

CHAPTER-I

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nepal is geographically diversified with high Himalayan peaks to low lands of terai. It borders India to the east, west and south and Tibet an autonomous region of China to the north. Ecologically the country is divided into three regions: the high mountain region with/Himalayan peaks in the north, the mid hill region ranging from 610 meters to 4877 meters from sea level and terai region ranging from 152 meters to 610 meters to the south. Due to the topographical diversity the climatic diversity is profound with variation in microclimate within the same ecological zone. The climate ranges from subtropical type to cold tundra type with variation in soil and vegetation types.

The current population of Nepal is 23.1 million with an annual growth rate of 2.2% in the year 1991. Out of the 23.1 million 50% of them are female. Geographic distribution of population is uneven. The census of 2001 counted 7.3, 44.3 and 48.4 % of the population in the Mountain, Hill and the terai regions respectively. The population density also varies from region to region. The terai is the most densely populated while the mountains are sparsely populated.

According to the Human Development Report (1998), Nepal's human development index (HDI) ranking is just above that of Bhutan, which has the lowest HDI ranking in the region. The health and sanitation situation in the country is very poor. Only 9.2 % of households have access to modern sanitation facilities and 21.6 % of households have access to sanitary systems. Access to safe drinking water is 96 % in urban areas and 68 % in rural areas.

Pyuthan is located in Mid Western Development Region of Nepal. It is bordered with Baglung and Rolpa in north, Gulmi and Arghankhanchi in east, Rolpa and Dang in west and Dang and Arghankanchi in South. Total area of the district is 0.90% (1328 sq kilometre or 132890 hectare) of the total area of country. It is distributed from 27° 52' to 28° 51' to north latitude and 82° 36' to 83° 6' to east longitude. Although ecologically it falls under the hilly region it is highly diversified in microclimate and vegetation types. The climate is subtropical in flood plains and valleys whereas it is temperate in siwaliks and high hilly regions. The rainfall is 1300 ml/year in average. Based on the geography and microclimate it is divided into three distinct regions:

-) **Siwalik region:** Siwalik Hills cover most part of the district ranging from 1000 m to 1500 m with sedimentary rocks and conglomerates. Majority of population concentrated in this region.
-) **River flood plain and valley:** Flood plains of Jhimruk, Mandavi, Lung and other rivers and low land at the foothills of the mountains. These are the fertile land with irrigation facility. Most of food crops are supplied to other regions of the district from here.
-) **High hill region:** This region ranges from 1500 m to 3659 m with hard rocks and sparse inhabitation of human population.

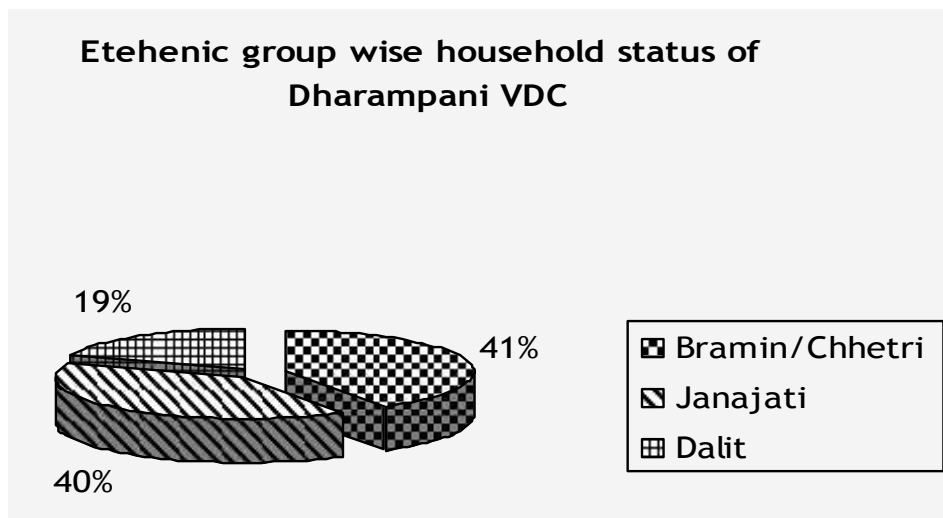
It is known that Rapti zone is the origin of conflict, which has directly affected to the development sector. Really, Mid Western region is comparatively backward in the perspective of development of Nepal. Inherently Pyuthan is also affected from this matter. According to HDI rank Pyuthan is 53rd, 52nd, 51st and 75th respectively on the perspective of human development index, human poverty index, gender related development index and gender empowerment index of Nepal. This figure shows clearly that, the district seems very poor in each sector.

Forest is one of the major natural resources for livelihoods of rural people including Pyuthan. Obviously women are the primary user of forest so they are the most important stakeholders of forestry sector development. Anybody can't assume its real successive development by not involving them. They consume most of their time in forest product collection like fuel wood, fodder, grasses and other non-timber forest products (NTFP) of their day-to-day life. Although women are major stakeholders of forestry sector development, their status on decision-making process is not widely considered by village elites and other user group members' limits access on decision- making and male members mostly dominate on decision-making process. Except Women Community Forest User Groups (WCFUG) almost leader/portfolio members of CFUGs are male who are considered as decision makers. They are not willingly ready to accommodate female members in the leading post of any executive committee. If they accommodate female in these committee, their position mostly falls on general member and these members do not have access to influence on decision-makings. Most often they do not express their views in front of other male members of the group and when they speak out, their concerns are hardly heard or taken into account while making final decisions. This research will be helpful to assess the

real status of rural women on decision-making process in community forestry at least in Dharampani VDC of Pyuthan District.

Pyuthan district has 49 Village Development Committee (VDC). Pyuthan is one of the richest districts in terms of forest resource in Rapti zone and covered about 56% of the total lands. There are major 6 types of forest i.e. 1. Sal Forest, 2. Sal - Pine mixed Forest, 3. Pine Forest, 4. Chilaune - Katus mixed broad-leaved Forest, 5. Rhododendron - Pine mixed forest, 6. Oak - Banjh mixed forest. The district is the domain of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) that contributes significantly for rural livelihoods. Around 3 lakhs kg of different NTFP like Timur, Amala, Ritha, Dalchini, Samayo, Chiraeto, Allo, Lokta etc have been exporting to other district in each year from Pyuthan which have collected about 2 lakhs revenue to the government and 20 lakhs employment cost to the rural dwellers (DFO progress Report, Pyuthan 2060). Most of the national forest are handing over to community as Community Forestry in Pyuthan. As of July 2005, the numbers of handed over Community Forestry User Group (CFUG) are 303 by involving 18593 households of 47 VDCs. It shows that about 49% Forest (35612ha) is already handed over to communities and other potential forest areas (37078ha) are in handing over process. Not only the Community forestry but also leasehold forestry, religious forestry and private forestry program are also increasing in the district.

Figure No.1.1



Dharampani VDC is the adjoining VDC with district head quarter Khalanga and about 4 kosh far or 2hrs walking to 8 hrs walking distance from Khalanga. It is bordered with Chunja and Bijuli VDC in east, Khalanga VDC in west, Chunja and Maranthana VDC in north and

Raspurkot VDC in south. The total area of this VDC is 3359 sq kilometre (0.02% of district). It is geographically scattered VDC up to the remote and high hill area. The main religion of the VDC is (97%) Hindu and (3%) is Buddha. The occupation status is falls on agriculture, foreign employment, government employment and non-governmental sector employment and that prevail 81%, 9%, 8%, and 2% respectively. The VDC has poor education achievement even though it is the adjoining VDC with district head quarter. According to census 2001, the people who have studied above SLC are 175 only (0.04% of total population). There are 4 primary schools, 1 lower secondary school and one proposed secondary school. But most of the children from dalit do not go to school due to the lack of awareness and their domestic working pressure or labour requirement for sustaining hand to mouth problem. There are 726 Households in the VDC and out of them, 298 HHs (41%) are belongs to upper caste, 290 (40%) HHs is belongs to be Janajati and 138 (19%) House Holds are belongs to so-called Dalit (Kami, Damai, Sarki).

The population of the VDC is 3668 and women and men are 1945 and 1923 respectively. Health and sanitation status is also very poor. Only a health post is available in the VDC and is not sufficient in the geographically difficult area. In the past, there are many example of terrible health incidence like three people of one family and other several people had died by cholera in 2061 BS (VDC profile 2061). Most of the people of the VDC are not getting basic health facilities and they have to go district health office Bijuwar for primary treatment too, which is really far and extremely difficult for emergency purposes.

According to the census, 2001 the Child Birth Rate is 2.4 percent in the VDC; it indicates the rapid increasing population trends. Moreover, People are suffering from the requirements basic food nutrition, clean drinking water, health care, education and other social security issues. Besides these, Conflict is also highly visible in the communities and it creates the unwanted seasonal and permanent migration pressure, ultimately result the limited social development opportunities. Sometimes, seasonal migration occurs outside the district and even to the country particularly in India.

There are 9 CFUGs (0.02% of district) having 726 households in Dharampani VDC. These CFUGs have covered all nine wards, every potential forest, and some households do also have membership in more than one community forest but the number of duplication is very few. They have 275.76 Hectare Community Forestry, which is 0.007% of total handed over

area of Community forest of the district. The average CF area per household is 2.36 hectare.

Land is the main patriotic property of rural people not only in rural area like Dharampani but also in the entire nation. Those who have relatively more land are recognized as wealthy and reputed status in every village although the yield production of land is very limited. Dharampani VDC has very low irrigation facility and thus people depend upon monsoon. People are not getting sufficient yield, they couldn't cultivate crop in all season because of limited irrigation facilities. They prefer to choice migration rather hard work in only few season, which is not sufficient for their livelihoods. So, permanent migration particularly in nearest low land terai like Dang-Deukhuri is also common social phenomenon in Pyuthan including Dharampani. The land holding size of Dharampani is very low in comparison to other hilly VDC of the district like Bijwar that has 15-20 Ropani with more than 45% of households (DDC Profile 2060). The summary figure of land holding status of Dharampani VDC has shown in the following,

Table No.1.1

Land size in Ropani	Household	Percent
< 5	228	35
5-9	195	30
10-14	98	15
15-20	98	15
>20	33	5

1.2. Study Focus and Objectives

Forest contributes direct and indirect benefits and an integral part of rural livelihoods. Ideally, a community forestry user group is one of the community platform where, each of the members from every potential community can have an equal opportunity to be a member if they do have traditional right and access in the nearest community forest. There are 303 CFUGs in Pyuthan district. Especially women are the most caretakers, users and direct beneficiaries of forest. They spent most of the time to collect forest product like fuel wood, grass, leaf litter, fodder and other non timber products, they can also earn some cash by selling different types of forest products. Although women are the main stakeholders of forest they do not have wide access on decision making which eventually

favours them. District Forest Office is trying to monitor CFUG on social and technical areas by filling simple monitoring form in once in a year in every CFUG but it is not comprehensive and scientific for exploring the ground reality especially on participation and decision making. Active participation is one of the important indicator for finding out the women's status, that affect on decision making whereas the status of women on decision making process would support to ensure the significant role of women in every community forest user groups. This study is undertaken mainly for the above-mentioned purpose. Therefore the main objectives of the study are; to

- 1 Assess the status of women in decision-making and participation in CFUG's Executive Committee.
- 2 Explore degree of participation the women's status in decision making of Community Forestry User Groups.
- 3 To find out the major causes of low level of participation of women on decision making process.

Another objectives of the study is to develop a set of questions and indicators that forestry sector support programme and CFUG could use for empowering women on participation and decision making at least within VDC and in the district. Basically, questions and indicators focused on the following two areas; A. Participation / Information and B. Decision making; and further split questions and indicators are:

1. Participation/Information:

Do CFUG's general female members have sufficient information, which is made by CF executive committee in their monthly meeting and assembly? Similar questions and indicators designed for the CF executive committee members also. Some of the examples are:

- a) How many toles in your CFUG? How many toles represent by female member in your CFUG?
- b) Do all female members regularly present in CF executive committee's meeting?
- c) How many female members are in your CFUG?
- d) How do they select for CF executive committee member?
- e) Do the CF executive committee's female member hesitate to participate in the discussion of meeting? If they hesitate, what should be done to make them forward or non-hesitating?

- f) How do you know about the decisions that are made by CFUG? What is the communication system?
- g) Did you go in any general assembly? And took part in discussion?
- h) Who are the main forest products collectors in your CFUG?
- i) Do your CFUG have any fund? If yes how much & from where did they collected?
- j) Who have benefited from your CFUG's fund? In what type of activities?
- k) In your opinion, what types of activities can give wider benefits to women?
- l) What should do by CF executive committee to accomplish the above activities?
- m) Do female members participating in CF management (i.e. thinning, pruning, cleaning, and cleaning etc.) activities?
- n) Are your CFUG getting any outside support? If yes what kind of support?
- o) Are there any changes recorded after support? What are the major changes areas?

1.3 Decision Making

Do CFUG's general female members have access on decision-making in general users member level? What types of decision do CF executive committee's female member making? etc. Similar questions and indicators designed for the CF executive committee members also. Some of the examples are:

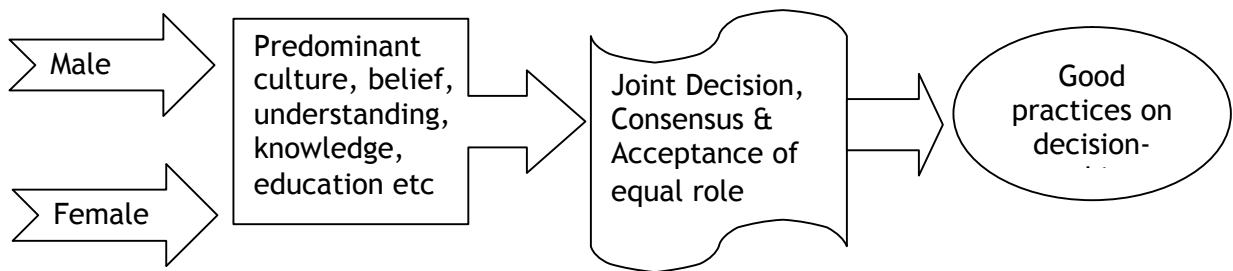
- p) Do you want to be a CF executive committee's member? What types of criteria should you meet to be a member?
- q) How is your CF executive committee's member selected? Did you involve for selecting them?
- r) Whose access is more in your CF executive committee's decision-making body?
- s) Is it necessary to keep female in CF UC member? If yes what percentage?
- t) What is easy to discuss about women issues by yourselves in the meeting especially if female member are not kept in CFUG?
- u) What is difficult to discuss about women issues by yourselves in the meeting especially if female member are not kept in CFUG?
- v) Who makes the decision to collect the daily used forest products (grass, firewood,)?
- w) Who makes the decision on NTFP management and timber collection?
- x) Who makes the decision for fixing the rate of forest products?

- y) Have you gone in the meeting to decide the above issues such as forest product distribution, rate fixation etc?
- z) Should CFUG give priority to invest the CFUG's funds for explicitly women benefiting programme?

1.4 Conceptual Framework

This research concept has been prepared to explore the existing status of women on decision - making process in CF user groups and Users Committee and current status of Participation in forest management and community development activities. The study is also aimed to suggest for mainstreaming women on access and control over decision-making in the CFUG's and executive committees at least in Dharampani VDC of Pyuthan district.

These issues are easy to say but challenging in practices and its possible conceptual philosophy is being presented by the following figure,



1.5 Conceptual Framework of the Research

Male and Female members are the key elements of each community forestry user groups. Generally, they develop agreed guidelines as CFUG constitution and CF Operational Plan to implement the institutional & community development and forestry management activities. Different societies have different culture; belief, understanding, knowledge, education etc and they are guided differently on which some have negative affects on joint decision, consensus and acceptance of equal role of Male and Female member in user groups. But it needs to be considered or perceived significantly for equal role and value of male and female member in each community forest user groups to achieve the good practices of decision-making process. It will support not only implement the decision but also help to develop the empowerment of men and women equally and thus participation. In reality, equal contribution and sharing is the main inertia for the sustainable development of each sector including forestry.

CHAPTER -II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2. Review of Literature

An important element to the situation-specific approach is disaggregated information concerning the nature of women and men's activities with respect to trees and tree products. Unfortunately it is rare that gender-related forestry issues, including the responsibilities and rights of women and men with respect to trees and forests are considered in the design and implementation of internationally added forestry projects or in the activities and strategies of national forestry departments (FAO 1992).

The Master Plan of Forestry Sector policy, 1988 recommended that at least 33% of women's representation in the CFUG committees is the must; the 1989 policy document spoke of "the maximum possible" women's representatives, which open the forum to accommodate more than 33%. The 1990 revised master plan of the forestry sector policy (draft) recommends, "Women who made the daily management decisions should represent at least one half of the members of the user committee in CF development programme. Gender bias is a worldwide phenomenon, but it is especially pernicious in the third world, where most of women's activities take place in the non-wages economy for the purpose of household consumption (NSCFP 1995).

