

Results

Male/Female Involvement in Household and Farm Activities

As seen in the representation of the Time Allocation Study data in Figures 2-6, there is a wide disparity between the work carried out by females and males. Women are the ones who are primarily responsible for child care, household maintenance and cooking, animal husbandry, crop production, post-harvest processing, and brewing alcoholic beverages. Men's primary duties are in land preparation, herding and grazing animals, harvesting crops, marketing, and community work. Yet, in several tasks, men and women share the work load.

Figure 2

Women's Work Activities

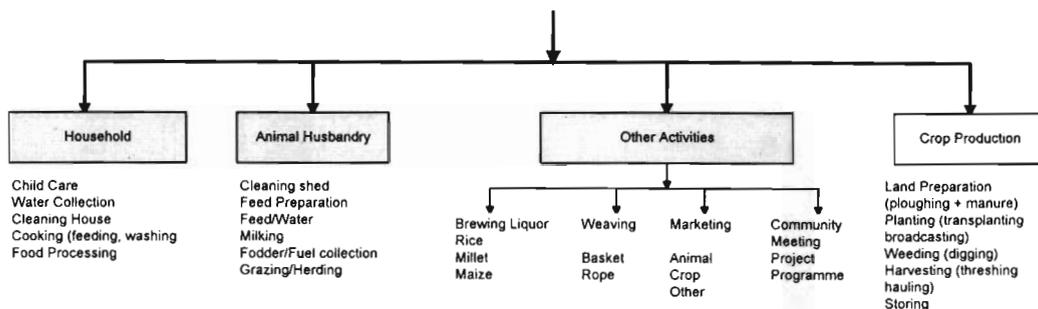
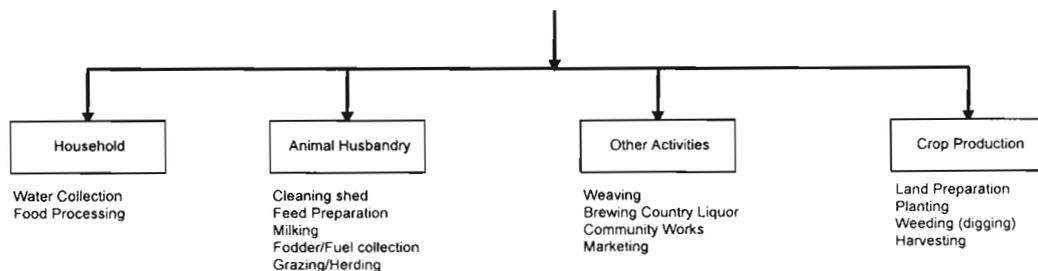


Figure 3

Men's Work Activities



These Gorkha women are working an average of 15 hours a day, starting at 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning and finishing at 8:00 or 9:00 in the evening during the planting and harvesting periods. The participation of elders and children, also enumerated, men, and women of three communities is detailed in Annex 1.

Three women's daily routines during the harvest season (mid-November to mid-December) are portrayed in Figure 7.

The Time Allocation Study also produced detailed information on the extent of male and female involvement in specific crop production activities, presented in Figure 8.

It is widely believed that in communities of Tibeto-Burmese ethnicity, there is a greater degree of parity and sharing of the work burden between men and women than in other castes and ethnic groups. Of the three ethnicities represented in the sample - *Magar*, *Gurung* and *Newar* - no significant differences were reported for the division of labour by gender (Figure 9). Researchers stated that the Newar community had, in some ways, taken on behaviour more typically associated with the hill ethnic groups due to their long-term association with them.

Women's Indigenous Knowledge

While observing the maps drawn by men and women of their environments, it became strikingly evident that the universe known to women is significantly smaller than that known to men. In addition to their fields, men drew the markets and roadheads, schools they attended and neighbouring villages where they go to enjoy local festivals. Women's environs were generally limited to those of their neighbours' houses, fuel/fodder collection sites, fields and cattle sheds, and water sources (Figure 10).

Transect walks with a few women presented the Project staff with opportunities to engage them in discussions about plant species and their uses. Such walks were not taken with men, so it is not possible to compare the degree of knowledge held by each, but other studies have documented the extensive knowledge of fodder species held by women which differs and often exceeds that of their menfolk (Rockeleav 1991; Rusten and Gold 1995). Some of the women's knowledge of plants found surrounding their fields is detailed in Figure 11.

