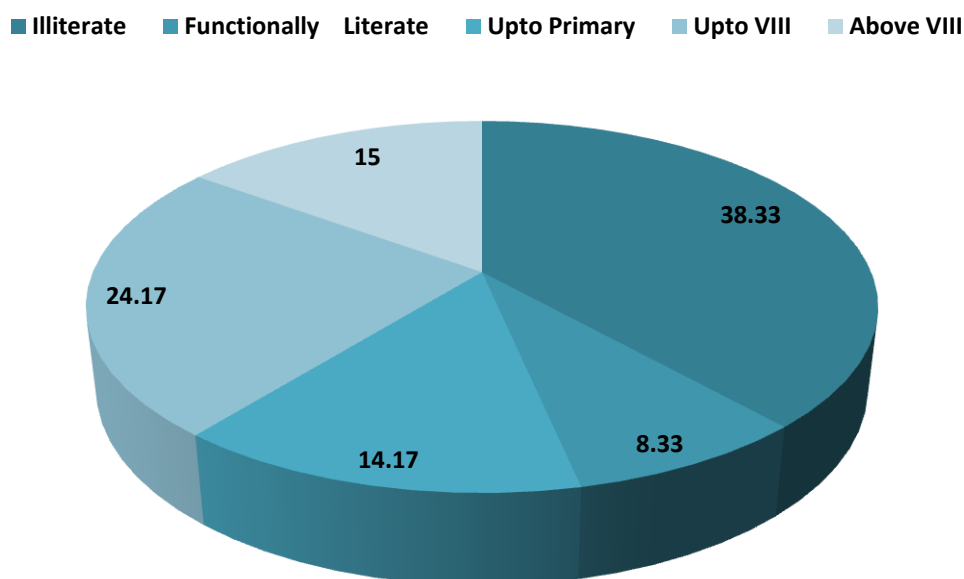
6. 4: Educational Status of the sample households

Table-6.6: Educational Status of the sample Villages in Jalpaiguri District

Name of the villages	Illiterate	Functionally Literate	Upto Primary	Upto VIII	Above VIII	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	12(40.00)	2(6.67)	6(20)	8(26.67)	2(6.67)	30(100)
Parpatlakhawa	9(30)	4(13.33)	5(16.67)	7(23.33)	5(16.67)	30(100)
Uttarmarichbari	15(50)	2(6.67)	3(10)	7(23.33)	3(10)	30(100)
Khaerkhal	10(33.33)	2(6.67)	3(10)	7(23.33)	8(26.67)	30(100)
Average	11.4(38.33)	2.4(8.33)	4.2(14.17)	7.2(24.17)	4.5(15)	30(100)

Source: Source: Field Survey, 2013

Fig 6.2: Educational Status of the sample Villages



The Table-6.6 depicted the educational status of the sample villages of Maynaguri and Alipurduar-I Blocks under Jalpaiguri district. So far as the sample villages are concerned, Uttarmarichbari village had highest 50 percent of illiterate of respondents, followed by

Uttarchakwakheta and Khaerkhal. It is also evident that Uttarchakwakheta had highest 20 percent of respondents who have attained education upto primary school. With regard to attainment of education upto VIII STD, the highest 23.33 percent of the respondents have attained in all three villages, namely, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. Khaerkhal village had the highest 26.67 percent of the respondents who attained educational level above VIII standard. Further, the data shows that the percentage of illiterate in Uttarchakwakheta was 40 percent, followed by 26.67 percent of those who have attained upto VIII level. The highest 50 percent of illiterate have been observed in Uttarmaric bari village.

Table-6.7: Distribution of the households by monthly income in the four villages of Jalpaiguri district

Income in (Rs.)	Uttarchakwakheta	Uttarmarichbari	Khaerkhal	Parpatlakhawa	Average
1000- 2000	20(66.6)	24(80)	18(60)	10(33.3)	72(27.48)
2001-.3000	6(20)	1(3.3)	8(26.6)	11(36.6)	26(24.9)
3001- 4000	1(3.3)	1(3.3)	2(6.6)	3(10)	7(18.9)
4001- 5000	2(6.6)	1(3.3)	1(3.3)	2(6.6)	6(17.53)
Above 5000.	1(3.3)	3(10)	1(3.3)	4(13.3)	9(11.2)
Total	30(100)	30(100)	30(100)	30(100)	120(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Fig 6.3: Distribution of the households by monthly income in the four villages of Jalpaiguri district

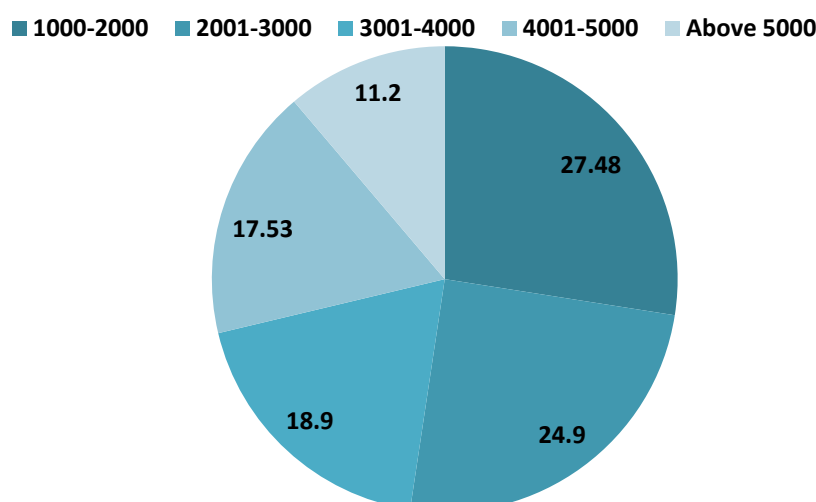


Table-6.7 shows that 32.4 percent of the households are from Uttarmarichbari village with a monthly income between Rs.1000-Rs.2000. With a monthly income between Rs.4001-Rs.5000, there are no households in the same village, while there are 12.5 percent of households in each village of Uttarchakwakheta and Khaerkhal. Uttarmarichbari village has very poor economic conditions as there are no other opportunities for the respondents to engage themselves in the economic activity other than cultivation in limited plots of land.

