

REPORT
ON
EFFECTIVENESS OF FREED KAMALARI GROUP FORMATION PROGRAM

Government of Nepal

Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Singhadurbar, Kathmandu

Nepal

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Executive Summary

This study was concerned about the Freed Kamlari Group Formation Program launched by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. This study focuses on the effectiveness of the program (Freed Kamlari Program) implemented in six different districts. The data were collected from the Tharu community in Bardiya District. This report mainly highlighted the impact of the program among the respondents and their engagement in various activities afterwards. The convergent parallel mixed methods design was used to analyze the numeric and informatics data in this study. Results from the survey design were integrated with the information from the interactions amongst the freed Kamalaris.

The findings of the study shows that Kamalaris were most interested in getting associated with the Freed Kamlari Program in 2064 BS, but the enrollment dramatically went down until 2067 BS and was steadfast from that year to 2073 BS. The high number of involvement is found in skill training. Lowest involvement is found in the tutorial program, but it has commendably highest outputs. There is a high involvement in group formation and saving mobilization. Many have been able to make self-decision in family matters and in education. It is also explored that the program should be sustainable.

Introduction

This report is concerned with the Freed Kamalari Program launched by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. The study mainly focused on the effectiveness of the program (Freed Kamalari Program) implemented in six different districts. The data were collected from the Tharu community in Bardiya District. The respondents were involved in various activities such as Group Formation and Saving Mobilization, Tutorial Program, Skill Development Training, and Business Formulation Training under the Freed Kamalari Program. This report mainly highlighted the impact of the program among the respondents and their engagement in various activities afterwards.

The mixed method design was used to analyze the data. Results from the survey design were integrated with the information from the interactions amongst the freed Kamalaris, representatives from NGOs, INGOs, and schools. The Key Informant Interview (KII) was also conducted along with the survey.

This study was also concerned about the significant achievements found in respondents, thereby discussing the effectiveness of the program. The aim of this study was to share the information, and provide suggestions for further improvement.

Methods

The convergent parallel mixed method design (Creswell, 2011) was used to analyze the numeric and informatics data in this study. Simultaneously, the qualitative data was used to understand the perception of the participants. Creswell (2011) states, “The purpose of the convergent mixed method design is to simultaneously collect both quantitative and qualitative

data, merge the data, and use the results to understand a research problem.” Descriptive statistics were used for the analysis of the quantitative data. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to analyze the survey data in quantitative method. The data obtained from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted, the findings of which are given in the later part of the report.

Sample of the Study

The participants were taken from Bardiya District. The sample site covered both municipality and villages of Bardiya District where Kamalaris reside. Tharu community (N=17) and Chaudhari community (N=1) were surveyed for this study and all respondents were females. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted amongst (N=40) stakeholders of Freed Kamalari. The participants were the representatives from NGOs, INGOs, women development officers together with the freed Kamalaris.

Data Presentation

The SPSS software was used to present the distribution tables, charts, bar diagrams, and pie charts. The textual data were transcribed and coded after listening the audio recording of the FGD. Findings from the both types of data were merged and presented thematically. The intent of this research was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Freed Kamalari Program. The overall effectiveness is presented in the following themes:

- i. Association with Freed Kamalari Program,
- ii. Involvement in Powered Program,
- iii. Benefit from the Program to Account for,
- iv. Role of Group Formation and Saving Mobilization,

- v. Change in Efficacy after the involvement in Freed Kamalari Program, and
- vi. Perception towards Freed Kamalari Program.

Association with Freed Kamalari Program

The interest of Kamalaris involving in the Freed Kamalari Program is increasing to some extent. This is one of the benefits of the program, and it showed an impact in Kamalari communities.

