

**Study on Dynamics of Power Relationship and Decision
making Process Among Employed Married
Couples in Bhutan.**

By: Mr. Tshering Dorji & Dr. Jacob Islary

Introduction

Understanding Family


- ✓ Primary social institution and connected with all elements of society
- ✓ Understanding family transformation, structure, process, roles and needs.
- ✓ Transformation due to socio economic factors: related challenges and issues, re- negotiating family roles.
- ✓ Dynamics of power and related factors in employed married couples in 21st century.

Understanding Bhutanese family context and dynamics through study (social work perspectives): Increasing trends of employed couple marriages.

- ✓ Matrimonial case is the second highest registered case in Bhutan(Judiciary report of Bhutan, 2017) and Increasing Family Issues.
- ✓ Importance of literature & data related to family

Understanding Power and Decision Making in Family: A Theoretical Perspectives

- Power: Family scientists define power in terms of who is able to influence others to get their way in the family, and who is able to block others from getting their way
- Micro systemic view family power – As Legitimate power, Informational power, Referential power, Coercive power, Expert power and Reward power (French, J and Raven , V, 1959)
- Resource Theory of Social Exchange:
 - ✓ Resource Transaction, Interdependence, Fairness, Reward and Cost.
 - ✓ More Resource leading to more decision making power.
- Resource theory of family power such as resources of income, occupational prestige, and educational attainment demonstrated that the greater the men's resources in these areas, greater the men's perceived power within the family.

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- A study of 113 non industrialized nations conducted by Gary Lee and Larry Petersen (1983) found that as wives contributed more to food production, the more power they exerted in marriage. Similarly, wives with higher educational attainments were less likely to be a victim of domestic violence (R. S. Oropesa, 1997)
 - Dependence & Power: Inversely Proportional?
 - Alternative Resources & Dependence: Inversely Proportional

Objectives

- To explore household role distribution pattern and decision making power.
- To explore dynamics of interaction and relationship between couples.
- To study the relationship between resource possession with power dynamics.
- To explore challenges concerning employed married couples

Methods and Tools

Cross- Sectional Study design

Population of the Study

- Sample size: 160
- Sampling Method: Purposive (non- random)

Methods & Tools: Quantitative- Qualitative (Mixed method)

- Interview: Semi-structured(using interview schedule as a tool)
- Questionnaire: Online Administration

