

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal, a small mountainous country, lies in southern part of Asia and eastern part of the world. The country is landlocked, India in the east, west and south and China to the north. Its total area is 1,47,181sq km which shares only 0.03% of the total area of the world and 0.3% of Asia. The country average length from east to west is 885 km with non-uniform width of 193 km. it lies between 26° 22' to 30° 27' north latitude and 80° 40" to 88° 12" east longitude. Ecologically the country divided into three regions, running east to west. They are mountain, the hill and the terai. For administrative purpose the country is divided into 75 districts, 14 zones and 5 Development Regions (CBS, 2011).

However, Nepal is rich in natural resources and bio-diversity. Because of lack of technical knowledge, capital, infrastructure and political stability the country is always remained backward. Water mineral, forest etc are major natural resources of the country in such; forest has been one of the most valuable natural resources contributing to the social, religious, cultural, economic and environmental aspects. In this regard, the role of forest is very important to development process of the national economy.

Attempts to control and manage the forest affairs inaugurated in Nepal in 1942 with the establishment of Kath MahalAdda (Forest Office) which was expanded and renamed as Ban Bivag (Forest Development) in 1951. Having some changes over time, this continuous to exist as the Department of Forest (DoF) of Government Nepal (GoN) till date.

It was further modified the DoF in 1983 as per the government's decentralization policy with Regional Forest Offices and 75 District Forest Offices (DFOs) were set up.

The community forestry has been widely practiced in recent years. It is small scale village level forestry practice where decisions and actions are often made on the collective communal basis. It has been in existence for about two and half decade in Nepal, especially initiated from Seventh Five Year Plan. The plan made explicit remarks in regard to forest management , setting the

objective to fulfilling the people's daily need of forest products and this was to be achieved, in part " By handing over the government forest to community" (MoF, 1995).

The conservation and development of the natural resources like forest is impossible from the government effort alone. Regarding that fact, the concept of community forestry development program was introduced in Nepal, since 1978/79 in the name of "Panchayati, Conservation Forestry". After the experience of about a decade, there was made a contemporary change in it and was again started from the beginning of 1990 as according to the aim of 'Master Plan' for the forestry in 1988. Since the community forestry development program is being implemented with the collaboration of the local people.

This program emphasizes sustainable development of forest by involving communities as forest users' group (FUGs). The program has been very significant with regard to forest development. It is estimated that there is a potential of 18,76300 Ha forested and 15,85800 non forested land which can be developed as community forest, similarly 73,13100 Ha Nepal's current national forest can be considering potential community forest (MoF, 2008).

If the development is for the people, the people should participate in it. The people should have the participation of the planning implementation, benefit distribution, evaluation and monitoring of any development process. Thus, this public oriented program is in support of right of self-selection of the source, means and opportunity for the development. The community forest development program is running in our country. At the present community forestry is a successful example of the public oriented development program.

Government emphasized the community forestry program since seventh and regularized it to eighth, ninth and tenth plan with equal emphasis. His study has aimed to investigate how the users' group benefited by the community forest and whether their livelihood options have changed in response to changes in forest accessibility and forest product availability and how the community forestry links rural people livelihood.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Rama Community Forest is situated in Damak Municipality and is located in 58 km west from headquarter of the Jhapa District. This is the one among three municipalities of the district. Life style of the villagers has basically agro-based and their standard of living is backward. In the

context of forestry users' group, forestry is the main source of energy. It provides the fuel wood to meet the daily necessity of the people and also save their time to collect firewood. It is also sources of fodder, leaf litter, for their livestock and timber for construction of house, animal shed and other type furniture. Because of agro based economy, the forest has largely fulfilled the necessity of the users' group. Also they fulfill the need of herbs from the forest, at the same time different kinds of rituals activities and ceremonies such as wedding, bratbandh, funeral rites etc are also performed using the forest materials.

Forest resources are directly linked with the lives of the rural people. The CF program was initiated to fulfilled people's subsistence needs of fuel wood, fodder for cattle, timber, wood,etc. along with the forest's management and protection. Community forestry is regarded as successful program in Nepal. The main factor leading to this success is the philosophy of relative conservation of these resources by the local community which feels the ownership of the forest in its area.

A number of studies have been carried out in the attempt to address the effects of the community forests on the user members. Many of them are found to focus on participatory aspects. Only a few have concentrated of impacts of CF on the users' economic status. The status of the users' household improves when they are able to utilize forest products efficiently. Income earned by a CFUG can be spent on infrastructural development as well, so that people around the locality can reap extra benefits and opportunities. At the same time, better economic achievements can be obtained by increasing the poor's access to these resources. This study is concerned with the aforementioned issues in the context of selected CFUGs. It attempts to answer the question whether the gains from the CFUG are properly mobilized so as to enhance the users' household's economic status and to what extent the CF has contributed to their level of income. Attention is also given to the level of consumption of forest products.

Forest is providing many direct and indirect benefits. It has a large scale of contribution in nation building, and GDP growth. The studies on community forest shows the positive impact on income generating, poverty reduction, local rural development activities, employment creation, people's participation and empowerment, environmental improvement, soil fertility improvement, etc.

Community forestry has become an indispensable part of the economy. Thus, it is evident from the facts that the Rama Community Forest is playing active role to the users' group. But whether it provided equally of its benefit to the users' groups or not and which aspect of livelihood of people has changed by the community forestry. It is important sources of income but why have not experienced better living standard of its users' group after introduction of community forestry program? Have the fund of community forest users' group utilized in proper place? What is the contribution of community forest to uplift the economic status of poor peoples among the users' group? Considering these difficulties, the study is tried to answer following research questions regarding forest contribution toward the users' group:

- What role is the community forestry playing to change the socio-economic status of community forestry users' group?
- Has community forest users' group fund used for welfare of the poor and marginalized people?
- What are the problems and suggestions of community forest?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the role of community forest in community development of Rama Community Forest Users' Group. However, the specific objectives are as follows:

- 1) To analyze contribution of community forestry for improving livelihood of the people.
- 2) To examine the CFUG fund mobilization pattern and its effectiveness for community development.
- 3) To identify the problems of community forest and suggest appropriate measures to overcome them.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

Forest is one of the major resources of the Nepalese economy and income generating sector which can alleviate the poverty of the rural and marginalized people but being the major resources why has not experienced its benefit equally in the users' group? Many research and

studies regarding the community forestry program have been performed, but like other social sciences there are many new problems which are emerging day to day even in community forest, among these, the main aim of of this study is to find out the hindrance in community forest activities that could not improve the living standard of the rural livelihood and recommendation to solve this problem. This study also will be useful to the researchers and policy maker for the implementation of community forestry program.

We can mention the Forest Act, 1993 has played a significant role to keep a top legal priority in order to manage the national forest as community forests, since rural people depends heavily upon forest resource for their livelihood in terms of fuel wood, forage, timber, medicines and environment. They cannot fulfill their demand for those products unless they are given responsibility to conserve the community forest resources after the community forestry may make them significantly more vulnerable and marginalized. So, community forest must assist to fulfill their forest related basic needs and as well as to increase their income level and capacity. Thus, it is an urgent need to study the impact of community forestry on poor's livelihood and to find to community forestry implementation. Poverty is a big challenge to Nepal. Forest resources if managed and utilized in favors of poor people, it helps to reduce the poverty. Community forest process the various potentialities to increase the income level of poor people through timber and NTFPs and effective utilization of CFUG fund which can directly the flow of benefits to the poor so as to enhance their socio-economic conditions. Thus, this research work may help in rural poverty reduction through community forestry.

Community forestry is regarded as the effective program in a rural agrarian country like Nepal. It makes the people feel that forest belongs to them and they look after it carefully. After the establishment of community forestry, it helped to control the rate of forest degradation. It can yield more than subsistence needs and FUGs can generate income from a variety of sources including the sale of forest product fees, fine and donation. The income generated from CF can and does play the vital role I providing local employment and benefits of the co-operation among the people, women empowerment and people manage and handle the forest themselves.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

This study has following limitations:

- (i) The present study focuses only Rama Community Forest of Damak Municipality of Jhapa District.
- (ii) The conclusions and results may not be equally applicable to other community forest groups of Nepal.

1.6 Organizations of the Study

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter introduces the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, rationale of the study, limitations of the study.

The second chapter reviews some literatures. It covers concept of community forestry, income generating activities of CF and local development through community forestry. The third chapter deals with methodology of the study. The fourth chapter describes the study area. It includes the description of Jhapa District, Damak Municipality and Rama Community Forestry and socio-economic status of its users' group.

The fifth chapter explains data analysis. It includes socio-economic status of CFUG, income generating activities and contribution of community forest for local development.

And lastly, the sixth chapter includes summary, major findings and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER- II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are many scholars and researchers who have devoted their time to study forestry issues of Nepal. Their efforts to find out the forestry problems and solutions are considered valuable in the literature of the forestry. However, here are some literatures of scholars and researchers have been reviewed in order to know about the existing status of community forestry in Nepal. In this chapter, the literature review is classified into three categories.

2.1 Historical Background of CF in Nepal

Community forestry is now the main theme of Nepal's government forestry policy and it is aimed for providing basic needs and economies benefits to the rural population. The master plan for the forestry sector of Nepal 1988 has clear guidelines to place all community forestry management works under the control of users' groups in order both to ensure equitable sharing cost and benefits among the users' and encourage sustainable forest management. It is intended that this will ensure equitable sharing of cost and benefits among the stake holders and encourage sustainable forest management in Nepal. The government has introduced progressive " New Forest Act 1993" and by-law 1995, in spite of these enlightened forest management systems, equitable cost and benefits sharing among users' have become one of the most challenging issues in planning and development of community forest.

During Rana Regime, the forest of Nepal had been strongly affected by the different external influences, such as land garrets, exploitation of forests for the purpose of building and smelling for national purpose, all had the profound influences on land use and deforestation significant proportion of the land, both government and privately owned is being over used or used sub-optimally. This is leading to serve ecological imbalances, which threaten the continued viability of the agro-ecosystem and could contribute to a major ecological disaster. The possible solution was the adoption of community based forestry activities as a means of raising the productivity of all the non-cultivated land and also for more drastic of the society to become one less dependent on the fragile ecosystem. By the time of society Rana Government was over throw in 1951 one third of the country farmland and forest fewer held "Birtha" with 75 percent belonging to members of the Rana family. During the same period, private forest nationalization Act of 1037 strengthened the jaguar and grants became public domain and were largely nationalized and

placed used the jurisdiction of the forest department. A major goal of the forest nationalization policy was the end of feudal system resource control that had evolved over a century of Rana Government Administration. Eliminating feudal tenure authority created opportunities. Devkota and Joshi remarked that the nationalization of the forest resources deprived local people the ownership rights of the resources, did not lead to its effective management due to the lack of government capacity for management culminating in a arouse awareness among masses toured conservation.

Private forests were nationalized in 1957 by the government under “Private Forest National Solution Act 1957” the main objective was to manage and utilized the forest properly. Despite the positive mission, the outcome was not satisfactory. Instead human interference increased in the forest. In due course, government had implemented the Forest Act, 1961 and Forest Protection Special Act, 1967 to protect the forest desperately: similar judicial power was given to district forest officers. In the meantime government prepared National Forest Plan in 1975 which had emphasized people to strengthen Community Forestry Program (CFP). Similarly, Terai community forestry program was also implemented in the Terai. For further improvement master objective as well as to boost the economic standard in the rural area was implemented. After restoration of democracy in early 1069 (PF and PPF) were renamed as community forest (CF) since in go’s District Forest Offices in various districts took bold decisions in handing over national forest to real users’ group through the new Forest Act (1993 and Forest Regulations (1995) and Forest Regulations (1995) come in practices in 1995.