6.5: Pattern of household Decision-making

Table-6.8: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to all aspects

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	23(76.67)	3(10)	4(13.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	25(83.33)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	100
Uttarmarichbari	22(73.33)	3(10)	5(16.67)	100
Khaerkhal	2(6.67)	7(23.33)	21(70)	100
Average	18(60)	3.5(11.67)	8.5(28.33)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The Table -6.8 shows the pattern of decision-making with regard to all aspects of the household among the among the sample villages. Sole male participation in decision-making on all aspects compared to females are higher in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal.

Table-6.9: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to food expenditure in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	19(63.33)	7(23.33)	4(13.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	25(83.33)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	100
Uttarmarichbari	23(76.67)	3(10)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	21(70)	4(13.33)	5(16.67)	100
Average	22(73.33)	3.7(12.5)	4.2(14.17)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.9 shows the responses of household head and respective spouse to a question regarding decision on food expenditure. In response to the question, who has the final say on food expenditure, male (Husband) could respond I do, female (Wife) could respond I do, both of us do (Joint). Table-6.5 shows pattern of household decision-making on food expenditure. Sole male participation in decision-making on allocation of expenditure on food items in compared to females is quite in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal.

Table-6.10: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to ownership of property in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	23(76.67)	3(10)(3)	4(13.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	26(86.67)	1(3.33)	3(10)	100
Uttarmarichbari	23(76.67)	3(10)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	29(96.67)	0.00	1(3.33)	100
Average	25.3(84.17)	1.7(5.83)	3(10)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Fig 6.4: Comparative results of Household decision making on food expenditure and ownership of property

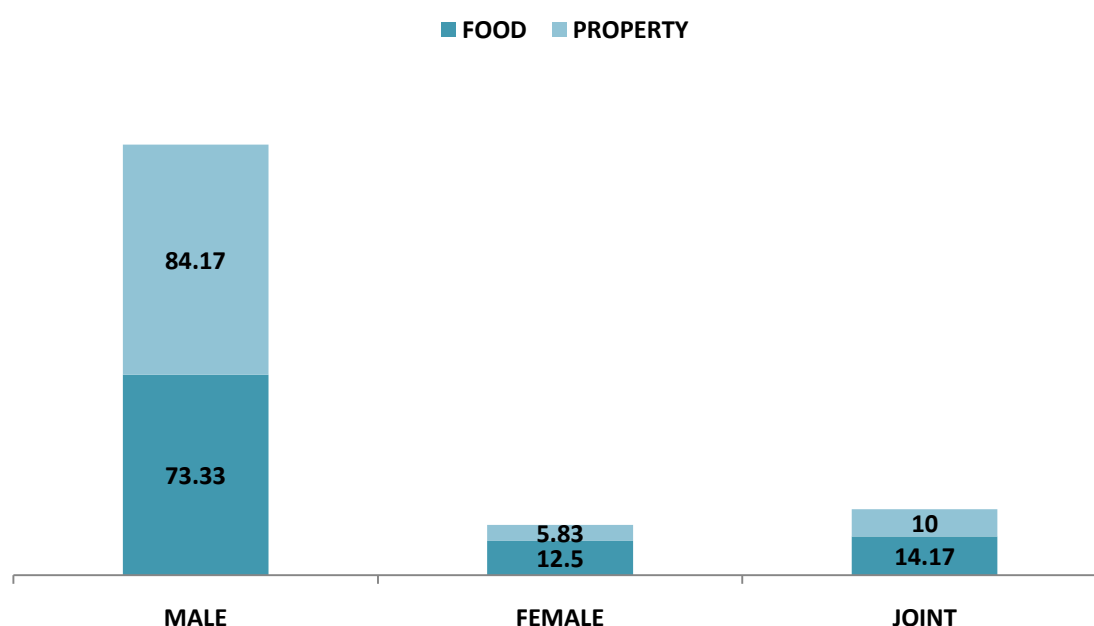


Table-6.10 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on ownership of property. Male dominance in decision-making compared to females is much higher in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. In Khaerkhal village, participation in decision-making on owning property is entirely male.

Table-6.11: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to children's education in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	20(66.67)	3(10)	7(23.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	25(83.33)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	100
Uttarmarichbari	23(76.66)	3(10)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	24(80)	2(6.67)	4(13.33)	100
Average	23(76.67)	2.25(7.5)	4.7(15.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.11 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on children's education. Sole male participation in decision-making on children's education compared to females is quite high in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal.

This study on "Intra-household allocation of expenditure" paper uses Indian data to investigate the existence and nature of gender bias in the intra-household allocation of expenditure. An extended version of the collective household model is estimated where the welfare weights, i.e. the bargaining power of the adult decision-makers, are simultaneously determined with the household's expenditure outcomes. Significant gender bias is detected in some items, most notably in education, and it is found that the bias is considerably stronger in the more economically backward regions of the country. It is also found that the results of the test of gender bias vary sharply between households at different levels of adult literacy. This is particularly true of household spending on education. The gender bias in the case of this item is, generally, more likely to prevail in households with low levels of adult educational attainment than in more literate households. This result is of considerable policy importance given the strong role that education plays in human capital formation.