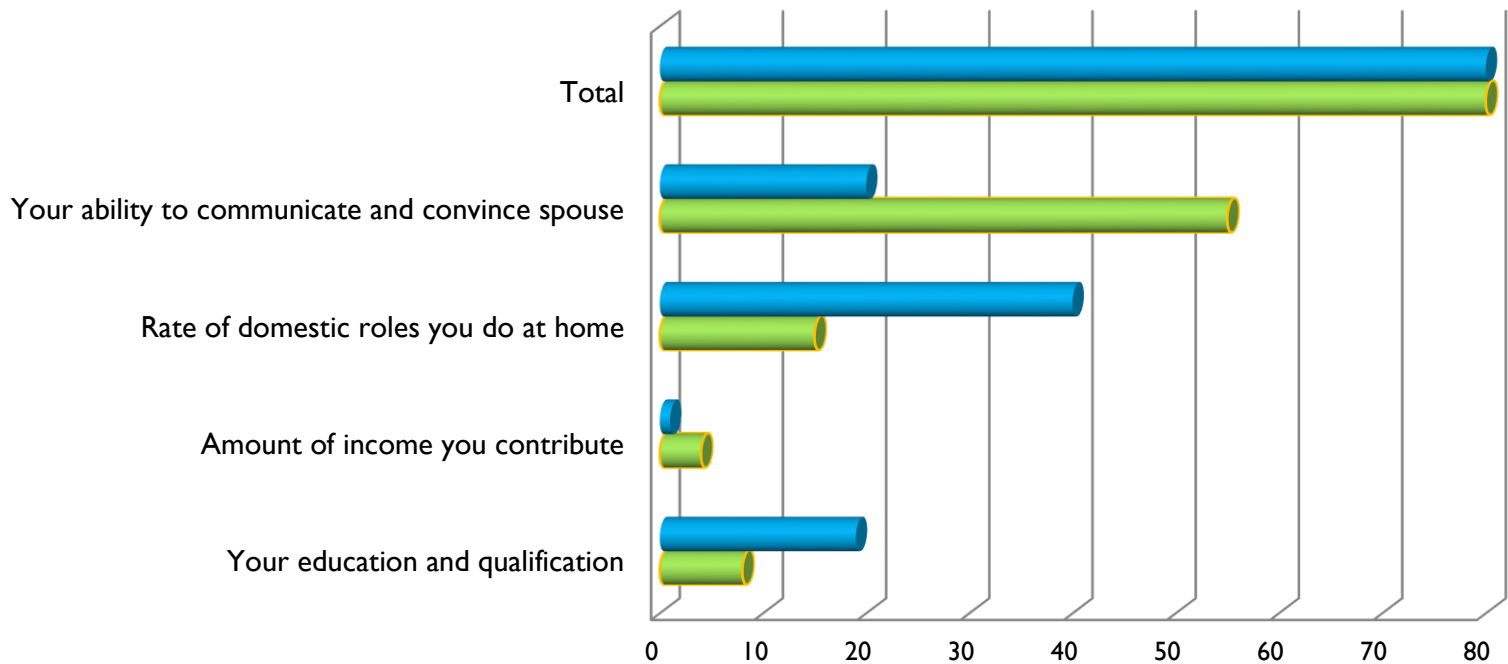
Analysis and Discussion

Involvement in Household Labor

	Almost Every day by alone	Takes turn with spouse	Sometimes together with spouse or Children	Total Respondents
Male	16.3%	66.3%	17.5%	100%
Female	42.5%	52.5%	5.0%	100%

Perception on Source of Decision Making

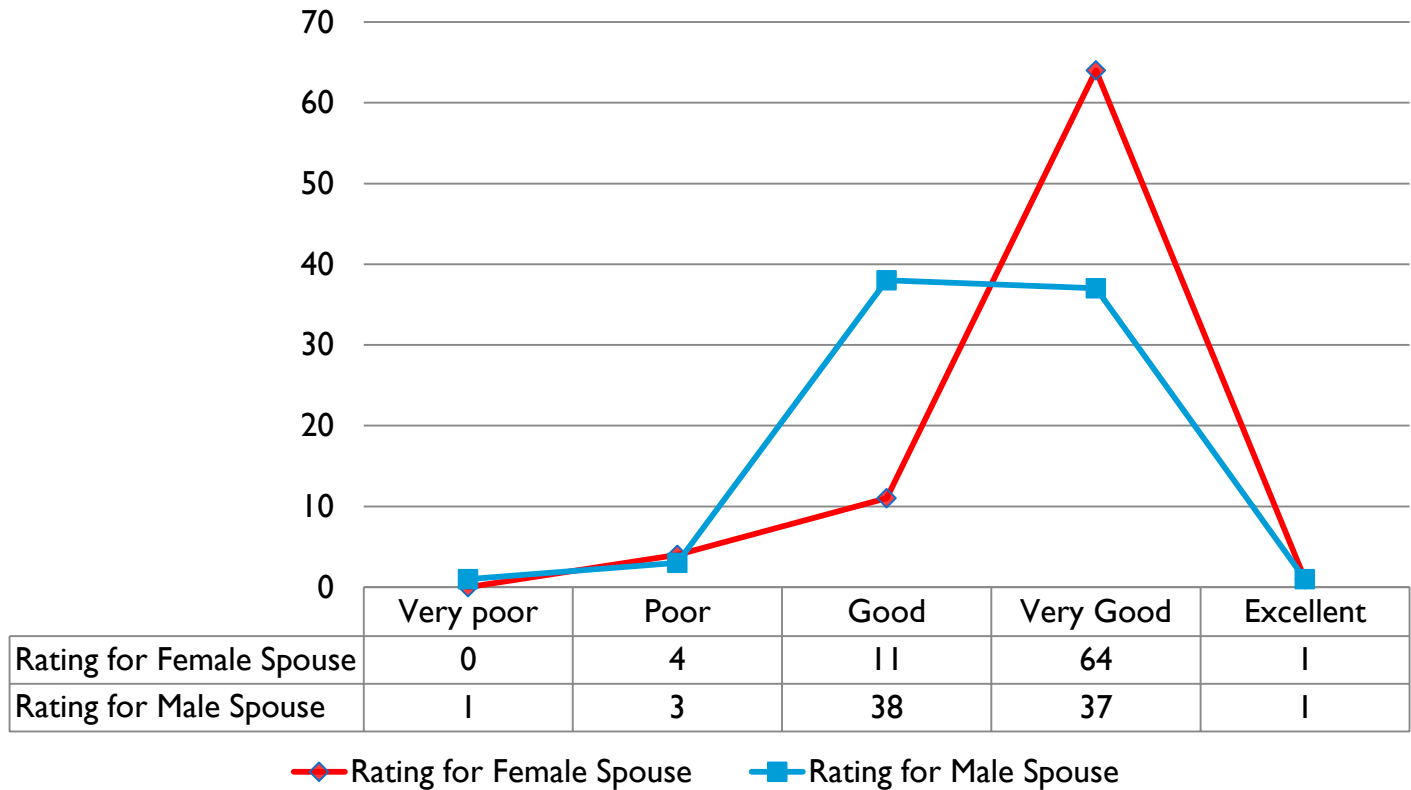
Respondents Perception on Best Source of Family Decision Making Power