Figure 4
Male/Female Involvement In Various Activities

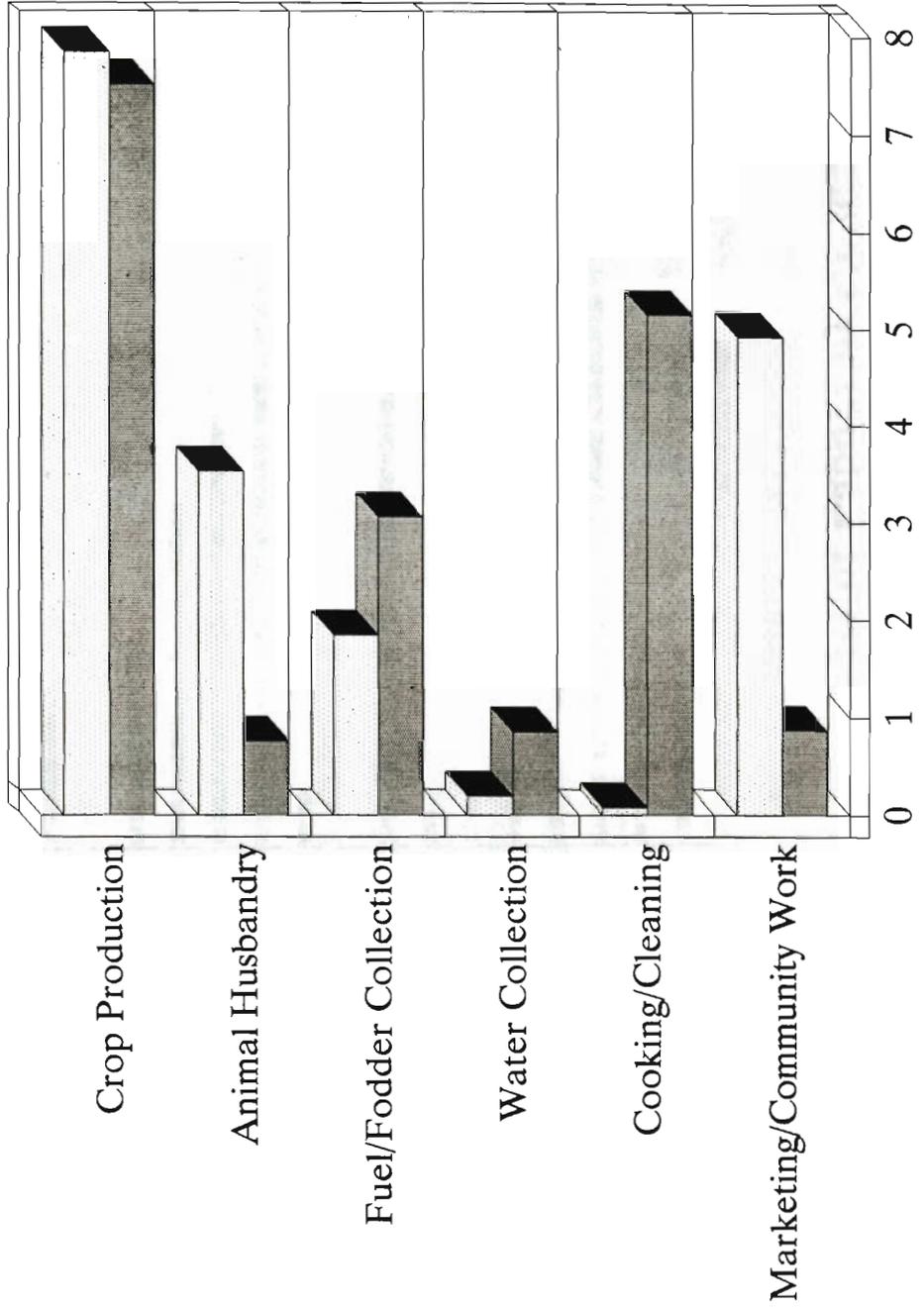


Figure 5