The study on "Engaging women in Community Decision-Making Process in Rural Ghana: Problems and Prospects and Development in Practice" by Opera, 2005 supports the above finding of Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. Women

in Ghana, also lack inheritance rights, and corrective laws such as the intestate succession law passed in the earlier years. Sample study that in almost every part of the world and in most aspects of socio-economic life, women faces numerous obstacles to achieve sound and fulfilling lives. Moreover, their access to educational opportunities has been restricted because of beliefs that their social roles and responsibilities are limited to bearing and caring for children and other reproductive activities that demand little or no education. Women in Ghana, for instance, lack inheritance rights, and corrective laws such as the intestate succession law passed in the earlier years. These and many other barriers not only affect women's well-being and self esteem but severely constrain women's own efforts to improve their socio-economic development. Further, the finding also revealed that women to make their voices heard and their views count is the area of gender imbalances (Service Opare, 2005).

Table-6.12: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to health care services in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	19(63.33)	6(20)	5(16.67)	100
Parpatlakhawa	26(86.67)	1(3.33)	3(10)	100
Uttarmarichbari	24(80)	3(10)	3(10)	100
Khaerkhal	24(80)	2(6.67)	4(13.33)	100
Average	23.2(77.5)	3(10)	3.75(12.50)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.12 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on female healthcare. Sole male participation in decision-making on female health care compared to females is much higher in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. Further, Uttarchakwakheta has comparatively more of joint participation.

The study on "Gender and Health" supports the above sample study, which has revealed that the women of Sri Lanka have the longest life- expectancy. Further, the country's achievements have been particularly impressive in the health of women and girls who have substantially lower mortality levels than males, which is unexceptional in the developed world. The study has revealed that the low female mortality reflects a high involvement of Sri Lanka women in decision-making over health care and feeding

practices which has benefited their health and of their children, especially their daughters (Pieris and Caldwell, 1999).

A study carried out in rural China found that wives who had a significant say in reproductive matters tended to be more educated, spend more time on household economic activities, marry later, and have husbands with relatively low levels of education (Kritz and Adebuseye, 1999).

The study on 'Gender Relations and Reproductive Decision-Making in Honduras' corroborates the above sample study with regard to gender disparities in sexual relations and reproductive health decision-making as a basic objective to improve the reproductive health and rights of man and woman. The findings revealed that gender based power inequalities can contribute to poor health outcomes for instance by hindering communication between partners about reproductive health decisions, by constraining women's access to reproductive health services, by preventing women's and men's attainment of sexual pleasure. Gender inequality in reproductive decision-making is a key element of the social context of reproductive health.

Table-6.13: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to contraceptive use (female health) in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	17(56.67)	6(20)	7(23.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	23(76.67)	4(13.33)	3(10)	100
Uttarmarichbari	23(76.67)	3(10)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	23(76.67)	3(10)	4(13.33)	100
Average	21.5(71.67)	3.9(13.33)	4.5(15)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Usual measures of unintentional pregnancy are planned to carry out to reveal women's intention of not having children. Unintended pregnancies imply pregnancies that are unintended or mistimed. While pregnancies are said to happen if they are intended or desired. Therefore, a concept related to unintended pregnancy is unplanned pregnancy and that occurs when woman uses a contraceptive (Snatelli, Rochat, Timachy, Gilbert, Curtis, Hirsch and Schieve, 2003).

Contraceptive use implies taking of pills by the women to prevent the birth of a unintended or untimed child.

The Table-6.13 depicted the pattern of household decision-making with regard to contraceptive use. Sole male participation in decision-making on contraceptive use is quite high compared to females in Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbar and Khaerkhal, reflecting prevalent of the patriarchal society. In Uttarchakwakheta village, as far as the participation of wife of the household head is concerned, in all the selected sample households, women's participation was relatively democratic or they have shown some interest in participation in decision-making.

This study corroborates with the above sample study that as far as women's role in reproductive decision-making is concerned in Ekiti, it revealed that women in that state took increasingly active decisions on matters affecting their daily lives. Further, more women than ever before believed that they could take decisions on family size, when to have a baby and a choice of spacing period. With this improvement in decision-making status of women, the cultural barrier against short postpartum abstinence appeared to have diminished and sex during lactation was not considered a major cultural and religious taboo. Since knowledge of contraception has become universal in recent years, the majority of women take decisions on the method and timing of family planning. All women who used family planning considered their decision in this regard very important (Oruloyea and Oguntimehina, 1978).

The study on 'Relationship power, Decision-Making and Sexual Relations: An Exploratory study with Couples of Mexican Origin' supports the above sample study. The findings of the study revealed that public health priority was strengthening women's ability to protect themselves from HIV/STDs and the need was to negotiate for safer sex behaviors with their heterosexual partners. The Latina women were disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and other STDs. An emerging public health priority is strengthening women's ability to protect themselves from HIV/STDs and to negotiate safer sex behaviors with their heterosexual partners. The gender based power imbalances were the potential reason for these women to be affected by such vulnerable diseases. The findings also revealed that tradition wise the men were having ability to be in control and assert dominance by being the active sexual partner (Harvey, Beckman, Browner and Christy, 2002).

The study on 'Women's Position Within the Household as a Determinant of Maternal Health Care Use in Nepal' supports the above sample study with regard to participation in decision-making for the usage of contraceptive. The study revealed that maternal mortality in Nepal was estimated to be around 540 deaths per 100,000 births. One

major factor was low use of maternal health care despite government efforts to improve services including an expanded of rural clinics and the training of auxillary nurse, midwives. Further, the findings also revealed that fewer than 40 percent of births took place in a healthy facility. The explanation for such low level of health care use was due to socio-cultural factors such as in equitable gender roles and position of women within the household. Earlier work in South Asia suggests various ways in which gender roles and relations may operate has operated to restrict women’s access to health care uses during pregnancy and the time of delivery. These included heightened restrictions on women’s movement because the pregnant state is considered shameful and young women often lack a say within the family (Furuta and Slaway, 2006).