	Your education and qualification	Amount of income you contribute	Rate of domestic roles you do at home	Your ability to communicate and convince spouse	Total
■ Female	19	1	40	20	80
■ Male	8	4	15	55	80

Decision Making Rating for Spouse

Respondents Decision Making Rating for Spouse

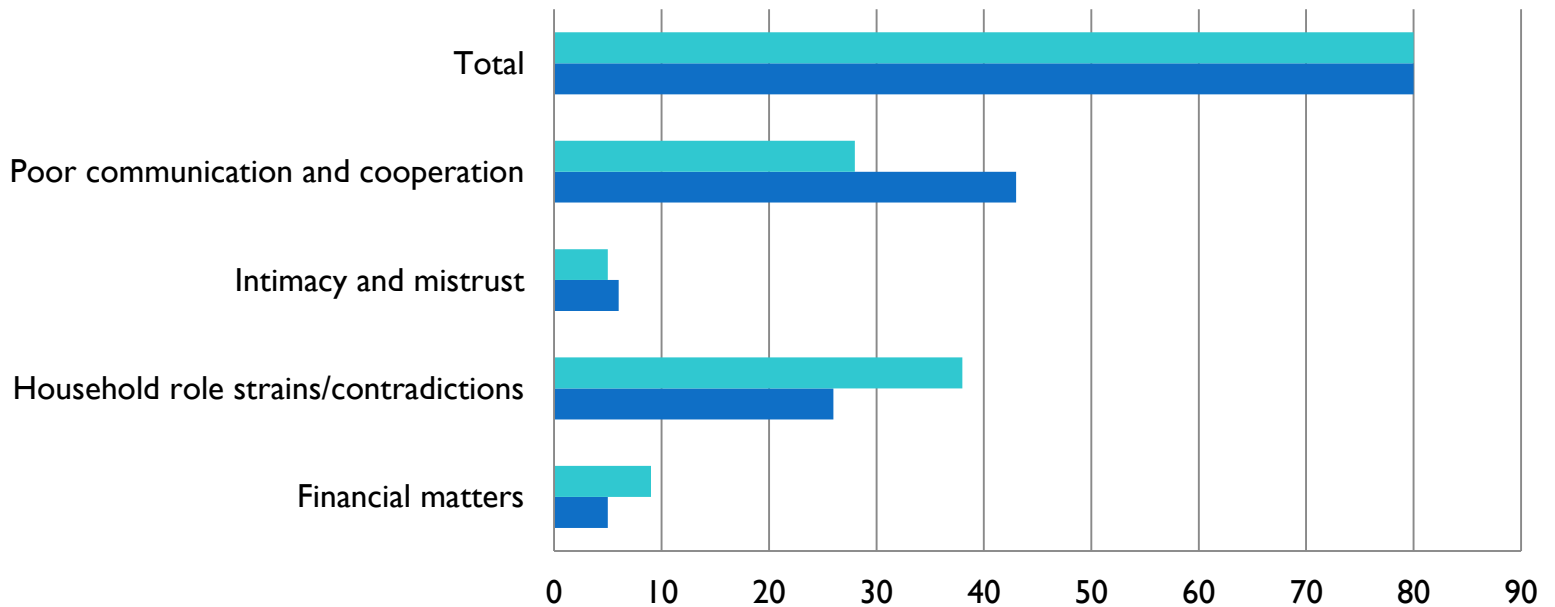


Perception on the Best Source of Family Decision Making Power

	Educational Qualification	Amount of income Contribution	Rate of domestic roles you do at home	Ability to communicate and convince spouse	Total
Male	10.0%	5.0%	18.0%	67.0%	100%
Female	23.0%	2.0%	50.0%	25.0%	100%

