

Audacity of Women's Making Decision in Freedom: A Sociological Study on Women

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.100600923>

Received: 15 June 2025; Accepted: 20 June 2026; Published: 08 July 2026

ABSTRACT

Bangladesh is a developing country with huge number of populations. Among them 50% are men and about 50% are women. We know that proper utilization of population is the best way for developing a country. But a great regret is that most women are inferior to and hooked on men from childhood to old age. They have been addressed as a brand of a domestic life. Women can play a critical role in any decision making but they are influenced by men since before. This paper has been a little presentation of women's status in Bangladesh through a particular area. It has identified the causes of status and problems of women's less participation in decision making specially in family life. Women are improving day by day in decision making in their family life. This improvement is in two categorizations. Those are based on nuclear family and join family and also in educated family and uneducated or little educated family. In nuclear family and in educated family, women are freer than the other one. They can apply their wisdom, spirit, sparkle in decision making for the betterment of their family. On the other hand, join family and in uneducated or little bit educated family allow little women or doesn't allow women in decision making of any sector in family. Some are also deprived for low mentality, preconception, narrow mindedness and self-conceit of men. We have used survey research design for finding out the actual reason behind women's position. We have accepted Dogachhi union with an area of 54 square km, 29 villages, 38835 men and 42395 women, 54% literacy rate. We have selected three villages named Rajapur, Mahendrapur and Dopkula through lottery system under the union of Dogacchi of Pabna district as research area for analyzing the extent of the freedom of women's decision making in their family life. About 95% men are the head of the family, 9% women involve in job sectors, 97% women cannot contribute to the social development 70% women can contribute them in economic sectors with or without the influence of men, 30% respondents cannot contribute themselves in financial support to family, only 41% women can vote by their own choice, 10% women can decide to choose the birth control method. There is a huge influence of men in family especially in women's life. To ensure women's freedom in decision making education is must. Besides this, women need to be trained through NGOs or GOs to contribute in economic sectors which make them more confident in their life. Factors will be responsible to make them away and also recommend a feasible solution to unroll problems.

Keywords: Audacity, Women, Freedom, Decision making, Sociological, Participation, Influence, Family life, Socio economic.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Men and women are the part and parcel of a nation as well as society. Society cannot be founded without any of them. Besides this, society cannot be developed also without any part of them. Women are the better half of men and 50% development are depended on them. But an unknown reason is here for what woman cannot present their best rather they are influenced by men. Though they are trying their best, they cannot set them free from the influence of men. Women face lot of problems and barriers from their childhood to old age specially in their married life. Husband's participation in domestic work has been estimated at three namely, 1. The more wealth a husband has the less he works as a housemaid, 2. The more the attitude of the husband toward sex, the less he does the work. 3. A husband does as much housework as he can. Not only their movement is restricted within a prescribed space but also, adverse in their effect on a clearly and rigidly defined allocation of gender based responsibility is there, resulting into the general powerless of women, even though the contribution of women to their family through their economic activists, which are deliberated ignored or kept invisible by men is substantial this subordinate position is further reinforced through various kinds of religious beliefs and cultural practice the pattern of training imparted of female child in Bangladesh emphasizes her subordinate role within the household. In developing nations, women either participate in joint decision-making with their spouses or solely rely on the male partner's judgment when it comes to matters that have an impact on their reproductive lives. Planning contextually appropriate family planning interventions requires a clear understanding of the main obstacles preventing married women from exercising their decision-making authority over the use of contraception (Bogale, & et al.,2021). Proper utilization of human resources is the main issue of development for a society and also for a country. But it is a great regret that women are inferior to and hooked on men from their childhood and also practiced continuously in their whole life. Women became a brand as a domestic life and also dominated by men. It is documented that due to same extent decision power making. Power is not limited in cultural setting. Age, education, occupation, and the number of still-living children are all positively correlated with women's decision-making autonomy. Women from rural areas and those without educational backgrounds exercise less autonomy in social decision-making (Chanda, & et al.,2012). Female life is a journey of independent because of her getting less or no change to take decision about herself. From her birth to marriage her father decides for her no matters. After marriage husband and in-laws get hold of her reins and decide about her. This study is helping us to know the actual position or status of women in family to make decision. It helps to know the causes behind that position and our main motive is here. We also want to find out the women empowerment in decision making for family. To develop our society, women are needed to be empowered as well as self-depended. This paper helps us to find out the reason and to make solution to overcome the negativity of women's status in their life. Though women are more educated than before, they cannot liberate themselves from the influence of our patriarchal society. Bangladesh is a developing country with the population of 16 core 27 lakhs (2021). Among them 8 core 42 lakhs are men and 8 core 40 lakhs are women. The women's status is marginal in our Bangladesh. It has been originated from the discriminatory view of our society that has created our social structure. For this they are lagging behind in family and society too. This study is to measure the freedom to make decision of married women in everyday family life without any influence of men. So, this research topic is reasonable, logical and befitting too. It will also help as a secondary source who want to research about women in future. We have used survey research design for finding out the actual reason behind women's position. We have accepted Dogachhi union with an area of 54 square km, 38835 men and 42395 women, 54% literacy rate. We have selected three villages named Rajapur, Mahendrapur and Dopkula through lottery system as our survey area and also our research area.

LITERATURE REVIEWS AND THEORICAL FRAMEWORK:

A nation and civilization are made up of both men and women. Without any of them, society cannot exist. In addition, civilization cannot advance without any of them. Women are the better half of males, and they are responsible for 50% of human growth. However, there is a mysterious reason why women cannot express themselves at their finest because they are influenced by men instead. (Bogale et al.,2011) stated that this article identifying the major obstacles to married women's decision-making on contraceptive use has significant relevance for planning contextually appropriate family planning interventions. Married women who currently use modern contraception in urban areas use 293 (87.5%) and 243 (72.8%), respectively. By taking into account the empowerment of women in the decision-making process for contemporary contraceptive use, modern family

planning initiatives in the area should be promoted. (Chanda et al., 2012). This article also explains married women's educational attainment and their engagement in rural household decision-making at various levels. 93.3 percent of women with higher levels of education gave their consent to getting married, compared to 0 percent of illiterate women. In a similar vein, women with greater levels of education had higher levels of purchasing power than illiterate women (0.0%) and women with only primary education (14.6%) for the same amount of purchasing power. In the political decision-making process, 86.7 percent of women with higher levels of education had given their own consent to vote in elections, as opposed to 77.8 percent of illiterate women and 70.7% of women with just primary education, who were swayed by their husbands. (Carey, et al., 2008) stated many academic studies have previously been conducted in the areas of ethical consumerism and family consumer decision-making, which includes the effect of children in this field. As women struggled to adjust to their new roles, ethical consumerism strongly arose as a crucial component of the parent's identity building...Also, Begum (2012) stated that in Bangladesh, a woman's right to engage in politics is firmly enshrined in the constitution and a fundamental one. This article examines some of the fundamental barriers that prevent women from participating in Union Parishads, the third tier of local administration. Men and women are encouraged to build a relationship where they perceive each other as interdependent and interwoven in order to accommodate special gender-centric concerns in Union Parishads. (Dadi et al., 2020) stated that in this article, women's decisions on family planning use have multiple benefits for the family and community at large, especially in developing countries like Ethiopia. In underdeveloped countries, women either share decision-making with their spouses or rely completely on the male partner's opinion when it comes to issues that have an impact on their reproductive lives. Banks (2013) stated that due to endemic concerns within the urban environment, low-income households are forced to utilize novel labor mobilization techniques that challenge traditional patriarchal notions and, as a result, gender dynamics as urbanization transforms the face of poverty in Bangladesh.

In the literature reviews, we find that there is actually not much knowledge about whether men have influence on women's decision-making or not in Bangladesh.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to know whether men have an influence in women's decision-making or not have and the specific objectives are:

- a. To know the women's participation in decision-making in their personal life;
- b. To know the influence of men in women's decision-making for their regular family life;
- c. To know the women's freedom in decision making of family for socio-economic sectors and political issues too.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The methodology is a total sum of a discipline's methods, rules, and postulates. The analysis is procured in a particular field. This study is quantitative and was conducted in three villages named Rajapur, Mahendrapur and Dopkula under the union of Dogachhi of Pabna district as a research area for analyzing the extent of the freedom of women's decision-making in their family life. As it was a quantitative research and quantitative data were collected from the respondents as following quantitative data collection process. Both primary and secondary data have been collected to make this paper more informative and successful. Primary data collection has been organized based on sample survey with a questionnaire prepared before by us and the information has been collected through focus group discussion, face-to-face interviews, and observing some families. The questionnaire has been designed in such a way that it can be continued with all the useful information in the given field. The primary data has been taken directly from the field of research area. The respondents were interviewed independently with a sound rapport building, maintaining research ethics, confidentiality and mutual respect. Secondary data has been collected from published and unpublished literature, reports and other online sources and journal articles. The entire population of the study areas were the population of my study and we used the Probability sampling method (Simple random techniques) to select 149 respondents for selecting sample from the population. The quantitative data that is collected have been statistically analyzed. Those have been presented through graphical presentation with Microsoft Office Word and Microsoft Office Excel.