Table-6.14: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to family planning services in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakhetai	10(33.33)	7(23.33)	13(43.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	21(70)	2(6.67)	7(23.33)	100
Uttarmarichbari	19(63.33)	7(23.33)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	18(60)	1(3.33)	11(36.67)	100
Average	17(56.67)	4.2(14.17)	8.7(29.17)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Family planning refers to those factors that are taken into consideration by a couple in a family in deciding if and when to have children. Further, it involves consideration of the number of children a couple wish to have them. If the partners are biologically sound, family planning may involve the use of contraception and other techniques to control the timing of reproduction. Other techniques commonly used are sexuality education, pre-conception counseling, fertility management, sterilization and abortion (accessed from net on 18-03-2016).

Family planning implies spacing the birth of a child. Table-6.14 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on family planning. Dominance of male participation in decision-making on family planning is quite high compared to females in Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. In Uttarchakwakhetai village, participation of female in decision-making on family planning is relatively comparable.

Table-6.15 Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to obtaining of permission before leaving the house in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	19(63.33)	4(13.33)	7(23.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	20(66.67)	5(16.67)	5(16.67)	100
Uttarmarichbari	18(60)	7(23.33)	5(16.67)	100
Khaerkhal	21(70)	4(13.33)	5(16.66)	100
Average	19.5(65)	5(16.67)	5.4(18.33)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.15 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to obtaining permission by wife of the household head for visiting the natal family members. Solely male participation in decision-making on obtaining permission before leaving the house is quite high compared to females in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa and Khaerkhal. In Uttarmarichbari village, involvement of women in participation in decision-making on obtaining permission before leaving the house to visit natal family members is quite democratic compared to rest of the sample villages.

Table-6.16: Pattern of Household Decision-making of household head's wife with regard to her wishes of joining a social group (DRHW) in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	19(63.33)	6(20)	5(16.67)	100
Parpatlakhawa	18(60)	7(23.33)	5(16.67)	100
Uttarmarichbari	18(60)	8(26.67)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	18(60)	6(20)	6(20)	100
Average	18.2(60.83)	6.7(22.5)	5(16.67)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.16 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making with regard to wishes of wife of the household head. Sole male participation in decision-making on joining self help group is quite high compared to females in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa and Khaerkhal. In Uttarmarichbari village, the female participation in decision-making with the male on joining a social group is relatively higher than the rest of the sample villages.

Table-6.17: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to visits of natal family members in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	18(60)	5(16.67)	7(23.33)	100
Parpatlakhawa	20(66.67)	5(16.67)	5(16.67)	100
Uttarmarichbari	18(60)	7(23.33)	5(16.67)	100
Khaerkhal	17(56.67)	5(16.66)	8(26.66)	100
Average	18.2(60.84)	5.4(18.33)	6.2(20.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.17 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making with regard to visits of natal family members. Male dominance in participation in household decision-making on visits to natal family members is quite high compared to females of Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa and Khaerkhal. In Uttarmarichbari village, the female participation in decision-making is slightly better than rest of the sample villages.

Table-6.18: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to control of finance in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	18(60)	6(20)	6(20)	100
Parpatlakhawa	21(70.00)	4(13.33)	5(16.67)	100
Uttarmarichbari	16(53.33)	10(33.33)	4(13.33)	100
Khaerkhal	24(80.00)	2(6.67)	4(13.33)	100
Average	19.7(65.84)	5.4(18.33)	4.7(15.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.18 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on control of finance. Sole male participation in decision-making on control of finance was quite high compared to females in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, and Khaerkhal. In Uttarmarichbari village, the female participation in decision-making on control of finance was relatively higher than the rest of the sample villages.

Grabka, Marcus and Sierminska 2013, this follows the sample study. They have

examined the wealth gap within partnerships by exploiting unique individual wealth data. They found that in 29 percent of all couples the female owns more net worth than her partner, for 19 percent of all partnerships there is parity between the wealth levels of the partners and finally in 52 percent of all couples the male partner has more wealth. Further, that man makes most of the financial decisions in the richest households. Being self-employed or has recently received an inheritance or has higher educational level, the probability to hold more wealth than her partner is higher. This is supported by the findings of others study that in those situations where women is employed, female saves more in total but also saves relatively more in her account. And if the female manages the money within a couple the intra-partnership wealth is smaller, while if he has the last word in financial issues the gap increases.

Table-6.19: Pattern of Household Decision-making with regard to Visits of Doctor for child treatment in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakhetai	18(60)	6(20)	6(20)	100
Parpatlakhawa	20(66.67)	4(13.33)	6(20)	100
Uttarmarichbari	18(60)	9(30)	3(10)	100
Khaerkhal	6(20)	20(66.67)	4(13.33)	100
Average	15.5(51.67)	9.8(32.5)	4.7(15.83)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.19 shows the pattern of household decision-making with regard to visits of a doctor for child treatment. Male dominance in decision-making on visits to doctor for child treatment is high compared to females in Uttarchakwakhetai and Parpatlakhawa. In Uttarmarichbari village, half of the females participates in decision-making. Sole female participation in household decision-making is highest.

Table-6.20: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to pooling of income in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	19(63.33)	3(10)	8(26.66)	100.00
Parpatlakhawa	22(73.33)	1(3.33)	7(23.33)	100.00
Uttarmarichbari	22(73.33)	6(20)	2(6.67)	100.00
Khaerkhal	19(63.33)	2(6.67)	9(30)	100.0
Average	20.4(68.33)	3(10)	6.5(21.67)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.20 shows the pattern of household decision-making on pooling of income. Sole male participation in decision-making on pooling of income compared to females is quite high in Uttarmarichbari, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. Uttarmarichbari village has proportionately more female participation in decision-making.

Table-6.21: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to ownership of productive assets in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	22(73.33)	3(10)	5(16.67)	100
Parpatlakhawa	24(80)	1(3.33)	5(16.67)	100
Uttarmarichbari	24(80)	4(13.33)	2(6.67)	100
Khaerkhal	27(90)	0(0)	3(10.00)	100
Average	24.2(80.83)	2(6.67)	3.7(12.5)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.21 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on ownership of productive assets. Male dominance in decision-making on owning productive assets compared to females are much higher in Uttarchakwakheta, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal.