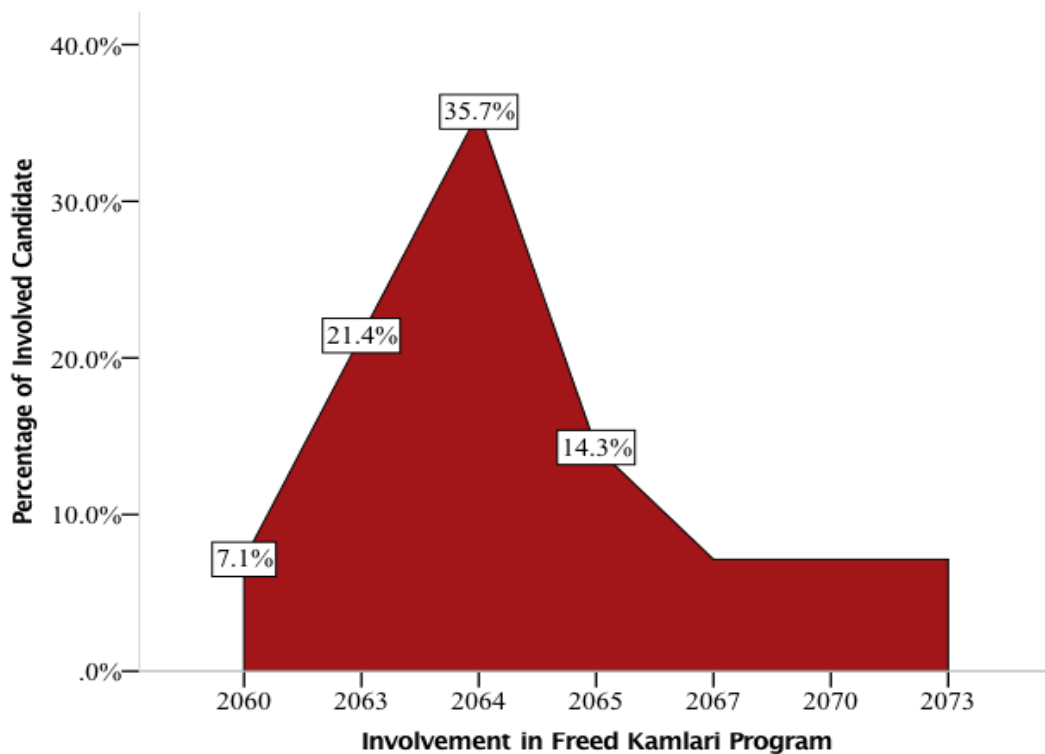


Figure 1: Involvement in Freed Kamlari Program by Years

From the given area chart, the involvement of Kamalaris in Freed Kamalari Program is increased to some extent. The range of involvement in such program is from 2060 BS to 2073 BS. In this range, at the beginning year, only 7.1 % respondents took part and the involvement is increased by around three times (21.4%) in very next year 2063 BS. The interest of association with Freed Kamalari program is seen highest (35.7%) in 2064 BS but the enrollment

dramatically slows down up to 2067 BS and steadfast from that year to 2073 BS. One of the participants said, *'In total, around 17 hundred Kamalaris are in Bardiya'*. Some of them are getting training and some of them don't know about the activities going on.

Involvement in Power Program

Some of the participants were involved in technical training (JTA), skilled training, educational program, group formulation program, and business promotional training.

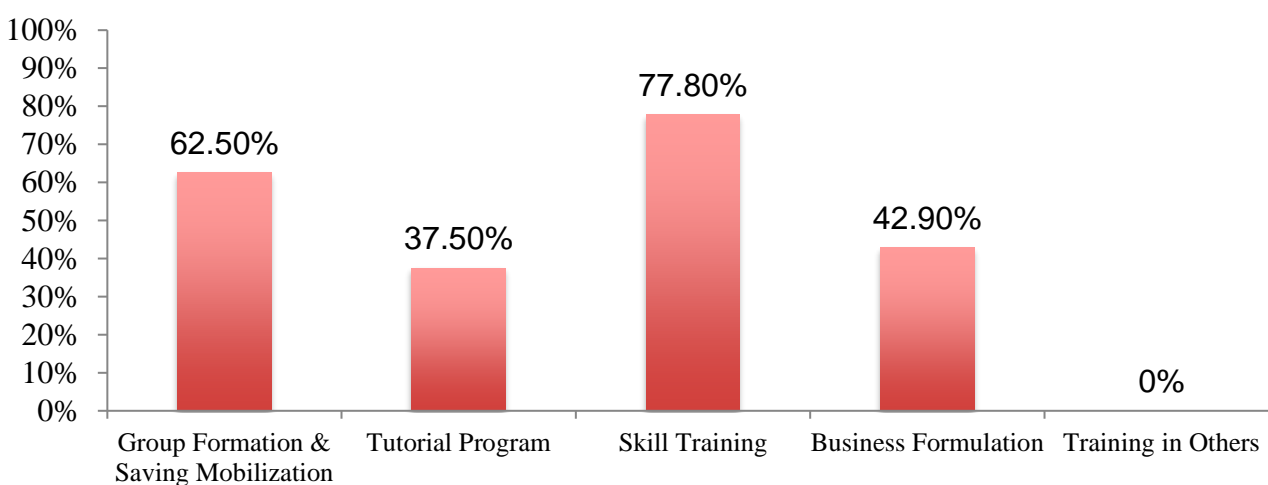


Figure 2: Bar Chart of Participants in Different Training Programs

The bar diagram above shows that the power program for freed Kamalaris includes group formation and saving mobilization, tutorial program, skill training, business formulation, and training in others are only providing by the different social welfare organization and Nepal Government. The other types of training program like technical program, cutting and sewing training are imparted to the freed Kamalaris but the funding for such programs are managed by INGOs and NGOs (field notes).

