

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Forest resource is one of the major resources directly affecting the survival of rural people of Nepal. Forest alone contributes 10 percent of total national GDP. Livestock get 40 percent of the total fodder from forest foliage (Malla, 1995) and fuel wood contributes 46 per cent of the total energy resource which comes from forest resources (HMGN, 1998).

Forest resources are directly linked with the subsistence needs of woman, poor and backward people as well as commercial needs of well of people. Forest is important natural resources next to water provide benefits (products and services) not only to rural people (forest dependents) but also to ecosystem. Considering the contribution of forest user group participating in conservation, they utilize products and produce created from, distribute the resource equitably and conserve the ecosystem. It is defined as any form of forestry activity undertaken specifically and principally to provide communal benefits to the people living in the villages or small communities in the vicinity of the forest area, which involves them directly in the management. It involves the direct participation of the beneficiaries (Khatri, 2004)

Forests provide the mineral, nutrients and energy that are essential for the survival of farming system. Forests provide timber and poles for constructing houses and animals sheds and wood for making household and farming tools. Forest product timber is also used for various local development activities such as building schools, health post and wood bridges and so on. People use forest area to obtain other products for direct domestic consumption and income generation. Honey, mushrooms, birds, animals, fish and plants are used as dietary supplements (Bhatia, 1999).

The forest has been contributing to the social, religious, cultural, economic and environmental sector from the early human civilization. Livestock rearing the forest sector have jointly contributed to the agricultural development of Nepal. While the agricultural contributes two third percent of total income in average; the forest sector has occupied on fourth percent of it (Bhusal, 2007).

In the context of Nepal, forest coverage was more than 45 per cent of the total area of the country in 1964, this is being reduced to 29 percent by 1998 (NPC, 1998:299). The population of Nepal has grown during last decade at the rate of 2.2 percent per year where as forest has degraded at an annual rate of 1.7 per cent per year (Banko Janakari, 2005).

As the villager dependent highly on forest resources in fulfilling their subsistence daily needs like firewood, leaf litter and fodder, and the settlement of local communities was intermixed with small patches of forest, forest management was always of high concern to the local people. Converse to this, forest management by the Forest Department excluded local people up until the late seventies. Realizing the importance of people's participation in forest management, the National Forest plan of 1976 accepted the need for people's participation, and mentioned it as its fifth objective (Kanel et al, 2008).

Box 1.1: National Forest Plan 1976

Objective 5: Public cooperation has specifically said “To impart country's development and make people aware of, involved in, and partner to protect, produce and better utilize the country's forests, will be another objective of this plan”.

Source: Kanel, 2008

The National Forest Plan was the first government document to accept the need for people's participation in forest management. In accordance with this plan, the forest Act 1961 was amended in 1977 to make provisions to hand over part of government forests to a local political unit called “Panchayat”, a territorially based politico administrative unit established under the Party less Panchayat System (in operation from 1960 to 1990).

According to the 1977 amendment to the Forest Act, Panchyat Forest (PF) and Panchyat Protected Forest (PPF) Rules 1978 were brought forward for implementation. These rules officially initiated the implementation of the community forestry program in Nepal. The PF and PPF rules (Box 2) allowed for the transfer of responsibility for forest management from the government to the local Panchyat as PF and PPF. For better forest management and implementation of these rules, the government launched several community forestry projects with international support. One of the main early projects was the World Bank founded Hill Community Forestry Projects, which operated in 38 hill districts. Other projects implemented were the Nepal Australia Forestry Project (in the hill districts) and the integrated Rural Development Projects (IRDP) with forestry components in the Koshi Hill, Rapti, Rasuwa & Nuwakot district in the central and eastern hills.