2.2 Community Forest as a Means of Promoting Livelihood in Nepal

Out of the total population of the country, 80 percent of the people live in rural areas and rest in the urban area (CBS, 2011). The incidence of the poverty is 2.6 times higher than the urban areas (UNDP, 1998), it is relatively higher in the altitude, remote areas and among lower caste people and ethnic minorities. Similarly, operational household with agriculture workers are more pores to poverty. Income is unevenly distributed among the regional and social groups. Analysis of national time series data suggested that poverty is lowering in urban areas compared with rural areas, although inequality is higher.

Subsistence level is the major occupation of the more than 80 percentage people in the country. It is intimately correlated with the livestock rising. Half of the population is experienced of deficit of more than 6 month (Shrestha, 1997). Ethnically, Nepal is more diverse: poverty is more pronounced in mid mind far western districts of the country (LEP, 2000). Caste based discrimination is higher in the rural areas and people becoming disadvantaged. There is a bulk of literature available in the various aspects of community forestry and socio-economic factors surrounding it. Nepal is known as a country of community forestry because of its widespread adoption in the idle hills of Nepal formulated and enacted the most progressive policy documents (Pokharel, 2001). Community forestry programmer is in favor of supporting subsistence farming which is closely linked with the surrounding forest resource at a greater extent increase in forest cover because of the participation of community in the management of forests during last decided community forestry has been reported by various researchers (**Malla, 2001; Baginski, 2002; Upreti, 2001 & Fisher, 2000**).

Community forestry is to control, management and use of forest resources by villagers. Forest Act (1993) recognizes community forests as any part of national forest handed over to a users' group for its development, conservation and utilization for the collective interest it also places emphasis of increasing the level of awareness and involvement of villagers through an informal education and extension program. Community forestry is not concerned with protection of forest for its own sake but with providing sustainable source of forest products for the people of Nepal (**Fisher & Malla, 1994**).

Since community forests are basically serving the rural population of Nepal where people from all the castes,, class, education and gender are by definition included in the CF process, involvement of poor and the land less people should obviously clearly be included in the program. However, reports towards the contribution of community forestry as a basis for livelihood are sketchy (Sharma 1990) have reported the increment of farm production due to plosive impact of CF in eastern mid- hills and recommendable study must be extended over other region of Nepal.

The philosophies behind community forestry is quite simple but its practices is enormously complex due to socio-economic, socio-political and socio-cultural nature of the communities of the country Forest Policy 1988 and Forest Act 1993 represent a historic opportunity to shift from

traditional state owned management regime to people owned system which a way forward to recognize the need of people's participation in management of forest and utilizing the benefits of uplift their livelihood.

2.3 Empirical Review

2.3.1 National Context

Dangi (1998) in his article has reported that forest development is long-term investment and CF development also aims to attain socio-economic goal in the long-run (**Kayastha, 1991**) reported that community forestry is to just a continuous technology but rather process of socio-economic change that required a continuous participation of the community forestry planning, implementing and problem solving. The continued emphasis by the government of protection and utilization of communal forests (For subsistence needs only) means that the private tree growers currently benefit from the opportunities provided by the market.

Forest is important in rural economy from various aspects and is an important part of the rural livelihood forest provides fuel-wood, which plays significant role of wood energy in rural areas especially for the rural people (**Bajracharya, 1983**). In remote villages with a closed subsistence agriculture economy, the rural pattern of demand in order of importance is fodder, firewood and timber. In the areas with the higher access to market, the pattern changes as fuel-wood, timber and fodder. Community forestry is increasing supplying for the cattle, timber for construction and other purpose medicinal herbs leaf and other various products to the users to help sustain their living (**Malla, 1993**).

Maharjan (1995) in his research paper has recognized that there is widespread realization of more than timber, fodder and fuel wood by FUGs who have aptly realized non- timber forest products (NTFPs). These NTFPs are playing an increasingly important role in lives of forest users.

Byron (1991) in his article has suggested that community forestry and rural development in developing countries are clearly an economic matter, covering not only the efficiency of production of the forest products needed by the communities but also the equity of distribution of

the costs and benefits amongst the local people (Dahal, 1996) reported that the overall aim of CF is to decrease the socio-economic hardship of the people living in hilly area.

Kayastha (1991) in his report study has explained that a better quality of life for the rural people especially for the lower income groups will result from the increased availability of firewood for cooking and arranging more feed for livelihood which in terms provide more milk, meat, hide and darn for food production, more timber for shelter (MPFS, 1988). Community forestry is not just especial technology but rather a process of socio-economic change that requires continuous participation of community in planning implanting and problem solving. This community forestry to be initiated both are government land and community land in rural people in all stage from decision making to harvesting.

Roy (1999) in his article has submitted the BSC thesis entitled “Assessment of Rural Livelihood through Community Forestry” to institute of Forestry, Pokhara. He used questionnaire as a major tool for collecting information. He also carries out informal discussion with key informants. Information is collected through direct observation. His main objective is to record the impact of community forestry in the rural people in terms of agricultural production, animal husbandry and their day to day activities. He finds that majority of Brahmin/Chhetri have used improved variety of seeds for agriculture after the introduction of community forestry. He also finds that the use of chemical fertilizer is decreasing due to the availability of leaf litter. Majority of people own more livestock after the implementation of CF. their wealth has been increased. They can take more cattle before than the adaption of CF which has helped to increase the annual wealth of the people. After the adoption of CF, people can collect firewood from the nearby forest. People can use their remaining time in others income generating activities and he concludes that community forestry has played a positive role either directly or indirectly.

Over the last decade, community forestry has emerged as a new approach in natural resources management in Nepal. Community forests play a prominent role in the daily livelihoods of people in the hills of Nepal where agriculture, livestock rearing and forest are strongly interlinked. The shift in the common property resource management paradigm, from one the excluded local stakeholders from forest management towards on that included them, has been successful in reducing deforestation and increasing biomass in common lands through lands through formal institutions established by forest users’ communities group.

Banskota (2007) in his study report has been found that the mean Carbon sequestration rate of community forests in Nepal is close to $2.97 \text{ t cha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ or $10.23 \text{ t, Carbon dioxide ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, under normal management conditions, local people have extracted forest products to meet their interim needs. In comparison to other important needs of absorbing CO_2 , the oceans, many terrestrial system have a much larger biomass and capacity to take up Carbon dioxide per unit area. Carbon in the deeper layer of the soil remains sequestered for years unless the above ground forest is disturbed. Soil of forests located in the cool climates, such as boreal forests, store unusually large amount of carbon. But one thing that we should know is that carbon dioxide storage in public forestlands and protected areas in private and production forests.

Malla (1993) in his article has found that there has been the rapid socio-economic change in Nepal and development of domestic market. These changes have been placed new demands on resources, including forest and open resources. In area with access to motor able to the market oriented. In addition, more rural people have been involved in off-farm employment which has played a key role in the rural household economy. These results have changed the economic resource management strategies of rural people in some rural areas. These changes have rapidly drawn the traditional agricultural system. Community forest users' group usually invests their fund in some factors.

- Nature resources management
- Public infrastructure development
- Forest development
- Poverty reduction program
- Forest administration

Community forest policy was firstly introduced in order to control and protect the forest from deforestation, encroachment and several other factors. It was introduced as a measure rather than a management program. Different issues have been raised together with the increased number of community forests. Role of women, disadvantaged groups, strengthening of community forestry

users' groups have been simultaneously studied and developed policy to include and balance the different aspect of community forest program which takes poverty alleviation in local level.

Neupane (2013) in his study report has found that different people are involved and they are getting benefit from forest. Which helps people to uplift their economic status, in addition more people have been involved in forest based industry which is the major economic source of rural people. The revenue from the community forest is used in different community development activities like road construction, construction of water taps, and donation in temple, in schools etc. the livelihood, of villagers is become easier.

Gilmour et al. (1999) in their article have reported that after the democracy was restored in 1950, the nation got political change. After seven years of democracy the Private Forest Nationalization Act 1957, brought all forest under government control. Trickle-down policy was totally adopted. Because of this system, people thought that "Forestry is not ours". It is the property of government. Anyone can take advantage from it so that deforestation took place heavily. State control of the forest failed largely because the institution capacity to implement it did not exist nor indeed was policy itself.

The Forest Act 1961 made provision for land to be made available for small private forest plots and introduced the idea of transferring government forest to village panchayat for their use.

However no steps were taken to implement this provision and the legal status of the forest was not addressed for a future 15 years. The Privatization Act 1967 was introduced to define forest offences and prescribed penalties in fact the implementation of the act seem to have been selective depending upon the social background and the influence of the offender, only the weaker section of the society was brought into the preview of the laws enforcement activity.

MPFS (1989) in its study report depicts the plan, policies and resources needs for investment to develop the forestry sector in the coming decade (1989-2010). The plan has basically focused on the basic needs of the Nepalese people. The main goal of community forest is to develop and manage forest resources through the active participation of community to meet their basic needs. The strategy to activate this goal is handing over all accessible hill forest to the communities to the extent that they are able and willing to manage.

NPC (1985) has also started to fulfill the people's daily needs of forest products and this was achieved partly by handing over the government forest to community conservation and management of forest resources by the people themselves have been effective slowing or reversing the process of deforestation in much area in Nepal.

Bista (1991) in his article has focused on Decentralization Act and its affect on CF sector in his book explained that control of forests to be managed by local people was further strengthened by the provision of the Decentralization Act 1982. The community forest were passed to the users' group as Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest. Truly speaking, the National Forestry Act 1976 played a key role in introducing community forestry and moreover the decentralization act 1982 becomes the next pillar for the development of community forestry. The Master Plan for the forestry development was formulated in 1987-1988. This plan touched all the forestry related issues and activities and emphasized on community forestry. Now community forestry has been the main forestry sector policy of government of Nepal. According to community forestry development program, community forestry is the forest protected, managed and utilized by local users' groups. Community forestry program is the process by which government, through the department of forest, makes community forestry a reality for rural communities. The poor and land- less should also be included in the community forestry plan implementation, development, production and protection of forest that there should be no ceiling on the area of forests to be handed over resources.

Maharjan (2000) in his Ph. D. Dissertation has focused his research on nine selected CFUGs, three from each of the following three districts: Saptari, Dhankutta and Sankhuwasabha. Each district falls on a separate ecological zone in the eastern region. These CFUGs had different status in their effectiveness in community forest management.

Wider objectives of his study were to explore and identify cost benefit sharing mechanism that t was acceptable to the stakeholders of the FUGs, and to draw recommendations for equitable and sustainable community forestry management.

In his study, the costs incurred to manage the CFs have been classified into different categories. Similar is the classifications of benefits occurred from the CFs. Both descriptive and statistical

analyses have been used to describe these variables. He finds that benefit level is much higher than the cost. But most CFUGs were found not having equitable distribution pattern in these two factors.

He concludes that equitable cost and benefit sharing are the fundamental factors for the sustainable development of community forestry and many more CFUGs lack this aspect. His main recommendation is that sharing is that the sharing of cost and benefit should be based on the stakeholder's contribution on the management of the forests and one their needs.

Sharma (2004) in his article has used some statistical measures to estimate the impact of CF on income distribution pattern of the stakeholders. He mainly used Lorenz curve, Gini coefficient Head Count Index (HI). These statistical tools, according to him are the most widely tools in income and poverty measurements. He has also given an account of the income variance method, an ANOVA-based tool, which he especially proposes to use to assess the impact of CFs on income distribution. His research objective of the paper is to emphasize on the need of research to quantify the magnitude of impact of CFs on income with reference to forest management in the mid-hills of Nepal. He has made an attempt to observe the effect of a list of elements like identification, forest products, institutional arrangement and household characteristics variables to the impact of forest.

Dahal (2006) in his Ph. D dissertation has carried out an in-depth study of 16 CFUGs of Arun River Valley focusing on externalities and distributional implications of CF management. 14 CFUGs have been taken from three VDCs of Bhojpur district and the remaining two from Dhankutta district, which lies in the eastern mountainous region of Nepal.

In his research study, he has studied the following themes:

-) He has sought to review the theories of development and poverty- environmental resources nexus;
-) He has attempted to analyze institutional mechanism, property rights and distributional rules of CF management.
-) He has empirically verified the victim hypothesis.