Table-6.22: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to economic activities in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	M	F	Joint	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	21(70)	3(10)	6(20)	100
Parpatlakhawa	25(83.33)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	100
Uttarmarichbari	24(80)	4(13.33)	2(6.67)	100
Khaerkhal	26(86.67)	0(0)	4(13.33)	100
Average	24(80)	2(6.67)	3.9(13.33)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.22 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on assigning the economic activities. Sole male participation in decision-making on assigning of activities compared to females is much higher in Uttarmarichbari, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal.

6.6: PATTERN OF DECISION MAKING ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNITY IN JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

Now in the study we have tried to decompose the data in terms of community also. For such purpose the categories are chosen between 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 Jalpaiguri district firstly such decomposition allowed to test the effect on household decision-making on various issues in the household.

Table-6.23: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to allocation of expenses on food items in Jalpaiguri district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Uttarchakwakheta	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	1 (3.33)	0(0)	2 (6.67)	2 (6.67)	2 (6.67)	30 (100)
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	25 (83.33)	1 (3.33)	4 (13.34)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	2 (6.67)	5 (16.67)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	21 (70)	5 (16.67)	4 (13.33)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Average	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	2.2 5(7.6)	3.25 (10.84)	0.5 (1.66)	0.5 (1.66)	0.5 (1.66)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.23 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on allocation of food items on the basis of community. In Scheduled Caste, sole male participation in decision-making on allocation of expenses on food items is quite high compared to females in Uttarmarichbari, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. In Uttarchakwakheta village, in Scheduled Tribe, about 6.67 percent of households participated in joint decisions.

Figure-6.5: Pattern of Household Decision-Making with regard to allocation of expenses on food items in Jalpaiguri district (%)

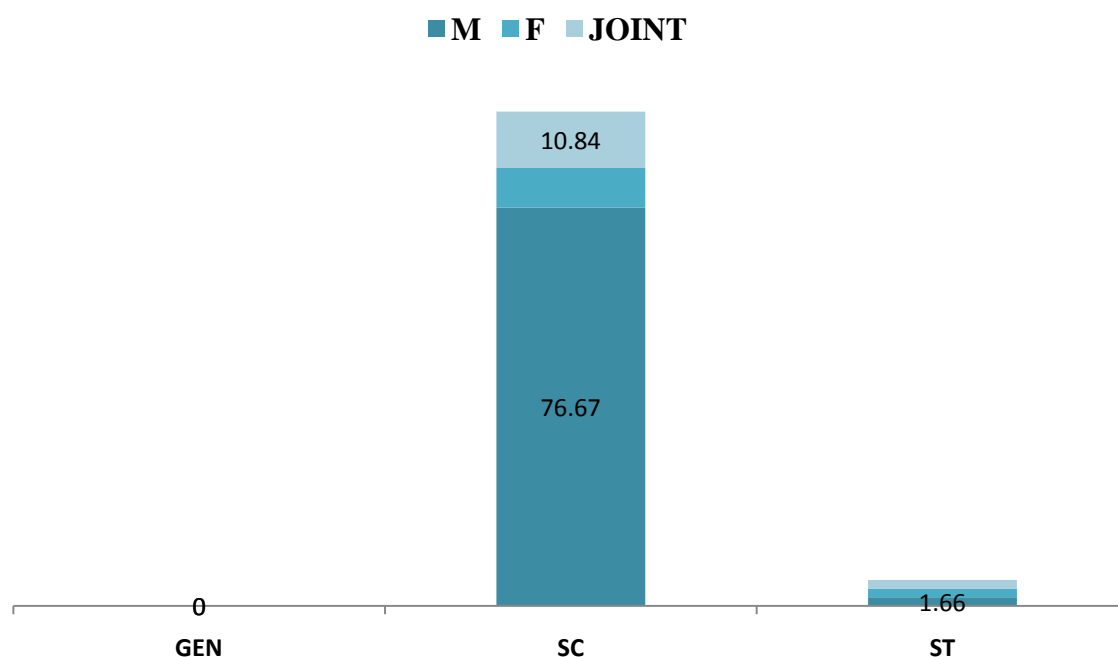


Table -6.24: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to ownership of property in Jalpaiguri district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Uttarchakwakheta	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	1 (3.33)	1 (3.33)	1 (3.33)	2 (6.67)	2 (6.67)	100
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	26 (86.67)	1 (3.33)	3 (10)	0	0	0	100
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	24 (80)	2 (6.67)	4 (13.33)	0	0	0	100
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	29 (96.67)	0	1 (3.33)	0	0	0	100
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	25.5 (85)	1 (3.34)	2.24 (7.49)	0.2 (0.83)	0.5 (1.67)	0.4 (1.66)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.24 shows the pattern of participation in decision-making on owning property. In scheduled caste, sole male decision-making compared to female is much higher in Uttarchakwakhetai, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal villages. In Scheduled Tribe, in Uttarchakwakhetai village both husband and wife participate in decision-making.

Table-6.25 shows the pattern of participation in household decision-making on education of children. In Scheduled caste sole male participation in household decision-making on education of children compared to female is much higher in Uttarchakwakhetai, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbar and Parpatlakhawa among SC community. In Uttarchakwakhetai village, among ST community, joint participation was observed.

Table -6.25: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to children's education in Jalpaiguri district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Uttarchakwakhetai	0	0	0	18 (60)	2 (6.67)	4 (13.33)	2 (6.67)	1 (3.33)	3 (10)	30 (100)
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	25 (83.33)	0	5 (16.67)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	3 (10)	4 (13.33)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	24 (80)	2 (6.67)	4 (13.33)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	22.5 (75)	1.7 (5.84)	4.2 (14.16)	0.5 (1.67)	0.2 (0.83)	0.75 (2.5)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.26 depicts the pattern of household decision-making on female health care in the Jalpaiguri district. Male dominance in decision-making on female health care was much higher compared to females in Uttarchakwakhetai, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. In Uttarchakwakhetai village, involvement of joint participation was observed.