Box 1.2: The main features of the PF and PPF Rules 1978

- ❖ Hand-over government forests to local Panchyat
- ❖ Hand-over only degraded lands (with a few scattered trees) and no hand over of well stocked forests.
- ❖ Forests area must be within the boundary of the same Panchyat
- ❖ Ceiling for handing over of national forests to Panchyats was up to 125 hectare(500 ropani) for PF and 500 hectare (10,000 ropani) for PPF
- ❖ There was provision of sharing revenue between the government and Panchyat. In PF local Panchyats got all the income, and in PPF local Panchayat got 75 percent and government got 25 percent. Some expenditure for forest development works was mandatory
- ❖ Authority of handing over was vested only with Regional Director of Forests
- ❖ Price of the forest products sold must not be less than per unit government royalty rate

Source: Kanel, 2008

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The forest is one of the most important national resources in Nepal. It plays a major role in the development of human society. Thus, it is closely related with human beings. The forest area cover had declined rapidly due to deforestation and degradation of land. It was estimated that nearly the two-third of deforestation worldwide is due to farmer's clearing for agriculture (FAO, 1998). It was seen serious problems for conservation natural forests in Nepal.

The excessive use of the forest resources has created several environmental problems. The problem is increasing due to demand of the growing population. If the population can't be properly managed, we will inevitably lose our valuable resources. The growth is in their depletion. This created unbalance in the ecosystem and the relationship between human and the natural environment.

A micro level analysis of women's participatory approach in development efforts must be emphasis. However, government policy is to empower and encourage women to participate in community forestry program, but laws and policies are not end, they are only the means to achieve goals otherwise they will remain as the "*Showing teeth of Elephant*" only.

People's participation in planning, implementation, benefit sharing and management is making this program more popular. It is an innovative approach, which aims to provide productive assets to poor by bringing about social changes and establishing efficient institutions at local level. It builds social and human capital through various forest management activities (Pokharel, 2008). Improving socio-economic status, enhancing biodiversity situation (Ibscher, 1999), restoring watershed areas, maintaining soil fertility (Malla et al, 2001), controlling forest decline and increasing forest cover and greenery etc are the major components of community forestry.

Equitable treatment and democratic decision making process in community forestry precludes conflicts and disputes among the users and can create a cordial atmosphere for the socio-economic and ecological advancement. However, community forestry has not yet been able to

fully ensure equitable, gender-sensitive and poverty focused outcomes and there are several practical and social anomalies prevailing. There are biases against Dalit (called untouchable) disadvantaged and marginalized groups and women.

As a result, social, ecological and economical anomalies have become prominent and the lack of communication between and among the users has widened. The main factors behind this situation are socio-cultural structure and class and caste system. The disadvantaged and marginalized groups and women are still treated as subordinates. The cost and benefit sharing patterns are not based on equity and most of the rich and powerful families in user groups capture disproportionate benefit at the cost of the poor and uneducated forest users. Decision-making process in benefit sharing is not democratic because of the discriminatory attitude from the upper class people and hesitation of the marginalized class to participate. Hence, the direct benefit accruing from the community forests to the poorer people is relatively low as compared to general users (Khatri, 2004).

Still there are more problems persist in CF implementation processes. There are mainly related to the economic position of the women, poor and social domination on decision making process & inequality in benefit sharing mechanism. Nevertheless, forest resources if properly managed and utilized in favor of the poor, can help reduce poverty (Poudel et al, 2006).

There are some issues and problems still not explained in the field level such as participation of women in the decision and planning process, active management of forest to derive sustainable yield and impact of CF on socio-economic characteristics of users groups. Also, there are more problem persist on equitable sharing of forest resources. Thus, there is due require empirical research to explorer reliability if; so, it needs detail study & researchers in these aspects for their validity. This study may give some valid results.

1.3 Objectives

The objective of the study is wholly concentrated to analyze the role of people managed forest on the upliftment of living standard of rural people in the residing areas. A part from this, the following specific objectives which highlight different community activities, have been considered in this research.