-) He has examined the equity and externality issues of management of common property forest resources by employing benefit-cost analysis; and
-) He has provided suggestions including policy implications based on the empirical findings based on the empirical findings;

The primary data for his study have been collected through the administration of extensive questionnaire to the 399 samples of users' households and to some members of executive bodies of the selected CFUGs. Secondary data have been collected from various studies and publications of District Forest Office (DFO) and other sources.

Both descriptive and statistical tools have been employed analyze the data. The findings of these analyses have been summed up under ten sub-headings. The study shows that Brahmin/Chhetri households get comparatively lower income in CF. In case of economic classes, the rich users' households with more land and livestock assets gain the most from CF in comparison to the general user members. In case of benefit cost (B/C) ratio and externality analysis, he has computed the values of B/C on the basis of ethnicity and income group, which shows mixed outcomes; i.e. value of B/C is positive for some categories and negative for the others.

He has stressed on equitable representation of both male and female and the Dalits in the users' executive committee and on equitable distribution of benefits and cost among different castes/ethnic groups and economic classes of user members. He has also made important recommendations for policy reforms regarding community forestry.

Pandey (2014) in his Master thesis has explained that community forest is a kind of system in which the local people are in all for its preservation, promotion, management and utilization. He has used in this study descriptive and exploratory research design. He has used the primary and secondary data up to 2013. The general objective of this study is to access the current socio-economic status of women in the community forest to raise social status of users.

The findings of the study are as follows: There are 2086 households and average family size is 5.55 person. In other CF there are 224 members household and average family size is 6.3 per

family. The economically active people between 15-60 years are about 68.7 percent which means productive age group is very high (Damak Nagar Profile, 2014).

2.3.2 International Context

Kotru et al. (2007) in their report have based upon the study from different approach to forest resources management with different institutions arrangements and policy orientation. The book is the outcome of a collaborative effort between ICIMOD and GTZ and based on information collected by a multidisciplinary team of both organizations. The papers presented in this book are the result of joint learning mission by German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and the international center for integrated mountain Development (ICIMOD). A joint learning exercise (joint Learning mission) was carried out by GIZ supported projected teams in Bhutan, India and Nepal, Together with ICIMOD. The objectives of the mission were to:

- i. Document the experience gained through the implementation of the GITZ projects.
- ii. Assess the overall social, economic and environmental impacts of the projects.
- iii. Identify the factors responsible for the success or failure of the projects and drew lessons.
- iv. Disseminate the joint learning experiences to recent stakeholders.

During the overview of the projects, the GTZ supported Bhutan-German sustainable Renewable Natural resources Development Project (BG-SRDP) worked in two districts in Bhutan (Puankha and Wangduephodrang) covering an area of 5000 square kilometers and a population of about 40000. The project was jointly implemented by the ministry of Agricultural Royal Govt. Of Bhutan and GTZ. It started in 1994, had three implementation phases and was phased out in December 2005. The project has contributed to holistic forest and management in Bhutan. With the support of the project, all the forest areas in Bhutan have come under management plans. The Indo-German changer Eco-development project (IGCEDP) is located in the Kangara district of the Indian state Himanchal Pradesh. The project area (called changer) is known for its remoteness, rugged terrain and water scarcity. The area belongs to the lower Himalayas or

siwaliks and is characterized by a fragile landscape with climatic vagaries, poor project focuses on the promotion of self-help groups, and the capacity of building non-government organization. The goal of Chauria forest development project (CHFDP) is to rehabilitate degraded forest and restore the ecological balance in the churia hills for the benefits of the local people.

The findings of the research show that the three projects developed much of their technological innovations. These pioneering initiatives have contributed to enhancing rural livelihoods and rural economics at the local level as well as identifying policy and institutional factors that will pave the way for a short term from mere subsistence to more commercial use of forest product at the policy level. In Bhutan forest resource potential assessment was made using GIS and other participatory level tools along with documentation and capacity building to enable the effective planning and management of forest resources. In Nepal, the project supported the development of a participatory forest inventory, including non- timber forest products (NTFP's) and biodiversity and launched demonstration programmers' with pro-poor and livelihood focused programmed within the community forestry formwork. For example the establishment of beal juice a plant in Nepal helped to transform the livelihood of the people in cahuria hills and has opened up and an array of possibilities for further expansion and diversification. These programs encompassed the uses of NTFP's, folder and fruits trees to support poverty reduction efforts by the forest users. This model also employed the distant user's group approach in community forestry integrated natural sources management and capacity building aspect. In India, the project institutionalized the development of village forest development societies, participatory forest planning and implementation processes and the participatory integrated watershed management approach. Similarly, in relation to the livelihood processing, value addition, and marking of forest products for micro-enterprises development promoting employment and income at the community level, while conserving natural resources. The finding also shows that even a vasundhara, a micro-enterprises body set up to capture local value addition in range of NTFPs Himanchal Pradesh, India has opened a new dimension for income and employment generation for livelihood enchainment while conserving forest resources. In Bhutan, the project promoted livestock farming daily processing in the rangelands for income and employment generation.

The findings show that in Nepal 346 community forest users' groups (CFUGs) have been formed and nearly 60,000 households are involved in the use and management of about 60,000 ha of forest land. Similarly in India, IGCEDP is working in 593 villages covering an area of 439 sq. Km. In Bhutan more than 20 community forest are managed by the local people following cautions community forest approach which hands over responsibility and ownership to local users. Although participatory in management has contributed significant to improving condition Bhutan, India and Nepal.

Hall (1996) has conducted the research study on the community forest of Canada. In Canada, one of the most important steps in initiating sustainable forest management is considered to be establishment of community-based, collaborative partnership; i.e community forestry. In doing so, local communities may improve their level of understanding of the broad range of values in their local forest area and can be better contribute to the development of consensus on how the forest should be should. In Canada, British Columbia has taken the lead towards greater community participation in forest management. The British Columbian government's mandate is to work further improvement of the workers life and their families by giving communities new opportunities to manage local forests in order to meet local economic and social needs and to have a greater say in implementing forest renewl. By 1993 public concern in British Columbia over the visual impact the clear cutting and the loss of jobs and large industries influence the closure of smaller operator, resulted in the establishment of the small business forest enterprises program by the local government. The project aim was to develop alternative to clear cutting and to increase community income from wood based enterprises.

This project supports how sustainable methods of industry production can be developed that allow workers in small forest development communities a greater degree of job security, reduce unemployment and revitalize the local economy.

Enberger & Selin (1998) have conducted the research study on community forest of Native America, USA. Many Native American have regained greater control over their forest areas through legislation, new treaties, and other agreements with the government and the private sector over the past few decades. A growing number of groups have worked to balance traditional cultural values with the development of modern forest management system for

meeting commercial, social and religious goal. Although there have been cases of commercial failure, there have been also been many successful ventures. The Native American of the western US, are seeking to demonstrate that forest management can be tied to the conservation values of their own cultural tradition, rather than be driven only by economics as has dominated the commercial timber industries. Native tribes seek to achieve multiple objectives through their forest stewardship practices. Through their holistic approach to forestry, they are helping redefine sustainable forest ecosystem management. They have found indigenous people control over the management of their native forest areas. This will encourage them to protect the forest ecosystem, gain local employment and conserve tribal tradition.

Jeanrenaud & Jeanrenaud (1996) has conducted the research study on the community forest of Scotland. In Scotland, many rural communities have been setting up local action groups, which in turn are planning community woodlands. It is these initiatives that are welcomed and encouraged by many conservation organizations that in turn will act as advisers in pointing the community in the right direction. Participation has given the people a sense of stewardship and an understanding of how they can achieve sustainable and economic benefits. Lagan is a small settlement in Scotland that was the first British community to be granted community control of a state owned forest for rural development purposes in 1995. The newly formed community forestry group became known as the Laggan Forestry Initiative and began work on the management plan for the forest. Its major objective was to provide sustainable employment for present and future generations based on the commercial management of the forest. The community stands to benefit both directly through the creation of local value added wood processing industries and recreational facilities which in turn has increased to tourism. The other objective of enhancing the forest conservation and amenity futures will also encourage its tourist potential.

If the local community is motivated to manage a community forest, then the area may benefit both economically, from the creation of local forest job and from recreation related income, and ecologically from the practice of more sustainable timber harvesting techniques and the involvement of conservation groups.

Hobley (1987) in his article has said the used of term ‘community’ in community forestry gives rise to the notion of an undifferentiated group of beneficiaries. All within the village will benefit from community forestry. It is implied that local communities are a homogenous entity, united for common action by their need for firewood and fodder. Ignoring the differential access to both natural and potential resources within the village depended upon the cases of India and Nepal, caste, class and gender.

Wicklund (1993) in his study report defines and urban or rural forestry or forest based activity control by the community either directly or through management accountable to the community through representative. A direct result of these activities will be benefit, which accrue back to the community.

Duiker (1991) in his article has discussed that community development based on multiple resources in forested ecosystem; that they exist when the community has a significant role in land use decision making and is satisfied with it is involvement in and benefits from the management of the surrounding forest.

Pardo (1995) has based his research study in India. In India, community forestry is being promoted under a concept called join forest management. The program comprises a partnership between local community institutions and state forest department for sustainable management and benefit sharing. Although the primary objective of community forestry in India is that of growing timber, the program deals mainly within the reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forest land. This is accomplished mainly through the natural regeneration of Shorearobusta forest, which generate many areas easily if protected from gazing animals.

Rathi (2010) in his article has suggested that community forestry is normally seen or defined as involvement of local communities in the protection and or management of public forest. Such a perception does not distinguish between community forestry, participatory forestry and other such related terminologies, and therefore ignores the legal, social and other aspects of the actual relationship. We need to realize that by entertaining such ignorance we may sometimes do injustice to the people who endeavor to save the precious forest resources with spirit so, close to their heart, and demand for no external interference in their relationship with their beloved forest

patch. Gilmour and Fisher (1991) define community forestry in terms of control and management of forest resources by the rural people who use them especially for domestic purposes and as an integral part of their farming systems. In Nepal, community forestry is defined 'a part of the national either good or degraded-forest which is handed over to group of users' for protection, management, and utilization purposes'. Moreover, it is any part of the national forest handed over to the users' group to develop, conserve, use and manage such forest, sell and distribute the forest products by independently fixing their prices, according to an operational plan.

Westward (1983) has done research study on gender role in community forestry in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, half of the population is women. But the conventional wisdom tells us that their women are in a disadvantaged position. Women's contribution to the family and national economy substantial and largely unacknowledged. Equal access to jobs, education, training, technology and access to resources is generally denied. Gender inequality is also a significant factor for poverty in Bangladesh. It was observed that the FD has engaged the poor women a daily laborers in raising nurseries and plantations. Later, they were included in the CF program.

Khundakar (1991) in his article has reported that Betagi community forestry project women were involved in preparing land, collecting seeds, raising seedlings and saplings, irrigation plants, controlling pests and diseases, etc. they were formed to make cash by selling fruit, wood, poultry birds, eggs, and milk to meet the cash expenditure of the household.

Jackson & Angels (1994) in their article have described the CF and its importance in their journal that handing over of the forest to communities for management and use has increased the opportunities for organized income generation. FUGs have started to incorporate income generation activities (IGAs) in their operational plans. There are many examples such as intercropping of cash crops, cultivation of non-timber forest products and medicinal herbs. Selling, red clay, seedling, firewood, poles timbers organizing tours for tourists in community forests, membership fees and penalty are other source of income from community forest.

The incident of financial capital formation through income from community forestry is widely reported in literature. Community forest has been a source of income and employment

opportunities for rural communities. Recent experiences in Nepal suggest that CF can yield more than subsistence needs and those FUG's can generate income from a variety of sources including the sale of forest products, fees, fines and donations. The income generated from community forest can do play an important role in providing local employment and in developing local markets.