Enrollment in different programs is portrayed by the bar chart. The high number of Kamalaris (77.80%) involvement is found in skill training. The skill training was followed by

group formation and saving mobilization program (62.50%). Business formulation is another training program in which 42.90 % of Kamalaris involved. The highly sound of necessities for freed Kamalaris program from the FGD is Educational program where only 37.50% respondents were found. It seems that there is no involvement (0%) of respondents in other types of training.

Benefit from the Program

Kamalaris have got various benefits in different aspects through the program conducted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and others social welfare organizations. Out of the participants in the power program, some Kamalaris are found to have been directly benefited. The benefited participants have been able to establish their careers in different entrepreneurship activities. The following table presented the benefited Kamalaris in percentage frequency distribution.

Table 1

Frequency of Benefited Kamalaris from Power Programs

Trainings /Programs	Benefited (in Percentage)
Group Formation & saving Mobilization	10%
Tutorial Program	45%
Skilled Training	20%
Business Formulation	15%
Training in Others	-

From the table 1, it is seen that a good number of participants (45%) in Freed Kamalari program is found in educational sector that are involved in tutorial programs which is followed by skilled training (20%). The comparative study of involvement in power program and benefited by this program shows that few participants amongst these Freed Kamalari program

were involved in tutorial program but high volume of outputs are benefited than others training program.

Role of Group Formation and Saving Mobilization

This program is found as one of the significant programs amongst the freed Kamalaris in Bardiya. The Kamalaris have collected some funds from the associated organizations. Some of the Kamalaris who have better settlement than others have saved money in the organization and mobilized the saving. In total, 62.50% respondents are found to have been involved in group formation and saving mobilization program. Out of these, only 10% participants were benefited from the survey result. They took some funds as a loan and used in different household activities like: family health, pet farming, education, social work, home and land purchase, business, and

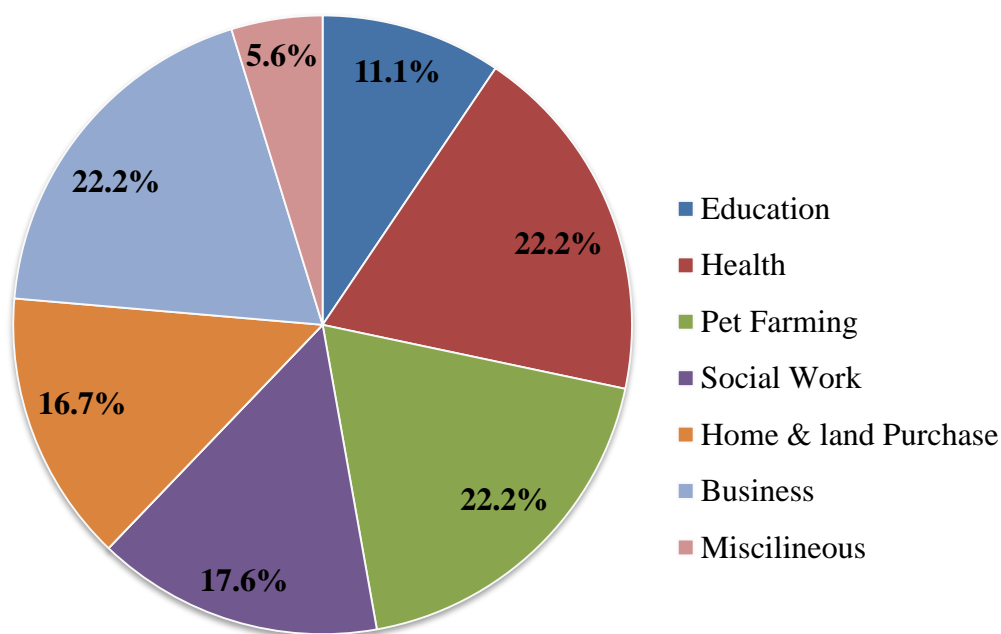


Figure 3: Pie Chart of Loan Mobilization

miscellaneous. They used the loan equally in their family health, pet farming, and their business (22.2%). The loan figure was used in social work, and home and land purchase by 17.6% and

16.7% respectively. 11.1 % of the loan figure covers the space for educational expenses. It is seen that the group formation and saving mobilization support in their economical load.