- i. To analyze the socio-economic characters of community forestry user groups
- ii. To examine peoples' participation in community forestry activities
- iii. To explore the factors affecting participation
- iv. To find out the benefit derived from user's group

1.4 Rationale of the study

The Forest Act 1993 has given a top legal priority to manage the national forest as community forests, since rural people depend heavily upon forest resources for their livelihood in terms of fuel wood, forage, timber, medicinal and environment. They cannot fulfill their demand for these unless they are given responsibility to conserve the community forest and given rights to utilize their own. Any change in their use pattern of forest resources after the community forestry may make them significantly more valuable and marginalized. Community forestry, in fact must support to fulfill their forest related basic needs and as well as to increase their income level and capability. Thus, it is an urgent need to study the role of community forestry on poor people's livelihood and to find out the corrective measures to mitigate the negative impacts if there exists due to community forestry implementation.

Poverty is a big challenge to Nepal. Forest resources if managed and utilized in favor of poor people certainly it helps reduce the poverty. Community forest posses the various potentialities to increase the income level of poor people through timber and NTFPs and effective utilization of FUG fund which can direct the flow of benefits to the poor so as to enhance their socio-economic conditions. Thus, this research work may be reasonable as present context to explore contribution of community forestry to poverty livelihood and to work out the ways that can help in rural poverty reduction through community forestry.

To date, there is not the best method developed in community forestry to develop, manage, conserve and utilize particularly of hills forests through the effective participation of rural people. Forest handover to FUG is accelerating all over the country from Nepal Government. This clearly indicates that together with forest hand over, community forestry must be directed in such a way that benefits from community forestry should flow to uplift the poor people's socio-economic conditions. Otherwise, only the forest handover to FUG in the form of community forestry without the due consideration of its impact on poor peoples' livelihood may create an opportunity to control overall forest resources by rich and elites of the community. As a result, rich and elites control forest resources in favor of them in the name of community forest. Thus, poor people will be more marginalized & vulnerable to sustain this livelihood. Regarding the research topic, there are a few studies made and more research works on the impact and contribution of CF on people's livelihood must be done to develop to community forestry as a means to support sustainable rural livelihood. Obviously, it becomes rational to study the impacts and contribution of CF on the upliftment of socio-economic condition of rural people.

1.5 Organization of the study

This thesis is organized in seven main chapters. The introductory chapter contains the background, Objective of the study & Organization of the study. The chapter two includes the literature review, which discusses the CF in Nepalese context, concept of CF & Hill CF overview policy of CF, CF management trend, socio-economic analysis & livelihood in Nepal and participation. Chapter three highlights research methodology adopted during the field work to collect information and data analysis. This chapter also includes limitation of the study, experience and problems encounter during data collection. Chapter four is about setting of the study area that includes district, VDC & Badahare Patal Community Forest User Group. Chapter five describes discussion and interpretation of analysis of gathering data. Chapter six reveals that the process of people's participation, affecting reason of people's participation and rural development activities through community forestry. Finally, in the chapter seven, summary, conclusion and recommendations are presented.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

The research concentrates mainly on the extensive review of available documents, reports, books and various papers relating to the community forest during the initial phase of this study. The reviews generally attempt on concepts of definition, objective, function history and condition of CF. The Community Forest Program (CFP) in Hill are going easily; so, it has gained international credibility. It is not worthwhile the conduct research on same area in which large number of finding have already made. The researcher, thus preferred to ‘take the road less traveled, while it is dangerous’ in order to study and hope that at least something new could be found related to people/organization.

2.1 The context: Nepal’s Community Forestry

Community Forestry is most accurately and usefully understood as an umbrella term denoting a wide range of activities which link rural people with forests, trees and the products and benefits to be derived from them. Gilmour and Fisher (1991) define community forestry in terms of control and management of forest resources by the rural people who use them especially for domestic purposes and as an integral part of their farming systems. Since community forestry constitutes both social and biophysical elements, they both are equally important. The “resource” can be managed effectively with a clear understanding of forest management principles and knowledge of natural system and “social” part can be dealt with a clear understanding of a society and their relationships with the resource and institutions related to it.