Data Analysis and Major Findings

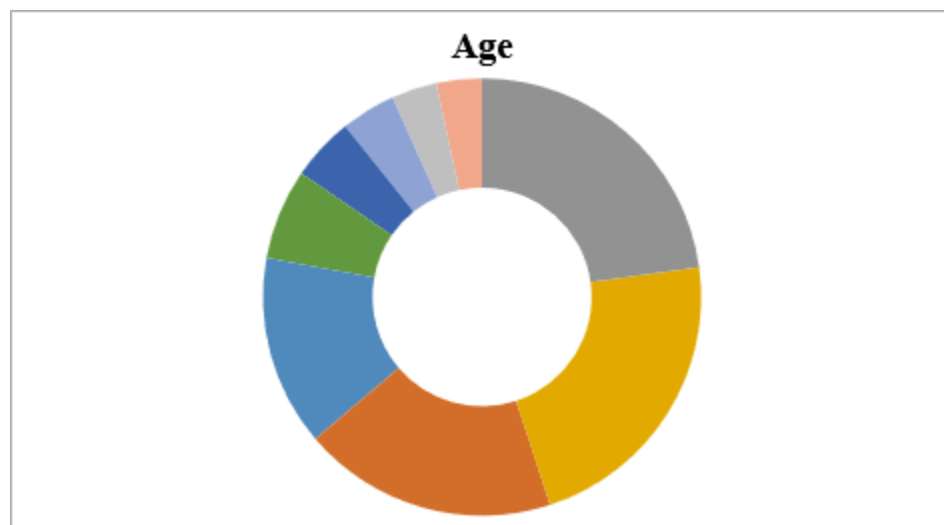
Personal Information of respondents

Data collection is the basic formation of finding problems, psychological status, mental health and the need of a sector. Respondents are also part and parcel of that.

Here is the personal information of the respondents. It shows all the personal information of respondents of our research paper which enriched with age and occupation. All are shown here through table of data and diagram.

Table 1: Age of respondents

Age difference	Frequency	Percentage (%)
16-20	7	5%
21-25	28	19%
26-30	34	23%
31-35	33	22%
36-40	21	14%
41-45	10	7%
46-50	6	4%
51-55	5	3%
56-60	5	3%
Total	149	100%

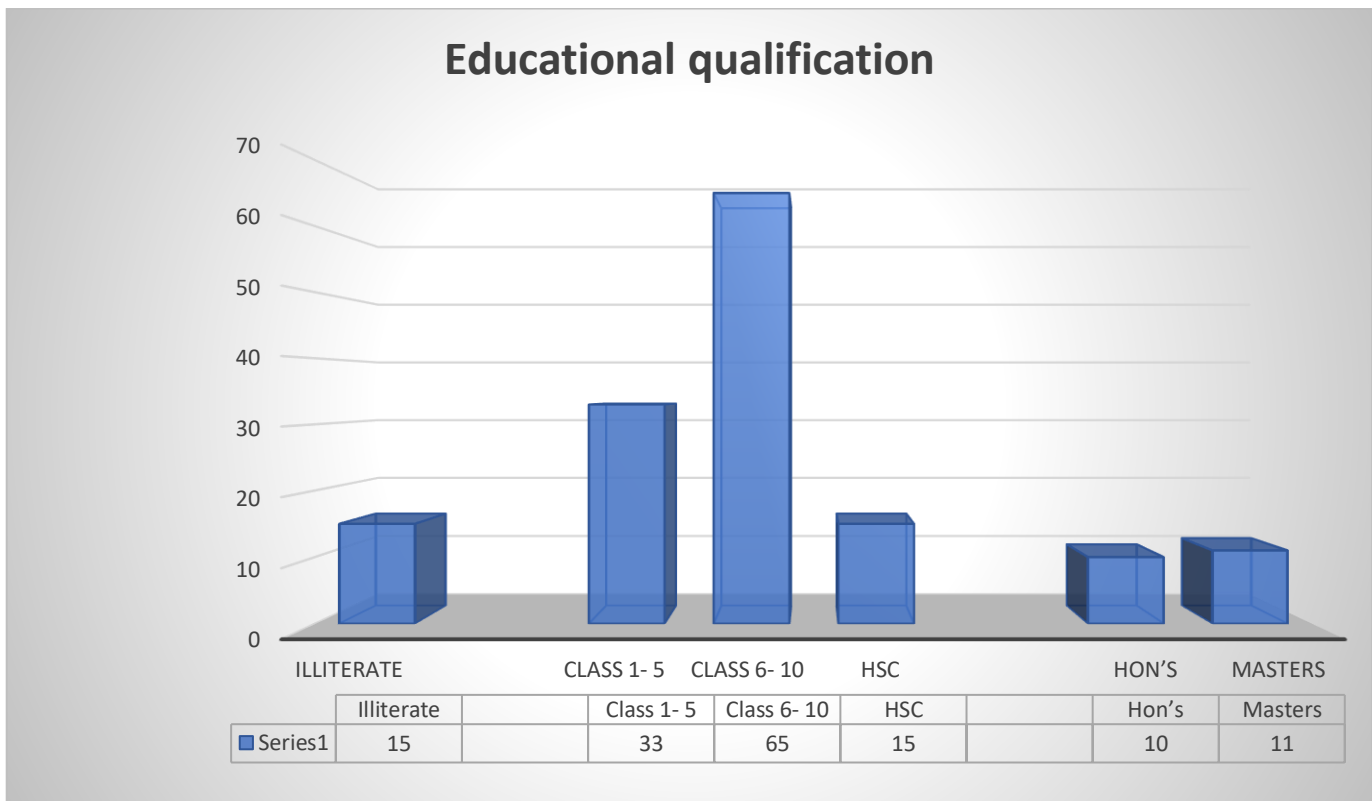


This figure is the total sum of respondents who are categorized in various population based on age. In this figure, 7 persons are between the age of 16 to 20 years and this is 5 %, 28 persons are the age of 21 to 25 years and it is 19%, 34 persons are the age of 26 to 30 years and that is 23%, 33 persons are the age of 31 to 35 years and this is 22%, 21 persons are the age of 36 to 40 and this is 14%, 10 persons are the age of 41 to 45 years and this 7%, 6 persons are the age of 46 to 50 years and this is 4%, 5 persons are the age of 51 to 55 years and it is 3%, 5 persons are between the age of 56 to 60 years and it is 4%.

Table 2: Education of respondents

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	15	7%
Class 1- 5	33	23%
Class 6- 10	65	43%
HSC	15	10%

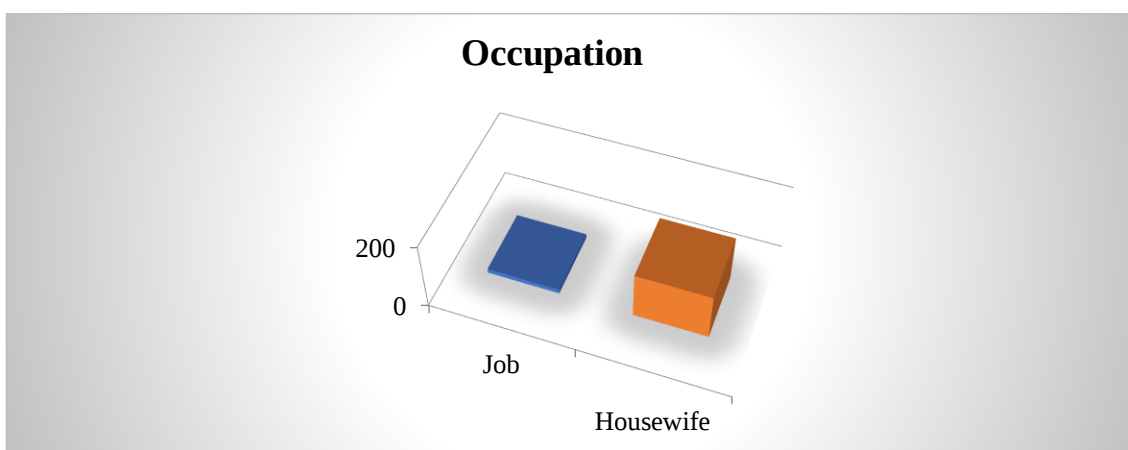
Hon's	10	10%
Masters	11	7%
Total	149	100%



Respondents are both literate and illiterate. The literate respondents are in various types. This figure shows that 15 persons (7%) are illiterate and 134 persons are literate. Among them 33 persons are up to class 5 and the percentage is 23%, 65 persons (43%) are up to SSC, 15 persons (10%) are up to HSC, 10 persons (10%) are to Hon's, 11 persons (7%) have completed masters. The literate can contribute highly in their family in every sectors.