Involvement of women is crucial role for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of various forestry products such as fodder, grass, fuel wood, edible fruits /foods and others from the forests. Therefore, it is they who suffer the most if the policy formulated is against their interests and daily practices and they might need to bear several socio-economic consequences. It is likely, for example, they would suffer the social and economic consequences of deforestation directly they need to spend more time and walk longer distance in search of their essential forest products (Kayastha; 1991)

The study focused towards women in community forestry is not commonly found in Nepal. Women's indigenous knowledge even more than of man with respect to species and uses largely unrecognised. In Nepal, women collect 84% fuel wood and carry several tonnes of fodder for each buffalo and cattle every year. In Bangladesh, women spend an average of three to five hours a day for collecting and carrying wood only (FAO; 1994).

Active participation of poor, women and disadvantage groups in decision-making is critical for effective community forest management and equitable benefit contribution among the users. Strategic procedure such as compulsory involvement of poor, female, disadvantage group in planning and decision-making process needs to be designed and promoted to ensure their proper representation and help them to realize their authority, responsibility and accountability (KR Kanel and B Kandel 2004). In contrary, there are some common assumptions which are not involving women in community forestry activities (Hughes; 1994). Some of them are:

- 1 Women are illiterate and ignorant.
- 2 Women have lack the capacity to make decisions.
- 3 Women are destroyers of forest.
- 4 Women belong in private sphere, not the public.
- 5 The division of labour within the society defines women's ability.
- 6 Women are dependent on others.
- 7 Women need protection.
- 8 Forestry is about timber and it's trade

Actually these misconceptions still exist in many community forest user groups in Pyuthan especially in rural and Brahamin Chhetri communities (personal comm. with FECOFUN) even though it is equally considered in the national strategy, as women will actively participate in CFUG's decision-making, planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and benefit sharing (Tenth five year plan of Nepal, 2003-2007)

The main organ of gender sensitivity is the equal participation and benefit sharing of male and female in each decision-making (R Regmi, 2061). Community Forestry has developed a platform for leadership development to many rural women, which supports to increase women's participation in the decision-making process (Gentle 2003). Due to lack of and effective support service mechanism, the importance of biodiversity of conservation has not reached up to the users Nepal. There are evidences that, the decision-making process in community forestry has been controlling by few wealthier households (Gentle 2000).

In Community Forestry almost decisions are made in the monthly meetings, in which women are only in physical attendance. Almost all decisions are reached with consensus by

discussion, and if consensus can't be reached, the majority takes the decision though the voice of female is forbidden (Humagain 2003).

Pyuthan district is also relatively weak for participating female in the decision making process though they are the main forest product consumer/harvester (DFO 2004). Recently, Livelihoods and Forestry programme (LFP) conducted CFUG categorization for identifying the current status of user groups on three different thematic areas. Primarily, it categorized in to five classes i.e. very active (>80%), active (60-79.9%), fairly active (50-59.9%), satisfactory (40-49.9%), and less active (<40%) on the basis of institution and governance, forest resource management and livelihood opportunities. CF user group wise findings of the programme are shown in the table as,

Table No. 2.1

Description	Syanidanda	Sherkhola	Patikharka	Sapdula	Bukidada	Okharidanda	Jyamindanda	Patalkanda	Jyamure	Average
Institutions and Governance	55%	60%	56.20%	57.20%	49.50%	55.20%	63.40%	62.90%	73.50%	59%
Forest Resource Management	50.10%	65.90%	38.80%	43.50%	49.10%	51.30%	48.60%	50%	65.90%	51%
Livelihoods Opportunities	20%	53.10%	13.20%	47.60%	22.50%	21.80%	31.20%	25%	40.60%	31%
Average	41.70%	60.00%	39.70%	49.40%	40.30%	42.70%	47.70%	45.90%	60%	47%

Source: LFP District Report, 2064 Pyuthan

The LFP's findings showed that only two CFUG fall on active category, one fall on fairly active categories where as rest of all six fall on satisfactory categories in Dharampani VDC. The study indicated that the group of women felt the process was not largely equitable because they trust only the patriotic system, which gives each female household member so called equal but limited access in participation and decision-making. Similar type of study has concluded the limited access of women in participation and decision- making in community forest users groups especially in mid hills of eastern Nepal (Nightingale 2002).tatus of nine CFUG in different thematic areas of Dharampani VDC

CHAPTER-III

METHODOLOGY

This section describes in detail the process used in designing and implementing the study, and analysing the data. First, the context of the study area is outlined and then methodology. Next, the study design process and the research methods used in its implementation are described. Finally, the type of information gathered, the methods of data analysis employed, and the limitations of study are discussed.

3.1 Context of the Study Area

Over the past year Pyuthan is intensively donor-supported district in forestry sector. Along with other development agencies USAID had supported the development activities of this district as the name of Rapti Integrated Rural Development Project since 1987. Again USAID had supported through CARE Nepal mainly on forestry sector in the name of Forestry Partnership Project (FPP) from 1996 to 2001. CARE supported to prepare community forest operational plan and its periodic revision with yield and annual allowable cut (AAC) prescription during its tenure and also supported on active forest management. About 280 CFUGs were formed and handed over as Community Forest up to the end of FPP. The project mainly focussed on strengthening women's participation in managing and controlling financial and productive forest resources. The project had promoted women's participation in decision-making processes through specific interventions such as providing Non Formal Education (NFE) and providing different training and cross-visits (Gentle, 2003).

Moreover, DFID funded Livelihoods and Forestry Programme has been supporting in forestry sector as a bilateral aid programme in Pyuthan since 2001. It is also focussing on the second-generation issues of community forestry e.g. Good governance, poverty focussing, women, dalit and disadvantage communities' participation, social inclusion etc. It is working through the DFO and CFUG as primary partner. Similarly, CARE supported SAMARPAN (Strengthening the Role of Civil society and Women in Democracy and Governance) programme has also been implementing in Pyuthan district focussing on women advocacy and right based approach. It is the right time to have a study for assessing the women's status on decision-making process and worthy participation such as, which could help to evaluate the donor support on the practical implementation level as well.

3.2 Basic Study Methodology

The study was designed and implemented with the cooperation with LFP staff, DFO staffs, Local resource person and each CFUGs members of Dharampani VDC. Participation by different stakeholders were emphasized through out the process, and the study was carried out using secondary data, a survey, cross visit, and participatory research (i.e. Participatory Rural Appraisal) tools and principles.

Data Collection steps

-) One day meeting organize with DFO staffs for identifying the sample VDC and CFUGs and selected Khalanga RP randomly among eight Range Post. Next day one meeting organized with RP staffs for the situation assessment of the RP and its CF number and potential VDC for Sampling. Dharampani VDC selected randomly for research works and recommended for detail research for the entire (nine) CFUGs of the VDC.
-) Review of LFP district reports related with women's participation and decision making among CFUGs in the district.
-) Discussion about the Participatory well being assessment with CF user committee members and scheduled for visit plan.
-) Preparation of summary of study design and implementation process and planning for field visit and data collection by questionnaire, checklist, focus group discussion and other appropriate data collection methodologies.
-) Developing questionnaire, field-testing and final questionnaire preparation.
-) Household selection through purposive random sampling among different economic status for questionnaire survey.

3.3 Research Design

The present study is entirely focused on the analysis of women's status on participation and decision-making process in Community Forestry User Groups and Users Committee especially in Dharampani VDC of Pyuthan district. Primary and secondary sources of information will also be used for the study. Both qualitative and quantitative data are analysed during the data analysis and discussion. Separate indicators designed for data collection and interpretation and each indicator have sub-categorized in to different groups with numerical figures and interpreted mainly in percentage figure. Moreover, other appropriate statistical interpretation tools are also used while analysing the acquired data from the field.

3.3.1 Natures and Source of Data

The primary data, basically qualitative and quantitative in nature, are collected through field observation, questionnaire survey, and key informants interaction and group discussion. Secondary data are obtained from the review of literatures, district reports, CFUG's constitutions, minute book, CF operational plan, income expenditure register and other users' register including other available documents and records of the individual user groups.

3.3.2 Universes and Sampling

This study conducted in Dharampani VDC out of 49 VDC in Pyuthan and belongs to the Khalanga range post out of eight-range post in the district. There are altogether 9 CFUGs in the selected but fairly remote VDC of the district that planned to complete each for research purpose. The house holds selection process followed the simple purposive random sampling techniques and selected considering different economic class. One household selected from the rich and pro-poor household categories in each CFUG but two households selected in case of poor and medium economic class by considering the more frequency on these categories. Altogether, 54 individual households head (female) are interviewed to fill up questionnaire from nine CFUG after selecting 6 households from each CFUG in particular. Along with household data collection, all CFUG's executive committee members are invited for separate meeting and answered separate questionnaire among the committee member for interview. Moreover, some cluster level focus groups and key informants discussion were also conducted purposively for data collection, verification and triangulation.

1. Community Forestry General User members - Indicator coverage

A. Participation/Information

- a) Do you know your CF's name?
- b) How many Households are the members of your CFUG?
- c) Do you have any certificate/evidence of your CF registration?
- d) When did you get these certificates (CFUG's constitution and CF Operational Plan)?
- e) How many executive committee members are there in your CFUG?
- f) How many female members are there in your CF executive committee (UC)?

- g) How do they represent/select in CFUG? Did you select them?
- h) Do the CF executive committee's female members regularly participate in meeting?
- l) Have you recognized to your CFUG's chairperson? And could please say about his general duty?
- j) How do you know the decisions are made by your CFUG? In what duration you get informed?
- k) Have you gone in any CFUG's general assembly? And raise any issue?
- l) Have you gone to the discussion of preparation CFOP? And participate in discussion?
- m) Who is the main forest product collector in your CF?
- n) How much fund do you have in your CFUG?
- o) Who have got the benefit from your CFUG's fund? What types of activities are supported?
- p) In your opinions, how CFUG's funds are collected?
- q) What types of activities give benefit to women?
- r) In your opinion, what should be done by CFUG for above activities?
- s) Do you like to say any more of women's role in your CFUG's?

B. Decision Making

- a) Do you have an interest to be a CF executive committee member? What capacity to be needed for that?
- b) Is it necessary to keep women in CFUG's executive committee?
- c) How much percentage of women is necessary to keep in CFUG's executive committee?
- d) What will easy to discuss and decide you if women would have in your CF executive committee?
- e) What will difficult to discuss and decide you if women wouldn't have in your CF's executive committee?
- f) Who have the role on decision of daily used forest product's (grass, firewood) collection? Male, female, key elite?
- g) Who did fix the rate of forest product for selling and distribution?
- h) Had you gone to the meeting of above discussion? And raised your issues?
- i) Who had decided of above discussion? Male of female?
- j) What is right to decide daily used forest product (grass, firewood, leaf litter) collection, distribution either by male or female?

- k) Should CFUG give priority to female member to investing CFUG's fund? Have your CFUG given?

2. Community Forestry User's Committee - Indicator coverage

The questionnaires for CFUG member are prepared relatively complex and open because CFUG member do have sufficient information and more exposure than to the general member. In terms of CFUG 13 questionnaires are developed for participation/information and 17 questionnaires for decision-making, which are given below:

A. Participation/Information

- a) How many toles are in your CFUG? And how many toles represent by your committee member?
- b) How many female members of your tole represent in your CFUG?
- c) How many male members of your tole represent in your CFUG?
- d) Do all the female members regularly present in each meeting?
- e) Do the participated female members participate in the decision?
- f) Do your CF executive committee's female members hesitate to participate in the discussion meetings? If they hesitate, what should be done to make them forward or non-hesitating?
- g) Do the female members present in forest management work like bush cutting, cleaning, thinning, pruning etc?
- h) Do the female members know about in which block forest management is needed actively? Do the CFUG give/take advice about these issues with CF executive committee's female member?
- i) Are you getting sufficient forest product from your CF?
- j) In what type of activities your CFUG does invest from CFUG's fund?
- k) Had your CFUG got any outside support in the past? If yes what kind of support?
- l) Are your CFUG getting any outside support at present? If yes what kind of support?
- m) Do you feel any changes after support? What are the major key changes areas?

B. Decision Making

- a) How the selection process is took place in your CF executive committee's member?
- b) Whose access is more in your CF executive committee's decision-making body/ portfolio?

- c) How is women's access in your CFUG if there is more access of male in decision-making body (number and voice)?
- d) How much percentage of participation does it valid in your CF executive committee's meeting according to the provision of your constitution?
- e) Are there any provisions of plan in your CFUG's constitution that gives directly benefit to female?
- f) Have your CFUG made the activity based on constitution from which female could directly benefited?
- g) Have your CFUG implemented the activity based on plan from which female could directly benefited?
- h) Have any provision of plan in your CFUG's constitution that gives directly benefit to male?
- i) Have your CFUG made the activity based on constitution from which male could directly benefited?
- j) Have your CFUG implemented the activity based on plan from which male could directly benefited?
- k) Do your CF executive committee's female member participate in the decision of daily used forest product (grass, firewood, leaf litre)?
- l) Who are more interested to make decision for exporting timber, jaributi (medicinal plants) or any other high value forest products?
- m) Which issues have risen by women in your CF executive committee's meeting?
- n) Have any decisions are made due to the strong stand of women?
- o) Have any example in your CF executive committee's meeting that activities are male related but female makes decisions?
- p) Have any example in your CF executive committee's meeting that activities are female related but male makes decisions?
- q) How women's status in is over all CF related decision-making process in your CFUG?

Focusing to women and trying to capture all sectors' participation and decision-making related information, that can primarily cover CF development and community development issues, develop these types of questionnaire. Interview is taken separately with both CF user group member and CFUG member (UC member). CF executive committee's separate

meeting was organized and all members were jointly interviewed to fill up questionnaire thus there were equal chances to give answer from male and female member even though our focus was to draw the information from female. On the other hand, 6 households from each CFUG (one from pro-poor, one from rich, two from medium and two from poor) were selected by using purposive random sampling method for interviewing with user group member. Interviewing with female member of each household fills all questionnaires. There are equal 30 numbers of indicators designed in questionnaires for interviewing with CF executive committee's and CF user member.

For CF executive committee's, there are 13 indicators in questionnaire developed in participation heading and 17 indicators in decision-making. In case of CF user member, it has 19 indicators in participation heading and 11 indicators in decision-making. The present study has developed 30 indicators and different four variables of each indicator to make easy quantitative scoring and calculating the data. Each indicator has equal maximum value 16 and minimum 0, thus highest possibility of value earning in the participation part is 208 in executive committee level where as the value could 304 in user group level. Similarly, such maximum value could 272 for broad decision making indicators in the users executive committee level and that could be 176 in general users member's level. Both committee members and user groups general members have the highest possibilities of earning the point is 480 from summing of the value of both participation on decision making related indicators.

The study has developed two different sets of forms one is data collection or questionnaire form and other is mark scoring form and it is completed from the given information of the interview or questionnaire. After following the interview, the researcher conducted the group discussion, key informants' discussion and reviewed the available information in the village and CF users committee's office. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected during the fieldwork and analysed accordingly.

3.3.4 Study Implementation

The field research was conducted through a series of meetings and activities using participatory research. Firstly, the researcher organized a meeting with the help of LFP and DFO staff in the district head quarter and discussed in detail with them about the study. After the long discussion with them the researcher selected randomly Range Post, VDC and CFUGs. DFO staff and myself went to field for first meeting in the field when there was

selected CFUGs for study and discussed with executive committee of all nine CUFG's. At the date CFUG made schedule for my visit especially on well being ranking in each user groups to find out the economic status and hierarchy among the group members. The next meeting was organized by separately for focusing on participatory well being ranking and the researcher facilitated in each CFUG. After the well being assessment, all households are classified into different status like pro-poor, poor, medium and rich and made their sequential number based on economic worth. Then the researcher conducted the user groups' level interview and users' committee level interview after completing the well being ranking and planned randomly for selecting different economic class households. Focus group discussion of different group like pro-poor, female, dalit and cross -visit were also conducted separately within nine CFUGs. The stepwise study implementation process is presented in detail in the next data collection subheading as well.

3.3.5 Data Collection Technique

The research is mainly related with population and gender dynamics and used different Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools for data collection. The following are the main tools used while researching,

- A. Field Visit
- B. Questionnaire
- C. Semi-structured
- D. Interview Observation and review
- E. Focus Group discussion Interaction Meeting

A. Field Visit

Joint field visit organised with DFO staffs and the researcher himself in Dharampani VDC for some general information specially related with forest resource distribution, user groups and house hold coverage in the VDC, situation of social inclusion and exclusion, general observation of socio-economic dimension, land use and geographical information. Bukidanda is the most remote and less supported CFUG where as Sherkhola is relatively more accessible with motor able road and widely supported CFUG in the VDC.

B. Questionnaire

To collect primary data some open ended and close questionnaires have handed over to each selected household head (women) for filling and sharing the details accurately. Other separate types of questionnaire were handed over to CF executive committee for jointly filling during the meeting (see attached separate questionnaire format - annex I and II). Primarily, questionnaire did collect the view of different respondent of different economic class in the given thirty indicators relating with participation and information and decision-making status in that particular community forest.

B. Semi-structured Interview

The structured and semi-structured interview was carried out with some key person of CFUG member like schoolteacher, social leader, women advocacy leader and elderly people. Moreover, some CFUG executive committee member, female user member from poorest of the poor categories, dalit user members were also taken for semi-structured interview. It also helped for verifying data and testing reliability and validity to some extent.