Division of Labour by Gender

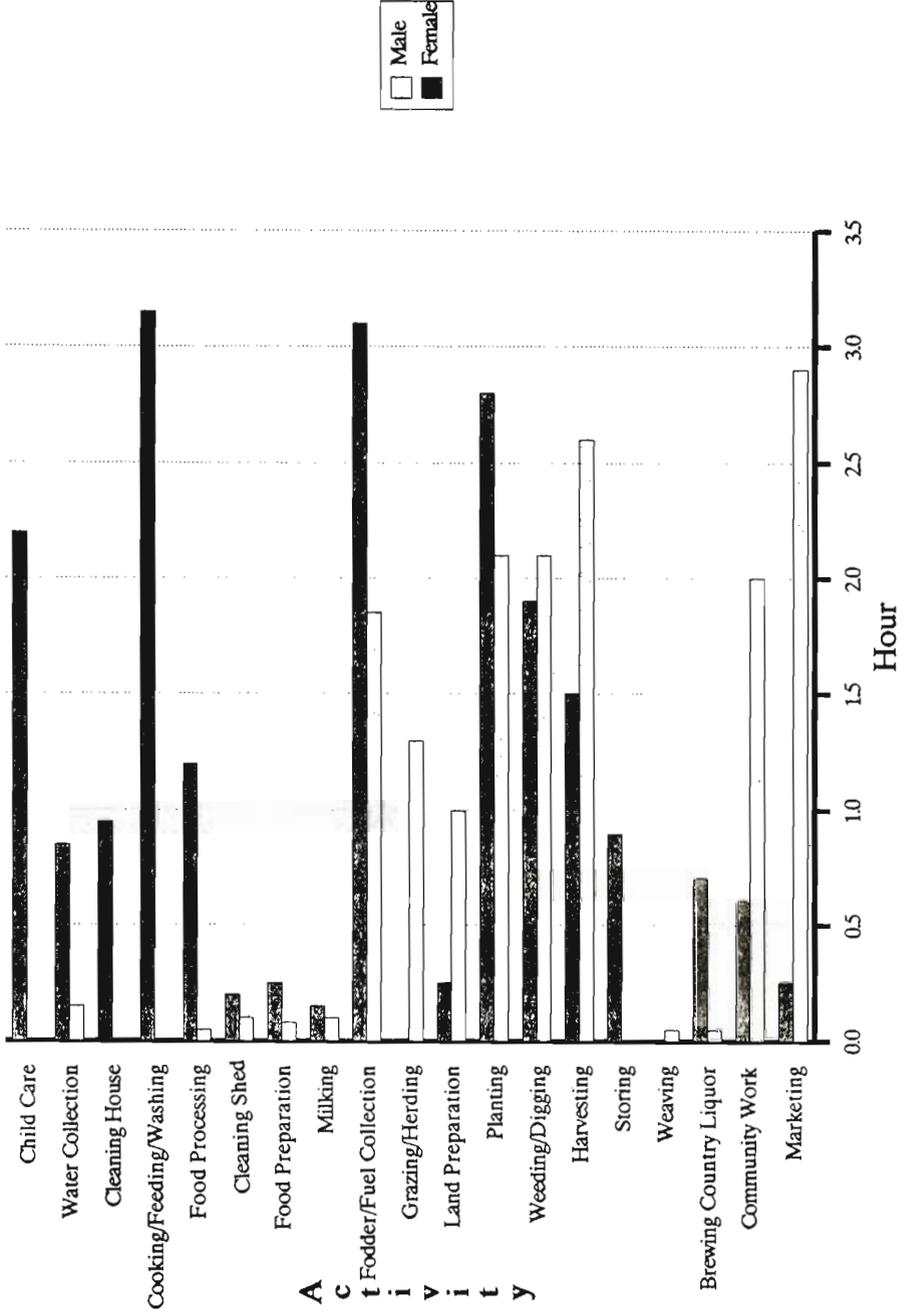


Figure 6

How the Work is Divided (% total labour in hours)