Table -6.26: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to female health services in Jalpaiguri district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Uttarchakwakhetai	0	0	0	18 (60)	3 (10)	3 (10)	1 (3.33)	3 (10)	2 (6.67)	30 (100)
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	4 (13.33)	3(10)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	3 (10)	4 (13.33)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	23 (76.67)	4 (13.33)	3 (10)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	21.7 (72.56)	3.4 (11.66)	3.2 (10.83)	0.2 (0.83)	0.75 (2.5)	0.4 (1.66)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.27 depicts the pattern of participation in household decision-making on family planning on the basis of community. Male dominance in household decision-making on family planning compared to female was quite high in Uttarchakwakhetai, Parpatlakhawa, Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal among SC community.

Table -6.27: Pattern of Household Decision-Making of selected communities with regard to family planning services in Jalpaiguri district (%)

Villages	General			SC			ST			Total
	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	M	F	Joint	
Uttarchakwakhetai	0	0	0	9 (30)	5 (16.67)	10 (33.33)	0	2 (6.67)	4 (13.33)	30 (100)
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	21 (70)	1 (3.33)	8 (26.67)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	17 (56.67)	3 (10)	10 (33.33)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	18 (60)	1 (3.33)	11 (36.67)	0	0	0	30 (100)
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	14.2 (47.6)	1.2 (4.16)	7.2 (24.16)	(0)	0.4 (1.66)	1 (3.34)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

6.7: Pattern of household decision-making of paid and unpaid women according to chosen communities are as follows:

Table-6.28: Distribution of women on the basis of their occupation in Jalpaiguri district, 2013

Name of the Villages	Paid Women	Unpaid Women	Total
Uttarchakwakheta	1(3.33)	29(96.66)	30(100)
Parpatlakhawa	3(10)	27(90)	30(100)
Uttarmarichbari	4(13.33)	26(86.66)	30(100)
Khaerkhal	7(23.33)	23(76.66)	30(100)
Average	3.75(12.49)	26.25(87.48)	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.28 depicts the distribution of women on the basis of their occupation among the selected villages in Jalpaiguri district. Table-6.28 shows the distribution of paid and unpaid women on the basis of communities. In Uttarchakwakheta village, 3.33 percent were under paid category and rest under unpaid category, followed by Parpatlakhawa with 10 percent of households belonging to paid women and 90 percent of households belonging to unpaid women and Uttarmarichbari village with 13.33 percent of households belonged to paid women and 86.66 percent of households belonged to unpaid women. In Khaerkhal village, 23.33 percent of households belonged to paid category and 76.66 percent of households belonged to unpaid women.

Table-6.29 shows the distribution of paid and unpaid women on the basis of community among the sample villages. In scheduled caste community, among paid women, Uttarchakwakheta village had 3.33 percent of households, followed by Parpatlakhawa village with 10 percent of households and Uttarmarichbari with 16.66 percent of households. In Khaerkhal village, 23.33 percent of households had paid women. While among unpaid women, Uttarchakwakheta had 76.66 percent of households, followed by Parpatlakhawa village with 90 percent of households belonged to unpaid category and 76.66 percent of households belonged to unpaid category.

Table-6.29: Distribution of paid and unpaid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district

Name of the Villages	Paid Women	Paid Women	Unpaid Women	Unpaid Women	Paid Women	Unpaid Women	Total
	SC	ST	SC	ST	General	General	
Uttarchakwakheta	1(3.33)	0	23(76.66)	6(20)	0	0	30(100)
Parpatlakhawa	3(10)	0	27(90)	0	0	0	30(100)
Uttarmarichbari	5(16.66)	0	0	25(83.33)	0	0	30(100)
Khaerkhal	7(23.33)	0	23(76.66)	0	0	0	30(100)
Average	4(13.43)	0	18.25(60.83)	2(25.83)	0	0	30(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.30: depicts the pattern of household decision-making with regard to food expenditure of paid and unpaid women among the chosen communities. Among SC Community of unpaid category 50 percent of the households had solely male participation, followed by Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal. SC and ST communities in Jalpaiguri district.

Table-6.30: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to food expenditure of paid and unpaid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district, 2013

	General			SC			ST			Paid			Unpaid			Total			
	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J				
Name of the Villages																			
Uttarchakwakheta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	8	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	30
								(3.33)		(50)	(26.66)					(10)	(10)		(100)
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	24	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	(100)
							(6.66)	(3.33)		(80)		(10)							
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
							(13.33)	(3.33)		(83.33)									(100)
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	14	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
							(16.66)		(6.66)	(46.66)	(16.66)	(13.33)							(100)
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	2	0.5	0.5	19.7	3.5	2.2	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	0.75	0.75	30
							(6.66)	(1.67)	(1.66)	(65.85)	(11.68)	(7.49)					(2.5)	(2.5)	(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Figure 6.6: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to food expenditure of paid and unpaid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district, 2013