C. Observation and review

It has widely known that Community Forestry User Group is a local level legitimate institution with the establishment of necessary office management system. So that CFUG could maintain its documents properly i.e. constitution, operational plan, minute register, income-expenditure register and ready for review at any time. During the fieldwork and observation, I reviewed the available information, books, ledger, decision records, women's and dalit's participation status of each CFUG by sitting in their office and some times in the CF secretary's home as an office. It was really interesting and shameful for those who do not have real transparency on financial and other administrative parts within the executive committee and among the user groups.

D. Focus Group Discussion

All the CFUGs completed participatory wealth-ranking practices within their communities during the research works. Now, each households has been ranked according to the wealth/well being status and poorest of the poor households have been discretely identified in each community forest user groups and I organised some focus group discussion practice on different economic class to dig out the detail information and

verification. It was interesting that any of poorest of the poor household categories do not have wider information about the importance of participation and their necessary role on decision-making practices rather they feel the obligatory participation on the announced meeting and assembly avoiding the penalty on absenteeism. The focus group discussions were conducted in different members of different poverty status, caste and ethnic groups.

E. Interaction Meetings

The interaction meeting was organized likely the regular sharing meeting in the user group in front of the external development activist but bit different on the discussion issues especially the critical analysis on the existing status of women on participation and decision making relating with forestry and community development works in that particular area. Minimum five members anticipating preferably women (including committee and groups) were invited from the nine CFUGs during the interaction meeting and had long critical discussion on poor and gender and other related thematic issues in addition to the indicators presented in the annex as questionnaire format.

CHAPTER-IV

INFORMATION, DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Information

As mention above, the study incorporated different types of data from a wide variety of sources. The study has mainly captured qualitative and quantitative data in the users executive committee level and general user groups level. In many cases, multiple sources were used for the same questions in order to triangulate and verify the results. Collected data are analysed by using percentage and quantitative methods and compared with qualitative responses among each other. The majority of qualitative data was derived from CFUGs formal and informal meetings focussing with different caste group female and key informants. Some qualitative information were also recorded during household interviews, averaging the common sharing of each respondents on the similar issues and reviewing the available CFUG's records. I made a point to ask whether all participants concurred with the expressed view or the information conveyed, and verified factual claims with CFUG records and other documents whenever possible.

Additional source of information including journals, DFO and LFP's extension documents, DDC's information documents, personal communication with officials and available literature are also reviewed before analysing the data. Different data were collected from each CFUG's documents such as financial and training records, meeting minutes, forest management records, Forest Operational Plan and Constitution, Records of Revolving Fund and its mobilization, seedling production records etc.

4.2 Participatory Well Being Ranking

The primary purpose of the well-being ranking was to distinguish between different economic categories of households in each community in order to facilitate economic cross comparisons among user households. The well being ranking was similar to wealth ranking exercise, except that it did not include explicit wealth-based indicators. In fact, users were asked to separate every household in to four categories - Pro-poor, Poor, Medium and Rich without define any criteria and community members made some basic indicator to evaluate the well being status in that particular area or village. The rational behind this approach is that community has different subjective criteria for judging economic status, though these criteria may not be universal or precise, they do determine how community members

perceive and treat each other. After the exercise we asked the user groups to state the criteria they used and posted it in front of them. The most commonly reported criterion was the number of months (out of twelve) of food or income households derive from its own agriculture land, regular earnings, education status, livestock numbers, house type or structure, health status etc. The specific process for the well being ranking is outlined below;

1. *Records and update Households:* We made updating the records of Households in each CFUG and verified it with CFUG's constitution before starting well being ranking.

Whenever it completes we started to set the basic indicator for pro-poor, poor, medium and rich status in that particular user group.

2. *Ranked:* We asked each group to separate the card in to four categories (Pro-Poor, Poor, Medium and Rich). Then we recorded the four economic groups on a form, which has used to compare ranking and select households for interview. We also asked the groups to explain their criteria for ranking and recorded this information in their minute books. The nine CFUG of Dharampani V.D.C have found the following economic status during the well being ranking that mentioned in the following table:

Table No. 4.1 : Economic class wise HH in Number

	Syani	Sher	Pati	Sapdula	Buki	Okhari	Jyam	Patal	Jyamire
Rich	5	11	3	10	12	12	17	12	21
Medium	13	39	18	14	17	37	20	23	43
Poor	24	19	14	18	18	30	15	32	37
Pro-Poor	23	21	19	24	12	7	24	27	35
Total	65	90	54	66	59	86	76	94	136

Table No. 4.2 : Economic class wise HH in Percent

	Syani	Sher	Patik	Sapdula	Buki	Okhari	Jyam	Patal	Jyamire
Rich	8	12	5	14	20	14	22	13	15
Medium	20	44	33	21	29	43	26	24	32
Poor	37	21	27	27	31	35	20	34	27
Pro-Poor	35	23	35	18	20	8	32	29	26
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Economic Classwise HH status

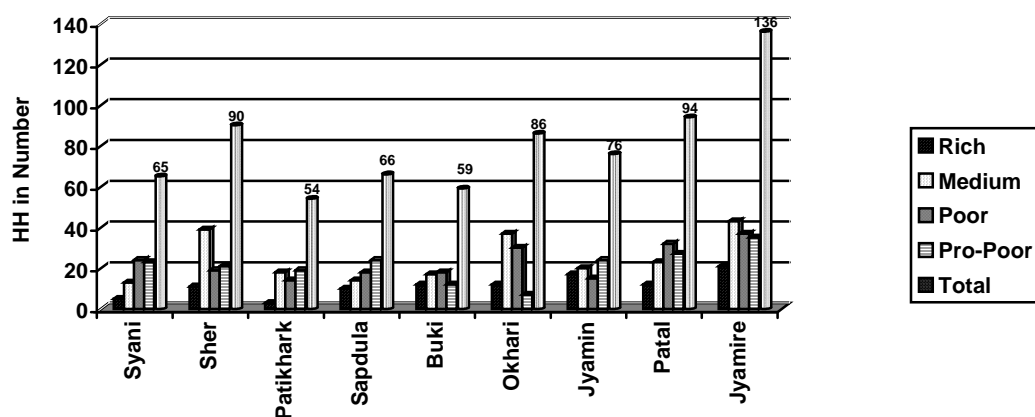


Table No. 4.3

The economic status of households in percentages			
SN	Status	HH	Percent
1	Very Poor	103	14
2	Poor	224	31
3	Medium	207	29
4	Rich	192	26

The overall findings the well being ranking found in Dharampani VDC that 14% households are very poor, 31% are poor, 29% are medium and 26% households are rich. The majority of Households are below than the rich status though the VDC has more access on district headquarter and obviously in other social services.

3. *Compare Ranking:*

Once we completed ranking then we further classified in the serial order of the economic status. Thus every household of the community forest user groups have been ranked and given the serial number.

4. *Select Households:*

From the group of participatory ranked households we randomly selected approximately 7% (total households in the VDC - 726, sample households - 136) of them and equal number in each user groups (i.e. one household from Rich, two HH from Medium, two from Poor and one from Pro-Poor). Whenever we find the households selection in each economic class groups, we applied random selection process. Then we asked members of executive committee and key informants to designate some to help us locate the households. In order to avoid biased responder from households we requested and allowed them to speak more frankly about their experience with community forestry.

4.3 Community Forestry User Groups general Female Member's Interview and Discussion

The detail discussion and interview were conducted with the selected general user groups' female members regarding the status in participation/information and decision-making. There were 19 different indicators for assessing the Participation and 11 different indicators for assessing the decision-making status. The researcher discussed the participation and decision making status separately among the nine CFUGs of Dharampani VDC. The following table describes about the status of Participations among nine CFUGs and its subsequent quantitative score which is presented below.

A. Participation/Information

Table No 4.4 : Syanidanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	15	10.0	3.0	0	6.8	42.5
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	13	11.0	3.5	0	7.1	44.3
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	2	3.5	2.5	0	2.5	15.6
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	10	10.5	4.0	1	6.8	42.5
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	14	13.0	4.0	1	8.3	51.8
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	7	6.5	4.0	11	6.2	38.7
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	10	4.0	5.5	2	5.1	31.8
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	1	10.0	3.5	1	5.3	33.1
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and	9	12.0	5.0	1	7.6	47.5

	responsibilities						
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	13	13.5	12.5	13	13.0	81.2
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	0	8.0	4.5	0	4.7	29.3
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	7	5.0	5.0	2	4.9	30.6
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	7	6.5	5.5	7	6.3	39.3
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	15	14.0	6.0	0	9.4	58.7
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	3	0.5	0.0	0	0.6	3.7
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	14	14.0	4.5	0	8.7	54.3
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	3	8.5	5.0	2	5.7	54.3
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	8	7.0	3.5	2	5.2	32.5
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	3	2.5	0.5	1	1.6	10
	Average	8.1	8.4	4.3	2.3	6.1	38.1
	Percent	50.6	52.5	26.8	14.3	38.1	

Above table reveals that majority of female user members of Syanidanda CFUG's do have only 38% general information and very low level of participation in different discussion, meetings and assembly even though almost 81.2% are timely informed about the decision that are made by CFUG. CFUG general member have very low level (i.e. 15.6%) of information even their CFUG registration and CF handover certificates. It is very less satisfactory that only 42.5% member could say even their CFUG name and very less member do have empowerment ideas on their own. Only 3.7% members have known about CFUG fund and types of activities that are invested from their fund. The few about 31.8 % members are informed about the selection process of CFUG member and its number. Only 29.3% members do have information about the necessity of participation from CFUG and CFUG in regular meeting and assembly and necessary issues need to be raised. Very few - only about 10% members could say about the role of women in CF.

Based on economic status wise discussion, there are more access of medium (52.5%) and rich (50.5%) households in each information and participation. Really, medium and rich households are highly concerned about CF related activities in comparison with poor and pro-poor households. Relatively few (26.3%) of Poor households do have information and they are participating in very few meetings and assembly. Only 14.3% of pro-poor members have known about general information and there is a remarkable difference between rich and pro-poor. It shows, almost members of pro-poor households do not participate in regular meeting and assembly. There is the noticeable difference between rich, poor and pro-poor class and it needs to improve by applying the necessary empowerment tools in future.

Table No 4.5 : Sherkhola CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	13	9.5	9.0	9	9.7	60.6
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	14	10.0	9.5	0	9.1	56.8
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	9	1.5	2.5	1	2.8	17.5

4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	1	5.0	0.0	6	2.8	17.5
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	5	11.0	10.0	7	9.4	58.7
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	10	8.0	7.0	1	7.0	43.7
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	9	11.5	7.5	10	9.5	59.3
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	5	8.0	6.0	1	6.0	37.5
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	10	9.0	11.5	9	10.1	63.1
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	11	9.5	13.5	7	10.9	68.1
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly & status of raising issues	13	4.0	2.5	0	4.1	25.6
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	13	9.5	5.0	1	7.2	45.0
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	11	10.0	5.0	9	8.1	50.6
14	Information about CFUG fund -	12	8.0	10.0	10	9.5	59.3

	amount						
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	10	3.0	12.0	9	8.0	50.0
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	13	11.5	10.0	10	10.9	68.1
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	13	9.5	3.5	2	6.8	42.5
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	10	3.5	3.0	9	4.8	30.0
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	5	1.5	2.0	5	2.6	16.2
	Average	9.8	7.6	6.8	5.6	7.3	45.6
	Percent	61.2	47.5	42.5	35.0	45.6	

The above table presents the most of the general user members of Sherkhola CFUG have known 45% general information and relatively weak participation though they participate in some meeting and general assembly. Generally, 68.1% are informed about CFUG's decision meeting, but few (60%) member can only report or say their CFUG name. Only 17.5% could say about the evidence of CFUG registration like CF handover certificates, CFOP, constitution etc. The respondents reported that very few (25.6%) members are participating in CFUG general assembly and almost members do not raise their issues. Interestingly, in the case the amount of CFUG fund, 68.1% members have known about the source of fund. Similarly, 59.3% members have well informed/known about CFUG's total fund and 50% could list the activities where CFUG's fund has been invested. Sherkhola CFUG has received support for pro-poor focused Income Generating Activity (IGA) that could help

to be well informed them and creates relatively more access to the CFUG members for information and participation.

Regarding the discussion of economic status, it is found that the over all rich households' user members have 61.2% more access for information and they are participating in most of CFUG meeting and assembly whereas the level of information and participation is low in pro-poor and poor households. Relatively, there are few differences among the four economically classified user group (pro-poor, poor, medium and rich). Pro-poor and poor members also do have some access in information because some of them are participating in CFUG meeting and assembly too. This result shows pro-poor focused programme could be an effective tool for increasing the level of participation and the degree of information to pro-poor in each and every activity.

Table No: 4.6 : Rajanipani Patikharka CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	14	12.0	5.0	11	9.5	59.3
2	Information & participation about selecting CFUG household number	7	14.0	6.5	10	9.8	61.2
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	2	5.0	4.5	1	3.9	24.3
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	3	3.0	0.5	7	2.6	16.2
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	2	15.0	7.5	10	9.9	61.8
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	7	7.0	5.0	6	6.1	38.1

7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	15	12.0	5.5	10	9.7	60.0
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	16	11.0	9.0	10	10.8	67.5
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	16	11.5	9.5	14	11.6	72.5
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	15	13.5	14.0	12	13.7	85.6
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	0	4.5	5.5	7	4.6	28.5
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	10	6.0	3.0	1	4.8	28.7
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	7	7.0	7.0	6	6.9	43.1
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	12	10.0	11.5	11	10.9	68.1
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	11	7.5	7.5	0	7.0	43.7
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	11	13.0	5.5	15	10.2	63.7
17	Participation while deciding	10	8.5	8.0	12	8.9	55.6

	the activities that could give direct benefit to women						
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	3	6.5	6.0	6	5.8	36.2
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	2	5.5	5.0	1	4.3	26.8
	Average	8.6	9.1	6.6	7.9	8.0	50.0
	Percent	53.7	56.8	41.2	49.3	50.0	

The above tables reveal that in overall, the general female members of Rajanipani Patikharka CFUG have 50% access in information and participation, which means they have some regular participation in CFUG's meeting and assembly. Although, 85.6% members are timely informed about CFUG's decision, only 28.5% participate in general assembly and relatively few (28.5%) are raised their issue during the discussion and sharing. The result shows only 24.3% members have known about their CFUG registration, CF handover certificates and a few (16.2%) were able to report on CF handover time. In the case of forest product collection including fuel wood collection, they have 43% access; it does mean that there is relatively good participation of male in forest product collection. The almost all member have known about CFUG members and are participating in regular meeting and they could say about their selection process also. In case of CFUG fund, 68.1% members have well informed about it and 63.7% also informed the source of fund and 43.3% were reported about the activity where CFUG's fund has been invested. There are almost advanced Janajati (Newar) households in this CFUG and that might have relatively more access on equality and transparency in each information and activities. Result shows that Patikharka Rajanipani CFUG has good performance in the information and participation of CFUG fund and its management.

According to economic class wise discussion the result shows, medium households have more access (56.8%) in information and also have regular participation in CFUG meeting and assembly. Similarly, Pro-poor households also have meaningful access on information and participation because there is more household number of pro-poor in compare with poor in this CFUG. In conclusion, the above data and result shows that household's majority

can also insist to ensure access in each activity including participation and information in community forestry.

Table No: 4.7 : Sapdula CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	13	8.0	0.5	0	4.8	30.3
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	9	7.0	0.0	1	3.9	24.3
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	10	2.5	0.5	0	2.4	15.0
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	14	3.5	0.0	2	3.3	20.6
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	12	8.0	4.5	1	6.3	39.3
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	10	9.0	5.5	1	6.8	42.5
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	14	7.5	6.5	6	7.8	48.7
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	7	7.0	6.5	6	6.7	41.8
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	10	11.5	8.5	6	9.5	59.3
10	Duration of getting	14	13.0	10.5	7	11.4	71.2

	information of each decision made by CFUG						
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	3	2.0	1.0	0	1.5	9.3
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	10	5.5	1.0	0	3.7	23.1
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	6	9.0	7.5	7	7.8	48.7
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	9	12.0	5.0	1	7.6	47.5
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	1	9.0	7.0	14	7.9	49.3
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	10	14.0	11.5	11	12.2	76.2
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	6	8.5	12.5	12	10.1	63.1
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	7	10.0	4.0	7	7.0	43.7
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	1	10.0	1.0	7	5.1	31.8
	Average	8.7	8.3	4.9	4.7	6.6	41.2
	Percent	54.3	51.8	30.6	29.3	41.2	

The above table reveals that only 41.2% members of Sapdula CFUG do have access in information and participation and it means that they do not regularly participate in CFUG

meeting and assembly. Although 71.2% are timely informed about CFUG's decision and 9.3% member are participating in CFUG general assembly and very few member raise the issues during the discussion. Only 15% members are well informed about the evidence of CFUG registration, CF handover and it needs improvement in future. Interestingly regarding the forest product collection, male and female both are equally collect forest product including fuel wood and fodder and it seems more equity on gender perspective side. The remarkable point is only 30.3% member were able to report/say their CFUG name that is really less satisfactory. In terms of CFUG fund, 47.5% members are well informed about their CFUG fund and 49.3% is informed about the activity where CFUG fund are invested. Relatively, it is not so negligible information. Another interesting thing appeared in the discussion that 76.2% women are well informed about the source of CFUG fund and 63.1% women have well known about the intervention, which can give direct benefit to them.