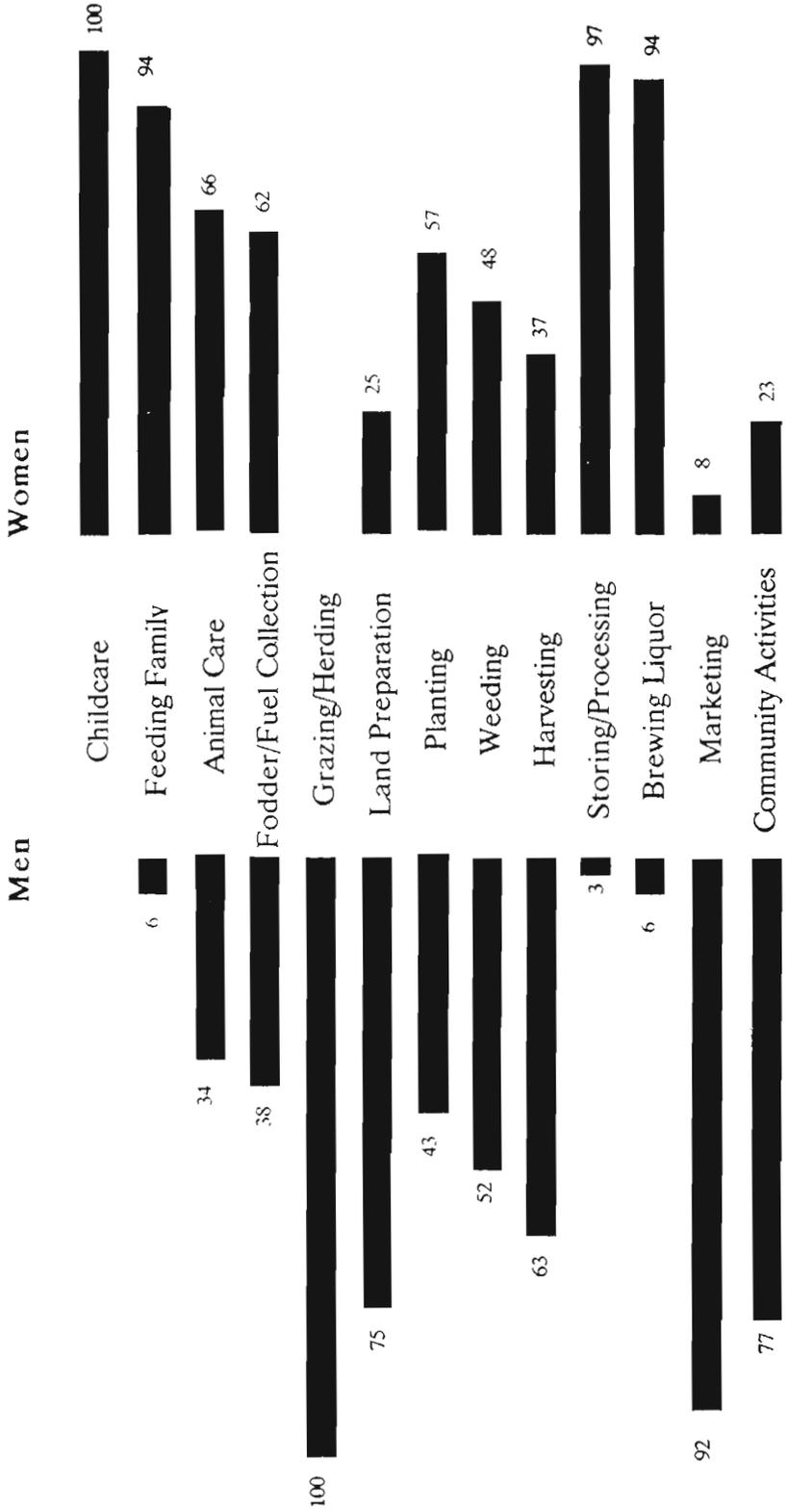


Figure 7
 Daily Routines of Three Women During Harvesting Season (Nov-Dec)