Rahman (1991) in his report has reported that women in the same project to part in fuel wood and sun grass cutting. Women participation in Betagi-Pomora in tree plantation was 100 percent but about 46 percent could sell products without the consent of their husbands and they could keep the money in their own custody. The rest could do these jointly with their husbands. Therefore, CF links women with the market economy and this system may be considered as a phenomenal advancement in the control of resources. The women of Betagi were more enthusiastic to work and sell the products because of joint ownership rights on the land with their husband.

Gilmour & Fisher (1996) in their article explore Forest Act of Bhutan (1995), Social Forestry Rules 2000 and Forest and Nature Conservation rules of Bhutan 2000, defines community forest has "any area of government reserve forest designated for management by a local community in accordance with the provisions under section 36 of these rules". Community forestry in Bhutan refers to the control and sustainable management of local forest resources by the users'. Prime objective of community forestry in Bhutan aligned with the Buddhist philosopher aims. To promote active involvement of local people at all cross-section of the society for forest resource management, sustainable development and equitable sharing a benefits in order to improve rural economy and living standards. To enhance efficient utilization and protection of forest biomass and other forest resources, maintain and improve bio-diversity and ecological functions of forest lands.

Wangdi & Tshering (2006) in their article have found that communities can get the wood they require, from the nearby community forest simply by using a local issued by CFMG executive committee. This is in contrast to the lengthy time taken to get permit from the Territorial Forest (TFD) prior to the establishment of a community forest, averaging two to four month. If the community has more resources then they need for their own consumption, it has the right to sell

the surplus outside its group, though royalty must be paid to the government according to provisions in the FNCR. To date, only a few community forests (Shambayung and Masangdaza) have the potential to sell their access their timber resources. With improved cultural management, the potential of selling timber from community forests will increase and ultimately generate significant monetary returns to the communities involved in the CF program (E. Oberholzer, pers.com. 2006).

Communities are harvesting timber very conservatively from their community forest. Therefore, as capacity increase and the quality of the resources improve, there is a greater potential for direct economic benefits from community forests by optimizing the harvesting the timber. The danger from over harvesting is limited, as the management plants are based on sustainable forest management principals and the activities are closely monitored by the Forestry Services.

2.3 Research Gap

To conclude, the literatures reviewed indicate only the benefits of the community forest program before 2013 but there is no attempt has been done to explain being major sources of income whether why the users' group have not experienced its equal benefit among them. It is the main issue which could not solve from previous research study so that this study has focused on to identify the present problems of community forest and what should be done in this field that will develop the rural areas.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Selection of the Study Area

Rama community forest users' group has been selected for the study area. The community forest lies in Damak Municipality of Jhapa District. The research site is better familiar with the researcher because it is nearness from the village. So, it is possible to collect reliable information easily. Another reason is this CFUG identifies low income group and it is conducting income generating activities to them.

3.2 Research Design

Descriptive and exploratory research designs have been used in this study. The emphasis is given on the qualitative as well as quantitative aspect of the information relating to the management condition of forest as well as role and activities of people's participation in forest management system. The methodology consists of sources of data, data collection techniques and method of data analysis.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The thesis report is quantitative as well as qualitative both in nature. The sources of data are as follows:

3.3.1 Primary Data Collection

3.3.1.1 Interviews

I held interviews with individual members of community forest management groups (CFMG) as well as their leaders, members of the executive committee. Additionally, interviewed households who did not join a community forest management group, the primary method were a semi-structured questionnaire design for these different groups. The questionnaire through face to face interviews.

3.3.1.2 Direct Observation

I also employed direct observation while in the villages. The major event I observed community forest meetings. During the community forest meetings, I attended and listened carefully to how people talked about benefits and cost of different activities and observed governance procedures of

the CFMG. Direct observation is a good way to supplement other data collecting methods, to not only see how one data set informs another but to develop more informal and relaxed relationship with community members.

3.3.1.3 Informal Discussion

I carried out informal discussions with people in the two community forestry case sites as well as with government officials involved in community forestry; all were encouraged to talk about their own experiences and knowledge of particular use was visiting the participatory forest management project (PFMP) office to meet with the coordinator for his views on the community forestry program in Nepal. I also met with head of the social forestry section, the section that looks after community forestry in Nepal. I talked with other officers in the department of forest including the extension officer of Jhapa District and divisional forest officer of Jhapa District. The latter was particularly insightful as he has much experience on community forestry from his earlier work as an extension officer. These interviews were used to supplement the information I collected with community level respondents.

3.4 Sampling Procedures

There are 2135 CFUG members in the Rama Community Forest. Among them, male are 1140 and female are 995 that get benefit from it. Rama community forest users' group consist of 334 households and this household size is universe of this study. However there are various socio-cultural backgrounds. Among 334 households, 35 households are selected as the sample size which is about 10% of the total population stratified random sampling technique is used according to the caste to conduct the household survey. According to the caste there are very different among users' group but economically there are not more different in nature so in this study, sample has taken 10% of the total HHs which can represent the total users' group. The households which were to be interviewed were selected from the list of households of the study area.

3.5 Methods of Data Analysis

The data collected from primary and secondary sources are tabulated and presented in the forms of tables, pie-chart, bar-diagram etc. The descriptive analysis is based on statistical tools such as; average, mean and percentage and the research design of this study is based on the conceptual framework of research.

CHAPTER IV

A DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 A Profile of Jhapa District

4.1.1 Location and Size

Jhapa is the Terai plane district of Mechi Zone in Nepal's Eastern Development Region. The district covers 1.606 km² (620 sq mi). The 2011 census counted 812,650 population. Chandragadi is the district headquarters. It lies between 26° 24' latitude and 87°40' longitude. This district is situated between Morang district on the west, Ilam on the North and West Bengal and Bihar state of India are towards the East and South respectively. The district is divided into five electoral constituencies. Three Municipalities (Damak, Mechi and Bhadrapur) and 47 Village Development Committees politically and administratively **(From Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia)**.

In Jhapa, mainly Brahmin, Chhetri, Ranjbansi, Limbu, Satar, etc ethnic groups have been living. The main religious of Jhapa are Hindu, Buddhist, Kirat, Muslim, Christian, Jain etc (CBS, 2011).

Jhapa is diverse and such in culture and traditions due to influences of its different tribes. All the types/ethnic groups have their own languages, customs and traditions, and they celebrate their festivals in the every year.

4.1.2 Damak Municipality

Damak is a town and municipality in Jhapa District in the Mechi one of south-eastern Nepal. It is situated between the Ratuwa River in the east and Mawa River in the west. According to Census 2011, it is the second largest city in Jhapa District with population of 75,743 (Damak Nagar Profile, 2013).

Damak was changed to a municipality from a VDC (Village Development Committee) in the year 1982 AD. The Damak Municipality consists of 19 wards which also includes the large Himalayan Tea State where the Ex-Royal Family has also invested. The municipality covers an area of 7,513 hectares and is at an average of 100 meters above the sea level. Lakhanpur in to the

east, Urlabari, Rajghat and Madhumalla in the west and Culachuli (Ilam) and Kohabhara VDC in the north and the south, respectively.

Damak had 7,178 households containing about 35,000 people. The total area is 7,513 hectares, out of which 1406.7 hectares is covered by residential area whereas 5,586.30 hectares is used for agriculture. The market area consists of 400.00 hectares, 215 hectares as forest plant area and 265.00 hectares is used in other purposes. In 056/057, there was 1 Health post, 1 Hospital (AMDA) and 1 Nursing Home (Life Line) which contains 50 beds in total but now including AMDA and life line: there are 5 hospital. They are AMDA Nepal, life line, OM Mechi, Q&Q hospital, Damak hospital & Research Center. The population growth rate is 5.14 per annum per 2047/48 census. As per 056/57 census, there were about 88 industries, 1011 shops, 244 hotels and 9 financial institutions. Black topped road were 29 km, graveled roads were 150 km and earthen road were 500 km. in addition to it, the drainage runs 3.5 km through the main highway. There are 512 street lights and above 4000 telephone lines to public. Three Bhutanese Refugee Camps (Beldangi 1, 2, and 3) were also settled in Damak in 1992. Victoria Cross Medal winner Ram Bahadur Limbu currently lives in Damak (**CBS, 2011**).

It is one of the important trade centers in eastern part of Nepal. There are many international organizational such as IOM, UNHCR, OX-FAM, LWF, NRCS, AMDA, CARITAS NEPAL etc. who are working for the refugees here in Damak.

Damak Municipality is one of the growing urban centers located in Terai part of the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. The total population of the municipality is 75,743 with an annual growth rate of 5.12%. The factors contributing to the high population growth of this municipality are mainly rural to urban migration, which has been escalated during conflict and migration from hills to Terai-the plain land of the country. Besides, the municipality has also become an attraction of the bordering Indians for undertaking business activities and offering skilled labor services. The growing population and increasing pressure on drinking water, however, requires for its proper management and expansion (Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia).

4.2 Rama Community Forest

4.2.1 Introduction

This study covers Rama Community Forest; some general features of forest are presented below:

Description	Rama
Name	Rama Community Forest
User coverage	DamakMnicipality 17,18,19 Wards
Registration Date	2056
Area ha.	10 Ha.
Forest type and composition of specials	Saal, Sisso,Khayar, Masala, Bamboo.
Configuration of Forest	Tropical Forest

This Rama Community Forest lies, south-west side of Damak Municipality. North-South highway passes along the center of the forest. The users of this community forest are ward no. 17, 18 and 19 of the Damak Municipality. The area covered by this forest is 10 hector. The total household of this CFUG is 334. The number of users had forest been gradually increasing over the years. At the time of handing over the forest, the total number of users or households was 221.

The area of the forest has been divided into seven compartments and each compartment is composed of a separate management scheme describe in an operational management plan forest for harvesting and protection provisions, it is vital technical report. There is a provision of

revision of operational plan in every five year and revised plan is approved by the DFO and CFUG gets an approval for cutting and collecting of timber and firewood by the DFO.

There are many species of trees in the community forest among them the major tree species are Khayar, Sisso, Masala, Robusta (Saal), Asna, Karam, Banji, Jamun, Sindhure, Barro, Bamboo and several other associates.

Regarding to the forest management activities, timber cutting activities are operated according to the prescribed scheme of the plan. Necessary technical support is received from the territorial forest office (either range post or illaka forest office). Normally, ranger observer and monitor all the technical part of forest with taking assistance of subordinate staffs. Likewise, collected timber and fuel wood is distributed to users in a fixed rate, and timber has been graded in to three categories for instance, first is more sound, fine and grade is some damage and unsound quality.

The income sources of community forest are from several sources major regular sources have been timber selling to local own users, and other sources are firewood, grant, membership fee. Although there are no big size income sources, CFUG spending a large amount of budget in social and physical development to fulfill the demand of users. The development can be categorized into supportive environmental conservation such as bio-gas support program, training to improve stove program, forest plantation etc. social-development; such as training in different income generating program; Scholarship to lower income groups and dalit children and physical infrastructure development such as drinking water, well, school building, road, irrigation and so on.

4.3 Rama Community Forest Users' Group

There are several objectives written in the operational plan. Among them, major objectives of the forest management are classified as below:

- Short-term Forest Objective
- Long-term Forest Objective

In short-term forest program, the objectives are by conservation and management of forest will fulfill the basic need of forest products such as firewood, leaf litter, fodder, etc to give more

priority on bio-diversity by making suitable atmosphere for different species to live, priority on conservation non-timber product.

In long-term program, basic objectives are by sustainable management of forest which makes users group self -depend on forest products in future. For improve economic condition of CFUG will give more priority on forest related small and cottage industry.

4.3.1 Forest Protection System

Forest area is forbidden for tree smuggling including illegal cutting and poaching of wildlife. Similarly, charcoal burning is prohibited completely. Also the grazing on plantation area is not allowed. FUG has made some provision of punishment in the case of violation of rules. Further for breaking the rule of fuel wood collection, they may fine Rs. 100 per head loan and Rs. 10 to 50 for saplings. In other cases such debarking branch cutting of major valuable timber species such as shorea, robusta, khayar, masala, sisso, bamboo etc. shall be punished each case Rs. 50 to 500 also there is a provision of confiscating the products. Besides, who attempts to fire or does firing in the forest may be punished them based in sensitivity of the case. The fine may be from, Rs. 500 to 5000.