Regarding the economic class wise discussion, rich household have 54.3% access in information and inherently they participate almost meeting and assembly of CFUG. The overall result shows, poor and pro-poor households relatively have same access of information and participation in Sapdula CFUG. Most of the external organizations are trying to support poor and pro-poor communities and these category households need to participate more meeting and discussion for getting poor benefiting out side support that can develop the willingness of participation and information.

Table No: 4.8 : Bukidanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	10	10.5	5.0	0	7.1	44.3
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	11	9.5	5.5	0	7.0	43.7
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	1	3.5	6.5	1	4.0	25.0
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	1	0.5	0.5	2	0.8	5.0

5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	10	5.0	5.0	0	5.0	31.5
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	7	11.0	5.0	7	7.8	48.7
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	1	7.0	7.5	2	5.8	36.2
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	10	1.0	7.5	7	5.3	33.1
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	6	6.5	5.5	7	6.1	38.1
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	14	7.0	6.0	9	7.8	48.7
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	0	3.5	7.0	0	3.9	24.3
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	1	0.5	3.5	1	1.8	11.2
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	10	6.5	7.5	11	7.9	49.3
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	7	3.0	5.5	0	4.1	25.6
15	Participation about CFUG fund	2	1.0	1.5	0	1.2	7.0

	investment and type of activities						
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	12	9.5	5.0	0	6.9	43.1
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	13	3.0	11.5	7	7.9	49.3
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	10	7.5	5.5	11	7.5	46.8
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	1	3.0	11.5	3	5.9	36.8
	Average	6.7	5.2	5.9	3.6	5.5	34.3
	Percent	41.8	32.5	36.8	22.5	34.3	

The above table shows that general member of Bukidanda CFUG have relatively very less access (34.3%) in information and participation. Moreover, there is very low level of participation in each indicator in comparison to other CFUG. Only 5% members have known about the handover time or date of CF and 25% have known the evidence of CFUG registration, which is the significantly lowest number among others CFUG in Pyuthan. Altogether 48% members have access of information about CFUG's decision. CFOP is main guiding documents of CFUG but there are only 11.2% member who had participated in the CFOP preparation meeting, discussion and assembly. Although, 25.6% members are informed about the CFUG fund, only 7 % have reported the list of activities where, CFUG fund has been invested. The female members are relatively known about the list of activities, which can give direct benefit to them and they are also known about the intervention that should be carried out by CFUG. Mostly they are aware about their role in CFUG and still need some empowerment and support. Bukidanda is one of the remote CFUG of Dharampani VDC and very limited service providers launched their activities which might have direct and indirect benefit to the poor and marginalized communities and it is believed that the limited geographical access is the main cause for not to have any external services to them.

Generally, it is found that only rich households do have more access on participation and information but there is relatively more access of poor household also in this CFUG. The main reason behind this is the majority of households are economically poor categories. This data shows that the difference between rich and pro-poor is almost double. Obviously, because of few households and less exposure on discussion there are less chances to get more information by pro-poor where as similar household of rich categories do have good participation and information. It really made back to the pro-poor communities and which naturally inherent less access in participation and necessary information.

Table No: 4.9 : Okharidanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	9	8.0	0.5	1	4.4	27.5
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	10	6.5	1.0	0	4.1	25.6
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	3	1.0	3.5	1	2.2	13.7
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	3	2.0	6.5	5	4.2	26.2
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	10	9.5	6.0	5	7.7	48.1
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	9	5.0	8.5	5	6.8	42.5
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	7	10.0	7.0	9	8.4	52.5
8	Status of regular participation	5	13.0	4.5	10	8.4	52.5

	of CFUG member in meeting						
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	9	12.0	7.0	9	9.4	58.7
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	13	8.0	10.5	7	9.4	58.7
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	0	1.5	3.0	3	2.1	13.1
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	1	9.5	5.5	13	7.4	46.2
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	5	10.0	6.0	13	8.3	51.8
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	9	13.5	7.0	9	9.9	61.8
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	9	13.5	4.5	7	8.8	55.0
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	10	13.0	7.5	13	10.6	66.2
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	3	10.0	8.5	7	8.2	51.2
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	8	11.5	6.0	10	8.8	55.0
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	5	3.5	10.0	1	5.8	36.2

	Average	6.7	8.5	5.9	6.7	7.1	44.3
	Percent	41.8	53.1	36.8	41.8	44.3	

The above table reveals that general user member of Okharidanda CFUG have overall 44.3% access in information and participation. About 26.2% members have known about the major handover evidence of CF, CFUG register and only 13.7% member are reported the handover date of CF, which is the basic and very general information for user group level. The noticeable point is only 27% members did report even their name of the CFUG. Similarly, 52.5% members are fairly informed about the regular participation of CFUG member in the meeting and discussion and also informed the selection process of CFUG member. Almost, 58% users have fairly access of information about CFUG's decision. In the case of CFUG fund, 61.8% user are well informed about it and 55% reported the source of fund and 66% reported the list of activity where CFUG fund has been invested. It is the good result of information because it needs to equal access of information in common property and it could be the good example for fund management. Okharidanda CFUG has got outside support in issue-based advocacy from FECOFUN and the users have more access in some indicators like some exploration on direct female benefiting activities, intervention carried out by CFUG, and their progressive thought on women related issues.

According to the economic class wise discussion, there are no more significance differences among pro-poor, poor, medium and rich households in Okharidanda CFUG. Generally, we have seen the quite difference between rich and pro-poor in almost CFUG in terms of access but here is the interesting point in the CFUG we observed the balanced access of information between rich and pro-poor. Women have been highly encouraged for participation especially an in issue-based meeting, gender equity dialogue and fund transparency issue that shows their high access on information and participation. Issue-based advocacy could give energy to women for their meaningful participation in CF, which is the preferred task on the success of community forestry.

Table No: 4.10 : Jyaamindanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Total Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	13	11.5	6.0	0	8.2	51.2
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	10	12.0	3.0	1	7.0	43.7
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	7	6.0	1.0	0	3.5	21.8
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	10	1.0	2.5	7	3.4	21.2
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	2	1.5	10.5	1	4.9	30.6
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	7	6.5	9.5	5	7.5	46.8
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	2	5.5	6.0	10	5.8	36.2
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	5	11.0	11.0	13	10.5	65.6
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	10	7.0	7.0	5	7.1	44.3
10	Duration of getting information of each decision	7	11.0	10.0	0	8.8	55.0

	made by CFUG						
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	1	1.0	0.5	0	0.7	4.3
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	9	4.5	7.5	0	5.6	35.0
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	6	7.5	6.0	8	6.8	42.5
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	9	7.5	5.0	1	5.9	36.8
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	10	1.0	5.5	2	3.9	24.3
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	13	5.5	11.5	13	9.6	60.0
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	7	6.0	6.0	7	6.3	39.3
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	6	9.5	6.0	10	7.8	48.7
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	7	10.0	6.5	10	8.3	51.8
	Average	7.4	6.6	6.4	4.9	6.4	40.0
	Percent	46.2	41.2	40.0	30.6	40.0	

The above table presents in overall 40% user member of Jyamindanda CFUG have access in general information and they participate CFUG meeting and assembly frequently. There is

very low level of participation (4.3%) of user in CFUG general assembly and almost do not raise the issues during the discussion. Users were reported 65.6% CGUC member do participate in CFUG regular meeting but in the case of CFUG member selection process, only 36.2% have known about the selection process. About 55% users are timely informed about the decision made by CFUG. Only 21.8% user could report about the major evidence of CFUG registration and CF handover. General user do not know the executive committee members, even how many members are selected in their CFUG? Only 30% said the number of member in their UC and reported about it but they seem pretty aware on the information about CFUG female member. CFOP is the main guide for CF development but only 35% users were participated in the preparation of their CFOP through different assembly, meeting and discussion. Altogether only 36.8% users do have well information about CFUG fund although 60% users have already known about source of fund. Only 39.3% users have reported about the activity that can give direct benefit to them.

Regarding in the economic class wise discussion, there is slight difference between rich, medium, poor and pro-poor. The pro-poor users do only have 30% access in information and participation. Similarly poor have 40% access and it seems bit with similar with pro-poor. They were reported that they are timely informed about the time, venue and discussion of meetings and participate regularly. The majority of households of Jyamindanda CFUG have disadvantages Janajati (Magar) households and most of them have common understanding and group cohesiveness and thus found comparatively less difference among the different economic class.

Table No: 4.11: Patalkandajhum CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	9	13.0	0.5	0	6.2	38.7
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	10	9.5	4.0	2	6.6	41.2
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	1	0.5	1.0	1	0.8	5.0

4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	5	5.0	2.5	7	4.3	26.8
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	10	11.0	1.0	10	7.0	43.7
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	11	7.0	5.0	6	6.6	41.2
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	12	10.0	6.0	9	8.6	53.7
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	11	6.0	6.5	7	6.9	43.1
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to say his/her general duties and responsibilities	10	8.5	9.5	9	9.1	56.8
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	9	10.0	5.0	10	8.0	50.0
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	2	8.5	0.0	7	4.3	26.8
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	13	3.0	3.5	1	4.2	26.2
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	9	7.5	5.5	6	6.8	42.5
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	9	10.0	5.5	9	8.1	50.6

15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	9	13.5	0.5	0	6.4	40.0
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	13	13.0	9.0	7	10.8	67.5
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	14	8.0	6.5	5	7.8	48.7
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	10	7.5	2.5	6	5.8	36.2
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	11	2.5	5.0	1	4.3	26.8
	Average	9.4	8.1	4.2	5.4	6.4	40.0
	Percent	58.7	50.6	26.2	33.7	40.0	

The above table presents that the female users of Patalkandajhum CFUG have 40% aggregate access in participation and information. According to the above table the overall member of the CFUG have very low level of basic information, for example only 38.7% could say their CFUG's name and only 5% users could report the handover date of CF, evidence of CFUG registration and CF handover process. It needs to be well informed in future for the successful implementation of community forestry activities. Although, 53.7% users reported about the selection process and member of CFUG executive committee, the only 43.1% are known whether CFUG member participate in regular meeting or not. About 28.8% general users participated in CFUG assembly but few members raise the issue during the discussion and sharing. Almost 67.5% users are informed about the source of CFUG fund but relatively few users are known about the total fund available in their account. It indicates that there is less transparency on fund management within the CFUG. Further it shows that 48.8% general female users have been interested to do direct benefiting activities to them and they are also known about the potential major intervention that should be done by CFUG.

Based on economic status, there is wide difference between rich and pro-poor in this CFUG. Only 12% rich households do have wide access (58.7%) in information and

participation, whereas 29% pro-poor households have only 33.7% access in the similar theme. Similarly, there is the majority household (34% of total HH) of poor but they do have only 26.2% access on information and participation. Moreover, Pataalkandajhum CFUG has got some external support on pro-poor focused programme from district FECOFUN and pro-poor households showed their wider access on participation and information because of their long discussion and sharing during the programme implementation.

Table No: 4.12 : Jyamurepakha CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Information and Participation about CFUG name	14	10.0	5.0	7	8.3	51.8
2	Information and participation about selecting CFUG household number	11	9.5	3.5	5	6.9	43.1
3	Information and participation about CF registration certificates CFOP, CFUG constitution preparation	10	7.0	0.5	2	4.3	26.8
4	Information about the time of CFUG register, CF handover	10	9.0	5.0	0	6.5	40.6
5	Information and participation about selecting total CFUG member and its number	2	11.5	4.5	10	7.5	46.8
6	Information and participation about electing or selecting total CFUG female member (number)	10	10.0	7.5	9	8.9	55.6
7	Information and participation about CFUG member selection process	10	13.0	5.5	1	8.3	51.8
8	Status of regular participation of CFUG member in meeting	13	12.0	11.5	10	11.7	73.1
9	Information / recognition about of CFUG chairperson and able to	14	10.5	7.0	1	8.4	52.5

	say his/her general duties and responsibilities						
10	Duration of getting information of each decision made by CFUG	13	10.0	8.5	6	9.3	58.1
11	Participation in CFUG general assembly and status of raising issues	9	1.5	3.5	5	3.6	22.5
12	Status of Participation and decision role while preparing CFOP endorsed from assembly and participate in minute discussion	9	7.0	7.0	3	6.8	42.5
13	Information/understanding about who are the forest product collector in your CF	7	9.5	10.5	5	9.0	56.2
14	Information about CFUG fund - amount	13	9.5	5.0	1	7.2	45.0
15	Participation about CFUG fund investment and type of activities	10	1.0	0.5	6	2.6	16.2
16	Information about the source of CFUG fund	13	11.0	11.5	10	11.3	70.6
17	Participation while deciding the activities that could give direct benefit to women	6	8.5	7.0	7	7.4	46.2
18	Major intervention that should be carried by CFUG	7	8.0	11.0	6	8.8	55.0
19	Any more opinion on the participation and women's role in CFUG	10	3.5	8.0	5	6.2	38.7
	Average	10.1	8.5	6.4	5.2	7.5	46.8
	Percent	63.1	53.1	40.0	32.5	46.8	

The above table presents that almost female users of Jyamurepakha CFUG have 46.8% aggregate access in general information and participation. Relatively there is the balanced

access in all indicators, so this is the quite good CFUG in comparison to others. Most of the users could report the basic information about their CFUG for example 51.8% could name their CFUG, 43.1% reported the total numbers of households, 26.8% reported the proof or certificate of CF handover and CFUG registration and 40.6% reported the CF handover time also. There are about 73.1% CFUG female members participating in regular meeting and they publish decision timely and more than half (52.1%) users are well informed about the decision of CFUG that could be considered as the important point on the perspective of accountability and responsibility of the users committee. In terms of CFUG fund, 45% users do have well information about their CFUG fund and 70.6% were reported the source of CFUG's fund. Jyamurepakha CFUG has not invested any funds to the productive sector till now. In the case of women-benefiting activities, some female users are little known about it but do express some creative ideas on the further intervention that should to be done by CFUG in future.

Even though, Jyamurepakha CFUG has well educated users, there is still significant difference between pro-poor and rich economic class especially on the access of information and participation. Only 15% rich households have 63.1% access, whereas 26% pro-poor households have 32.5% only. It is obviously that people who have more access on information might have bigger influence on participation. Jyamurepakha CFUG's data shows, pro-poor user have relatively few information and few users participate in CFUG meeting and assembly who make them back for most of the community development and community forest management activities and it needs specific intervention for empowering and benefiting the poor.

B. Decision Making

The access and control of women on decision-making is the second major key area of the research and the researcher tried to find out the detail information about the status of women who are simply a general member of the CFUG thorough using the following eleven indicators during the household interview. The detail status of women in different CFUGs in different indicators is presented in following table.

Table No: 4.13 : Syanidanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	3	6.0	2.5	1	3.7	23.1
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	11	7.5	5.5	2	6.5	40.6
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	3	3.5	1.0	3	2.4	15.0
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	10	5.0	0.5	3	3.7	23.1
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	5	6.5	0.5	2	3.5	21.8
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	6	6.5	5.0	1	5.2	32.5
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	8	6.0	3.5	2	4.8	30.0
8	Whether female participate in meeting and raising issues or not and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	9	9.5	1.5	1	5.4	33.7
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	5	4.5	1.0	2	2.9	18.1
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	5	9.0	5.5	5	6.7	41.8
11	Whether priority should give or	4	3.0	1.5	3	2.6	16.2

	not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?						
	Average	6.3	6.1	2.5	2.3	4.3	26.8
	Percent	39.3	38.1	15.6	14.3	26.8	

The above table presents that the female user members of Syanidanda CFUG have only 26.8% access in decision-making, whereas they had 38% access in participation and information. About 23% female user groups member are highly interested to be a member but they feel that they do not have time to participate in regular meeting. Although user members said that there are the necessity of 40.6% access of female member in UC member but interestingly said that 15% women participation in UC could be enough and these data might reflect, while interviewing, the current trend of UC members and less awareness of female participants. Similarly users were reported that they can influenced only 23% access for taking part in decision if there are some physical presence of female member in front of them and they even couldn't participate easily in the meeting because of the current predominant thought, belief, culture etc which gave limited access to discuss and share in the common forum and they can't speak their voice in front of male. There is only 32.5% access of female in the decision of daily used forest products like grass, firewood, leaf litter collection in Syanidanda CFUG. Altogether, 30% women's voice is heard in the case of fixing the rate of forest products and they have only 33% access in the taking part to influence the above decision. Although, women are participating in discussion, respondents reported that there is only 18% women's voice is heard in decision-making and almost male have influenced in the rest of other decisions. Women are interested to make more than 50% decision on daily used minor forest product and it should known to every women and some of them have also expressed that CFUG need to prioritise them for fund investment too which has not given yet.

There is very big difference between rich and poor in terms of decision-making and basically rich dominate other economic class. Only 3% rich households have controlled 39% decision whereas 25% pr-poor households have 14% access on decision-making. Not only by rich class households, medium households also have more access in decision making for example 10% medium households are decided most of decision influencing they have more than 38% access on decision. So the above result shows that there are gradual and descending differences among four economic classes from rich to pro-poor. Community

forestry being a common property resource, everybody whatever their economic worth (rich or pro-poor) must have equal access especially on decision making rather it should focus on poor and gender equity and social justice.