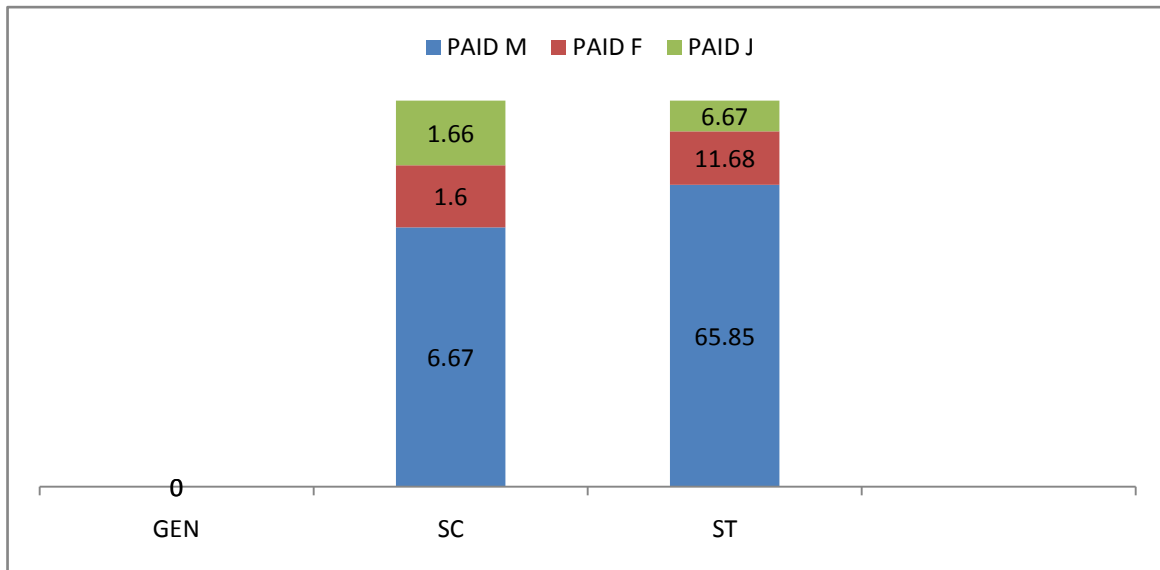


Figure: 6.7: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to food expenditure of unpaid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district

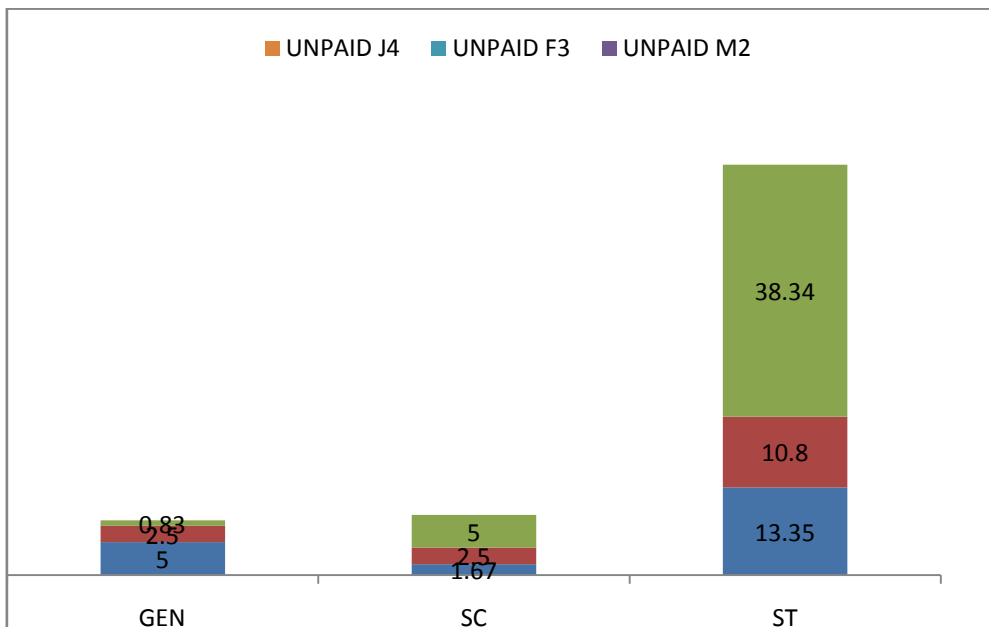


Table -6.28 depicts the pattern of household decision-making with regard to family planning of paid and unpaid women among General, Scheduled Caste and

Scheduled Tribe communities in Jalpaiguri district. Among the paid women within SC community, the study found the male dominates the decision-making by(6.67) followed by joint participation(2.5) and by female participation(0.83). But among the unpaid women within the same community, there is male dominance by (41.41) followed by female participation (20.25) and joint participation (20.25) and joint participation by (14.16).While among the unpaid women of ST, there is joint participation by (9.16) followed by female (3.3) and male (1.66).

Table-6.31: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to children’s education of paid and unpaid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district, 2013

	General			SC			ST						Total						
	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	
Uttarchakwakhti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	14	5	4	0	0	0	0	3	3	100
							(3.33)			(46.67)	(16.67)	(13.33)					(10)	(10)	
Parpatlakhawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	17	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
							(6.67)		(3.33)	(56.67)	(20)	(13.33)							
Uttarmarichbari	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	16	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
							(10)	(6.66)		(53)	(23.33)	(10)							
Khaerkhal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	11	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
							(6.67)	(6.67)	(9.67)	(36.67)	(21)	(19.99)							
Average	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	2	0.2	0.75	12.4	6	4.23	(0)	(0)	(0)	0.4	1	2.7	30
							(6.67)	(0.83)	(2.5)	(41.41)	(20.25)	(14.16)				(1.66)	(3.33)	(9.16)	(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table-6.31 shows the pattern of participation on children’s education of paid and unpaid women on the basis of chosen communities in jalpaiguri district. Among the SC community of unpaid women, in Uttarchakwakheta village, 46,67 percent of households had solely male participation, followed by Parpatlakhawa, Uttarnarichbari and Khaerkhal.