Table 3: Occupation of respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Job	13	9%
Housewife	136	91%
Total	149	100%



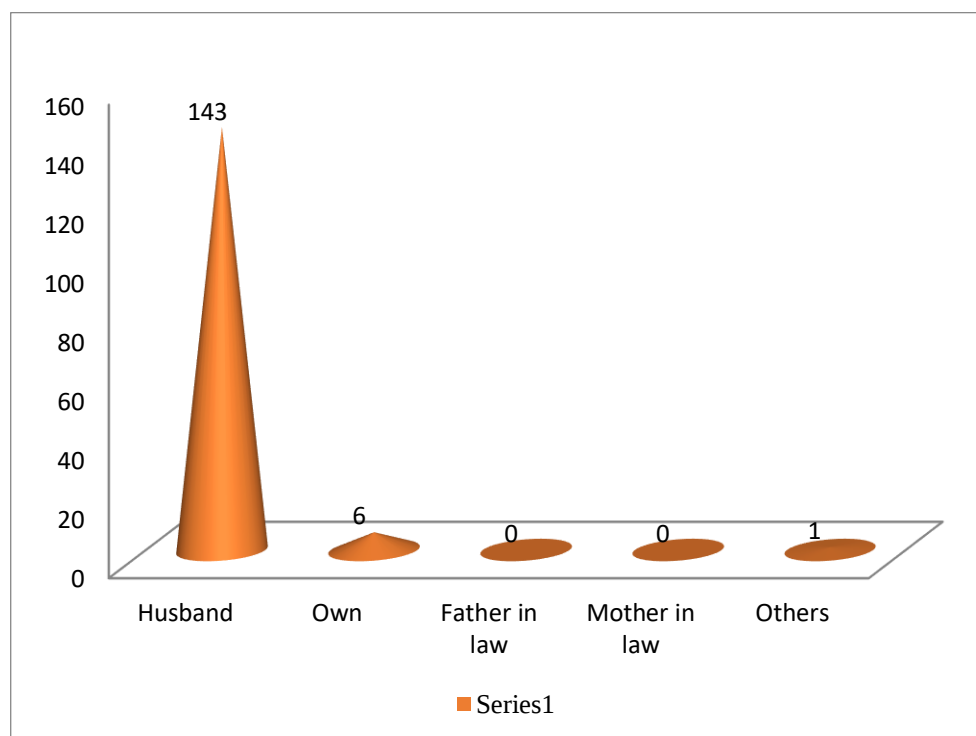
Literate and illiterate respondents are available in their family economics. Their earning sectors and methods are different. Here 13 people are involved in employment this is 9%. One the other hand, 136 people are housewife and it is 91%.

Family Information of respondents

Every respondent has a family. This family has a great contribution to her and opposite is also here. Here is the family information. It shows all the information of family about all respondents of our research paper. The information is enriched with family member, family types etc.

Table 4: Head of the family of respondents

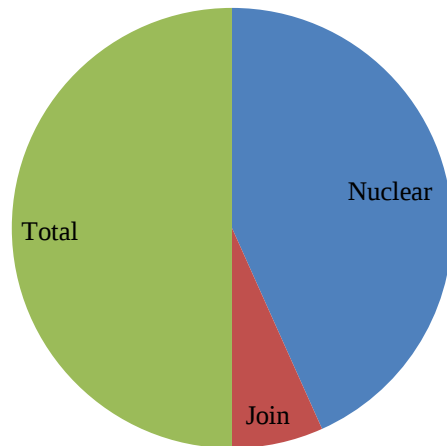
Head of the family	Frequency	Percentage
Husband	143	95%
Own	6	4%
Father-in-law	0	0%
Mother-in-law	0	0%
Others	1	1%
Total	149	100%



Most decisions are taken by the head of a family. The head of the family can be anyone of a family. This structure shows that 143 husbands are the head of the family and this is 95%, 6 women are the head of the family and this is 4% and the other one is the head of the family and this is 1%. So, the most person of the head of the family is husband of respondents of this paper.

Table 5: Types of family of respondents

Types of family	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	129	86%
Join	20	13%
Total	149	100%



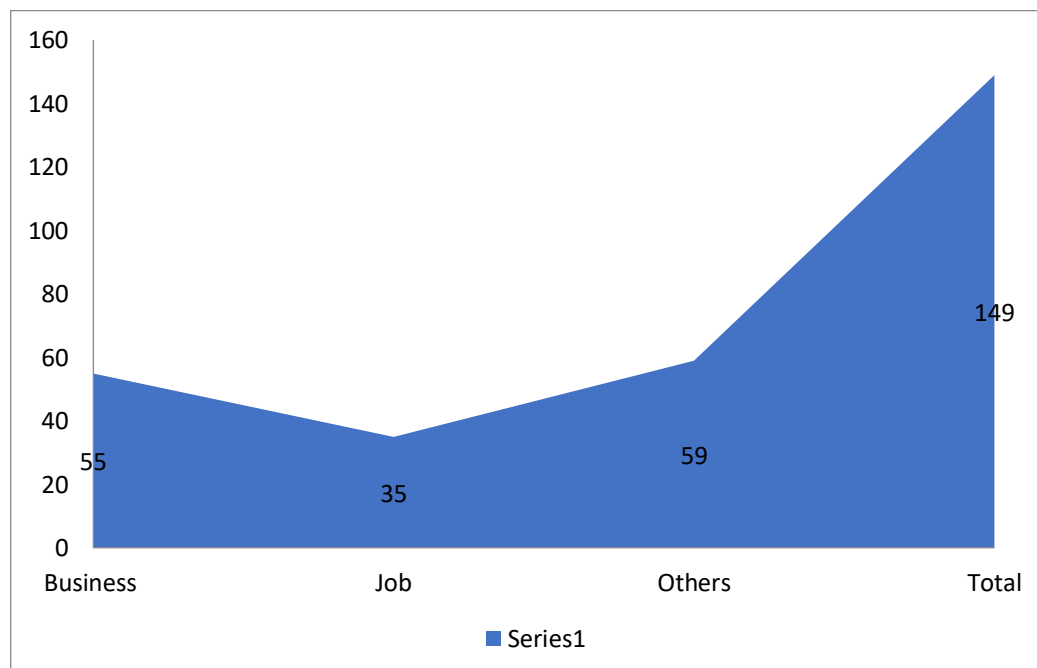
There are two types of family in Bangladesh. One is nuclear family and the other is join family. The most respondent's family is nuclear and a little is join family. Here, 129 families were nuclear and that was 86%, 20 families were join and that was 13%.

Socio-economic information of respondents

It represents the social and economic condition of the respondents. Social status and economic status as well as factors are also focusing sectors of this research paper. This socio-economic condition is enriched with, socio economic condition, occupation income etc.

Table 6: The source of income of the family

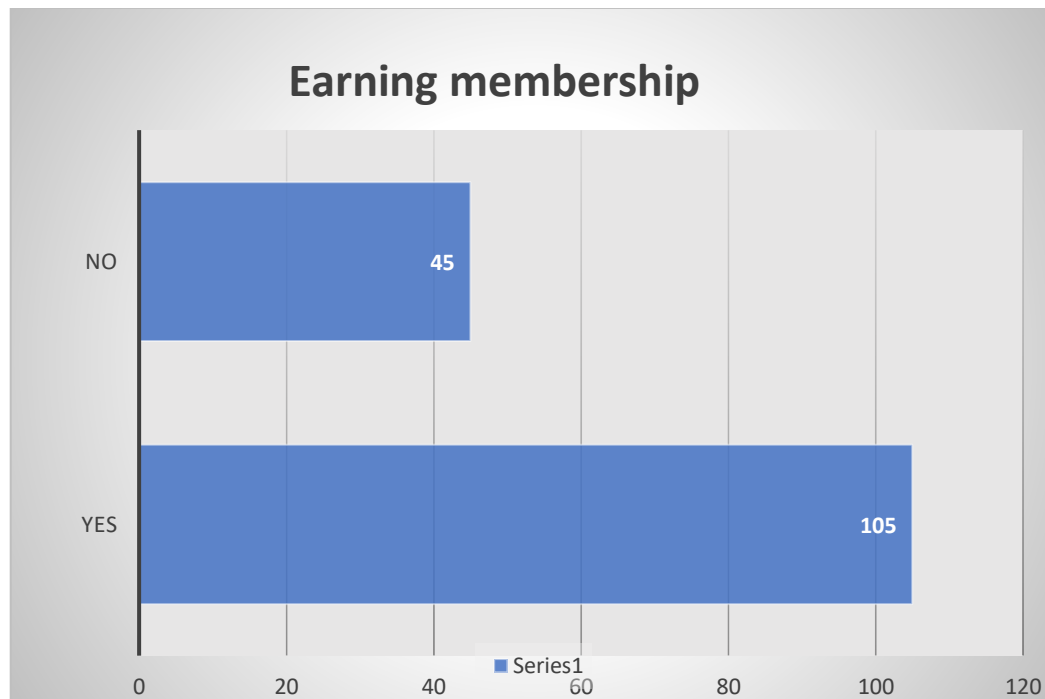
Source of income	Frequency	Percentage
Business	55	37%
Job	35	23%
Others	59	40%
Total	149	100



Every family has a fixed monthly income. Respondents or their husband are involve in this. The sources can be job, business, day laboure, cultivation and so on. Here, 55 people are business man, this is 37%, 35 people are job holder that is 23%, 59 people are other work and it is 40%.