Table No: 4.14: Shekhola CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	9	4.5	5.5	1	5.0	31.2
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	9	9.5	7.0	10	8.6	53.7
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	7	2.0	2.5	2	2.8	17.5
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	10	7.5	5.5	10	7.4	46.2
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	2	1.0	5.5	1	2.8	17.5
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	5	9.5	7.5	4	7.5	46.8
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	10	5.5	6.5	9	6.9	43.1
8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	6	5.5	10.0	9	7.7	48.1
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	7	3.5	7.5	5	5.6	35.0
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	7	7.5	6.0	6	6.7	41.8
11	Whether priority should give or not	6	2.0	3.5	0	2.8	17.5

to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?							
Average	7.1	5.3	6.1	5.2	5.8	36.2	
Percent	44.3	33.1	38.1	32.5	36.2		

The above table reveals that general female user of Sherkhola CFUG has 36% access in decision-making whereas they do have 46% access in participation. More than 31% user were interested to be a member in executive committee and 53.7% female users are agreed that their necessity is essential for fair socio-economic relation but they also said that 17.5% women membership can work as their demand on gender specific perspectives even though it is not encouraging to women empowerment perspectives. Such ideas might come due to the less spare time available to rural women and they also said female do not always have time to participate in regular meeting and assembly because of the less encouragement of their parents or husbands or guardians. In turn, they said that, only 46% user would feel comfortable to participate in decision in the presence of female member. It does mean that they do not have sufficient information about the role and responsibilities of CF executive committee. In fact, 17.5% women can only raise issue in discussion regarding male and most of them feel uncomfortable to talk and raise genuine issues even they are familiar and need to address urgently. Generally, CFUG's male and key elite's member ignores female's opinions. Although women are the primary user of forest products, they could influence about 46.8% only while making decision of forest products collection, sell and harvesting even if the daily used forest products like grass, firewood etc. Most of the cases, women users do not go to the meeting and very rarely raise issue regarding to set the forest products price. In the same time, 41.8% female users expressed that they need to decide such decisions by themselves not by others i.e. male.

Generally, female users have only 43% access in the decision of forest product's rate fixation because 48% do not participate in this meeting because of not informing and those who participated meeting raised very few issues and could have influence not more than 35%. They were reported the every decision of daily used forest products should be made by their consultation only. In Sherkhola CFUG, there is no big difference between economic classes in terms of access in decision-making. This CFUG has received some pro-poor focused income-generating programme by LFP as the part of sustainable livelihoods. The respondents were reported that CF executive committee had conducted a series of meeting

for getting such programme by including pro-poor users that indirectly helped to aware them in short time. Thus, they have good participation in meeting and trying willingly to speak their opinion for decision. So the result shows such support will be helpful to increase the participation for making decision of the users from poorest of the poor class. Now, 19% pro-poor households in Sherkhola CFUG have more than 32% access in decision-making that is really encouraging initiatives for good governance.

Table No: 4.15 : Patikharkarajanipani CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	10	3.5	1.0	2	3.2	20.0
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	9	9.5	9.5	5	8.9	55.6
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	6	3.5	4.0	0	3.6	22.5
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	13	6.5	6.5	2	6.8	42.5
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	4	3.0	3.5	3	3.3	20.6
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	8	6.0	5.0	6	5.9	36.8
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	5	7.0	5.5	2	5.6	35.0
8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	3	4.0	4.0	3	3.8	23.7

9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	5	4.0	5.0	1	4.1	25.6
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	6	5.0	5.0	1	4.6	28.7
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	5	3.0	3.5	6	3.8	23.7
	Average	6.7	5.0	4.8	2.8	4.9	30.6
	Percent	41.8	31.2	30.0	17.5	30.6	

The above table presents that CF general female user of Patikharkarajanipani CFUG has 30.6% access in decision-making whereas they had 50% access in participation. In terms of information and participation this CFUG is top most among the nine CFUG of the Dharampani VDC. But it seems relatively weak in decision making, due to the limited time and poor literacy status of women. Only 20% users are interested to be an executive member, whereas 55.6% women agreed that it is necessary to keep women in CF executive committee. In fact, 22.5% member's representation is enough in CFUG executive committee. It means almost general female user do not know about their CFUG executive committee's role and responsibilities. There are 42.5% respondents user said that they could easily raise their issue only in the presence of female. In the absence of female member they only 20.6% issue they could raise but there will be less chances to heard their voice by CFUG's other member because other member ignores their voice at all. In the case of daily used minor forest product collection, women make only 36.8% decisions. Female users have relatively low access in the decision-making of forest product's rate fixation where they have only 25.6% access in this issue, which shows there is not equal anticipated participation between male and female. Women are still demanding to those programmes, which can directly support them and rural women based livelihoods.

There is big difference between rich and other economic class's households especially in decision-making process, only 5% rich household have super shade 41.8% decision. Similarly, 33.3% medium households have 31.2% access on decision, 26% poor households have 30% access and control on decision, whereas 35.1% pro-poor households have only 17.5 % access

and control on decision. Result shows pro-poor users are really far from basic source of information, which determines the level of participation and way of decision-making process. Further, the economically disadvantage users also have dominance on male, so there is big question on the women's' status in the pro-poor and poor status households since their role was already forbidden by other economic class.

Table No: 4.16 : Sapdulla CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	6	4.5	1.0	0	2.8	5.0
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	9	5.5	2.5	2	4.4	27.5
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	5	0.5	4.0	3	2.7	16.8
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	10	6.0	6.0	5	6.4	40.0
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	1	1.5	1.5	1	1.4	8.0
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	6	5.5	3.0	3	4.3	26.8
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	5	5.0	3.5	2	4.1	25.6
8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	2	1.5	2.0	3	1.9	11.8

9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	2	4.0	2.0	2	2.8	17.5
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	9	5.5	2.5	4	4.6	28.7
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	6	5.0	1.0	1	3.1	19.3
	Average	5.5	4.0	2.6	2.4	3.5	21.8
	Percent	34.3	25.0	16.2	15.0	21.8	

The above table reveals that general female user of Sapdulla CFUG have very limited 21.8% access in decision making whereas they do have 41% access in participation. At present the data shows that only 5% user are interested to be a CFUG member but 27.5% women member feel the urgent necessity of female member in CFUG, since they expressed interestingly that 16.8% could be the sufficient number in the committee. In fact, it is not sufficient number for influencing the decision but due to the predominant culture, belief and dependency on men, this expression did come in this CFUG. About 40% female users can express their internal feeling when the majority of female in CFUG because they feel comfortable to talk in front of female. Now only 8% female users are able to raise issues and voice without hesitation in meeting and assembly.

Similarly, women members of Sapdulla CFUG are only responsible to collect daily used forest products including grass, leaf litter, fodder, fuel wood etc but 26.8% decisions are made by women members on the above issues. Male decides most of the decisions regarding price of forest products and its selling time and quantity and there is about 25.6% access to female for taking participation in such decision. Most of the female members are not aware who need to decide the harvesting time, price, quantity etc of daily used forest products including grass, leaf litter, fodder, fuel wood etc. The Sapdulla CFUG has got some direct support from LFP, but it is focused only on income generation perspectives, so

any remarkable change has not been seen yet especially in equal access on decision making.

Although there is dalit (so-called) households' majority in the CFUG, the minority upper caste households do have dominancy by excluding their proportional number in the executive committee. There is little difference between rich and medium class and almost double difference between rich and pro-poor class. It is found that only 15% rich households have wider access (more than 34%) on decision, which is relatively very high, whereas 21% medium household have 25% access on decision. There are some interesting differences between pro-poor and poor classes since 27% poor household have 16.2% access in decision-making whereas 36% pro-poor household have only 15% access in decision-making.

Table No: 4.17 : Bukidanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	5	4.0	3.5	0	3.4	21.2
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	4	6.0	9.0	7	7.0	43.7
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	2	7.5	3.0	0	4.2	26.2
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	5	6.0	6.0	5	5.8	36.2
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	1	5.5	6.0	1	4.6	28.7
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	5	4.5	5.0	5	4.8	30.0
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	5	5.5	5.0	5	5.2	32.5

8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	3	2.5	2.0	3	2.4	15.0
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	2	3.0	5.5	2	3.7	23.1
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	5	4.0	5.0	1	4.1	25.6
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	2	1.5	2.5	2	2.0	12.5
	Average	3.5	4.5	4.8	2.8	4.3	26.8
	Percent	21.8	28.1	30.0	17.5	26.8	

The above table shows that female user member of Bukidanda CFUG have only 26.8% access in decision-making and less access (about 34%) on participation and information also which is not sufficient to make meaningful decision in CFUG's meeting and assembly. It is found that about 21% user are interested to be a CFUG member but most of them expressed that they have limited time, weak literacy, few capabilities of leadership that are supposed as the necessary tool to be a member. More than 43% said that it is really necessary to keep female in CFUG, but they recommended 26.2% female member (out of 100% UC member) is almost sufficient which shows their some dependency on male member. It is found that 36.2% users can raise issues and participate in discussion if female members are accommodate in CFUG whereas very few member can participate in discussion if there are only male members in the committee. Most of the general female members expressed that they feel easy to share and take participation in every discussion before female CFUG member. Generally, male members ignore the issues even raised by 28% female if there is less number of women participation in the meeting. The degree of women's voice ignorance by male members is high in case of fixing the rate of forest products and other major decision, which do have high economic worth. Generally women need to decide themselves for collecting and distributing minor forest products but they have only 25.6%

access in such decision. They are also interested to decide and allocate CFUG fund for women benefiting activities but they only have 12.5% access on the above decision.

Based on economic class, there is not huge difference among four categories - rich, medium, poor and pro-poor. Most of the CFUGs of Dharampani VDC have wider access and control of rich especially in participation and decision making but Bukidanda CFUG have less dominancy of rich in to other economic class. The interesting point is 20% rich households do not have more than 22% access and control over decision-making. Similarly 29% medium economic class households do have 28% access in decision-making and 31% poor households have 30% access in decision-making. Likewise, 28.1% pro-poor households have 17.5% access in decision-making process that is relatively comfortable accommodation, perhaps due to the homogeneity of Janajati communities in the user groups, of poor and pro-poor for deciding the common issues.

Table No: 4.18 : Okharidanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	5	8.5	4.5	7	6.4	40.0
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	9	10.5	8.5	6	9.0	56.2
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	7	9.0	2.5	5	5.8	36.2
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	5	6.0	7.0	2	5.8	36.2
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	9	5.0	6.0	7	6.1	38.1
6	Decision of daily used Forest	7	5.5	2.5	2	4.1	25.6

	Products (FP) collection						
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	10	5.5	6.0	2	5.8	36.2
8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	5	9.5	1.5	3	5.1	31.8
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	2	3.5	3.0	2	2.9	18.1
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	5	5.5	5.5	5	5.4	33.7
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	5	5.0	1.5	2	3.3	20.6
	Average	6.3	6.7	4.4	3.9	5.4	33.7
	Percent	39.3	41.8	27.5	24.3	33.7	

The above table exhibits that female users of Okharidanda CFUG have 33.7% access in decision making whereas they have 44% access in participation, which is still below than the anticipated social equity. Due to some women empowerment effort like women advocacy class, more than 40% female users are interested to be a executive committee member and about 56.2% members are well informed about the role, responsibilities and necessities of female member in the executive committee. The interesting point is that most of the respondents in other CFUG just expressed their importance to be in general member in executive committee but respondents of this CFUG clearly said that it is necessary to be the women in decision-making portfolio like chairperson, secretary, treasurer etc. Moreover, 36% women members are sharing their ideas in formal and informal meeting including the general assembly but in the absence the majority of female members they might still be hesitated for raising sufficient genuine issues.

Women have interested to make each decision but they couldn't practice for example they are interested to decide the time, about and price of daily used minor forest products but they do only 25.6% have access for the above decision. Other members usually make the decision for selling and distributing the forest products basically rich and male dominate on

those issues. Women have only 36% access for influencing the decision, out of them 31% are able to raise the issues in front of male member, in turn very little (18%) voice/issues of female have heard by the executive committee while deciding the issues for example less CF fund allocation for women benefiting programme.

According to the economic class, 43% medium households have more access (41.8%) in every decision. Moreover, smaller numbers of rich households (14%) have more than 39% access in decision that is not a good practice and need further support to poor and pro-poor households on socio-economic empowerment issues. Similarly, 35% poor households have 27.5% access in decision and 8% pro-poor households have 24.3% access on it. Okharidanda CFUG has conducted issue-based advocacy programme supported from district FECOFUN and it is gradually helping to narrow down the proportionate difference among the economic class. The result shows that such type of advocacy programme could be good assistance to increase the efficiency of women and pro-poor member for decision-making.

Table No: 4.19 : Jyamindanda CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	10	4.0	5.0	1	4.8	30.0
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	9	9.0	9.5	2	8.3	51.8
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	5	9.5	5.0	6	6.8	42.5
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	5	8.0	4.0	7	6.0	37.5
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	6	1.5	7.0	5	4.6	28.7

6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	10	5.5	5.0	1	5.3	33.1
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	9	7.5	4.5	1	5.8	36.2
8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	5	7.5	2.5	2	4.6	28.7
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	5	4.5	5.5	4	4.9	30.6
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	7	5.0	3.5	2	4.3	26.8
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	6	5.0	3.0	2	4.0	25.0
	Average	7.0	6.1	5.0	3.0	5.4	33.7
	Percent	43.7	38.1	31.2	18.7	33.7	

The above table reveals that general user member of Jyamindanda CFUG have 33.7% access in decision-making, whereas they have 40% access in participation and information. It denotes that most of the presented/participated members participate in the discussion in every meeting and play important role for decision-making. More than 30% female users have positive interest to be the committee member whereas about 52% members seem quite aware on the necessity of women in executive committee and clearly emphasized their role and responsibility. Further it is found that most of the respondents feel 42.5% female's representation is necessary in CFUG that will help them to have more lively discussion.

At present 37.5% women are able to participate in discussion in formal and informal meetings and assembly even though male formally leads the committee. If there is no majority or significant number of female, most of the general women member feel

uncomfortable, shy and some hesitation to discuss openly in the meeting, only 29% female can express their opinion in front of male and village elite. Altogether, female user do have only 33% access in the decision making of daily used minor forest product like grass, fire wood, fodder collection. In the case of forest products rate/price determination, women do have low access even if women are participating in the meeting.

Regarding the economic class wise discussion, there is noticeable differences among all four classes. The major population and households (51.5%) are from poor and pro-poor but their access and control on decision is very less not more than 25%. Jyamurepakha CFUG has 22% rich household, but they govern about 43.7% access in decision-making. Similarly 26.3% medium class households have 38% access, whereas 19% poor households have 31% access in decision-making. On the other hand 31% pro-poor households have only 18.7% access on decision-making. It might be cause of less participation and access on decision-making is limited available time, daily hand to mouth problem, and less empowerment that inhibits to allocate whole day for CFUG meeting, discussion and raising issues to them.

Table No: 4.20 : Patalkandajhum CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	6	6.0	3.0	5	4.8	30.0
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	13	9.5	6.0	1	7.6	47.5
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	9	10.0	7.0	0	7.5	46.8
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	9	11.0	3.0	2	6.6	41.2
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be	7	1.5	2.0	0	2.2	13.7

	planned in CFUG etc						
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	10	6.5	1.5	3	4.6	28.7
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	9	7.5	2.5	3	5.3	33.1
8	Participation in meeting and raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products	10	10.0	5.0	2	7.1	44.3
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	3	4.5	2.0	1	2.9	18.1
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	9	6.0	3.5	0	4.7	29.3
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	5	6.0	1.0	2	3.5	21.8
Average		8.2	7.1	3.3	1.7	5.2	32.5
Percent		51.2	44.3	20.6	10.6	32.5	

The above table exhibits that the general female users have 32.5% access in decision-making whereas they had 40% access in participation and information. In general, it is found that more than 30% respondents are interested to be the committee member and 47.5% users are well informed about the necessity of female in CFUG. Interestingly, they recommended that more than 46.8% female members are needed to accommodate in the committee including senior portfolio. The respondents of the CFUG reported that 41% female members are now actively taking participation in the discussion, meeting and assembly and still demanding more and if the female member is increased, it will be more comfortable to share the issues in the discussion regarding male and village elite. Usually women have very low access (28.7%) in decision making of daily used minor forest product though female are responsible to manage these all things in household level. Regarding the decision of forest products rate, women are heavily ignored and committee's key member

used to decide major decision but women members demanding more access to them at least 29.3% immediately because they are better known about the products.

By economic class wise discussion, there are drastic differences between rich and pro-poor class, only 12.6% rich households handled 51.2% power in decision making whereas 28.7% pro-poor households have only 10.6% power in decision. Similarly, 24 % medium households have 44.3% access in decision-making; likewise 34% poor households have 20.6% access in decision. The overall result shows that poor and pro-poor have very limited access in each indicators in terms of decision-making even they are totally neglected in some areas like they are not informed about the total member of CFUG and total group, boundary of the forest, time of forest product collection, rate of different forest products etc. If every household or every economic class population do not have sufficient information and do not treat equally it is really hard to promote the social justice, gender equity and social inclusion in the community forestry.