Figure-6.8: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to children’s education of paid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district

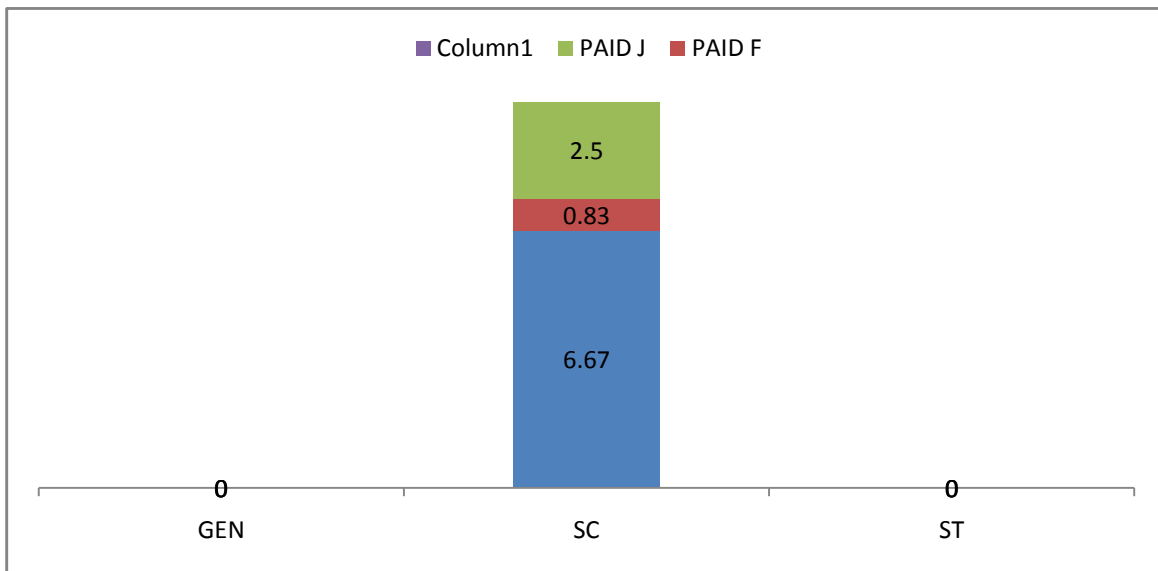
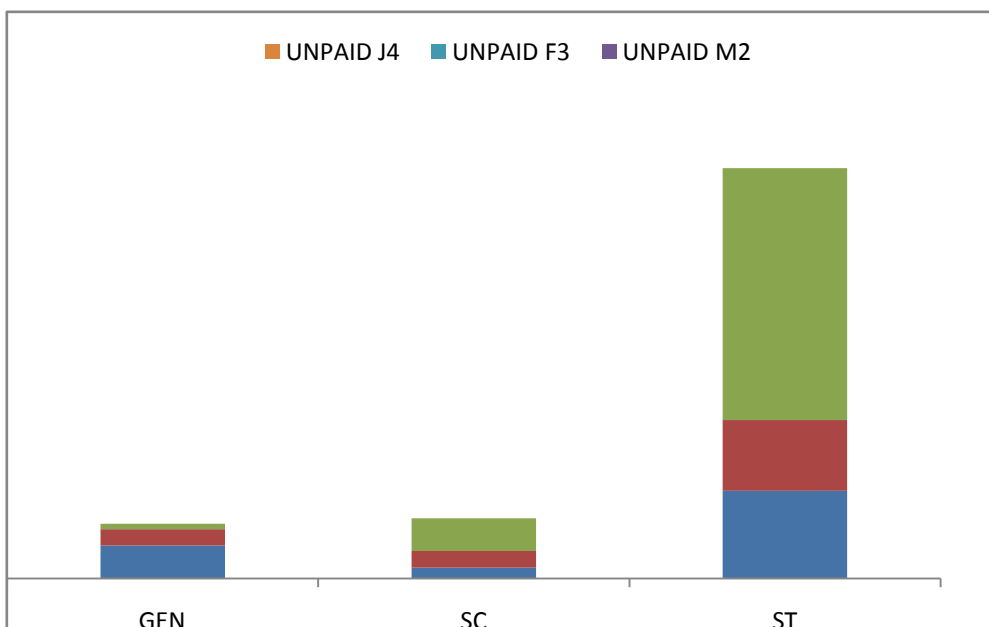


Figure-6.9: Pattern of household decision-making with regard to children’s education of unpaid women on the basis of community in Jalpaiguri district



Conclusion

This chapter has examined the women's autonomy in rural areas of Jalpaiguri district by analyzing into the decision-making processes in the issues relating to households of selected villages.

The findings of the study revealed that Uttarchakwakheta village had the male dominance in participation in household decision-making.

On average all the issues tabulated- issues pertaining to household decision-making with regard to expenditure on food items, ownership of property, children's education, female health care, family planning, use of contraceptive, her wishes of joining self help group, visits of natal family members, control of finance, visits of doctors for child treatment, pooling of income, ownership of productive assets and participation in economic activities, all of these issues had male dominance in decision-making.

While pattern of household decision-making on the basis of community with regard to allocation of expenditure on food items, the study revealed the male dominance in decision-making within SC community, among ST community, there was equal participation of male, female and joint. Ownership of assets had male dominance among General community on average and among SC community, there was male dominance and among ST community there were equal participation of female and joint categories. Pattern of participation in household decision-making with regard to children's education, the study revealed the dominance of male on average within the General category participation, male dominance within the SC community and dominance of joint participation within the ST community. Pertaining to female health care, there was male dominance among the General community, similarly, male dominance within the SC community and female participation a within the ST community. Pattern of household decision-making with regard to family planning, there was dominance of joint participation within the General community, dominance of male participation within the SC community and joint participation within the ST community.

Finally, the pattern of household decision-making on the basis of occupation of women among General, SC and ST Communities with regard to allocation of expenditure on food items, the study revealed the dominance of male members on average among paid

women within the SC community, while among the unpaid women, there was male dominance but equal participation of female and joint participation within the ST community. Pattern of household decision-making with regard to children's education, it was evident of male dominance among the paid women within the SC followed by again male dominance among unpaid women, and joint participation among the unpaid women within the ST community. The study also revealed the influencing factors in the matter of household decision-making such as women's access to household productive resources, women's mobility and purdah system, valuation of children by gender, interspousal communication, and literacy and prevalence of peace and tranquility within the family.

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