Change in Efficacy after the involvement in Freed Kamalari Program

One of the crux parts of this report is to scrutinize the changes in efficacy after the involvement in freed Kamalari program. The respondents who were involved in this study explored that the program helped them in decision making. Altogether 12-change facets were used for the sample study to analysis their change in efficacy through the Freed Kamalari Program.

Self-decision making related to family issues, social groups, local organizations, health issues, buying and selling in the market, buying and selling of fixed properties, daily household chores, buying and selling livestock, family health, education, social customs, and politics were taken as change facets.

Table 2 presents the changes found. In self-decision making in family matter; it is found that 73.7 respondents were changed and 10.5 respondents were found not to have been changed. But, 15.8% respondents did not respond the questionnaire. In the same way the others facets were presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Change in Efficacy of Respondents after the Freed Kamalari Program

S.N.	Change Facets	Found Change	Found No Change
		%	%
1	Self Decision Making in Family Matters	73.7	10.5
2	Make Decision in Social Group	47.4	26.3
3	Make Decision in Local Organization	36.8	31.6
4	About Breeding Health	63.2	10.5
5	Buy and Sell in Market	47.4	21.1
6	Buy and Sell of Fixed Properties	42.1	26.3
7	Daily Household Work	52.6	10.5
8	Buy and Sell in Livestock	42.1	26.6
9	Family Health	63.2	-
10	Education	73.7	-
11	Social Customs	63.2	-
12	Making Decision to Involve in Politics	21.1	36.8

The freed Kamalari program is seen more effective in self decision making in family matter and education equally found that, 73.7 % of respondents are able to change their efficacy after the freed Kamalari program. Equally found change (63.2% respondents) in breeding health, family health, and social custom.

The interesting result found that 36.8% respondents do not change in their making decision to involve in politics, which is greater than found in change percentage. A great number of people could not find any change in the involvement in the decision-making process in politics.

Perception towards Freed Kamalari Program

To what extent Kamalaris have perceived the Freed Kamalari Program as useful and effectiveness is analyzed under the perceptions towards freed Kamalari program. Three indicators are used to examine their perceptions: usefulness, effectiveness, and satisfaction. The level of usefulness, effectiveness, and satisfaction is collected through 5 Likert-point scale in Table 3.

Table 3

Level of Acceptance of Freed Kamalari Program

Usefulness of Skill Development Training in Enhancing Efficacy				
Level	Responses in %	Median	Mean	SD
More Useful	20	3	2.8	1.54
Useful	10			
Neutral	30			
Less Useful	10			
Unusable	30			

Effectiveness of Educational & Skill training				
Level	Responses in %			
More Effective	20	4	3.47	1.24
Effective	33.33			
Neutral	32.34			
Less Effective	1			
Ineffective	13.33			
Effectiveness of Freed Kamalari Program in Quality Life Style				
Level	Responses in %			
More Effective	20	4	3.6	1.05
Effective	33.33			
Neutral	40			
Less Effective	0			
Ineffective	6.67			
Satisfaction for Target Group Selection for Program Participations				
Level	Responses in %			
More Satisfy	16.67	3	3.25	1.13
Satisfy	16.67			
Neutral	50			
Less Satisfy	8.33			
Unsatisfied	8.33			

As from the table 3, more respondents (30%) believed that Skill Development Training in enhancing efficacy is not in use for them, with the same figure at a neutral point. Some respondents (20%) feel that it is more useful and 10% of the respondents feel it is just useful.

Over all, half of the respondents ($MD = 3$) believed that the skill development training program is useful for them but their average perception ($M = 2.8$, $SD = 1.54$) indicates low positive attitude towards usefulness of the skill training program.

While talking about the Effectiveness of Educational & Skill training program, high number of respondents (33.33%) believed on effective and 20% are added on more effective. Around 32.33 % of respondents are in neutral point. It seems that, 50 % of the respondents have highly positive attitude ($MD = 4$) towards effectiveness of educational and skill training program. However, their average perception ($M = 3.47$; $SD = 1.24$) is highly positive too.