Table 7: Earning membership of respondents

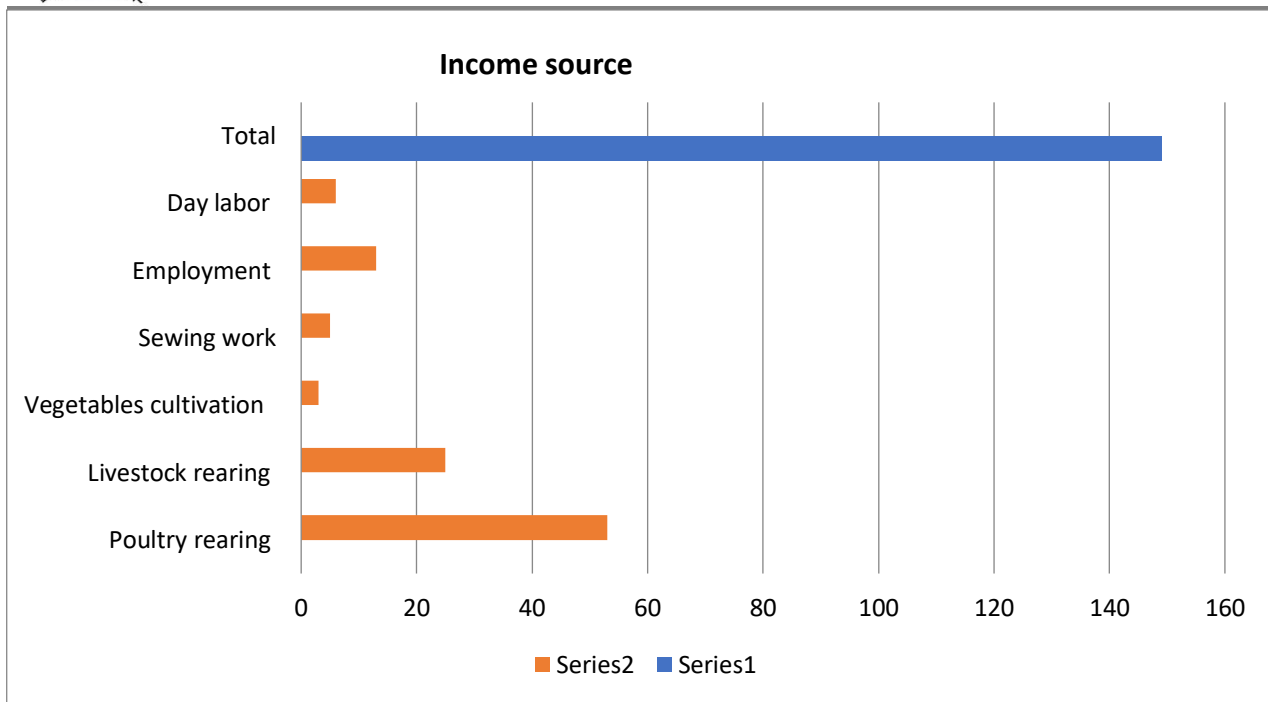
Earning membership	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	104	70%
	45	30%
	149	100%



This series show the earning person among the respondents. Some are involved in earning sectors and those are 70%. On the other hand, some are not involved and they are 30%. Respondents are responsible for their family and this figure shows the economic sectors with and without involves of women.

Table 8: Source of income of respondents

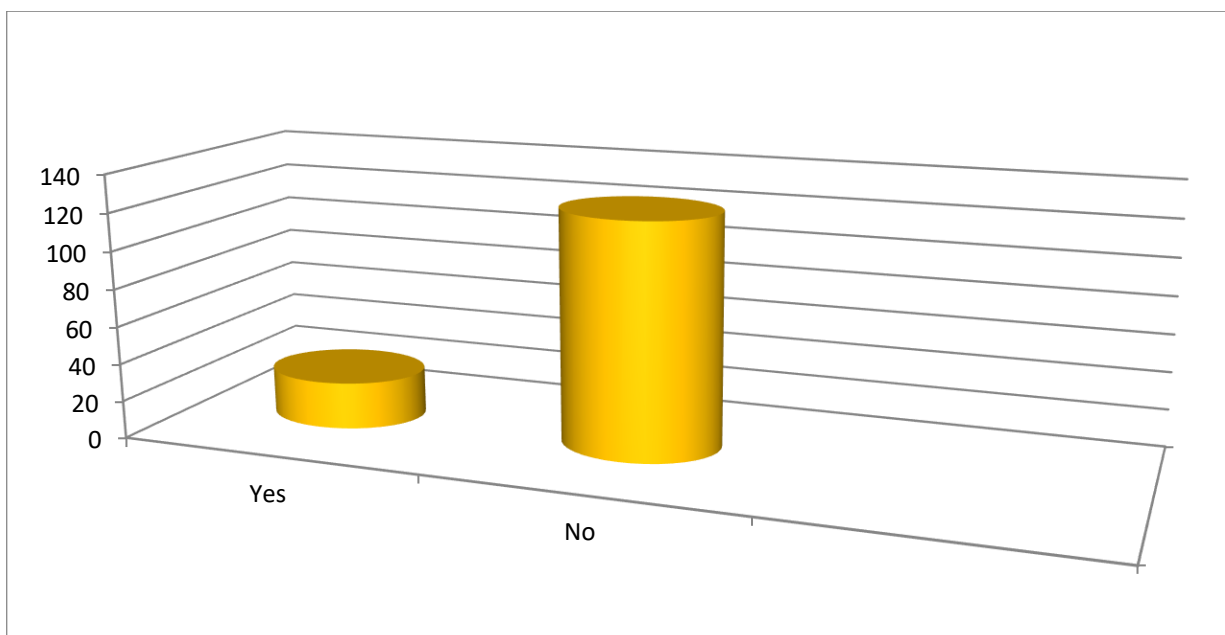
Source	Frequency	Percentage
Poultry rearing	53	50%
Livestock rearing	25	20%
Cultivation	3	3%
Sewing	5	6%
Employment	13	16%
Day labor	6	5%
Total	149	100%



Here, the respondents are involved in economy of their family. Their income is come from poultry (50%), livestock rearing (20%), cultivation (3%), sewing (6%), employment (16%) and day laboring (5%). It helps the improvement of their family. It supports our whole economy of our country.