Table No: 4.21 : Jyamureurepakha CFUG

S.N	Indicators	Rich	Medium	Poor	Pro-Poor	Average	Percent
1	Interest to be a CFUG member and knowledge on capacity required	5	5.5	5.5	1	4.9	30.6
2	Necessity of female member in CF executive committee	9	8.0	8.5	7	8.2	51.2
3	Required percentage of female member for CFUG	9	4.0	7.0	6	6.0	37.5
4	Easiness to discuss and to come to decision in the presence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	10	9.5	5.0	7	7.6	47.5
5	Difficulties to discuss and to come to decision in the absence of female member - what activities should be planned in CFUG etc	5	3.5	4.0	5	4.1	25.6
6	Decision of daily used Forest Products (FP) collection	7	6.5	5.5	5	6.0	37.5
7	Decision for fixing the rate of FP for selling and distribution	5	6.5	5.0	6	5.7	35.6
8	Participation in meeting and	9	9.0	6.0	4	7.3	45.6

	raising issues and reach to decision for fixing the rate of different forest products						
9	Women present status on decision for selling or using FPs	4	4.5	6.0	1	4.6	28.7
10	Whose role is right to decide daily used FP collection & distribution	7	7.5	5.0	7	6.4	40.0
11	Whether priority should give or not to female for investing CF fund, Have your CFUG given?	3	5.5	3.0	1	3.7	23.1
Average		6.6	6.4	5.5	4.5	5.8	36.2
Percent		41.2	40.0	34.3	28.1	36.2	

The table reveals that general female user member of Jyamurepakha CFUG have 36.2% access in decision-making whereas they had 47% access in participation and information. More than 30% user are interested to be the CFUG member and 50.2 % are aware on the importance of female member, their potential positive role, responsibilities etc and stressed to include female in the committee and further recommended at least 37% female in the executive committee member including senior portfolio. The Jyamurepakha community forest user groups have relatively more educated people and principally trying to give the equal responsibilities to female member for joint decision and consensus in each issue. It is found that, if there is the majority of female member in user committee, 47.5% women member can easily raise issues during the meeting and discussion but if there is the less female member in committee, respondents expressed that no more than 25% female member could comfortably raise issues in the meeting basically because of the men led patriarchal society. At present women have 37.5% access on decision-making of minor forest products collection issue, whereas 28% access in making price or rate and distribution of forest products including timber and non-timber forest products. Moreover, women users are interested to have at least 40% access for the above issues while deciding and more interested to invest CF fund for women benefiting activities.

Regarding the economic class wise discussion, there is little difference between rich, medium, poor and pro-poor households but remarkable difference between rich and pro-poor. The 15% rich households have 41% access in decision-making whereas 26% pro-poor households have only 28% access in decision-making. Similarly, 31.6 % medium households have 40% access in decision-making but 27% poor households have 34.3% access in decision-

making. The overall figure denotes some partialities among the economic class to the decision of common property resource even though pro-poor are more dependent with forest resources for their basic livelihoods.

4.4 Community Forestry User Committee Member's Interview and Discussion

The community forest user committee members were invited in the sharing meeting and discussion followed with the help of checklist, committee wise questionnaire and other general sharing indicators primarily related with information/ participation and decision making. The summary of findings of different nine CFUG are presented in the table and discussed below.

A. Information/Participation

Table No. 4.22: Community Forestry User Committee Member's Interview and Discussion

S.N	Indicators	Syanidanda	Sherkhola	Patikharka	Sapdulla	Bukidanda	Okharidand	Jyamindand	Pataalkanda	Jyamurpak	Average	Percent
1	Information of tole and representation in CFUG	12	13	13	14	13	13	14	14	14	13.3	83.1
2	Representation of tole by female	11	10	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	12.3	76.8
3	Representation of tole by male	14	10	13	15	14	14	14	13	13	13.3	83.1
4	Participation of female member in CFUG meeting	7	6	7	10	8	5	10	9	10	8.0	50
5	Female member participate in decision	7	6	7	10	10	10	9	10	12	9.0	56.2
6	If female member hesitate, what type of activity should be planned and carried out	8	10	8	6	6	11	7	9	7	8.0	50

	by CFUG											
7	Status of participation of female in CF mgt activity	10	10	8	13	9	10	10	11	10	10.1	63.1
8	Women's access of information on CF mgt and status of male taking advice from female	12	12	10	9	11	8	9	9	11	10.1	63.1
9	The amount and availability of Forest Prod from CF	6	10	8	10	11	9	10	10	10	9.3	58.1
10	Activity for investing CFUG fund	3	9	8	2	10	7	9	6	9	7.0	43.7
11	Outside support to CFUG in past	3	9	2	5	10	12	10	9	10	7.8	48.7
12	Outside support at present	1	13	2	11	1	10	9	3	11	6.8	42.5
13	Change area after support	3	12	2	8	2	1	7	2	10	5.2	32.5
	Average	7	10	8	10	9	9	10	9	11	9	56
	Percent	44	63	50	63	56	56	63	56	69	56	

By analysing the above data, different nine CF executive committee's female members of Dharampani VDC does has different level of access in participation and information in each indicator. They have very good information about the female members that participated from different tole and settlement. Hence, indicators first have shown very good result whereas almost CF executive committee's members have known about the number of tole/settlement within CFUG. Similarly, they have very good information about the tole represented by male and female in their CFUG. But in the case of indicator no 4,5 and 6, all nine CFUG's female members have less access and the data shows that CFUG's almost female member do not frequently participate in meeting and hesitate to participate during the discussion. The members of Okharidanda CFUG have very little access in indicator 4.

The above data showed, they do not frequently participate in CFUG regular meeting, discussion and assembly. The CFUG's members of Sapdulla and Bukidanda CFUG have relatively few (37%) access in indicator no 6, it means they do not participate in CFUG meeting and do not participate during the discussion so they need some capacity enhancement through in site coaching, training and workshop.

Likewise, Jyamindanda CFUG and Jyamurepakha CFUG have also relatively low access in the same indicator, which has only 44% that means female are still hesitating to share their ideas during the meeting and discussion. In the case of indicator 7, all CFUG have 63% access in over all which illustrate that female member are the main responsible for bush cutting and other silvicultural operations. Patikharka Rajanipani CFUG and Bukidanda CFUG have relatively low access in the same (indicator no 7) indicator, and this data showed that there is relatively equal involvement of male and female member in CF management activity. There are almost Janajati communities, in both Bukidanda and Patikharka Raijinpani CFUG and culturally they more equality feeling, lively sharing and good understanding between the role of men and women every work. In same indicator, Sapdulla CFUG has comparatively high access to women which means almost female member participate in each CF management activity more than male. In general, all CFUG have relatively similar 63% access in indicator 8 that narrates male member of CFUG used to consult with female for forest management activities. After the analysing of the indicator 9, it is found that almost users are not getting sufficient forest products and in average 58% needs has been fulfilled from their community forest.

Generally, all nine CFUG do not have sufficient community fund and almost female members of each CFUG are informed or well aware about their CF fund. Almost fund have been invested for forest management activities for example forest protection, bush cutting etc. CFUG are not still investing any fund for women benefiting activity whereas they invested some of their fund on other unproductive sector like chautara, mandir, community hall etc. In overall discussion, all CFUG have received relatively less support from different outside service provider, which they are looking for. During the interview and discussion most of the CFUG member are aware on the external support in the past and said that DFO and CARE/EFEA had supported for CFUG formation, registration, handover which were very basic and general support, but now they are looking for the additional support related with social inclusion, forest and non forest based income generation, forest management,

productive sector support that can address the second-generation issues of community forestry.

At present, all female members of Syanidanda CFUG, PatikharkaRajanipani CFUG, Bukidanda CFUG, Patalkandajhum CFUG and Jyamurepakha CFUG are still not getting any benefit from external support, whereas Sherkhola CFUG and Sapdulla CFUG had provided some direct pro-poor benefiting programme from LFP. They reported that after getting the external support, some significant changes have been appeared for example women's participation in the meeting and assembly is highly increased. Poorest of the poor users are also started to participate in CF management activity such as forest protection, silviculture operation etc. The male, elite and so-called upper caste members of CFUG are also respecting the voice of poor, women and marginalized communities during the discussion. Although Jyamurepakha CFUG has still not received any external support, they have good status in participation and information, because of the relatively good education and awareness among the user groups in compare with other CFUG. Since, it has promoted the membership of female in the committee also and now they have 5 female members including senior portfolio.

Okharidanda CFUG and Sherkhola CFUG have received external support on issue-based women advocacy class from district FECOFUN and helped them to change their positive attitude towards female and remarkable changes observed especially in women empowerment in both CFUG. Those female users who had completed the advocacy class, now formed and promoted independent women advocacy forum in user group, and they are practicing to raise their strong voice during the discussion of CFUG's meeting, assembly and other sharing forum. They showed very active participation during the interview of this study too. Some of them expressed their interest that they are planning to be a CF executive committee member will raise the issue during the assembly.

Similarly on CFUG wise discussion, Syanidanda and PatikharkaRajanipanni CFUG have comparatively low access (44% and 50%) in information and participation in compare with other CFUG. Altogether, the nine CFUG's executive committee members have only 56% overall access in the thematic of information and participation, thus it is believed that those members, who have less access of information and participation they will get low opportunity in access on decision-making too.

B. Decision Making

It is the second broad indicator, which was assessed through the formal and informal discussion with committee members, key informants. Separate questionnaire and committee level interview completed during the fieldwork and the data and its analysis are presented in the following table and discussion.

Table No. 4.22 : Decision Making

S.N	Indicators	Syanidanda	Sherkhola	Patikharka	Sapdull	Bukidanda	Okharidand	Jyamindand	Patakand	Jyamur	Average	Percent
1	CFUG member selection process	11	9	12	5	10	11	9	7	5	8.8	55
2	Access in decision making body (male, female)	3	2	3	4	3	4	2	3	4	3.1	19.3
3	How female's access in decision making	2	3	2	3	2	4	2	5	8	3.4	21.2
4	Validation of percentage in decision based on CFUG constitution	3	6	4	2	1	3	2	4	4	3.2	20
5	Provision of planning to female benefiting activities in CFUG constitution	6	7	2	9	7	10	7	6	10	7.1	44.3
6	Activity planned based on Constitution and provision	5	5	3	10	6	7	6	9	9	6.7	41.8
7	Practices of Implementation of the above activity	0	3	1	7	1	5	2	3	5	3.0	18.7
8	Provision of planning to male benefiting activity in CFUG constitution	6	6	5	10	6	9	5	5	13	7.2	45
9	Activity planned based on Constitution and provision	7	5	5	9	5	6	5	10	5	6.3	39.3

10	Practices Of Implementation of above activity	7	9	3	6	1	4	0	9	8	5.2	32.5
11	Participation in decision by female on daily used FP	5	10	6	11	10	8	9	8	9	8.4	52.5
12	Who are interested to decide in decision of exporting NTFP and timber (Male,female)	3	8	2	5	5	8	6	10	10	6.3	39.3
13	Type of issue that raised by female in CFUG meeting	11	10	6	8	3	9	13	6	7	7.4	46.2
14	Decision are made by CFUG on the stand of women	0	9	2	0	2	3	9	10	10	5.0	31.2
15	Male related activity but decision is made by female	0	13	3	12	2	9	5	6	13	7.0	43.7
16	Female related activity but decision is made by Male	1	7	2	3	5	11	7	11	13	6.7	41.8
17	Over all status of female in decision making	2	5	5	2	3	5	3	4	9	4.2	26.2
	Average	4	7	4	6	4	7	6	7	8	6	38
	Percent	31	44	25	38	25	44	38	44	50	38	

The above table display that the different executive committee female members of Dharampani VDC has different level of access in different 17 indicators of decision-making. All CF executive committee's member of nine CFUG have not equal access on the decision making process of CF UC member selection. Sapdulla, Patalkandajhum and Jyamurepakha CFUG have similar but less access in comparisons to other six CFUG regarding the UC member selection process because these three CFUG might select their member with less

sharing and discussion but above 6 CFUG tried to have UC selection including women on wider discussion, common understanding and consensus.

In the case of indicator 2, almost nine executive committees have very low access to women in decision-making portfolio (i.e. Chairperson, Vice chairperson, treasurer and secretary), only 2 CFUG (Patakandajhum and Okharidanda) have included them in senior executive position but not in the entire leadership post as chairperson rather vice-chairperson. In most of the CFUG female are invited only in general executive member and very less in number, sometime they are regarded as the ornamental composition only. Usually, general member do not have more access in decision-making and being a less in number women can't influence significantly in decision. Although, Jyamurepakha CFUG have accommodated 47% female in general executive member but they also have weak influence on decision making due to the lack of executive senior portfolio. In comparisons to other CFUG, female member of Jyamurepakha CFUG's executive committee have comparatively high access in decision-making and rest of other CFUG female member have very low access on it. Most of committee makes decision considering the majority context (50% member's presences) but there is no any clear instruction in their constitution that female member should be participated during the decision. There is likely that without the involvement or presence of female member the majority could reach 51% and if it considered as sufficient participation then what will be the voice of women on decision-making? It is plead able point/issue in community forestry while debating the importance of women in decision-making.

In the case of indicator 5, there are no any distinct provisions for women benefiting activities in the constitution of all nine CFUGs but some of them are planning such activities after endorsing from general assembly. Since, implementation level of the female benefiting activities is almost weak in each CFUG but Sapdulla, Sherkhola, Okharidanda and Jyamurepakha have extensively implemented their plan focussing on women and poor. Almost respondents said that they do not have sufficient fund for implementing above planned activity due to the lack of external intensive support especially women benefiting activities are heavily forbidden. In the overall above discussion, they have 7% provision in the constitution for community development but relatively unproductive sector which they later planned 6% and finally implemented by 5% only. In general, CFUG's executive female members have 53% access (but Syanidanda has just 31%) in decision making of daily used minor forest product like grass, firewood, and leaf litter.

Generally, female members of each CF executive committee have very low access (39%) in terms of decision-making of exporting NTFP and timber. That means all CFUG of Dharampani VDC have decided every decision of major forest product in very minimal representation of female member, and they give opportunity to women in decision only on minor forest product and mistakenly expressed that women are not generally interested about it. The respondents said that women are raising general issues (46% issues) like grass collection, penalty, refund etc regularly. In the case of indicator no14, the female member of Sherkhola, Jyamindanda, Jyamirepakha and Patalkandajuhm CFUG have 56%, access in decision-making because of the standing argument of women in the meeting. Where as, Rajanipanipatikharka, Bukidanda and Okharidanda CFUG have comparatively very low access in same indicator and rest of other two Syanidanda and Sapdulla CFUG have no access in decision that means they do not raise any issues strongly although they raise some concern rarely.

Although CFUG female member have some access in decision-making in the above indicators these are not sufficient. According to indicator wise discussion the female member of each CFUGs have some access in decision-making particularly in the indicator no 2,3,4 and 7 but, Bukidanda, Rajanipanipatikharka and Syanidanda CFUG have very nominal accesses in decision-making.

Reality and Breaking rule by pro-active women in Sapdulla CFUG of Dharampani VDC

CFUC have some decision-making power, which is given by user, but it has to use in right time in right way. Grass is a daily used forest product, so it is better to be decided by women. But interestingly, the grass cutting was fully restricted in Sapdulla CF. Committee members mostly male decided for not allowing the grass cutting and said it was not the appropriate time for grass collection time. At the same time, some female user requested with CFUC, to open the grass cutting but CFUC didn't recognize and endorse their voice and they told, "You all have to wait till one month for cutting the grass". Women requested with CFUC repeatedly but they frequently neglected their demand. After couple of days more than 20 women take initiatives themselves for grass cutting without the permission of committee. Eventually, committee planned to punish them but was not possible because of the joint decision of female and there are more than 20 women are so-called defaulter. Finally, committee organize one meeting and decided to open the forest for grass cutting for two months. It is the live case of discarding the women's voice in the committee

meeting and its practical implication in the field. Now, committee seems more conscious on these regards.

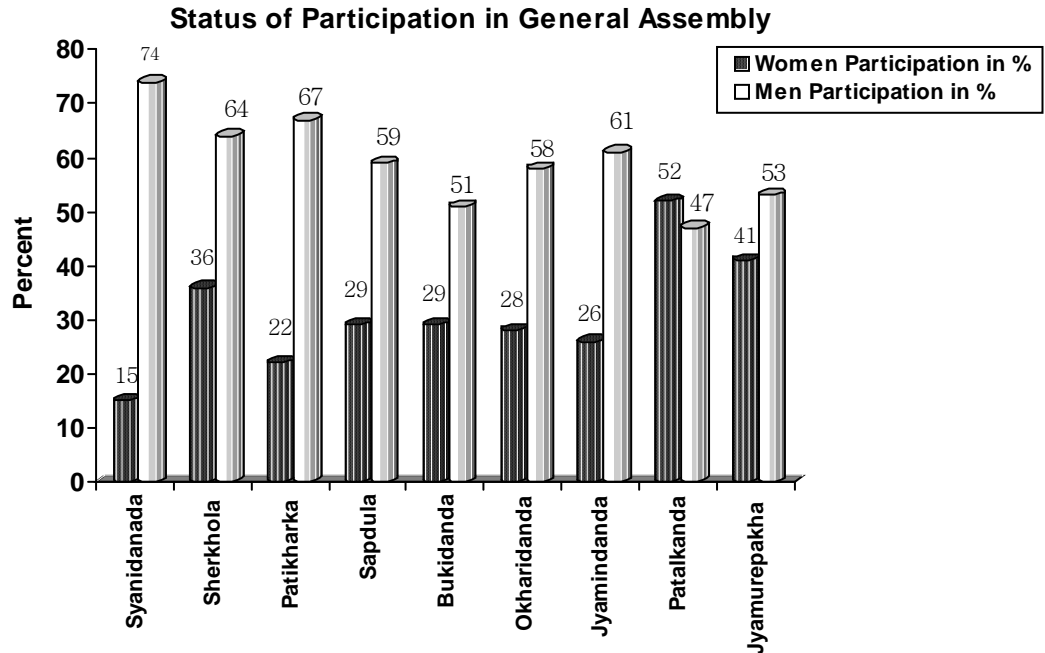
Krishna Bahadur Rana, secretary of Sapdulla CFUG

4.5 Women's Participation in CFUG General Assembly

Generally, it is said that women are the one side of coin and it is indispensable part of the every society but our practice is really miserable. In most of the cases, women are bypassed not only in social events but also in domestic household's events too. My research tried to find out the reality on women's status on different information level, participation and decision-making in community forestry and found very weak as poorly understood by male dominating behaviour. It can also clearly illustrate from the following example where women have less participation in the general assembly, which is the main events to decide the whole policy and guidelines of the community forestry for future.