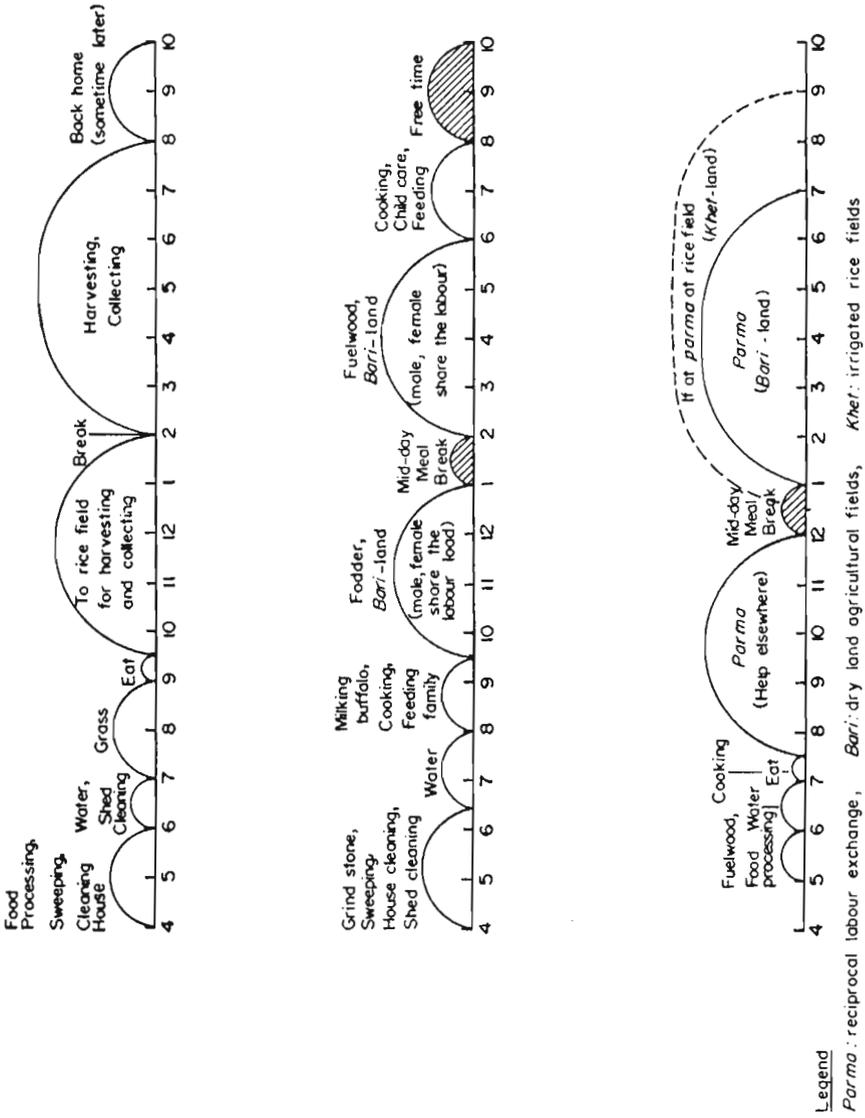


Figure 8

Male/Female Involvement in Crop Production Activities

Crop	Land Preparation LD	Seed Preparation SP	Transplanting TP	Sowing/Broadcasting SO/BD	Weeding/Earthing/Digging WD/ED	Harvesting HV	Threshing TH
Maize	M			F	F	*	
Millet		F	F more M few			f	
Uphill Rice				F	F	F Children	M
Rice		M more F few	F		F more M few	F more F few	
Cowpea				F	F	F	
Ricebean				F	F	F	
Soyabean				F	F	F	
Mustard (<i>torii</i>)	M			F/M		F	
Blackgram				F	F	F	
Horsegram (<i>Gahath</i>)				F	F	F	
Wheat	M			M		F more M few	
Buckwheat				M		F	

* F 65%, M 20%, Children 10%, Old 5%
(Based on approximate observation only)

Figure 9
Division of Labour by Gender and Ethnic Group

Type of labour	<i>Magar</i>	<i>Gurung</i>	<i>Newar</i>
Cooking, feeding family	F	F	F
Food processing	F (sometimes M)	F (sometimes M helps)	F
Water	F, M	F (sometimes sons help)	F, M
Cleaning house	F	F	F
Child care	F (elderly F, M)	grandparents, F younger children	F
Cleaning sheds, milking	F (sometimes Milking M)	F	F, M
Fodder, fuel	F mostly (when M have time)	F, M	F, M
Clearing fields	F	F	F, M
Manure	F	F, M	F, M
Ploughing	M	M	M
Planting	F	F, M	M
Harvesting	F, M	F, M	F, M
Transport	Mostly M, less F	F, M	F, M
Storing	F	F	F
Marketing	M	M (sometimes F)	M