

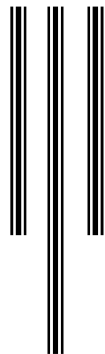
**CONDITION OF FEMALES IN COMMUNITY FOREST
MANAGEMENT**

(A Case Study of Tibrekot CF of Hemja VDC, Kaski)



**A Dissertation
Submitted to**

Tribhuvan University Department of Sociology/ Anthropology
Prithvi Narayan Campus in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Master Degree in **Sociology**



**Submitted by:
Urmila Kumari Thapa
Roll No. 65/061
Regd. No. 7-2-297-828-2000**

**Tribhuvan University
The Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Department of Sociology /Anthropology
Prithvi Narayan Campus
Pokhara
September 2009**

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Miss. **Urmila Kumari Thapa** has completed this dissertation entitled "**Condition of Female in Community Forest Management**; A case study of *Tibrekot* CF of Hemja VDC, Kaski" under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for the final approval and acceptance by the dissertation committee.

Sarad Kumar Poudel,

(Teaching Assistance
Department of Sociology/ Anthropology, T.U., PNC, Pokhara)
(**Research Supervisor**)

Pokhara
September, 2009

LETTER OF APPROVAL

We hereby certify that the dissertation entitled "**Condition of Female in Community Forest Management**; A case study of *Tibrekot* CF of Hemja VDC, Kaski" submitted by Miss. **Urmila Kumari Thapa** to the Department of sociology / Anthropology, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences, Tribhuvan University, in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the **Degree of Master's of Arts in Sociology** has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this dissertation as a part of the mentioned degree.

M/s Shanti Bhusal
Head of Department Sociology/Anthropology
T.U., PNC, Pokhara

Prof. Dr. Kedar Besnet
Department of Geography
T.U., PNC, Pokhara
(External Supervisor)

Mr. Sarad Poudel.
(Research Supervisor)

Pokhara
September, 2009

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION BY LANGUAGE EDITOR

This is to certify that I have gone through the draft of dissertation entitled entitled "**Condition of Female in Community Forest Management; A case study of *Tibrekot* CF of Hemja VDC, Kaski**" Prepared by Miss. **Urmila Kumari Thapa** as a language editor and made necessary correction and improvements there in I have been impressed by his intelligible presentation of the facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

Shyam Prasad Poudel

(Teaching Assistance, Department of English,

T.U., PNC, Pokhara)

(Language Editor)

Pokhara

September, 2009

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my warm and sincere gratitude to my research supervisor Mr. Sarad Kumar Paudel, the Assistant lecturer of Sociology/ Anthropology for his tireless guidance, constructive comments, gracious suggestions and encouragement with invaluable ideas in preparing this work into this final look.

Similarly, I am ideally indebted to my respected ex department head Dr. Bishow Kallyan Parajuli who initially helped me to choose the topic and design a skeleton framework of the dissertation by providing me with appropriate ideas and suggestions with a serious concern on this challenging task during report writing and training program. In the same way, I am highly indebted to the kind and ideal suggestion and help provided to me by Mr. Kishor Ojha, student researcher who had initiated me to forward the writing works.

“Condition of Females in Community forest Management: A case study of Tibrekot community forest of Hemja VDC”, is a dissertation prepared in accordance with the mandatory rule of Tribhuvan University as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the master of arts in Sociology. It is an attempt to investigate the condition of female in the decision making and participation in the benefit sharing on the forest product along with the socio economic status of the female.

Likewise, I am again sincerely indebted to Mr. Deb Bahadur Chetry, a student researcher for managing my scattered data in analytical form through the help of computer program SPSS 11.5 for windows. I must thank him for his continued assistance and encouragement through the work of this dissertation and as well as for the secretarial work for this dissertation.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of those respondents, who helped me for collecting data. I am also thankful to Mr. Dharmendra Kunwar,

for his help in the collection of data at the field. Similarly, I express my thanks to people who participated especially in the FGD session, who welcomed my endless questions with a wonderful curiosity and patience. Without their cooperation this dissertation would not have been possible. Likewise, I owe special thanks to Mr. Pritam Raj Pun Magar my classmate student researcher and Miss Medika Sherstha, and Mr. Dependra Pahari as well for their kind assistances during the field work.