Perception on Primary Cause for Disagreement and Conflict

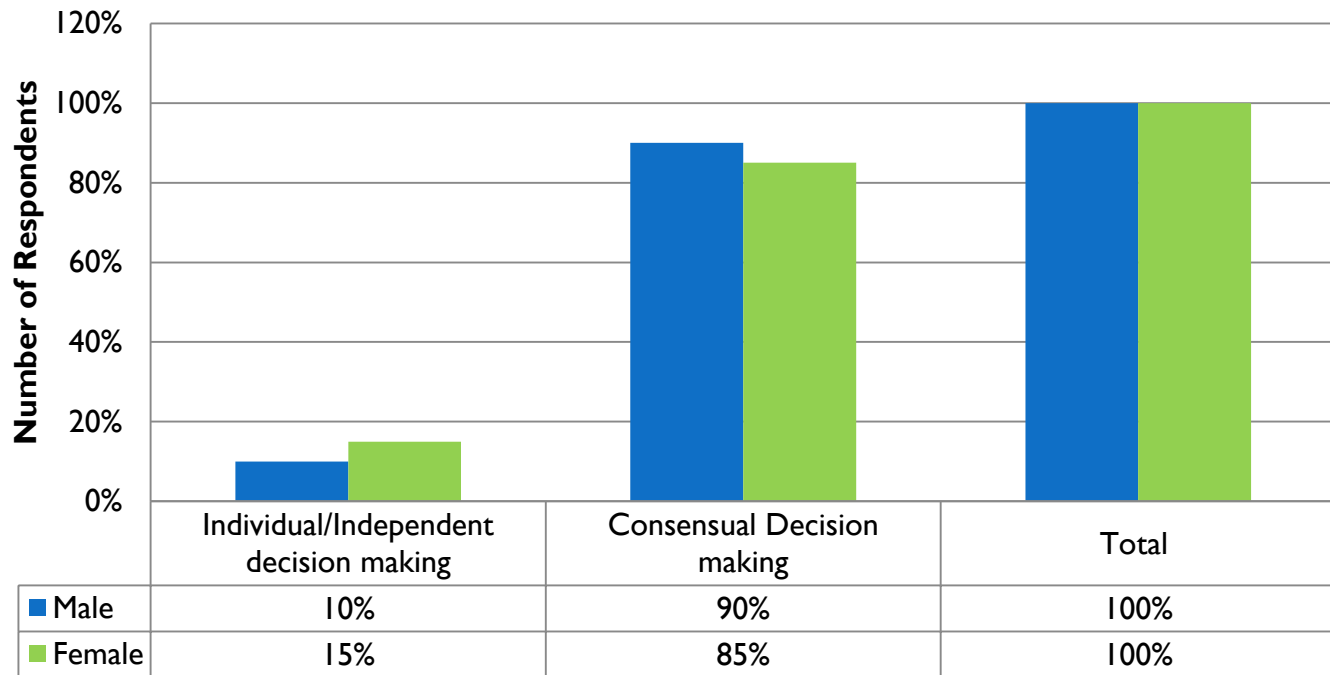
Respondents Perception on Primary Cause of Disagreement & Conflict



	Financial matters	Household role strains/contradictions	Intimacy and mistrust	Poor communication and cooperation	Total
Female	9	38	5	28	80
Male	5	26	6	43	80


Choice of Family Decision Making

Respondents Choice of Decision Making Pattern



Findings and Discussion

- Women occupying equal or lower individual resource (educational qualification and income) possession compared to their male partners.
- Female respondents found to be engaging more in domestic labor with 42.5% reported to be involved almost every day, while men represent 16%. The rest are reported to be taking turn with their spouses.
- But female respondents are found to have better financial decision making power in daily purchase with 67% engaging in almost every time. Whereas male respondents represent 39% in daily home expenditure.
- Further, female respondents obtain better score in decision making at home from their male partners compared to male respondents. (Decision Making Score)

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- Study found to have less relationship between resource including educational qualification and income contribution with power showing majority preferring egalitarian decision making and role distribution.
 - Perception on sources of decision making power:
 - ✓ Female: education and rate of domestic role performed at home
 - ✓ Male respondents perceive communication strategy as contributing factor.
 - Major family decision making power is found to be egalitarian irrespective of couples resource and status. But Women are found to have more family decision making power in minor daily family activities with 67% engaging in almost every time decision making.

Way Forward

- Family Life Education (Process and Challenges)
- Relationship Maintenance (Communication Patterns and Negotiation Skills)
- Further Studies on Family and Concerning Issues



Thank You