Table 9: Trained respondents

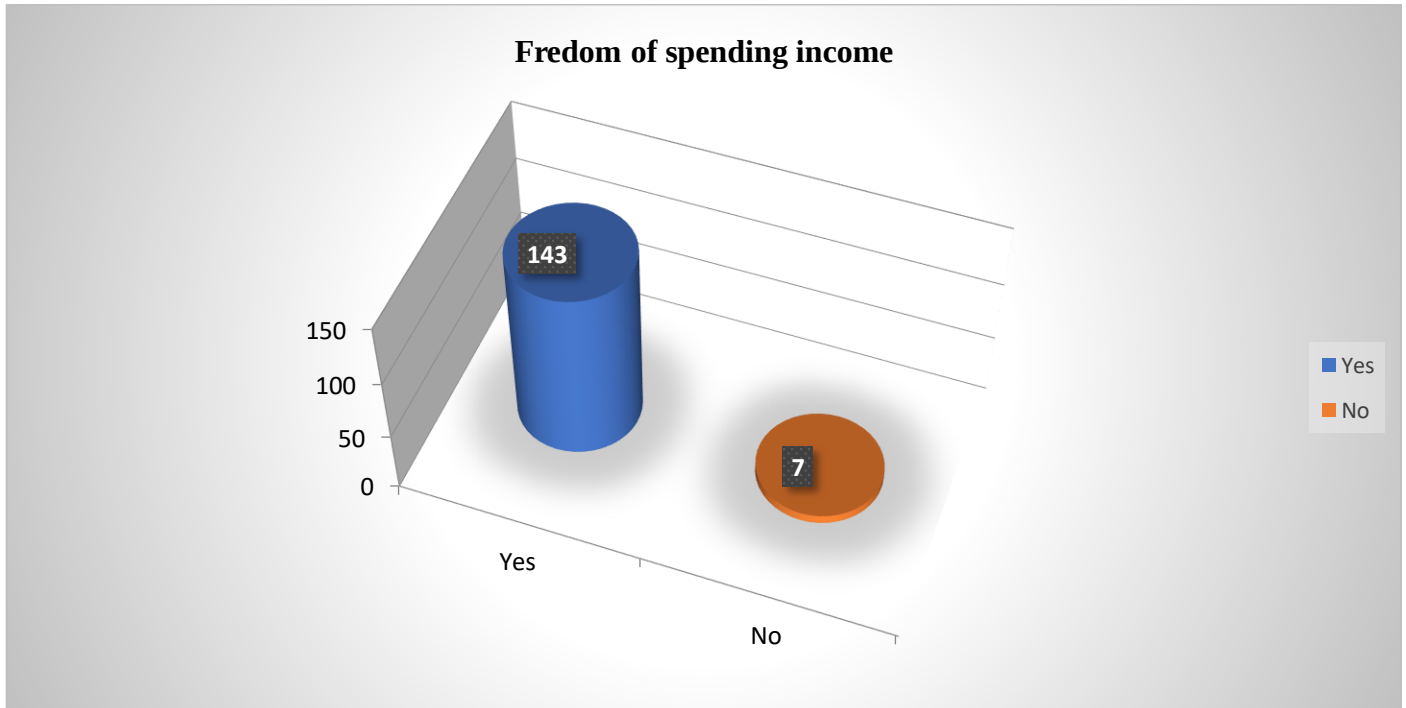
Respondent's training	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	25	16.78%
No	124	83.22%
Total	149	100%



Some respondents are trained from GO's institutions and some are from NGO's or private institutions. Among all respondents some are not trained too. This figure shows that 25 respondents are trained which is 16.78% and the other 124 respondents are not trained which is 83.22%. The training opportunities are suggested by their husbands, families or by others.

Table 10: Freedom of spending income of respondents

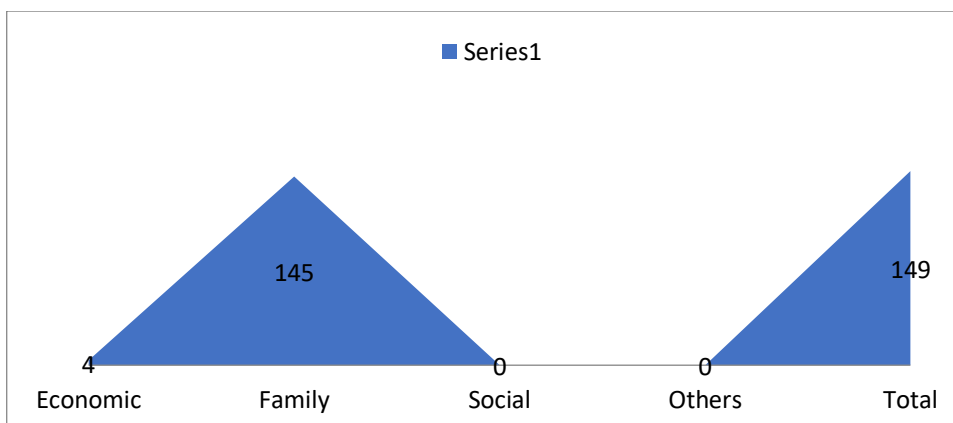
Spend	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	143	95%
No	7	5%
Total	149	100%



Women participate in economy and earn. They can spend their income with and without the influence of men. Here, 143 respondents (95%) are free for spending their income by their own and 7 respondents (5%) are not. It shows the Influence of men in women's economic life.

Table 11: Sectors of spending income of respondents

Sectors	Frequency	percentage
Economic	4	3%
Family	145	97%
Social	0	0%
Others	0	0%
Total	149	100%



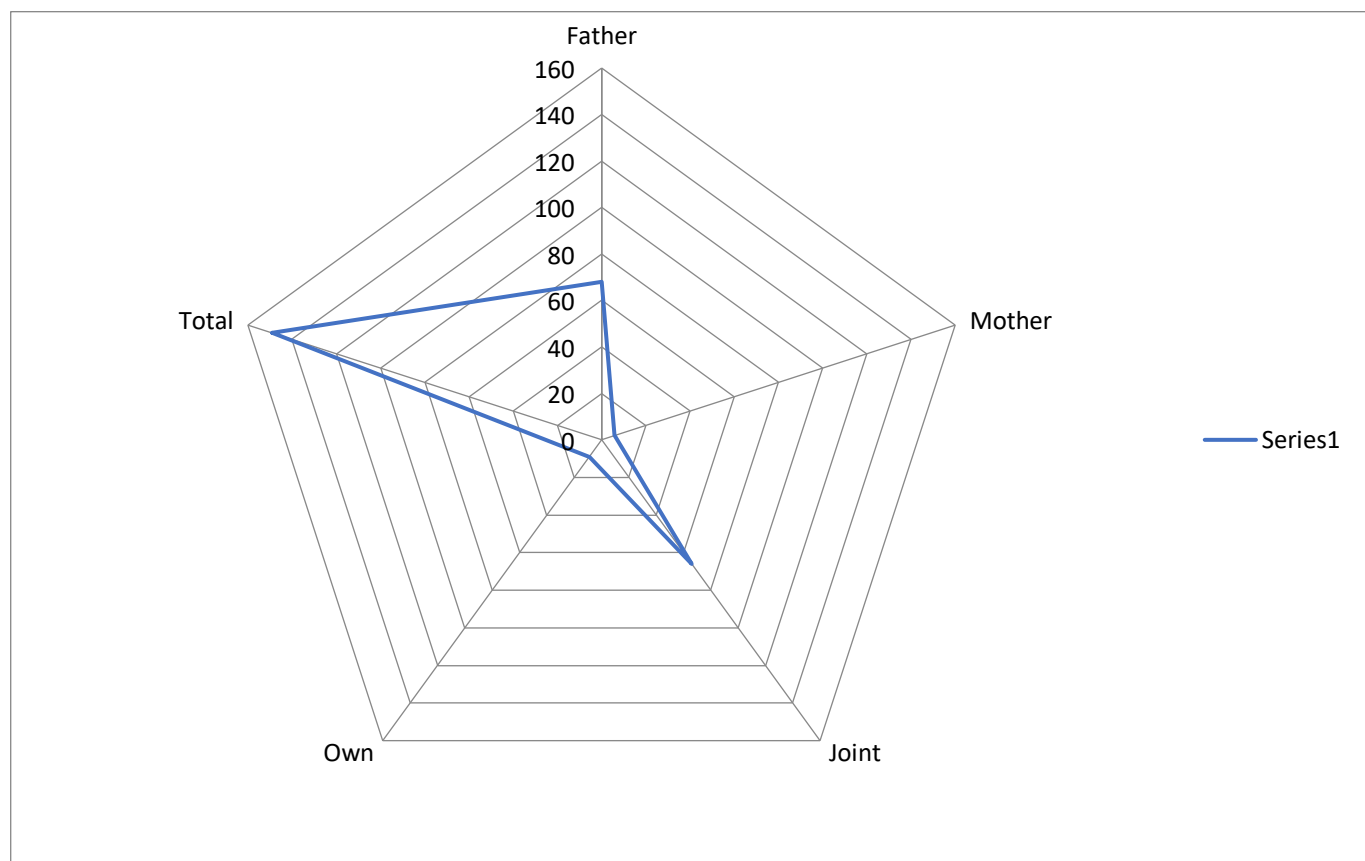
Respondents who are free for spending their income by their own in different sectors are shown here. 4 respondents (3%) spend their income in economic sectors, 145 respondents (97%) spend their income in family sectors. Though they spend, they are not free from men's influences.

The decision of family of respondents

Taking decision is a common issue in a family. Sometimes female is not allowed here. Now, we share a quotatives structure with decision maker types and person to find out the influence of men in women's life.