Likewise, I am again sincerely indebted to my entire respected lecturers of Department of Sociology/Anthropology Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara for their direct and indirect assistance and encouragement by providing the documents or by any other means.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my family for their untiring support throughout my research study period. Lastly, I would like to express my vote of thanks to my cordial friend Mr Deb Bahadur Chetry for his encouragement, inspiration and support by providing related material while preparing this dissertation without which the present research work would not have been materialized.

September 2009

Urmila Kumari Thapa

"Condition of Female in Community Forest Management;

A case study of *Tibrekot* CF of Hemja VDC, Kaski"

ABSTRACT

By:-Urmila Kumari Thapa

Roll No. 65/061

Nepal's rural setting is a complex structure of social system consisting of hierarchical social structure that includes different economic and social classes, oppressive castes system and gender discrimination, which is developed from feudal, bureaucratic and caste and gender biased interests. The two important factors to the success of community forest management are gender and equity, those allowing women and others marginalized groups to participate effectively in the processes of good governance in forests is essential. Through decision making is an important function in forest user groups and requires the participation of the whole community in the practice. Disadvantaged groups are frequently marginalized in Nepal for instances, women must work at home and the poor must work for wages, thus they have spare time.

Study Area

The study area of this study will be the "*Tirekot Community Forest*" one of the Community forest of Hemja V.D.C. This Community forest belongs to the locals' people of ward no. 7, 8 and 9, is located towards the Northwest of this V.D.C. and is 10km far from the zonal headquarter of western development region; Pokhara and is situated at 860-1415m height from sea level. In Nepal culturally; it can be called a mosaic of Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim culture (VDC Profile 2003). The selected Community forest of the V.D.C is very important from the socio-cultural point of view; because the it is control by the Brahmin society which do not give more emphasis to the female involvement in the decision making process.

The researcher had planned to carry this research mainly focusing to search the answer to these questions;

-) What is the status of women in the decision making process in CFUGs?
-) What is the socio-economic status of the users groups in the area?
-) What is the role of executive committee for the inclusion of female?
-) How is the benefit share among the user groups?
-) Did the female feel free in expressing their view in meeting?

What is the awareness status of female to their right and responsibility regarding community forest as a user?

The Main Goal of the Study

The general objective of the study is assessing the social inclusion of females in the community forestry system. The specific objectives of the study are given here under;

- 1 To explore the socio-economic condition of Users in the area.
- 2 To analyze the inclusive representation of women in decision making and benefit sharing.
- 3 To analyze the access of information and opportunities to the females.

The Tools used to collect the data

This study is mainly focused on female's status and role their attitude and suggestions that are needed for the democratization of the management plans in CFUGS. This study had utilized descriptive methodology in the form of social survey. At the first detail of the main elements of the methods to be used is given under. The households built in the ward no 7, 8 and 9 of this VDC has taken as universe and had made the census study. So, the total population frame was 61 households for the reliability of the data. For the purpose of the study observation, interview schedule, focus group discussion and two of the case studies were adopted as data collecting technique of sociological research, to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Thus, the data collected for this study is dominantly primary. When needed, some of the important secondary data have also been incorporated. The above data collecting tools were devised very carefully in order to ensure their validity. For this purpose, the interview schedule prepared carefully instruction of supervisor was included and refine the question in the interview schedule. Both structure and unstructured observations were made from time to time while in the field work process. Key informant interview and focused group discussion which were primary unstructured one also conducted. Observations, FGD, and key informant interview have yielded qualitative data, while interview schedule has yielded both types of data. The FGD participants were the representative of female members of users group and the personal that have long experience of the females status and the condition in the community forest management. The collected data have been analyzed by using computer program SPSS 12 while qualitative data have been arranged manually and analyzed descriptively. Results of quantitative data analysis have been shown by using various tables, charts and diagrams.