Table No. 4.23: Women's participation in CFUG general assembly

Name of CFUG	Syani danada	Sher Khola	Patik harka	Sap dula	Buki danda	Okhari danda	Jyamin danda	Patal kanda	Jyamure pakha	Average
Women Participation in %	15	36	22	25	29	28	26	52	41	30
Men Participation %	74	64	67	68	51	58	61	47	53	59



These findings show that participation status of men and women (overall 29%) of different nine CFUG in their annual general assembly (2061). Pataikandajhum CFUG has achieved very good performance having highest 52% percent women's participation in their last year's assembly but Syanadanda CFUG secured the lowest participation on women i.e. 15%. Six CFUG out of nine, have still less than 30% women participation in the general assembly that might represent the overall status of women in the formal decision making forum. Jyamurepakha CFUG stands second position among nine and shows relatively good performance in terms of women participation in the general assembly. There is about 35% pro-poor households in Syanidanda and Patikharka Rajanpani CFUG and have less access on participation and obviously in decision-making. The above figure reveals that the lower the poverty status the less women participation exists and vice versa.

Chapter-V

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Women Representation in the CF Executive Committee

Table No 5.1 : Women representation in CFUG executive committee

Description	Syani danada	Sher khola	Patik harka	Sap dula	Buki danda	Okhari danda	Jyamindanda	Patal kanda	Jyamurepakha	Total
Women member	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	5	29
Total member	11	9	11	11	11	11	11	11	15	101
Percent of women member	18	22	27	18	27	36	36	36	47	29

The above figure reveals that there are 101 total members in all nine CF executive committee, out of them only 29 members are female, which is very less number to influence in participation and decision making. There is no clear provision in the constitution of almost nine CFUG about the necessary female member envisioning the women empowerment and good social interrelation in the society. So, most of the CFUG interpret it is the representative number from each tole and settlements, caste, gender in the executive committee. Due to this unclear provision all CFUG do not encourage female to be an executive committee member and trying to dominate by male and village elite. Jyamurepakha CFUG only has included 5 female members in executive committee but most other has 2-4 in number. Similarly, Patal Kandajhum, Okharidanda and Jyamindanda CFUG have included 4 female members in executive committee. Both Bukidanda and Patikharkarajanipani CFUG have included 3 female members in their executive committee and rest of other Syanidanda CFUG, Sherkhola CFUG and Sapdulla CFUG have included just 2 female members in their executive committee. There are only 29% female members in CFUG executive committee and the present research conclude that the present women number is not sufficient to have the good participation and decision making role in Dharampani VDC.

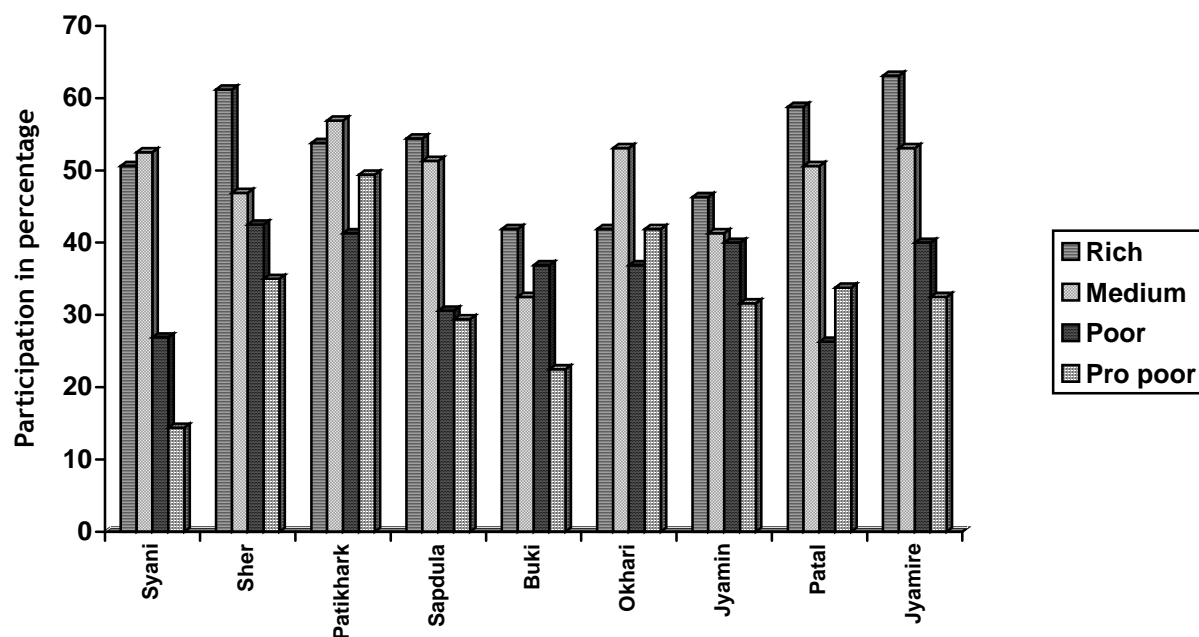
5. 2 Economic Class Wise Participation of Different Nine CFUG in Percent

Table No. 5.2 : Economic Class Wise Participation of Different Nine CFUG in Percent

Participation	Syani	Sher	Patikha	Sapdula	Buki	Okhari	Jyamin	Patal	Jyamire	Avg
Rich	50.6	61.2	53.8	54.4	41.9	41.9	46.3	58.8	63.1	53.8
Medium	52.5	46.9	56.9	51.3	32.5	53.1	41.3	50.6	53.1	48.8
Poor	26.9	42.5	41.3	30.6	36.9	36.9	40.0	26.3	40.0	35.6
Pro poor	14.4	35.0	49.4	29.4	22.5	41.9	31.6	33.8	32.5	35.0
Average	36.3	46.9	51.1	42.4	34.7	44.9	41.5	44.3	49.4	43.3

Figure : 5.1

Economic classwise participation status of different nine CFUGs



These findings exhibit that the poorest of the poor users have always been isolating in each and every sector and dominating by rich and elite persons. The poorest of the poor households are identified through the participatory well-being assessment as in the case elsewhere in this study and which include any household irrespective of caste and ethnicity. Their

representation in the interview is calculated in average to their household in the CFUG. In this study households are classified into four categories. Syanidanda CFUG has little differences between medium and rich households in terms of access of information and participation and gradually poor and pro-poor have very less access on information and participation. Similarly, rich households have more access on participation and information in Sherkhola CFUG whereas other economic class have few differences on the above indicators. Interestingly, Patikharkarajanipani CFUG has more access of pro-poor than poor because of more households' falls on pro-poor categories. Another interesting result has seen in Sapdulla CFUG, there is equal difference between rich and medium class and between poor and pro-poor class. Bukidanda has more access of poor than medium for the access of participation and information. Okharidanda CFUG has also more access from medium household. Both Patakandajhum and Jyamurepakha CFUG have much difference between economic classes but big difference is observed in rich and pro-poor categories. Across Dharampani VDC, Jyamindanda CFUG has good performance by economic class wise distribution and there is no significant difference among all economic classes in terms of available access on information and participation. The overall findings present that household majority is one of the important part to determine the access on participation and information.

5.3 Economic Class Wise Decision-making Status of Different Nine CFUG in Percent

Table No. 5.3 : Economic Class Wise Decision-making Status of Different Nine CFUG

Decision	Syani	Sher	Patikhark	Sapdula	Buki	Okhari	Jyamin	Patal	Jyamire	Avg
Rich	39.4	44.4	41.9	34.4	21.9	39.4	43.8	51.3	41.3	39.4
Medium	38.1	33.1	31.3	25	28.1	41.9	38.1	44.4	40	35.6
Poor	15.6	38.1	30.0	16.3	30.0	27.5	31.3	20.6	34.4	26.9
Pro poor	14.4	32.5	17.5	15.0	17.5	24.4	18.8	10.6	28.1	21.9
Average	27.1	37.5	30.9	23.6	25.6	34.8	34.7	33.7	38.2	30.9

This finding reveals that, pro-poor users have usually very low access in decision-making but there are quite few differences among four economic classes of users in Jyamurepakha CFUG. Like wise in Syanidanda CFUG, rich and medium class households have captured most of decision making power, where these both upper economic classes have 39% and 38% access on decision making but poor and pro-poor class have 17% and 15% only on the

same issues. It does not mean that only rich and medium class households make most of decisions. Sherkhola CFUG has relatively less difference among all economic classes in decision-making. Pro-poor and poor have good access on influencing the decision.

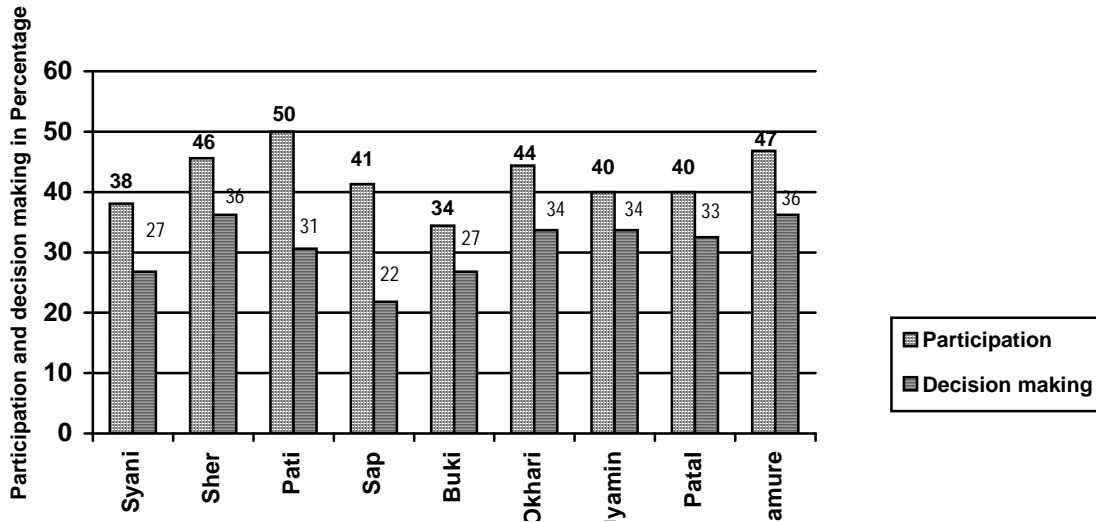
There is comparatively more difference between rich and pro-poor class but slight difference between medium and poor. Sapdulla CFUG has similar differences among the four economic classes whereas Bukidanda CFUG has less access to rich but higher access to poor and standing the very good example in Dharampani VDC and could be the interesting experience in the district also. Okharidanda and Jyamindanda CFUG both have similar situation in economic class, where poor and pro-poor class users have relatively low access. Patakandajhum CFUG has very miserable performance in decision-making opportunities to poor and pro-poor. There are very distinct differences among four economic classes. Jymurepakha CFUG has fairly good performance because there are steady differences among all economic classes and has relatively equal chance to participate in the meeting and decision making from the community of all economic status.

5.4 Overall Status of Different Nine CFUGs in Participation and Decision-making

Table No 5.4 : Overall Status of Different Nine CFUGs in Participation and Decision-making

CFUG	Syani	Sher	Patikhark	Sapdula	Buki	Okhari	Jyamin	Patal	Jyamire	Avg
Participation	6.1	7.3	8	6.6	5.5	7.1	6.4	6.4	7.5	6.7
Percent	38	46	50	41	34	44	40	40	47	42
Decision Making	4.3	5.8	4.9	3.5	4.3	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.8	4.9
Percent	27	36	31	22	27	34	34	33	36	31

Overall status in participation and decision-making of different nine CFUGs



The findings reveal that in over all nine CFUG of Dharampani VDC has different level of access in participation and decision-making. Respondent households are reported from Syanidanda that they do have limited information about the forestry and community development activities and their role for effective implementation of those activities. "What types of activities are done by CFUG and how much fund they have etc are less known to us" Mrs Ganga BK said. It is scientifically verified from analysing the data regarding the access in participation which not more than 42% in Dharampani VDC. Sherkhola CFUG has some different situation; in most of the indicator they seem very well, they have got some pro-poor focused income generation programme from LFP and the respondents reported that they should have to conduct a series of meeting with pro-poor for getting such programme, so poorest of the poor users have also started to participate in the meeting and due to these opportunities poor, women and marginalized people have relatively more access in both area of research theme. Similarly Patikharka Rajanipani CFUG has 50% access in participation, and only 31% access in decision-making. The situation of Sapdulla CUFG seems very poor in decision-making although they have some access in participation. The respondent said that the majority of dalit households aren't well informed in each decision made by committee. Almost female respondents reported that, they do not know about the all decision made by committee and most of the decision are made without their consultation.

Geographically, Bukidanda CFUG is very remote of Dharampani VDC, the responded users are reported that no one would like to go and support them that indirectly back them. Women

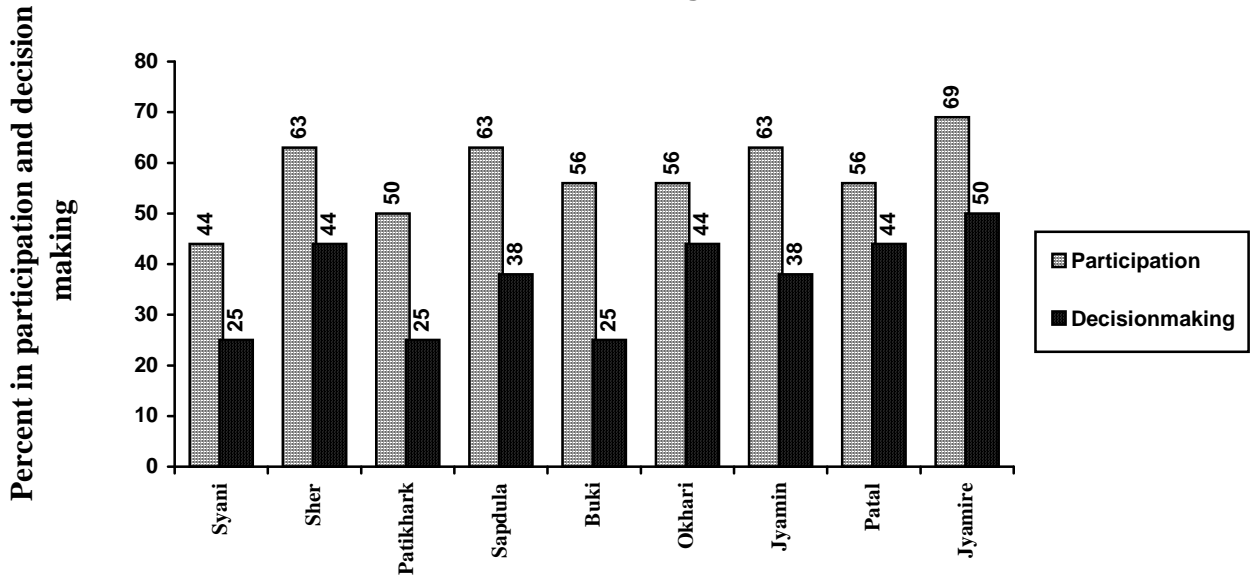
on participation, it is likely to have less access on decision making too. Some external support can help to energize the users to participate in the meeting and discussion and to make common understanding on decision. It shows the support to CFUG will assist for increasing the level of decision-making too. Okharidanda CFUG has significant access in both research areas. They have got some support from FECOFUN, which is issue based advocacy class for supporting as energy to women empowerment. Jyamindanda and Pataalkandajhum both CFUG do have similar access in participation and decision-making. Usually, general user member do not participate regularly in CFUG meeting and assembly and used to depend on executive committee, so they have low level of information. Jyamurepakha CFUG has relatively more access in both area and standing good position in terms of women access in decision-making and wider access of information and participation to the users. They have more number of female members within executive committee and intending to promote gender equity and social justice.