More respondents (40%) believed that effectiveness of the Freed Kamalari Program in Quality Life Style seemed at a neutral point. Some respondents (20%) find it more effective and 33.33 % of the respondents find it just effective. Over all, half of the respondents ($MD = 4$) believed that the freed Kamalari program enhanced the quality life style. Their average perceptions ($M = 3.6$; $SD = 1.05$) towards the effectiveness of the Freed Kamalari Program in terms of enhancing the quality life style is positive.

While talking about the Satisfaction for Target Group Selection for Program Participations, high number of respondents (50%) are in neutral point. Equal number of respondents (16.67%) believed on Satisfaction for Target Group Selection for Program Participations. It seems that 50% of the respondents are above the neutral point and half of them are ($MD = 3$) less than neutral level. Whatever the percentage is, their average perception ($M = 3.25$; $SD = 1.33$) is positive.

Sustainability Matters for Quality Life

The result from the quantitative method is integrated with the qualitative method in this section. The overall audio data were transcribed at first, and coded them into the theme. The common theme from the respondents was used to evaluate the quantitative results too. Drawing on the transcribed data, it was concluded that the participants in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) had the same responses regarding the Freed Kamalari Program as the survey findings.

All of the respondents had the same voice: "*Launching the program is not enough; it should get continuity for quality life.*" One of the respondents shared her experience from the women development section that the amount of loan which they are receiving and the funding which they are collecting has really "changed the quality of life." One of the speakers from the Tharu community, currently working in an NGO, shared his experience as,

My mother was a Kamalari. She received some funds from such entities and she invested that money in my education. I completed my Bachelor's degree and came to this level. Nobody can request me to work as Kamalari in my community. I have been able to live a quality life due to the different Kamalari programs. Without the help of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, I would not have been in this level of empowerment.

He continued,

Science and technology come ahead before development of their thinking level, it can be dangerous for them. He also added more on future training programs like child marriage too.

We can trace that from 2067 BS to 2073 BS, there is a very low and constant enrollment in freed Kamalari training program. One of the participants said, '*In total, around 17 hundred Kamalaries are in*

Bardiya some of them are getting training and some of them don't know about what activities are going on. Some of the Kamalaris are getting funds for their education and they have used the fund for their quality life.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the Freed Kamalari program initiated by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has helped the Kamalaris to improve the quality of their lives. Many participants are benefitted through the free Kamalari training program in their business and professional development. With some exceptions, the program has proved effective.

Recommendations

- There are significant achievements gained from the the Freed Kamalari Program. Many of the participants are not engaged in the programs, resulting in the problem in their quality life. To address this issue, local communities or individuals should be mobilized to give information about the program.
- Despite the high involvement (77.80%) in skill training program, only 20% participants have been benefitted. A separate Skilled Development Program should be conducted for the participants who were involved in the skill training program. The additional Skill Development Program may provide them with ideas about how and where they can use their knowledge and skills they have learnt.
- A separate tutorial training program should be conducted, ensuring high involvement in the tutorial program.
- 22.2% of participants in loan mobilization training program are highly contributing in health sector, pet farming, and business. To improve their business, the respective organizations can launch an entrepreneurship-training program for Kamalaris.

- Making self-decision is most important part of quality life and they are taking self-decision in some cases, which is a positive aspect. A series of talk programs may lead to enhance reliance on their self-decision. This kind of talk program should be conducted to strengthen their community.
- Despite the government efforts, there is still a section of Kamalaris who are not satisfied with the program. A survey should be conducted, involving various stakeholders and community members so as to explore the reasons behind the dissatisfaction and measures to address the weaknesses.
- As per the suggestions from the stakeholders, further programs should be designed and implemented so as to cope with the changing need of time.
- In order to make an informed decision regarding the sustainability of the programs, the three-fold approach should be used: (1) The programs should get continuity, with more intensity and rigor, (2) the participatory evaluation should be conducted annually and stakeholders' and beneficiaries' concerns and feedbacks should be addressed, and (3) The budget allocated for the programs should be scaled up.
- If a Kamalari gets some funds from any organization but she gets married, then she will become Kamalari again. The main problem remains unsolved. So, the parallel training program on education and skilled development for Kamalari are essential to enhance the quality life style.

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Annex 1: Information About the Freed Kamalari Program and Involvement of Respondents

Table

Involvement in Program through Information

	Did you Inform?		Total
	Informed	Do not Informed	
Involvement in Program	66%	-	66%
Do not Involvement in Program	11%	23%	34%
Total	77%	23%	100%