Finding of the Study

-) Out of the total respondents of 61 from the field study 70.5 percent of them had reported that due to the lack of awareness the female were not able to participate in the different program organized by the users committee and the meeting and assembly. Similarly, 52.5 percent had marked that it is cultural and social norms that hinders the female to participate in the programs. Likewise, 32.8 percent had stated that it is lack of education or illiteracy that works as the obstacle of the female to participate freely among the literate groups; they feel shy to express their views due to their illiteracy.
-) Out of the total 50.8 percent of the respondents marked that the users committee consider educational status of the member as a prominent factor in decision making process. In the same 23 percent the size and condition of the forest. Similarly, 14.8 percent had reported that socio-economic condition of the member. While 11.5 percent had reported that the caste system play important role in making the decision.
-) Out of the total respondents 52.5 (32) percent of the respondents had reported that they only sometime express the views and ideas freely. Similarly 42.6 (26) percent had reported that they freely express their view in front of the committee members. But, 4.9 (3) percent had reported that they do not express the ideas.
-) From the field study report 62.3 (38) percent of the respondents had reported that their views were considered while formulating the decision of the users groups. In the same way 19.7(12) percent had mark that very often their views

were considered and 18 (11) percent of the respondents had reported had their view were not consider while making decision.

) Form the field report 77 percent of the female had reported that they gets the chances to express their view and opinion freely, while 19.7 percent of the respondents had reported that they do not get the free chances to put their views in the decision making process. Whereas, 3.3 percent of the respondents had reported that only some time they get the chance to put their opinion freely. But all the time it is made by the influential persons.

) The study shows that 90.1 percent of the respondents involves while making the decision and marked that the user member call all the user groups and formulate the decision. Similarly 6.6 percent of the respondents had reported that the decision is made by passing the agenda by the committee members. In the dame way 3.3 percent of the respondents had marked that decision is made by passing the agenda by the influential person.

Thank you and hope for valued comments!

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ACRONYMS

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| A.D. | = | Anno Domini. |
| B.C. | = | Before Christ. |
| B.S. | = | Bikram Shammatt. |
| CBS | = | Central Bureau of Statistic. |
| CF | = | Community Forest |
| CFDP | = | Community Forestry Development Program |
| CFUGS | = | Community Forest User Groups |
| CM | = | Committee Member |
| DDC | = | District Development Committee |
| DFO | = | District Forest Office |
| DM | = | Decision Making |
| FGD | = | Focus Group Discussion |
| Fig. | = | Figure |
| GM | = | General Meeting |
| GoN | = | Government of Nepal |
| HH | = | Household |
| I.A | = | Intermediate in Arts |
| ICIMOD | = | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development |
| IUCN | = | International Union for the Conservation of Nature |
| INGO | = | International Non- Governmental Organization |
| IoF | = | Institute of Forestry |
| NGO | = | Non- Governmental Organization. |
| No. | = | Number. |
| S.L.C. | = | School Leaving Certificate. |
| SPSS | = | Statistical Package for Social Sciences. |
| T.U. | = | Tribhuvan University. |
| UNDP | = | United Nation Development Program. |
| VDC | = | Village Development Committee |

Glossary

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| Banpale | = | Person who are appointed to guard the forest |
| Chipko | = | to hug on |
| Dalit | = | Lower caste people distinguish by the hindu philosophy |
| Dhan | = | Wealth |
| Katwal | = | Local Messenger to rely the news to the local inhabitants about the local happenings |
| Kuria | = | Household of the user member as a unit |
| Hario-Ban | = | Green Forest |
| Wage Labour | = | Labour who works under the daily payment basis. |
| Nameskar | = | Sense of greeting the people by holding the two palm together |
| Paleko Ban | = | the reared forest or particular patches of forest or site protected by the people |