5.5 Status of Women in CF User's Committee on Participation and Decision-making

Table No. 5.5 : Status of Women in CF User's Committee on Participation and Decision-making

Description	Syani	Sher	Patikhark	Sapdula	Buki	Okhari	Jyamin	Patal	Jyamire	Average
Participation	7	10	8	10	9	9	10	9	11	9
Percent	44	63	50	63	56	56	63	56	69	56
Decision making	4	7	4	6	4	7	5	7	8	6
Percent	25	44	25	38	25	44	38	44	50	38

Status of women in CF user's executive committee in participation and decision-making



These findings shows that the female executive members of Syanidanda CF c have only 25% access in decision-making and 44% access in participation that is relatively weak in comparison to other CFUG. Similarly, Sherkhola CFUG have 63% access in participation and 44% access in decision-making, comparatively standing a good performance. Rajanipanikharka CFUG has 50% access to women in participation whereas it has only 25% access in decision-making. Okharidanda CFUG has relatively good status in both the level of access in participation (56%) and decision-making (44%). There are only 27% female in executive committee of Bukidanda CFUG and women have 56% access in participation and 25% decision-making. Jyamindanda CFUG have good access in participation but relatively less access in decision-making, it seems CFUG female member do not have considered significantly during the decision making process although they are physically participating in front of them. Patal Kandajhum CFUG has also relatively good performance in decision-making but not strong in participation, even though there are some female members in decision-making body. Jyamurepakha is good performance holder CFUG of Dharampani VDC in terms of both research theme areas participation and decision-making, where they have 69% access in participation and 50% access in decision-making. Moreover, this CFUG has 47% female members in executive committee that opened relatively more access to women in participation and further guided to the more access in decision-making.

5.6 Summary of the Findings

This subsection summarizes the findings from the study with respect to the major two topics explored above: Information/participation and decision-making with CF User Group general member and CFUG executive committee member.

A. Economic class wise participation and decision-making in CF general users

Table No. 5.6 : Economic class wise participation and decision-making in CF general users

S.N	Household class	Participation access in%	Decision-making access in %
1	Rich	53.8	39.4
2	Medium	48.8	35.6
3	Poor	35.6	26.9
4	Pro-poor	35.0	21.9

Finally, by economic class wise discussion there is 14.4% difference between the access in participation/information and decision-making. Similarly in medium economic class households have 13.2% difference, Poor households have only 8.7% difference and pro-poor households have 13.1% difference between the two research themes, it shows that CF general user have less access in decision-making than its access in participation/information.

B. Discussion

In over all there is 58% access in participation and only 38% access in decision-making, where is 20% difference between each other. It does mean although there is high access in participation they do not actively participate in decision or CFUG other user do not encourage to female for decision-making.

C. Women representation in CFUG executive committee

In over all there are 101 members in different nine CFUG executive committee but only 29 members are female, generally all of them are in general position. Only two CFUG have manipulated two members in the position of vice chairman. It does mean CFUG other

member do not encourage female to be member even there is stated clear provision in their constitution about the representation of female.

D. Discussion with CFUG executive committee

In over all discussion with CFUG executive committee, there is 56% access in participation and only 38% access in decision-making, where is 18% difference between two themes. It means women member do not participate at all in decision-making of CFUG meeting and assembly. The above figures are not sufficient for gender equity and sustainable community development in the VDC, women member are demanding more access, which could help to empower them in the right direction

5.7 Conclusion

-) There is very low representation of women in CF executive committee in Dharampani VDC, where most of women are considered as the general member. There are no clear provision about percentage representation of female in their constitution. Usually CFUG's male members make important decisions and take advantages from the weakness of women in any portfolio by influencing on participation, information and decision-making. Different women focus groups also said that there are very low participations of female in assembly and meetings but male member decide on behalf of them. Nevertheless, a similar proportion agreed that the opinions of those women who did attend those meetings are always valid representation into final decisions especially for stamping. Pro-poor and dalit focus groups said that there is unfair validity and even responses regarding their attendance and involvement in meetings. About half of them concurred their opinions are not always incorporated into CFUG's decisions.
-) Over all female members (executive or general) have relatively low access in participation and information of CFUG or UC's general assembly, meetings, discussion and formal or informal sharing and that lead limited access to them especially on the decision making. Women member are very less aware on the important decisions made by CF executive committee and even by general assembly.
-) Generally, pro-poor and poor households have low access of information and they do not regularly participate in CFUG meeting and assembly, because they can not give

time for such meeting due to losing their daily wages and ultimately leading hand to mouth problems. They are relatively illiterate and innocently do not well known about such meeting and assembly. But women from medium and rich households have relatively high access in information and participation, because they can allocate their time for CFUG meeting and assembly.

-) Due to our predominant patriotic culture female generally do not participate in public forum, meeting, and assembly and do not like to share and discuss openly. If they participate in the meeting and such forums the society can not accept it easily. Most of them are reported that they do not feel quite comfortable to talk in front of male because male members usually ignore their ideas or issues. The concept of consensus has been minimally practiced in most of the CFUG of Dharampani VDC and some disparities still exist between male and female.
-) The literacy rate of female (<40%) has been seen very lower than male (65%) in Dharampani VDC that has directly effect in CFUG's participation and decision-making. Because of less empowerment, confident, and self initiation, female are not participating regularly in each meeting and assembly in compare with male but it should not be interpreted as less interest of women to participate in meeting or assembly and to come decisions. The result has exhibited in some CFUGs like Jamindanda that the higher the education status in the user groups has higher the degree of participation and influence on decision and it applied for each gender male and female.
-) Regarding in the decision of forest product collection, women were less involving for the decision of minor forest product collection i.e. grass, fire wood, leaf litter etc and male are mostly involved for making the decision of major forest product i.e. timber and other valuable products. Female users reported that males are dominating during the decision of forest products collection, sell and utilization. Thus, there is less gender equity and social justice in community forest management and social development of different CFUG of Dharampani VDC.
-) Some visible differences have been observed in the institutional development context of the CFUG who got the external support on poor focussed programme and women advocacy. External support is really helpful to organize the meeting frequently, sharing with tole members, formal and informal discussion with targeted

beneficiaries, forum to raise women related issues, discussion on the process of decision making, pro-activeness and self initiation, willingness on participation etc and it could be the good catalyst for gender empowerment and social justice. It has been clearly observed in some CFUG of Dharampani VDC. Similar types of opportunities might be limited in the less outside supported and non-supported CFUGs and certainly effect on degree of participation and access on decision-making that is found in relatively remote area of Dharampani VDC.

CHAPTER- VI

6. Recommendation and Future Implication

This final section examines the implications of some of the most significant findings summarized above for future programme. Specific implications of the study findings are presented as critical issue that should be addressed. Effectively addressing this issue will require a concerted effort of programme interventions, additional research. Immediately following each issue is recommendation for interventions that could be made by CFUGs self to improve the situation.

Low representation of women on CFUG executive committee

Over all women users do not have equal representation on CFUG executive committee. In fact the average representation percentage of women in executive committee is only 29% (varying from 18% to 47%). This disproportionate representation likely contributes to lower benefits, participation and awareness among women user.

Recommendation: Actions should be taken to increase representation of women on CFUG executive committees in all CFUGs. A step would be to identify those CFUGs with particularly disproportionate numbers of male and female on their committees. Then it is important to work with these committees to encourage election of women member. Additionally, especial training sessions that stress the importance of active user participation and address community forestry rights and responsibilities, and the role of the executive committee should be held specifically for women.

Low Participation of Women in CFUG Meeting and Assembly

It is obvious that women are the main user of forest products; they spend more time in forest, but they have relatively low access even in participation and general information. Actually, 45% households reported that they have very low access in terms of access on decisions that are made by CFUG executive committee; even executive women can't influence to make decision according to her stand related with women issues.

Recommendations: Basically it is important to increase awareness of female users about the importance of active participation in CFUG meetings and decision-making. This will

help to ensure that they are treated fairly by executive committee male members and other users. Thus, programme interventions should strive to increase the involvement of poorest of the poor CFUG members in the collection and the distribution of forest products, while providing them with incentives for their participation. One examples of an appropriate incentive would be to reward those poorest of the poor households who regularly participate in CFUG meeting and assembly.

Low Participation of Women in CFUG Decision-making

It is clear that women have to play the big role in CFUG meetings and decision-making process. In fact, 35% of households said that, in their family, women participate more in CFUG decision-making than man. If women's voices are to be heard, and women and men are to become equal partners in community forestry, then women must play a significantly larger role in decision-making.

Recommendations: Organizations working to support community forestry should facilitate forums and opportunities for women to be involved in CFUG decision-making. This includes consistently emphasizing the importance of women's participation in CFUG meetings through training activities, workshop etc. One way to promote both involvement and awareness would be hold forum Low user awareness about role, responsibilities and activities of executive committees

An overwhelming majority of user households acknowledge that they are only somewhat or hardly aware of the role and responsibilities of their CFUG executive committee. Furthermore, more economically poor households reported that they are hardly aware. Such low awareness both a result and cause of low levels of participation in CFUG meeting and decision-making, and a function of the level of transparency of the executive committees themselves.

Recommendations: Awareness should be raised among all users. This involves incorporating material about the role and responsibilities of executive committees and user right vis-à-vis the committees, into all CFUG training activities. At the same time, training efforts should encourage fuller participation in general assembly and promote a policy of open executive committee meetings. For instance, executive committee meetings should be organized on a regular basis in the favourable time to women (evening time, school holiday time etc), and

should be open to the public. To facilitate users involvement, meeting dates, time and locations should also be posted publicly.

Lack of Direct Benefits and Opportunities from Community Forestry

Despite the fact that most households reported an increase in annual consumption and decrease in collection times for key forest products, there is almost no evidence of secondary income derived from these, or other, forest products. Individual households and the larger community would reap much higher economic benefits if they could take advantage of additional income-generating opportunities.

Recommendations: Users need to be provided with the tools and incentive to engage in income generating activities, both individually and collectively, utilizing products from their community forest. One of the important programme intervention would be promoting the forest-based income generating activities like NTFP cultivation as well as production and marketing of valuable non timber forest products (such as medicinal herbs, foods and decorative plants which can be easily harvested and sold by individual households for much more profit). Users especially women stressed the development of such NTFP in particular. From such activities among users from poorest of the poor can really believed that they could take much more benefit from community forest.

ABBREVIATION

CFUG	Community Forestry User Group
CFUC	Community Forestry User Committee
CF	Community Forestry
HH	House Holds
VDC	Village Development
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Depart for International Development
DFO	District Forest Office
RP	Range Post
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
LFP	Livelihoods and Forestry Programme
EFEA/FPP	Environment and Forestry Enterprises Activities Forestry Partnership Project
CFOP	Community Forest Operational Plan
FP	Forest Product
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
APPSP	Agriculture Perspective Plan Support Programme
MEDP	Micro Enterprises Development Programme
RAP	Rural Access Programme
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry User Group Nepal
CBR	Child Birth Rate
HDI	Human Development Index
NFE	Non Formal Education
Ha	Hectare

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ANNEXES

Annex I

Questionnaires to be filled up by asking with CFUG's member

1. How many members are in your CFUG?

Female.....Male.....Total.....

2. How many members/users are in your CFUG?..... Member How many HH.....HH, how many tolestole

3. What percentage/number of women will be accommodating in your CFUG as the provision of Constitution?

A) 30-40 B) 40-50 C) 50-60

What is the size/area of your CF?

A) Large Ha B) Medium..... Ha C) SmallHa

4. Do you have/get sufficient forest products from your CF?

A) Yes B) If no than, where have you brought?

5. How did your CFUG's members selected?

A) Tole meeting B) Consensus C) Election D) Majority

6. Have your CFUG members represented from all tole/settlement?

A) Yes B) No

7. How many toles are representing from your CFUG's female member?

.....tole.

8. How many toles are representing from your CFUG's male member?

.....tole.

9. How much percentage of participation does it valid in your CFUG's meeting according to the provision of your constitution?
A) 50-60 B) 60-70 C) more than 70
10. Do all female members regularly present in every meeting?
A) Yes B) Some time
11. Do the participated female members participate in the discussion of the meeting?
A) Yes B) No
12. Have your CFUG's female member hesitate to participate in the discussion of Meeting? If they hesitate, what should be done to make them forward or non-hesitating?
A) Any training, what type
B) Workshop, what type
C) Any other support, what type.....
- 13 .Do female members participate in the decision to collect? Fuel wood, grass, leaf, leaf litter? A) Yes B) No
14. Who are more interested to make decision for exporting timber, jaributi (medicinal product) or any other high value forest products?
A) Female B) Male
15. Do female members present in forest management work like Bush cleaning, thinning/pruning, weeding etc? A) Yes B) No
16. Do female member know about in which block forest management activity is to be done? Do the CFUG give/take advice about these issues with CFUG's female member?
A) Yes B) No
17. Are there any provisions for direct women benefiting activities in your CFUUG's constitution? A) Yes B) No

18. Have you according to based on your provision for women benefiting activities?
A) Yes B) No
19. Do you implement the above mentioned activities for women's benefit?
A) Yes B) No
20. Are there any provisions for direct men benefiting activities in your CFUG's constitution? A) Yes B) No
21. Have you according to based on your provision for men benefiting activities?
A) Yes B) No
22. Do you implement the above-mentioned activities for men's benefit?
B) Yes B) No
23. Whose access is more in decision-making post like chairman, secretary, treasurer in your CFUG
A) Male B) Female (If low accesses of female then are male member heard their voice even not being in key post? a) Yes b) No
24. How is women's status in your CFUG in terms of CF related decision-making issues in your opinion?
A) Women's role is important but it couldn't have influenced in decision-making
B) Women's role is important, which has influenced in decision- making
25. Which issues have risen by women in your CFUG's meeting?
A) No, it is not raised B) If yes then what are they.....
26. Are any decisions made due to the strong stand of women?
A) No B) If yes then what were the standing point?
27. Do you have any example in your CFUG's meeting that activities are female related but male makes decisions?

A) No B) If yes then what are they

28. Are any example in your CFUG's meeting that activities are male related but female makes decisions?

A) No B) If yes then what are they

29. How much money do you have in your CFUG's fund? In which activities, these fund are investing?

30. Had your CFUG got supported from any organization in previous year?

A) No B) If yes then what is the name of organization and what kinds of Support had they provided? Are they supporting in present?

31. Are any changes observed due to the external support of different organization in your CFUG? Could you say what are the change areas?

32. Have you invested your CFUG's fund on directly female benefiting activities? If yes, then what are they?

33. Have you invested your CFUG's fund on directly male benefiting activities? If yes, then what are they?

Annex II

Questionnaires to be filled up by asking with CFUG's female members

1. Do you know your CF's name?
A) Yes the name..... B) No
2. How many Households are the members in your CFUG?
A)HH B) do not know
3. Do you have any certificate/evidence of your CF registration?
A) If yes, then what are they
B) Don't know
4. When did you get these certificates (CFUG's constitution and CF Operational Plan)?
5. How many executive committee members are there in your CFUG?
A)person B) do not know
6. Have you recognized to your CFUG's chairperson?
A) Yes B) No
7. How many female members are there in your CFUG?
A)..... person female B) do not know
8. How are they representing/selecting in CFUG? Did you select them?
A) Yes we have selected B) do not know
9. Are you interested to be a member of CFUG? What capacity is needed for CFUG member?
A) Yes I need B) No C) Yes I need but.....
10. Do the CFUG's members (male or female) regularly participate in meeting by?
A) Once in a month B) Some time C) do not know

11. How do you know the decisions are made by your CFUG? In what duration you get informed?
A) By tole member B) By forest watcher C) do not know
12. Do you think that female members need to be accommodated in your CFUG?
A) Yes B) No
13. If female members would have in your CFUG, what will be easy to have discussion and come into decision?
To discuss and decision A)..... B)..... ..
14. If female members wouldn't have in your CFUG, what will be the difficulty to discuss and come into decisions?
A)..... B)
15. In your opinion, how many percentages of female members are needed to accommodate in CFUG?
A) 1-5 B) 5-10 C) All
16. Who mostly collect fuel wood, grass, leaf litter in your Village/tole?
A) Male B) Female
17. Who would make the decisions for collecting fuel wood, grass?
A) Female B) Male
18. Did your CFUG consult with you for the finalizing the rate of forest products, penalty within CFUG and out of CFUGs?
A) Yes B) No
19. Did you participat in the meeting that decided the above issues?
A) Yes B) No
20. Who had decided the rate?

- A) Female B) Male
21. Have you seen your CFUG's constitution and FOP?
- A) Yes B) No
22. Did you participate in the discussion of CFOP and constitution preparation meeting?
- A) Yes B) No
23. What is appropriate to give the decision power to male or female for Collecting, selling and distributing of grass, fuel wood and leaf litter?
- A) Female B) Male
24. Do you have separate fund of your CFUG?
- A) Don't know
- B) No
- C) If yes then how much balance do you have?
25. Have your CFUG's member got opportunities to invest/use this fund? Have you received yet?
- A) No B) If yes for what purpose
26. How CFUG's fund is collected in your opinion?
27. Is it necessary to give priority to female for investing CFUG fund? Or not have your CFUG given such priority?
28. In Your opinion, what are the activities that could directly benefited for women?
- A)..... B).....C).....
29. What should be done by CFUG for the implementation of those activities?
30. Would you like to say any more about the role women in decision-making process? Do any organization supported to flourish these issues in your CFUG?