4.3.2 Forest Product Distribution System

Major forest products are round timber, pole and firewood. Timber has been divided into four groups based on species such as shorearobusta (saal), sisso, asna, masala. According to the nature and timber, there are three types of pricing purpose. For instance, for grade timber consist high sound log and third grade consist of low quality. The rate of three types of timber is fixed the cost of first grade timber is Rs. 150, second grade is Rs.80 and third grade timber cost Rs. 60 per cubic feet. The rate of firewood is Rs.50 per quintal. The collected firewood bills are distributed on the spot inside or outside the forest drawing a lottery in order to maintain no biasness.

Similarly, there is other provision in timber distribution, the victim of natural calamities and catastrophic may get 50 cubic feet timber in the forest. Moreover may only get once year agriculture equipments such as plough, handle wood, etc. on the other hand, to sell the surplus forest products outsides their users it needs an approval from the DF

4.4 Socio-economic Conditions of Rama CFUGs

4.4.1 Population Status

The population of the study area is 2135 and the size of male and female are 1140 and 995 respectively. Total number of household who engaged in Rama CFUG is 334.

4.4.2 Ethnic-wise Composition

The study area is the mixture of different cultural groups. Brahmin/Chhetri/Rai/Limbu, Rajbanshi, Dhimal, Newar, Dalit and other are the major caste of the study area. The ethnic composition of Rama CFUG is given below in the table.

Table No: 4.1

Ethnic Composition of CFUG Households

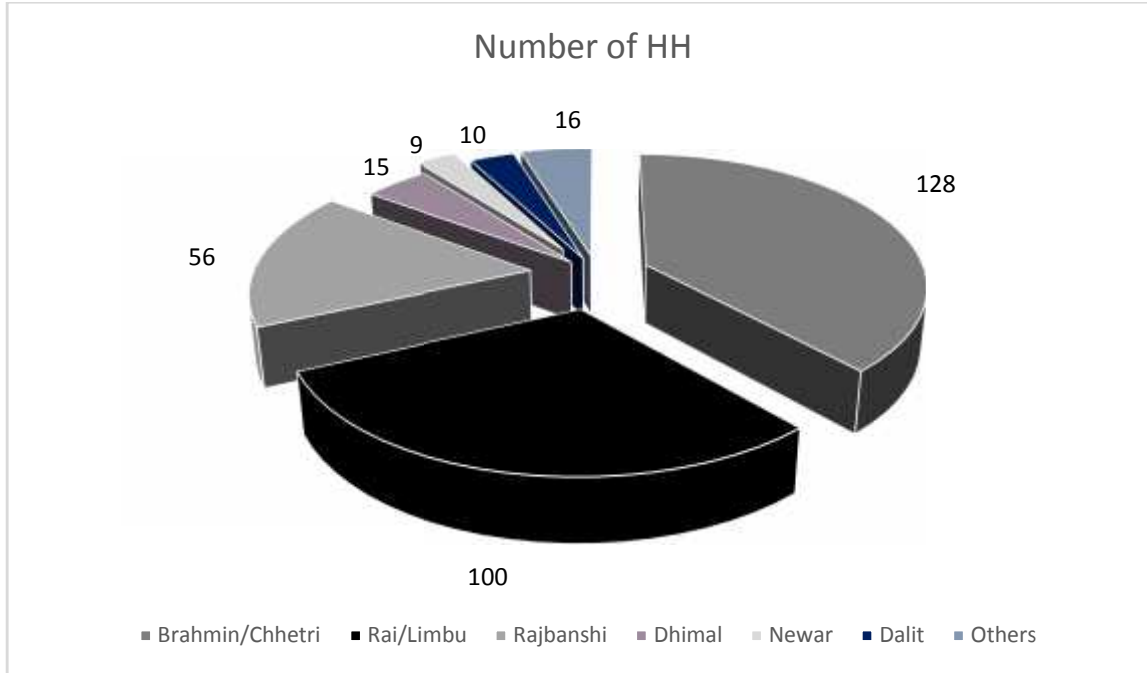
Ethnicity	Number of HH	Percentage
Brahmin/Chhetri	128	38.32
Rai/Limbu	100	29.94
Rajbanshi	56	16.76
Dhimal	15	4.49
Newar	9	2.69
Dalit	10	2.99
Others	16	4.79
Total	334	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table No: 4.1 shows the distribution of the household of the basis of ethnicity. The majority in the CFUG is of Brahmin/Chhetri with 38.32% of total household and then Rai/Limbu 29.94% and Rajbanshi 16.76% Dhimal, Newar and Dalit is 4.49%, 2.69% and 2.99% respectively. Others caste is 4.79% of the total household. The ethnic composition of Rama community forest users' group is given percentage in figure below.

Figure No: 4.1

Ethnic Composition of the CFUG Households



Source: Based on the table 4.1

Figure No: 4.1 shows the majority of CFUG is Brahmin/Chhetri which number is 128 then Rai/Limbu which number is 100, then Rajbanshi, Others, Dhimal, Dalit, Newar which number is 56,16,15,10 and 9 respectively. The above data shows that different caste people are in the CFUG and harmony of the people.

4.4.3 Ethnic Composition of the CFUG Sample Household

Out of total households of the Rama Community Forest Users’ Group 35 households were taken as a sample for the study which is about 10% of the total CFUG households. These are categories ethnically in the table below:

Table No:4.2

Ethnic Structure of Sampled Households

Ethnicity	Number of HH	Percentage
Brahmin/Chhetri	13	28.57
Rai/Limbu	10	37.14
Dhimal	7	20
Dalit	1	2.85
Other	4	11.43
Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The sample households have been taken on the basis of household's member in the community. Total percent of household of Brahmin and Chhetri are 29.94%, the sample is taken as 13 which is 37.14% out of total sample. The total number of household of Rai/Limbu is 100 which is 29.94% of total population and sample is taken 10 which is 28.57% of total sample number. Likewise, Dhimal, Dalit sample are 7,1 which is 20, 2.85 of the total sample percent respectively. Other population which includes Yadav, Sanyasi is taken sample 4 which is 11.43 of total sample percent.

4.4.4 Respondents' Household Size

The household survey found different size of family structure in the study area. The family sizes of sampled households are found as follow:

Table No: 4.3

Family Size of Sampled Households

No. of Family Member	No. of HH	Percentage
1-5	21	60
6-10	12	34.29
10-above	2	5.71
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The table 4.3 shows that the greater size of having family member is 1-5 which is 21 household and 60%. There is 12 household having 6-10 family members which is 34.29% and there is 2 households having above 10 family members.

Table No: 4.4

Educational Status

Education Level	No. of HH	Percentage
Illiterate	8	22.85
Literate	7	20
Primary	10	28.57
Secondary	6	17.14
Higher Secondary	4	11.42
Total	35	100.00

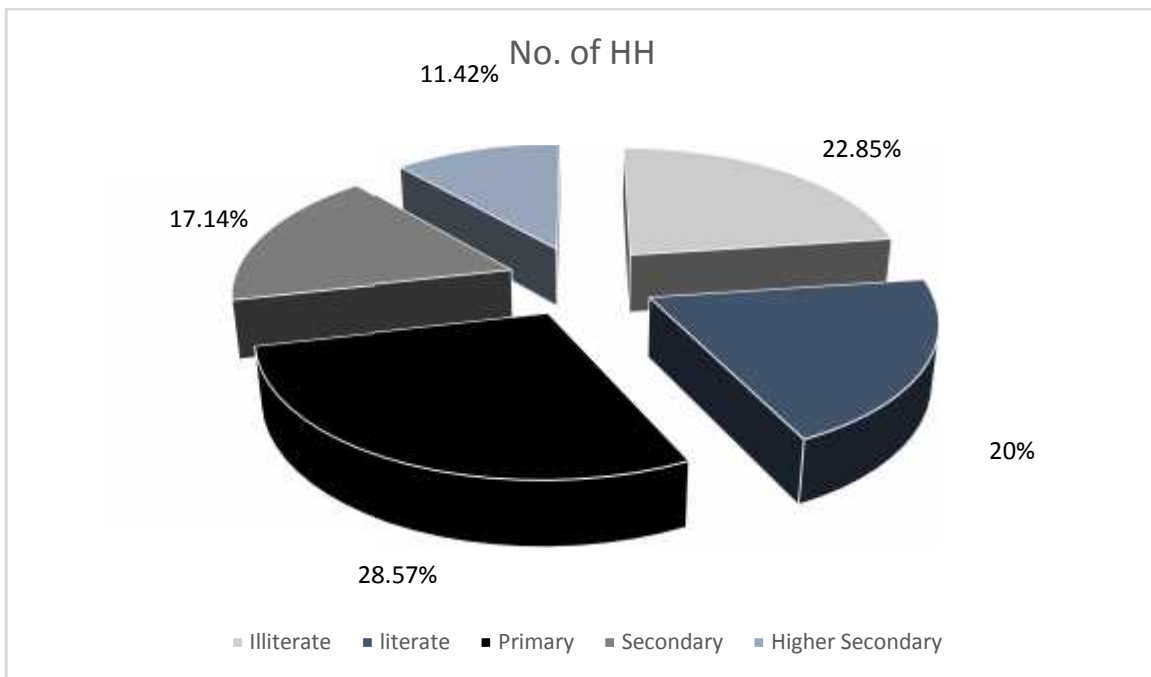
Source: Field Survey, 2014

From the above table 4.4, it is clear that the number of illiterate person is 22.85% of the total sample households which is 8 households. Literate are 20% which is 7 household of the sampled households. Primary passed person is higher than the others which is 10 HH and 28.57% Of total

sampled households and secondary passed 6, higher secondary passed 4, which is 17.14% and 11.42% respectively.

Figure No: 4.2

Educational Status



Source: Based on the table 4.4

Figure No: 4.2 shows that primary educated people is large in percent which is 28.57% then illiterate person which percent is 22.85% of the total sample number. Percent literate, secondary and higher are 20%, 17.14%, and 11.42 respectively.

Table No: 4.5

Religious Status of Sampled Household

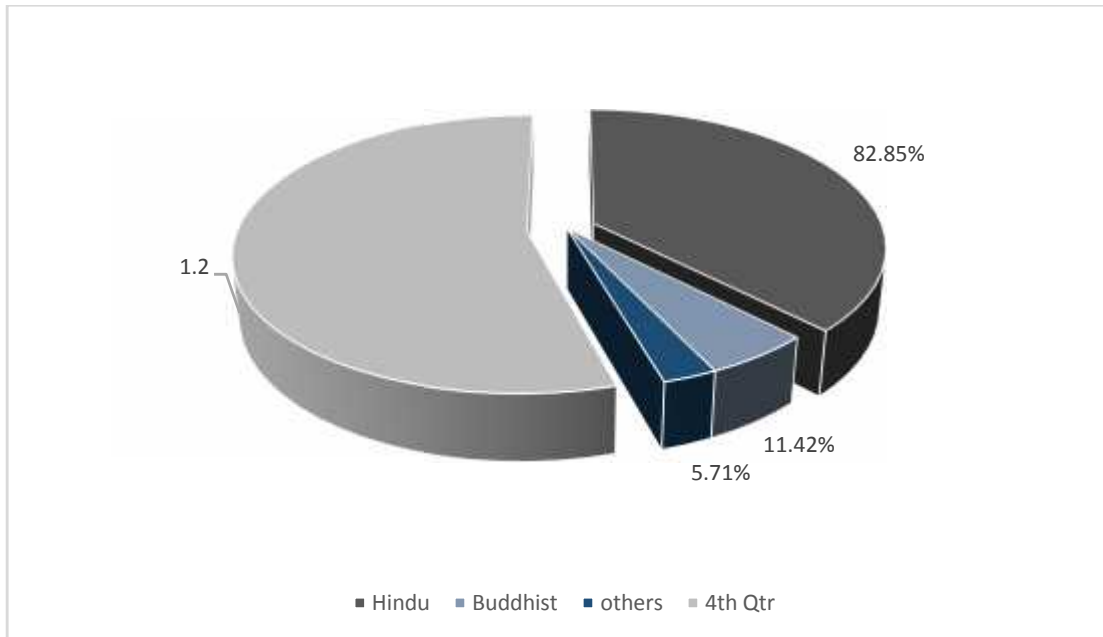
Religion	No. of Households	Percentage
Hindu	29	82.85
Buddhist	4	11.42
Other	2	5.71
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table No: 4.5 shows that most of the people of the study area are Hindu, which is 29 in sampled household; it takes 82.85% of the total sample households. There are 11.42% Buddhist household and 5.71% are others.