Table 12: Decision maker of marriage of respondents

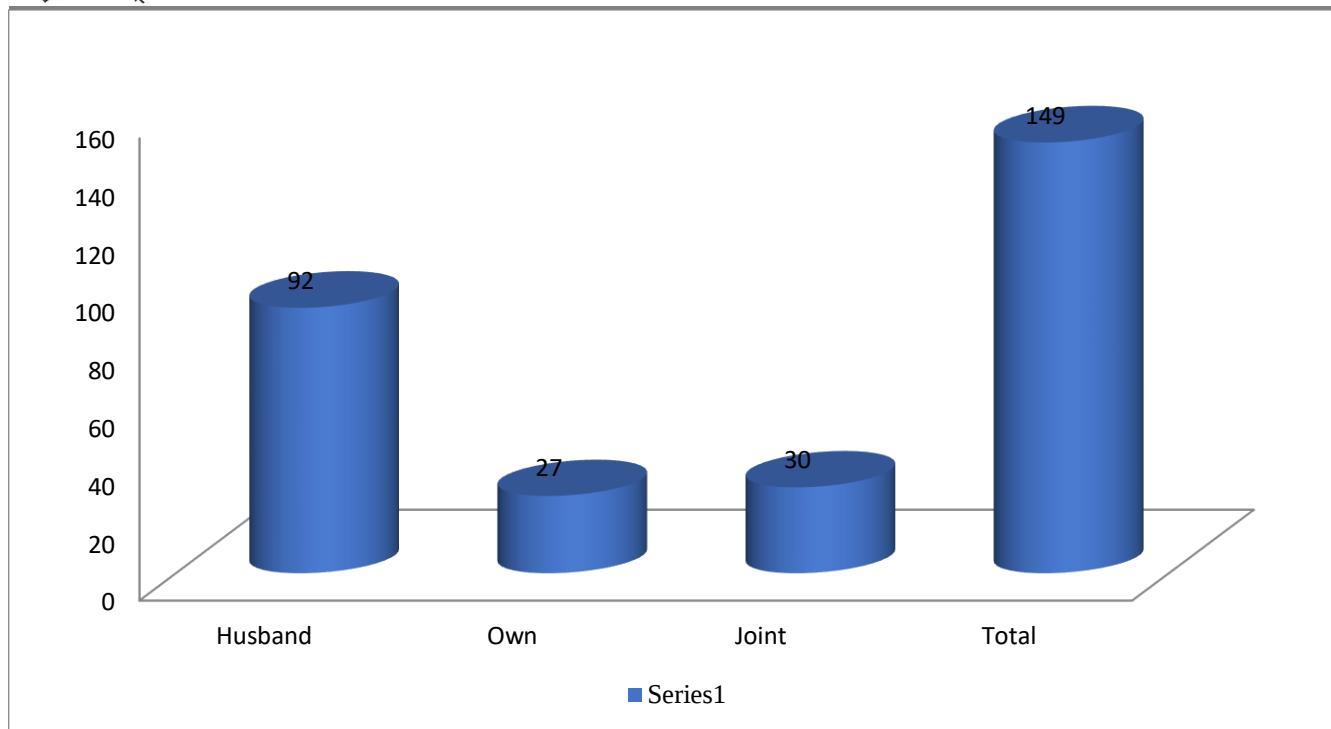
Decision maker	Frequency	percentage
Father	68	45%
Mother	6	5%
Joint	66	45%
Own	9	6%
Total	149	100%



The respondents are married and that was decided by their parents or own. Among them, 68 respondents (45%) are decided by their father, 6 (5%) respondents were by their mother, 9 respondents (6%) were decided by their own and 66 (45%) respondents were decided by their parent's joint decision.

Table 13: Decision about education of child

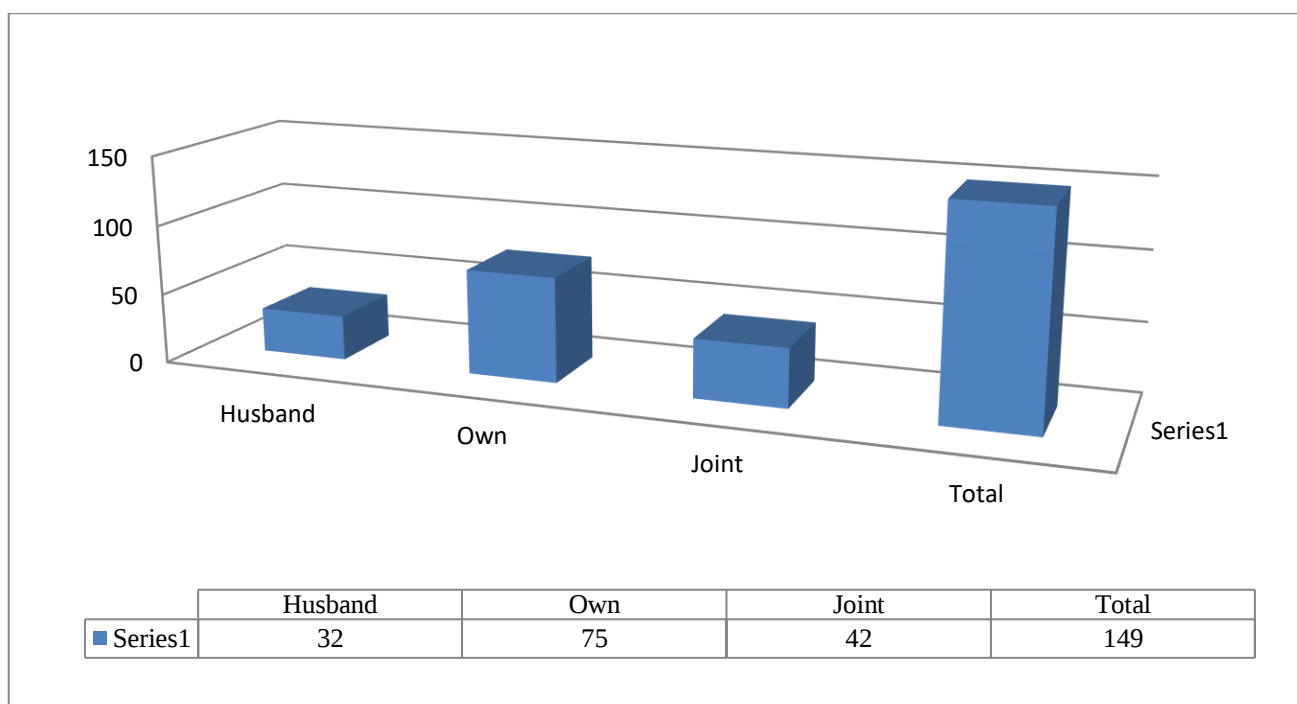
Decision maker	Frequency	percentage
Husband	92	62%
Own	27	18%
Join	30	20%
Total	149	100%



In a family, children are also a focus point. They are needed to be educated. For this, education system, identification of perfect educational intuition is too much important. Family members are responsible for choosing education institutions. 92 respondents (62%) decide by their husbands, 27 respondents (18%) by their own and 30 people (20%) decide by joint planning about the education of their children.

Table 14: Decision about dress up

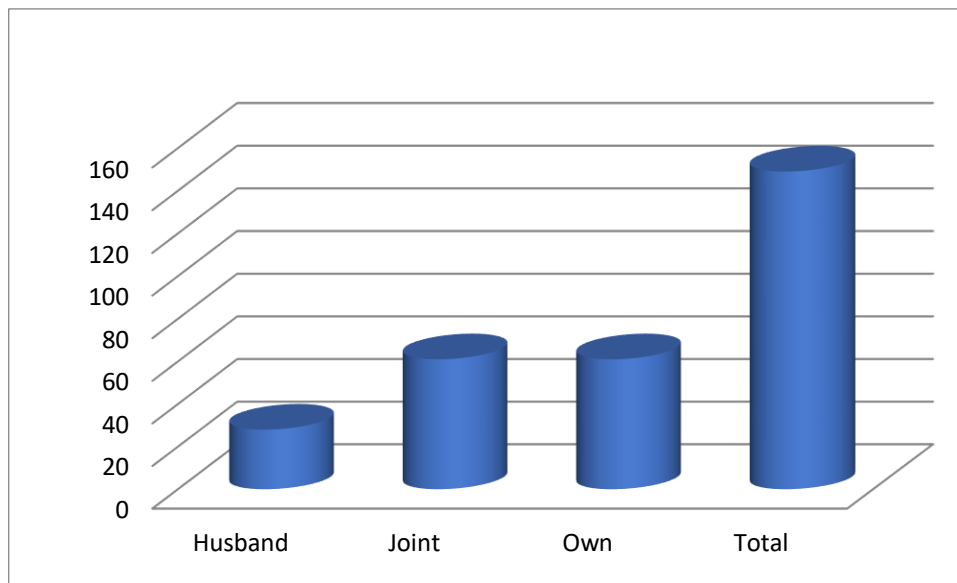
Decision maker	Frequency	percentage
Husband	32	22%
Own	75	50%
Joint	42	28%
Total	149	100%



Dress up is the indicator of a family's economic status, culture, beliefs and so on. This indicator is decided by family members or husbands or by respondents. 32 husbands (22%), 75 respondents (50% own) and 42 husband-wife (28%) decide about the dress up of family members. It has also an influence of men on women's personal life.

