

**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST
MANAGEMENT: A Case Study of Sirukharka Kahule Community
Forest of Khotang District**

**A Thesis Submitted to
Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuwan University
The faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts (MA)
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January, 2018**

Declaration

I, hereby declare that the thesis entitled **WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT: A Case Study of Sirukharka Kahule Community Forest of Khotang District** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuwan University is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of this thesis has been published in any forms before.

.....
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Date: 2074-09-25

(09 Jan 2017)

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled **WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT: A Case Study of Sirukharka Kahule Community Forest of Khotang District** has been prepared by **Mr. Bishnu Rajbhandari** under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination for the degree of Master of Arts on Rural Development.

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We certify that this thesis entitled **WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT: A Case Study of Sirukharka Kahule Community Forest of Khotang District** has been examined and found satisfactory of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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ABSTRACT

People's participation especially the women's participation has been recognized as an important aspect of community forest management and development for the last decade. Women's participation is expected in all dimensions such as planning and decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and benefit sharing aspects. In this content this study was conducted in the Sirukharka Kahule Community Forest of Khotang District with the aim of assessing women's participation in community forest management.

The study is descriptive in nature that includes survey and fact-finding inquiries on selected issues. In order to meet quantitative and qualitative requirements, both primary and secondary source of data were used in the study, conducting household survey through structured questionnaires and observation methods were used to collect primary data. Likewise, published and unpublished documents were reviewed as secondary sources of collection which were used to enrich the study.

The status of women's participation in implementation process was high while the rate of participation in decision making procession was low. Participation of ordinary women in maintaining and evaluation process and participation in general assemblies was found satisfactory. Usually, social activities conducted by CFUG were found to have benefited equally to both sexes. Women member of the CFUG had not got opportunity to participate in training and study tours as of male.

The CFUG was mobilized for more physical participation of women in community forest management. Despite some personal, family, social and policy level constraints. Women were involved in CF management due to synergetic effects of self-inspiration and daily requirements of the forest products. They have more responsibility of fire-wood and cooking the food in the household comparatively than male of the community.

In order to open women's introvert nature, explore their attitude and ambitions, utilize women's knowledge and skills, address the obstacles and maximize the women's participation in CF management, equal efforts are essential from all stakeholders. Implementation based recommendation such as involving women as executive member in adequate proportion even in major port-folios, women mobilization in operational plan preparation and its periodic review, and disseminating community forest related information among women etc. are targeted to CFUGs. Liberate sensitization, dissemination and people's mobilization related recommendations are assigned to GO/NGOs.

In the case of Sirukharka Kahule 91 percent of CF women members were found illiterate but not higher education and enough knowledge in forest management based on the government policy. The male respondents expressed the need of women participation more but practically they do not help women in household activities. Lack of education of women as of male found one of the bottlenecks of the enhancement of forest management. For this, they are to be empowered well through technical trainings of community forest management.

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ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS

CF	:	Community Forest
DoF	:	Department of Forest
EC	:	Executive Committee
FP	:	Forest Product
FRM	:	Forest Resource Management
FUG	:	Forest User Group
GAD	:	Gender and Development
HHs	:	Households
HRD	:	Human Resource Development
JFM	:	Joint Forest Management
MoF	:	Ministry of Forest
MPFS	:	Ministry Plan for the Forestry
NTFPS	:	Non-timber Forest Products
OP	:	Operational Plan
PF	:	Protect Forest
RCNP	:	Royal Chitwan National Park
WAD	:	Women and Development
WID	:	Women in Development