Figure No: 4.3

Religious Status



Source: Based on the table 4.5

4.4.5 Occupational Status

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the study area. Keeping livestock is the complementary occupation of agriculture. A people who is farmer, have kept livestock to plough land, to make fertilizer and for food. Other main occupation of the people of the study area is foreign employments, service, wage labor etc. occupation structures are found as follows:

Table No: 4.6

Occupational Status of Sampled Households

Occupation	No. of Households	Percentage
Agriculture	27	77.14
Foreign employment	3	8.57
Wage labour	3	8.57
Service	1	2.85
Other	1	2.85
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The table 4.6 shows that large number of population of study area engaged in agriculture which is 77.14 of total sample household, the percentage of foreign employment and wage labor are equal in percent 8.57% of the total sample of the study area. The percent of service and other are equal in 1% which is 2.85% of total sampled households. By analyzing the above occupational structure, we can conclude that the main occupation of the study area is agriculture then foreign employment and wage labor.

4.5 Landholding Pattern of the Respondents

There is a variation in the landholding of the respondents in the study area. The man who is rich, has large area as well as good quality of land and the poor has small area of land.

Table No: 4.7

Landholding Pattern of the Respondents

Land size in Kattha	No. of HH	Percentage
1-10	8	22.85
10-20	18	51.43
20-30	6	17.14
30-40	2	5.71
40-above	1	2.85
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The above table no: 4.7 shows that in the study area 51.43% of people or majority of the people have 10-20 kattha land and 22.85% people have 1-10 kattha, 17.14% people have 20-30 kattha, 5.71% people have 30-40 kattha and only 2.85% people have above 40 kattha land. Most of the people have owned few lands. So, almost every people are people are poor in the study area.

4.5.1 Livestock Composition

As mentioned above livestock is the complementary occupation of the people in the study area. Cow/ox, buffalo, goat are the main livestock. Cow and buffalo provide milk. People generate income and run their home by this income. Oxen are kept for ploughing field. Goats and hens are kept for purpose of meat.

Table No: 4.8

Livestock Composition of the Sampled Household

Ethnic Group	HH	Cow/ox	Buffalo	Goats	Hens	Others	Total
Brahmin/Chhetri	13	17	6	37	98	0	168
Rai/Limbu	10	15	2	17	21	0	68
Dhimal	7	10	5	22	53	10	107
Dalit	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
Other	4	5	2	12	28	1	52
Total	35	47	15	89	200	13	399

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The table 4.8 shows that the greater amount of livestock is of hens which are kept by most of the people different ethnic groups instead dalit then greater amount of keeping livestock is cows/oxen, and buffalo respectively. Most of the respondents have goats. Dalit and Dhimal kept other livestock (pig) but not in Brahmin/ Chhetri. The people who are economically good, they have kept 1 or more than 1 buffalo. The greater amount of livestock keeping group is Brahmin/ Chhetri than Rai/Limbu, Dhimal, Dalit and others respectively.

4.5.2 Crop Production Pattern

Most of the people of study area are depend upon agriculture and most of them are engaged on agriculture production. The main crops of study area are paddy and other crops are maize, wheat, vegetable, sugarcane, daal etc. there is variation in crops production between food crops and cash crops. Most of the people allows their land only for the production of food crops. Less land is used for the production of cash crops.

Table No: 4.9

Crop Production Pattern

Crops	Production Percentage
Paddy	47
Maize	16
Wheat	10
Vegetable	12
Sugarcane	7
Mustard	3
Daal	4
Other	1
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014

According to the above table 4.9, food crops are their main crops among them paddy is main crops it takes 47% share of total production, then other are maize and wheat which covers 16%, 10% respectively.

Most people have low agriculture land and adopted conservative style of production, productivity of land is low so that their main production is food crops. Some people who have more land used for sugarcane production, its share is 7% of the total production of sample households, it is second large cash crops, other cash crop is vegetable, it takes 12% share of total production of sample households. In recent, it has crop contributed major income source middle and poor households. It is main cash crop of study area. Then mustard, daal and other covers 3%, 4%, 1% respectively of the total production.

4.5.3 Forest Product Collection

The main forest product is collected for energy. Other forest products are timber, fodder, leaf litter etc. which are used for the purpose of construction and animal feeding respectively. Firewood and leaf litter are collected directly by people from the forest. Timber is collected by the user committee and sells it to the user members. The main source of energy is firewood and most of the people collect it from the community forest. Other sources of firewood are private trees which are planted in their own land, it has presented below by the help of the table.

Table No: 4.10

Ethnic-wise Forest Product Collectors

Ethnicity	Total HHs	Firewood	Leaf Litter
Brahmin/Chhetri	10	9 (90%)	7 (70%)
Rai/Limbu	13	13 (100%)	10 (76.92%)
Dhimal	7	7 (100%)	5 (71.42%)
Dalit	1	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
Other	4	4 (100%)	3 (75%)
Total	35	34 (98%)	26 (78.67%)

Source: Field Survey, 2014

There is majority of Rai/Limbu for firewood collection. Instead of Brahmin/Chhetri, all caste collects 100% of the sample household. The person who doesn't collect firewood has alternative sources of energy like bio-gas, LP gas etc. Leaf litter used for animals fodders and bedding. It has other benefit that is cow dung and leaf litter which makes compost fertilizer. The above table shows that 70% of the Brahmin/Chhetri collects leaf litter of the sampled household then 76.92%, 71.42%, 100% and 75% of Rai/Limbu, Dhimal, Dalit, and respectively collect leaf litter.

4.5.4 Firewood Consumption

As discussed above, the main source of energy is firewood in the study area. People collect firewood freely. The forest is opened on Saturday for collection of dried twigs and allowed entry with small knives. Users of Rama Community Forest also get firewood distributed during management operations (thinning of trees and singling of regeneration) in the forest. Almost 90% of users collect firewood during that time once a year in the winter season. In Rama CF users have to pay 50 rupees per quintal of firewood in other times. The consumption of firewood can be shown as follows.

Table No: 4.11

Firewood Consumption Pattern

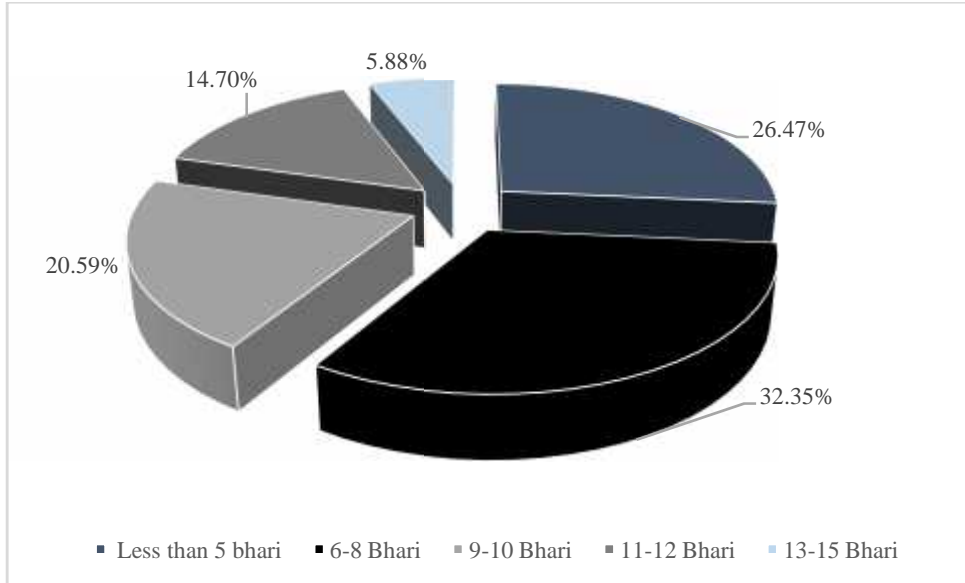
Firewood in Per-Month in Bhari (About 40kg)	No. of Households	Percent
Less than 5	9	26.47
6-8	11	32.35
9-10	7	20.59
11-12	5	14.70
13-15	2	5.88
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The table 4.11 shows that 32.35% of households consume 6-8 bhari of firewood per month and 5.88% of households consume 13-15 bhari per month out of 34 households. 26.47% of households consume less than 5 bhari, 20.59% of households consume 9-10 bhari, and 14.70% of households consume 11-12 bhari of firewood per month.

Figure No: 4.4

Firewood Consumption Pattern



Source: Based on the table 4.11

The above figure 4.5 shows that firewood consumption per month below 5 bhari is 26.47% household and 6-8 bhari per month out of total sample households is 32.35%, likewise 9-10 bhari per month is 20.59% HHs and 11-12 and 13-15 bhari per month are 14.70% and 5.88% HHs respectively.

CHAPTER-V

CONTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY FOREST FOR INCOME, EMPLOYMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The main source of income is agriculture in the study area and keeping livestock is a complementary occupation of agriculture. Others are foreign job, service, wage labor etc. This chapter describes the detail information about income, employment and local development condition of the study area.

5.1 Annual Income of the Households

Agriculture is the major occupation of the respondents and whatever they earn it is from agriculture production, but it has no knowledge about accurate cash income because they do not keep any record of income and expenditure. Respondents felt uneasy to reveal cash income. So it made difficult to collect actual information to the researcher. Agro- product is not completely monetized and there is still barter system in the community. Most of the people are fulfill their needs by exchanging goods so that it is very difficult to convert agriculture income into money income but even this difficulty, the researcher has tried to best to calculate near to real income. Due to the lack of accounting system, the approximate annual cash incomes of the households from various sources of 2012/2013 are presented in the following table.

Table No: 4.12

Annual Income of the Respondents

Annual Income (000)	No. of HH	Percentage(%)
Less than 20	9	25.71
21-40	15	42.86
41-60	5	14.29
61-80	3	8.57
81-100	2	5.71
101-above	1	2.85
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Accounting to the table 5.1, 42.86 percent households have 21 to 40 thousand annual incomes which percent is greater among others and 2.85 percent people have greater than 101 thousand annual income and it is less among others. Household having income less than 20 thousand per annual is 25.71 percent. They are poor among others.

The CFUG has been generating income from various activities. The source of income includes the sale and distribution of forest products annual membership fees, fines, external sources like prices, bank interest and other sources of fund. They have also collected the money from the donation for outside. The main sources of income for CFUG are as follows.

(a) Firewood

CFUG collect firewood directly from the CF without any charge on specific class but some rich people buy it from the user committee. So firewood is sold by the CF to its member or outside, this is why, it is one of the income sources of CFUG. Income earned from FY 2012/13 is 29, 986 and 2013/14 is 42,045.

(b) Timber and Pole

Timber and poles is provided to the user in every year on the basis of their needs. Income collected from poles FY 2012/13 is 4, 16,953 and FY 2013/14 is Rs 4, 63,946.

(c) Entry Fee and Membership Renew

All the household in the study area have not entered into the CFUG yet. Those who are interested to enter in to the CFUG must pay Rs 200 and to renew their membership yearly must pay Rs 12. Income earn from renew is Rs 6000. In FY 2012/2013 and Rs 5700 in FY 2013/14.