Table 15: Decision of right to vote

Person	Frequency	percentage
Husband	28	18%
Join	61	41%
Own	61	41%
Total	149	100%



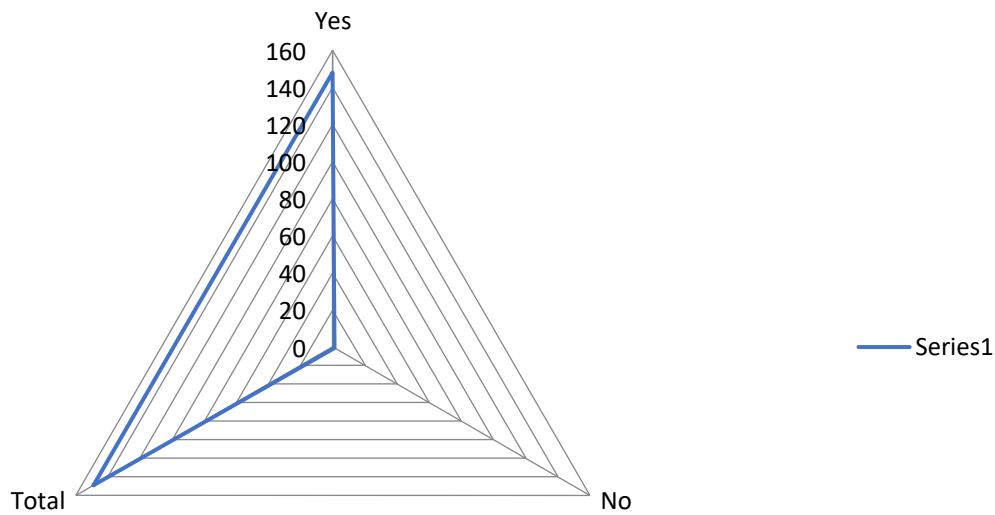
Vote is a political right and one of the most important human rights too. But everybody cannot apply it properly. Some respondents are able to do it properly and some are not. Respondents are influenced by their husbands too. This figure shows that 28 husbands (18%), 61 couples (41%), 62 respondents (41% female) decide about the leader who are voted by people.

The Birth Control Method of respondents

Population is a great issue of our country. Population will be a positive sign if those population are addressed as human resources. Birth control methods help to control the over population of a country. Family planning, various methods, planner etc are included here.

Table 16: Knowledge of family planning of respondents

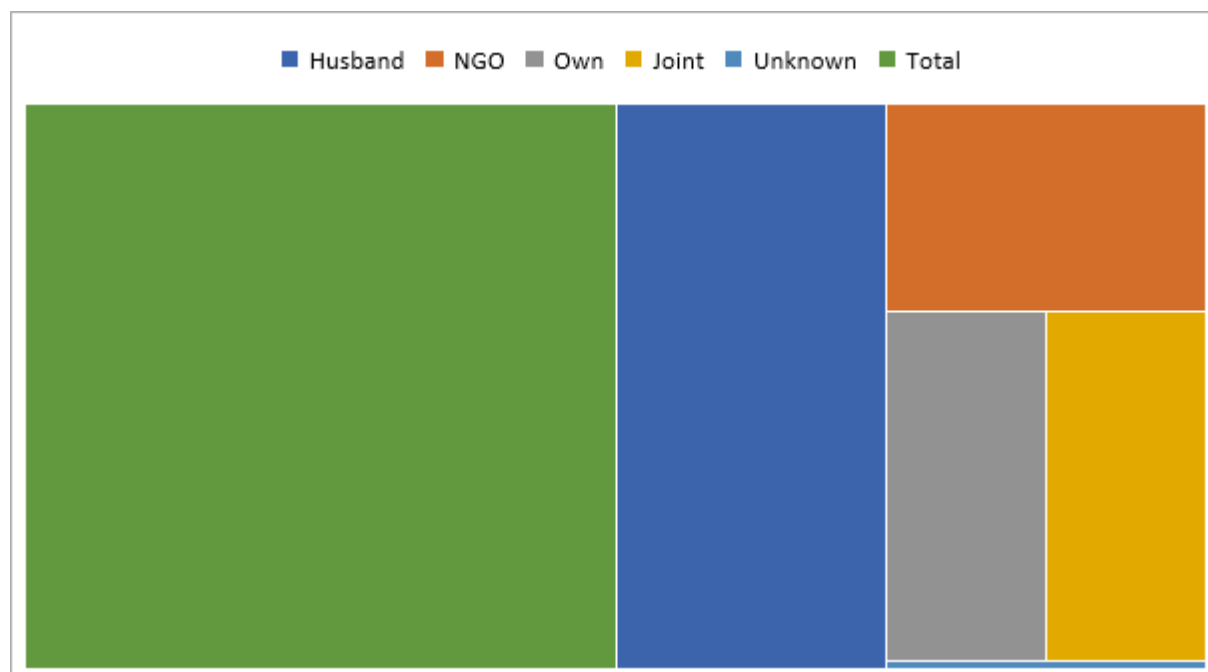
Person	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	148	99%
No	1	1%
Total	149	100%



Every respondent does not have enough knowledge about family planning. Among them, 148 respondents (99%) have idea about family planning and the other one respondent (1%) do not have clear idea about family planning. This knowledge is gained by the respondent's husbands, mothers or grandmothers or GO's and NGO's works.

Table 17: Knowledge gained by whom

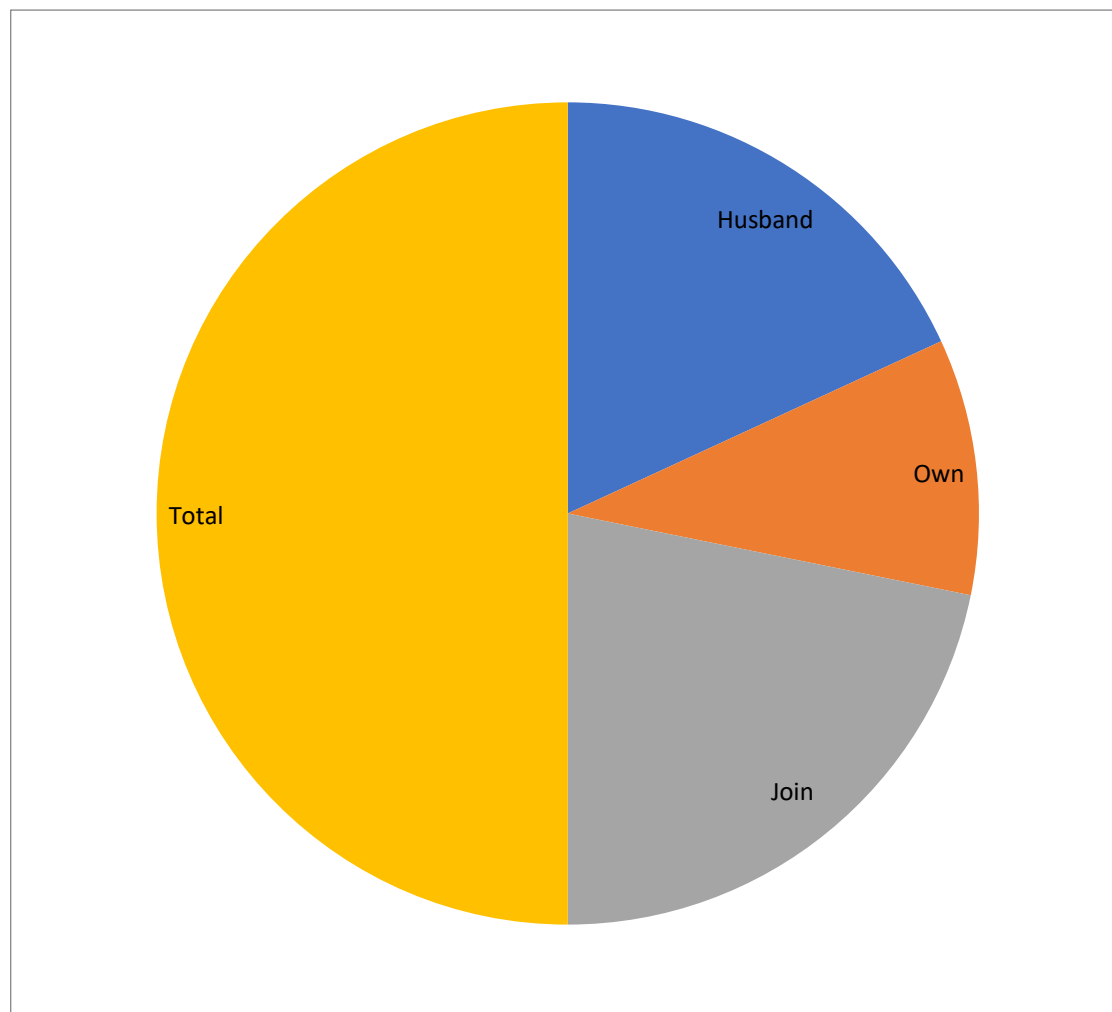
Medium	Frequency	Percentage
Husband	68	45%
NGO	30	20%
Own	25	17%
Joint	25	17%
Unknown	1	1%
Total	149	100%



Family planning methods are important to conceive a baby of respondents. There are various types of methods. Respondents need to gain knowledge about it. Here, respondents are known about family planning by their husband (45%), by NGO (20%) by their own (17%) and by join discussion (17%).