(d) Application Fee and Fines

Every member has submitted application to take timber or forest product, the income from application is stated Rs 5,000 in FY 2012/13 and Rs 4,3,60 in FY 2013/14. There is system of fines for illegal work and the income from fine is Rs 1,1,70 in FY 2012/13 and Rs 6,6,90 in 2013/14.

(e) Interest

The CFUG keeps its fund in bank and revolve fund which the CFUG distributed in users' group at the low interest rate, both gained interest in FY 2013/14 is Rs 1100.

Similarly, selling tender, election nomination fee, donation and other fee and charge also are the sources of income of CFUG.

Table No: 4.13

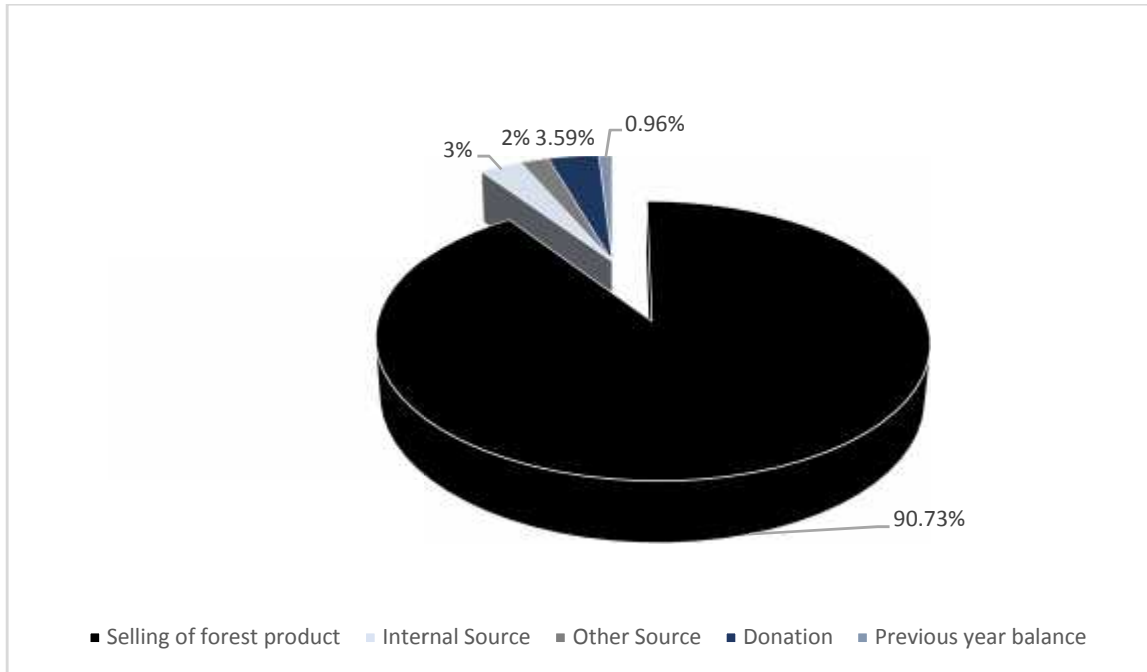
Income Sources of the Rama CFUGs

	Particulars	Income Sources of CFUG			Income Sources of CFUG 2013/14	Percent (%)
		FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13		
1	Selling of Forest Production	3,87456	4,07833	4,64939	5,05991	90.73
a	Firewood	29057	34671	29986	42045	
b	Timber and Poles	3,58399	3,73162	416953	463946	
2	Internal Sources	12,787	14017	12170	16750	3
a	Membership and Renew	4,300	5300	6000	5700	
b	Penalties	3,150	2720	1170	6690	
c	Application and Selling Tender	5,337	5997	5000	4360	
3	Other Sources	4,837	7914	8275	9611	1.72
a	Investment Return	2237	4877	5450	1600	
b	Miscellaneous	2600	3037	2825	8011	
4	Donation	10,000	21,000	20,000	20,000	3.59
5	Previous Balance	8,467.52	6567.47	7188.02	5335.97	0.96
	Grand Total	423547.52	457331.47	494572.02	557687.97	100.00

Source: Rama Community Forest Office, 2014

Figure No: 4.7

Actual Income Sources of Rama CFUG for FY 2013/14



Source: Based on the table no.: 5.2

The above table no. 5.2 and figure no. 5.2 shows that the main source of CFUG’s fund is selling forest products. It contributes more than 90% of the total income. Other sources of income are interest sources, donation, and other sources which share are 3%, 3.59% and 1.772% respectively according to the last fiscal year.

5.1.1 Major Areas of Expenditure

The areas of expenses are divided into five namely administrative expenses, forest development, community development, poverty reduction program and other expenses. Administrative expenses include various official expenses like stationary, newspaper, print, photocopy etc. Forest development includes plantation, watchman salary, and fire line building etc. community development includes water supply, school support, road construction, irrigation etc. poverty Reduction Program includes loans for poor at minimum interest rate, sell forest products in

discount rate to the poor, training for skill improve program etc. other expenses include forest products collection, charge for sawing, annual assembly etc. the description of expenditure is presented in the following table.

Table No: 4.14

Area of Expenditure of Rama CFUG

S.N	Particular	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/2012	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14	% of 2013/14
1	Administrative expenses	97,817	112423	135325	24.27	
2	Forest development	1,92423	1,87361	2,10413	2,27975	40.88
3	Community development	2,6721	2,2582	2,5412	38,000	6.81
4	Poverty reduction	1,7370	1,1917	1,3400	1,7700	3.17
5	Forest product collection	8,3779	1,07346	1,13443.02	9,3206.9	16.71
6	Other expenses	5437.52	18834.47	19481	17481	3.13
	Grand Total	423547.52	457331.47	494572.02	557687.97	100.00

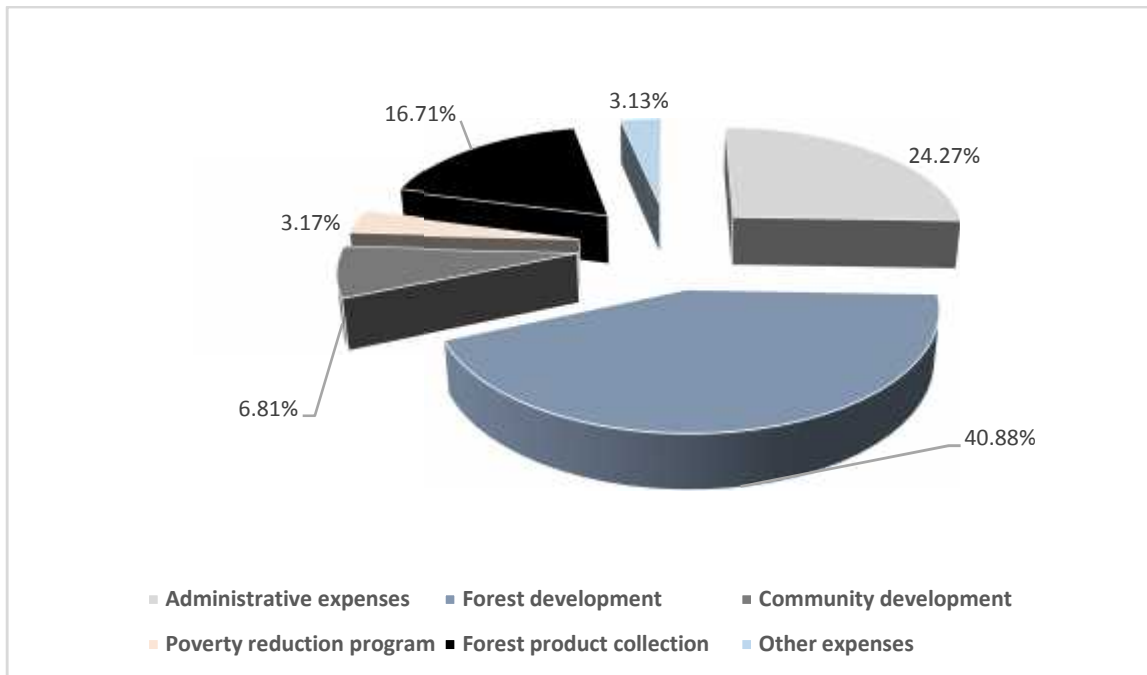
Source: Rama CF Office, 2014

Table No: 4.14 shows that the large amount of expenditure is in forest development which is 40.88%, then administrative expenses which is 24.27% of the total expenditure then forest

product collection, community development program, poverty reduction program and other expenses which amount is 16.71%. 6.81%, 3.17% and 3.13% respectively.

Figure No: 4.8

Expenditure of Rama CFUG for FY 2013/14



Source: Based on the table 5.3

According to the above table 5.3 and figure 5.3, the expenditure of community forest is more in forest development. The expenditure of poverty reduction is very low which is only 3.17% of the total expenditure and the expenditure for community development is also less than forest development which is 6.81%, comparatively administrative expense is large which 24.27% of the total expenses is.

5.1.2 Income Generating Activities through CF

Rama Community Forest conducted various program to generate income to the local people and the people of community mainly generate their income from agriculture. The contribution of community forest in local people's income is very low but income generating activities of CF contribution is also something to the poor people. Income generating activities conducted by the user committee can be described as follows.

(a) Direct Income Generating Programs

Those programs are direct income program which contributes directly to the people's income.

(i) Through Salary

The CFUG has provided employment to the two people as full time job. One is engaged to see forest area as a watcher man and he earns 4,000 per month, other one has kept for official work and office pays Rs 7,000 per month and he earns Rs 84,000 in a year.

(ii) Through Wage

According to the chairman of CF, every year CFUG create opportunity about 25 wage labors in different community forestry program that is development program like repairing drinking water, water well, construction road and temple, irrigation etc. Similarly, people engaged in various works like firewood collection, timber collection etc. in FY 2013/14 CF spent Rs 93206.97 in this program. Forest Development Program also create opportunity for work. Such as plantation, making bar, forest thinning and singling, making fire line etc. In FY 2013/14 CF spent Rs 109400 in this program.

(b) Indirect Income Generation

Indirect income generating program helps to generate the local users' income indirectly. Some of the programs can be as follows.

(i) From the Source of Firewood

Firewood is the main source of energy in the study area. People collect firewood from CF directly without any charge. The annual income generation from firewood can be shown in the table below.

Index: One bhari firewood is equivalent to approximately 40 kg.

Table No: 4.15

Respondent's Income Generation from Firewood

Annual Consumption	No. of HH	Market Price (in NRs)	Total Price (in NRs)	Total Income (in NRs)
110 bhari	9	120 per bhari	13200	118800
255 bhari	11	120 bhari	30600	336600
209 bhari	7	120 per bhari	25080	175560
170 bhari	5	120 per bhari	20400	102000
70 bhari	2	120 per bhari	8400	16800
Total	34		97,680	7,49,760

Source: Field Source, 2014

From the above source of firewood, CF contributes total 749760 per annual to the respondent's annual income. Its contribution is not direct contribution but is helps to save the amount which had to spend for firewood.

(ii) From the Source of Green Grasses

Forest provides fodder for livestock CF is the main source of leaf litter. The source of ground grass and grazing are government forest and private land out of 35 sampled households only 34 collect leaf litter from community forestry.

Index: One bhari green grass is equivalent to approximately 40 kg.

Table No: 4.16

Respondent's Annual Income Generation from Green Grass

Source	Green Grass consumption in bhari	Percentage	Price	Total
CF	5,600	41.79	Rs 30 per bhari	1,68000
Private forestry land	7,800	58.21	Rs 30per bhari	2,34000
Total:	13,400	100		4,02000

Source: Field Survey, 2014

We see from the above table that community forest contributes about 41.79% of green grss in the form of leaf litter which saves Rs 1,68,000 of the respondents.

(ii) From the Source of Timber

Timber is the main source of construction materials in the village. It is important not only for the making houses but also making the agriculture tools, shed for livestock etc. Rama CFUG collect timber generally once a year and sometimes accords to the needs. FUG distributes maximum 20 cubic fit for per household. In FY 2012/13 CFUG sold timber and earned Rs 4,63946 at the rate of 250, 200, 170 for grade A, B and C respectively. The market price of timber for per cubic fit in local market is Rs 550. So, the users are getting indirectly benefit and saving money income by using community forestry.