Table 18: Decision of taking family planning method

Decision maker	Frequency	percentage
Husband	54	36%
Own	30	20%
Join	65	44%
Total	149	100%



Which method is useful for them or who should receive the method. Here, family planning method are discussed by the respondent's husband (28%), by their own (16%), by the join discussion (56%). There are also an influence of men or husbands on respondents.

Table 19: Decision of type of the birth control method taken by

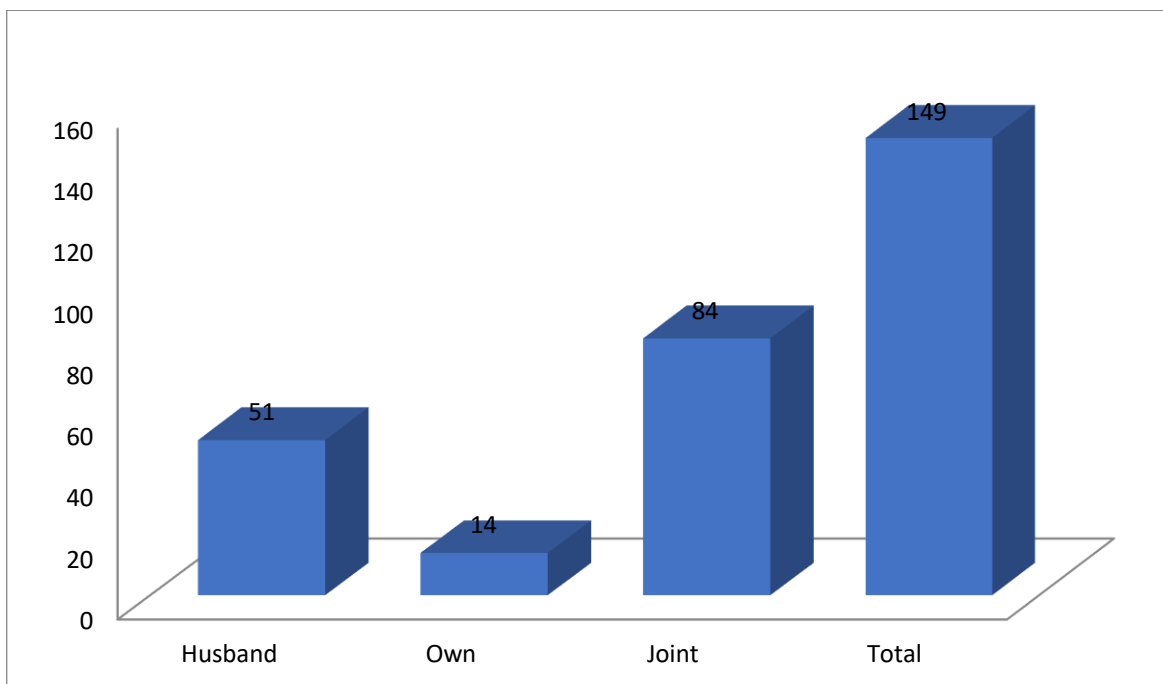
Decision maker	Frequency	percentage
Husband	30	20%
Own	23	15.5%
Join	96	64.5%
Total	149	100%



Family planning method can be received by husbands or respondents. It can be fixed by husbands and wives. Here, which method will be used by them are shown. 20% husband, 15.5 female person and 96% joint discussion are involved in choosing the birth control method of them.

Table 20: Decision about the age gap of children

Decision maker	Frequency	percentage
Husband	51	34%
Own	14	10%
Join	84	56%
Total	149	100%



The age gap among children of a family is so important for a family. It helps a family to develop their economic status, social status and so on. Some respondents are able to make decision by their own and some are not. Some respondents take decision by the discussion of both husbands and wives. 14 respondents (10%) make their decision about the age gap between or among the children by their won. 51 (34%) respondents take it by the respondent's husband and 84 respondents (56%) decide it by joint discussion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research paper is based on the audacity of women's freedom in decision making in Dogacchi union of Pabna district. It has been conducted to find out the influence of men on women in decision making that affects their duty negatively and make analysis through using primary and secondary data. Though women are more efficient than before to execute their decision in family, they face too much problem in their life. The main purpose of this study is to highlight the status of women or to show off the freedom of women in their family decision.

We know that participation and decision making is inter related. It has a strong influence on each other. The diagrams that show above have shown too much equations and also identify the influence of men in women's life especially after marriage. All respondents are divided into some categorizations and they are teenage to young lady, young to pre-middle aged lady, pre middle aged to middle aged lady and the old aged lady with a fixed age range. Education is must for a nation. Without education, no one can contribute him or her to family, society and also country. Respondents are both literate and illiterate too. Literate respondents have passed their academic life individually with the certificate of primary, secondary, higher secondary, honors and master's degree. Here their education life is dependent on their head member of their family. This study has shown that about 95% men are the head member of the family. It is a clear concept that identifies the reality of men's influence on their family as well as on women. It is a developing range or scale of any sector. Here most of the respondents are not involve in economic sector like job or business. Rather they are addressed as housewife. About 91% women are housewives here. Among all the respondents only 9% are job holder and 70% are involve in economic sectors among the housewives. Among the housewives, some earn by sewing, poultry rearing, livestock rearing, day laboring and so on with the most influence of their head member of family who is men in maximum number. Those income can be spent by respondents according to the wish of men and a little time of their own wish in various sectors. Most income is spent in family section and some are in economic sectors. There is also influence of men here. In 21st century decision of marriage of family members are being dependent more on join discussion of respondents and their husbands than before. In marriage only 30% women can make decision individually. Most decisions are made by the head member (95%) of family of respondents. Education is the guideline of a family and the backbone of nation. It is the marking point of development of our life as well as our nation. In this study we notice that the head of the family decide most about their children's education like which school should be appropriate or who is perfect for study. Only 18% respondents gain freedom to decide about their children's study. Women are aware of their rights more than before. They try to enjoy freedom and make decision by their own about their personal decision life without the influence of men. All respondents cannot gain it smoothly rather they face too much problems. Dress up is a common issue in every family. Here women can get permission to choose their dress and they are 50%. Other 22% are dependent on their husbands and 28% decide this by the join decision. Birth control is a national issue now. GOs and NGs are working continuously for it. Here all respondents do not have enough and clear knowledge about it and also the types and methos of birth control too. Respondents who know about this, they are known by the help of GOs, NGOs workers, social workers, old aged family members and others or by their husband. Birth control planning decision is made by husbands, respondents or by join decision. 36% husbands, 20% respondents and 44% join discussion are responsible for making decision of birth control which include the types of method they take or who take out this. Who take out this and what type is useful for them are decided by husband and maximum respondents accept the decision. Even the age gap among or between their children is also decided by their husband. Some make this decision by the join discussion. 34% husband and 565 join discussion are responsible for this. Only 10% respondents can make the decision of the age gap between or among children. So, there is a great influence of men in deciding the age gap of their children. Abortion is also decided by their husbands or family.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are some recommendations for the respondents and also people of our research area. They are –

- Different kinds of government facilities like VGF, old pension, widow pension, Food for Work or KaBiKha, social security should have provided them properly.

- Most of the people are dependent on agriculture. So, they need to be provided agriculture loan in low credit.
- Consciousness should be developed among them.
- Proper sanitization should be followed by them.
- Birth control methods should be available to them.
- Finally, influence of men should be derived here.

CONCLUSIONS

Women are mostly influenced by men in every sector and in every situation. Outing, mental health, hospitalization, clinical issues, economic sectors, personal life of women and so on are the focus point of the men's influence in this paper. All are happened for not enough participation of women in decision making in family and also in their own life. Though this participation is increasing day by day, there are too much influence of men in women's life.

Both men and women are the pillar of success of our society as well as our country. Without any of them success faces a great barrier for us. The above description, women are improving day by day in decision making in their family life. This improvement is in two categorizations. They are in educated family and uneducated or little educated family. In educated family, women are freer than the other one. They can apply their wisdom, spirit, sparkle in decision making for the betterment of their family. On the other hand, uneducated or little bit educated family doesn't allow women in decision making of any sector in family. Some are also deprived for low mentality, preconception, narrow mindedness and self-conceit of men.

To ensure women's freedom in decision making education is must. Besides this, women need to be trained through NGOs or GOs to contribute in economic sectors which make them more confident in their life.

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