5.2 Community Development Program

Community Development Activities are helpful to increase the quality of life and produce the manpower in the local level, community program directly address the needs and benefit the groups by increasing access to the basic services. It helps to generate employment and income to the local people directly and indirectly. Some of the community development activities undertaken by Everest CFUG have been analyzed below.

School Support: CFUG have provided timber freely to the schools. CF has given scholarship to the poor and dalit students. FUG has also provided financial support to build school. Including different time period, CFUG has supported to Shree singhdevi secondary school in total cash Rs 2, 30000 and 72 cubic fit sisso, and constructed two rooms. It also provided other school name Shree Janata School financial as well as timber support that is 20 cubic fit timber and Rs 60, 000.

Support to Religious Work: CFUG provides timber and financial support to build temple and other religious building. It has supported financial support to build Shiva temple as well as timber and also other religious function such as saptahmela etc.

Support to Road Construction: Every year the monsoon destructs the road and time to time it has supported to the gravelling road.

Support to Use Alternative Source of Fuel Wood: For to reduce the pressure of forest resources, FUG provided financial support for those for those who makes bio-gas plant and has given training to make improve oven.

Poverty Reduction Program: Rama CFUG provides fund to the targeted people in the name of goats keeping, poultry farming, kurilo farming etc. similarly, if ha distributed about Rs 4 lakh revolve fund (ghumtikosh) in minimum interest rate to its users per household Rs 2000. It has mobilized Rs 13, 400 for poverty reduction program in FY 012/13 to the very poor household for to improve their economic condition.

Irrigation and Drinking Water: CFUG has supported Rs 2, 50, 000 in dip boring construction, after construction it will provide irrigation facility to the user that will increase their productivity of land. CFUG also has supported to repair drinking water well.

Some major problems of RCF which has found out from the Field Study are as follows:

1. The main income source of RCF is selling timber and firewood and there is no any sustainable source of income.

2. Although there is excess demand of forest product than its capacity but CF has not given emphasis on to use alternative sources of firewood and awareness program about product to control its pressure.

3. There is fix rate of timber in user group according to the quality of it but the very poor households whose necessities are hand to mouth problems one side and timber is very necessary to repair their house and furniture in another side but lack of capacity to purchase always deprive from the timber.

4. CF has mobilized its fund poverty alleviation program which is very low amount about 3 percent of total expenditure. Revolve fund is one of the example of it which has very low interest rate has become meaningless because the lack of skill and employment opportunity they used it in their needs (foods, cloths, health etc.). As a result, they unable to pay money on time so that they are deprived to take money in second time.

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of Findings

The study summarizes that there is positive effect as well as impact of community forest on users' group. Such impacts are revealed form of income generation, construction of social works, social overheads and awareness of people on the need for conservation of natural resources. The study has been also designed to review the policy statements and subsequent action by the users' group for sustainable forest development. Finally, it has been planned to analyze the aforesaid issues based on findings and suggest appropriate recommendations for future action. Major findings of the study are as follows:

- In the study area, there are Brahmin/Chhetri, Rai, Limbu, Dalit and others caste/ethnic groups. According to sample household, the caste and ethnic distribution of the study area is Brahmin/Chhetri 28.57 percent. Rai, Limbu 37.14 percent, Dalit is 2.85 percent and others 11.43 percent.
- The demographic summaries of the sampled household shows that about 20 percent of the total household are literate and about 22.85 percent are illiterate. Most of the population is engaged in agriculture. The demographic summary of the household sampled shows that about 2.85 percent population is engaged in service, about 8.75 percent in foreign employment, about 77.14 percent in agriculture and 2.85 percent in others.
- The findings shows that Rama community forest users' group fund allocation administrative expense forest development, community development, poverty reduction, forest product collection and others are 24.27 percent, 40.88 percent, 6.81 percent, 3.17 percent, 16.71 percent and 3.13 percent respectively.
- The findings shows that Rama community forest users' group 42.86 percent household have 21 to 40 thousand annual income which is greater among others and 2.85 percent people have greater than 101 thousand annual income and it is less among others.

Household having income less than 20 thousand per annual is 25.71 percent. They are very poor among others.

- The main source of fund of CFUG is selling of timber and poles which covers 90.73% . The main area of expenditure are forest development, forest product collection, administrative which share in total expenditure are 40.88%, 24.27%, and 16.71% respectively. In the area of poverty reduction, community development, its share of expenditure is very low which is 3.17%, 6.8% respectively.
- CFUG contributes to generate income to the local people directly through salary and wage, by community forestry, two people get regular job and more than 25 people involving different forest activities in every year, income generation through salary is 1,32,000 and through wages 2, 02606.97 in fiscal year 2012/13. It contributes indirectly through the firewood collection, green grass collection and timber collection.
- Community forestry has been a source to support development and social works in the village. Road construction, school support, religious support, poverty reduction program, financial support for irrigation program, round fund invest program are the main activities, it helps to generate income and employment in the rural livelihood.

6.2 Conclusion

This study “contribution of county forest for local development” has been conducted in Rama Forest Users’ Group of Damak Municipality of Jhapa District. This study aims to analyze whether the community forestry is beneficial to the local people or not and is it success to generate income and employment in the community level. The main objectives of this study are: to analyze the CFUG s economic activities in community development through community forestry. To analyze the CF contribution for improvement of local users and CF fund distribution pattern in the community.

Various research and methodologies are used to fulfill the objectives. Thirty five household has been selected as sampled households which are approximately 10% of the total households. This study requires both primary and secondary data. Stratified random sampling technique is used to collect primary data through structured questionnaire, interview key informant interview, various

group discussion and observation techniques to gather information. Secondary data also used where it needed and the source of secondary data various publication of related field, the data are tabulated and analyze simple statistical tools like bar diagram, pie-chart, percentage, frequency, etc.

The main occupation is agriculture in the study area. Most of the people rely on agriculture production. Brahmin/Chhetri, Janjati, Dalit, etc. are main caser and the community largely depends upon for timber, firewood leaf litter, and other forest product. The community conserves forest being aware after the implementation of the community forestry program. Now they feel that the forest is their own. The community conducted various social, economical and developmental activities which helpand directly and indirectly to improve the lives of rural people through creating income employment.

Community forest fulfill the wants of forest products like fuel wood, fodder, green grass, leaf litter, required for day to day lives of people. The community development activities initiated by RCFUG are road construction, building construction, funding to school support, scholarship to the poor and intelligent student etc. the community mobilize its fund annually in the name of poverty reduction. Through this program, it helps to the poor and disadvantages people giving loan for goat keeping, ox/cow keeping etc.

Various development program and other activities given opportunity to the local people to generate their income both directly and indirectly giving them short-term and long-term employment opportunity. It is effective to the rural people because it contributes in the community and targeted people.

Rama Community Forest is one of the important user groups of Damak Municipality of Jhapa District. The users' group are very much aware to conserve forest. The main findings of the study can be expressed as follows. The main occupation is agriculture in the community and keeping livestock is the complementary occupation of agriculture. Other occupation of the community are foreign job, wage labor, service etc. paddy is the main food crops which covers the 47% of total production, Dhimal, Brahmin/Chhetri, Janajati, dalit are major caste of the community. After the inception of community forestry program in the area, forest deterioration

is gradually improving, villagers are now get sustainable forest products easy accessibility co-operation among people and environmental benefits community forestry in this village is now the main source of firewood, fodder, timber, pole and other products. People having less than 20 thousand annual incomes are 25.71% and having above thousand is 2.85%.

6.3 Recommendations

The users' group should also visit other community forestry where the users' group / committee is functioning with success. Success of community forestry depends on the participation, co-operation, satisfaction, benefit and motivation of the people as a whole. The most important thing for community based forestry is the people conscious about the importance of forest. Government and different NGOs and INGOs should give the proper counselling for the conservation of forest. Proper laws and legislators should be implemented effectively. Both the government and civil society should work co-operatively.

Community people should be fully authorized authority to use rights and they are to be completely benefited by it. Activities of CF and its account should be transparent. CF has played a very essential role to fulfil the villagers forest based basic needs as well as to maintain the ecosystem.

Community forestry has played a vital role for local infrastructure development and income generation. Different NGOs, INGOs and government should act together to get maximum benefit from the forest. Some of the recommendations on the basis of findings have been given below:

-) Dalit group is not rich. The fund distribution of CFUG for poverty reduction was found insufficient. The CF should increase the size of fund in poverty alleviation.
-) Dalit group are also the main collector of the forest product. So, they should allow participating in the vital post of executive committee.

-) The CFUG is found to be giving less priority to the income generation activities. The CFUG is spending its small portion of fund for income generating activities. The CFUG has to pay more attention to the income generating activities.

-) Though the Dalit and Dhimal groups are the main collectors of the forest product. But, they are not to be allowed getting the large share of timber and pole compared to the other resources. So, they should be allowed to get large share of timber and pole just as other resources.

-) Dalit groups are not getting the chance of higher education. So, the education and training is the primary need for them.

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Appendix I

Questionnaire for Household Survey, 2014

1. General Information

1.1 Name of the Household head:-

1.2 Sex

1.3 Ethnic group

1.4 Religion

1.5 Occupation

1.6 Education

2. Family Description

S.N.	Name	Age	Sex	Education	Marital Status	Remarks
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

3 Economic Information

3.1 Population owing land

S. N.	Land type	Area in Hector	Cultivation Ownership			Remarks
			Self	Rented out	Rented in	
1	Khet (Irrigated Land)					
2	Bari(Non-Irrigated Land)					
3	Private Forestry/Garden					
Total						

3.2 Food Sufficient in Month

- (a) Less than 3 Month ()
- (b) 3 Month ()
- (c) 6 Month ()
- (d) 9 Month ()
- (e) 12 Month ()

3.3 Live Stock Ownership

Live Stock	Number
Live Stock	
Cow/Ox	
Buffalo (He/She)	
Pig	
Hens/Ducks	
others	

3.4 Income Source of People

Occupation	Income (IN Rs.)
a) Agriculture	
b) Business	
c) Services	
d) Foreign Employment	
e) Others	

4. What do you use for cooking food?

- a) Kerosene ()
- b) Firewood ()
- c) Bio-Gas ()
- d) L.P Gas ()
- e) Others ()

5. How far has CF helped in providing forest products?

- (a) Sufficient (b) Not significantly
(c) Not good (e) No idea

6. Has CF helped to reduce the poverty?

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) No idea

If yes, How?

- (a) Provide loan to the poor people ()
(b) Provide skill oriented training ()
(c) Provide educational opportunity ()
(d) Provide subsidies in the forest goods ()
(e) All ()

7. Is there any development program supported by CF?

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) No idea

If yes, what are these?

- (a) Road/School construction ()
(b) Electricity extension ()
(c) Dam construction ()
(d) Drinking water supply ()
(e) All ()

8. How are the development activities supported by CF?

- (a) Free supply of forest products ()
- (b) Free labor supply from users' group ()
- (c) Financial Assistance from CF ()
- (d) Others ()

9. Has CF program helped income generating activities inside forest products?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) No Idea

If yes, How?

- (a) Providing skill development training ()
- (b) Providing improvement training ()
- (c) Providing training about unseasonable vegetable products ()
- (d) Providing loan for business/agriculture ()
- (e) Others ()

10. What do you think about the activities of users' group and executive body?

- (a) Very good
- (b) Good
- (c) Bad
- (d) No idea

11. In your opinion, Community Forestry is

- (a) Very beneficial ()
- (b) Good ()
- (c) Not very important ()
- (d) Not good ()

12. Any member of your family has represented in Executive Committee?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) No idea

If yes, who participated in EC meeting?

- (a) Male
- (b) Female

13. How many times participated in EC meeting?

.....

14. How many time participated in Discussion about Community Forest issue?

.....

15. Does your advice play the role in decision making process?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

.....

16. If any comment

.....

.....

THANK YOU