The way community forestry approach used to be defined and interpreted in Nepal up until late 70s, suggests that community forestry implies “community resource” relations, commonly known as indigenous system of forest management (see Fisher 1989), which was widespread in Nepal’s hills during 80s and beginning of 90s, nevertheless community forestry was further conceptualized internalized, new policy framework was crafted

(HMGN, 1988); legal instruments have been in place (HMGN, 1995) , various processes, methods and tools have been developed, modified, re-modified and experience gained. During this period, community forestry was understood and recognized as government priority programme, for which the role of forest bureaucracy in the hill's changed from policing to facilitating lending to the evolution of community resource relations towards a triangular interface among community resource and government bureaucracy (Pokharel, 2008).

In the late 90s, with the changing political and policy context community forestry is being understood and conceptualized in terms of stakeholders relationship because there has not only been increasing trend of FUGs, tremendous number and types of stakeholders and service providing agencies and organizations, with diverse interest and influence have emerged and grown. The pattern of interactions among these agencies with FUGs and government organizations in fact influence each other actions, their own governance system, gender equity issues, and ultimately to the way how resource is managed and utilized, how the management plans strategies and programmes are designed and implemented, how negotiation takes place and conflicts are resolved fore effective forest in order to achieve the desired outcomes of people's livelihoods and resource condition level. This is the context within which community forestry in Nepal is growing and always progressing. It is not like as it was in the past and it will not be in the future as it is now therefore community forestry should be defined, redefined and understood in a dynamic way (Pokharel, 2008).

The present form of Nepal's community forestry is guided by the Forest Act of 1993, Forest Regulations of 1995 and the Operational Guidelines of 1995. These legal instruments have legitimized the concept of CFUG as an independent, autonomous and self-governing institution responsible to protect manage and use any patch of national forest with a defined forest boundary and user group members. CFUGs are to be formed democratically and registered at the DFO, with CFUG constitution, which defines the rights of the users to a particular forest. The forest is handed over to the community once the respective members through a number of consultative meetings and process prepares

the OP, a forest working plan, and submit it to the DFO for approval. The plan has to be counter signed by the chairperson of the CFUG. The General Assembly (GA) of the CFUG is the supreme body to finalize the plan before it is submitted to the DFO for its approval. The plan is generally implemented by an executive committee nominated by the GA. The successful implementation of the plan depend more on the awareness level of the community members and their participation in the process of the preparation of group constitution and the operational plan together with the level of support that various agencies such that DFO, User Group Federation, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and local government and concerned stakeholders provide and the relationship among themselves is supporting CFUGs (Pokharel, 2008).

2.2 Community Forestry Concept

The Community Forestry (CF) concept in Nepal is a courageous, innovative and future oriented approach towards participatory forest management by local people. Community forestry program is widely celebrated as one of the most progressive policy examples of devolving control over forest resources to community based user groups, which has established a viable procedure for handing over the forests to actual groups of users with perpetual succession (FECOFUN, 2008).

Forest Act, 1993 defined CF as a rational forest handed to user's group for its development, conservation and utilization for collection benefit (Forest Act, 1993).

Box 2.1: A definition of Community Forestry

Community Forestry "... the control and management of forest resources by the rural people who use them especially for domestic purposes and as an integral part of their farming system".

Source: Fisher, R.J. "Collaborative Management of Forests for Conservation and Development" IUCN, 1995

Source: Guidelines for the management of Tropical Forests, FAO, 1998

CF refers to the control and sustainable management of local forest resources by the users in Nepal, particularly the middle hills forest and trees are integral parts of the farming system, adopted in various districts of Nepal. Nepal government has started certain programs for the sustainable supply of forest products like fuel, wood, fodder, timber, herbs etc. among which community forestry program (CFP) is the main and popular one.

"CF is the control, management and use of forest resources by the villages for their own benefit and for the benefit of the society as a whole". A community forest is the section of forest that is handed over to a group of user households for the group benefit. The villagers can either use products or sell them without damaging the forest. The income derived from the sale of forest product will go to user's group fund. Decision about the forest resources within the community forest has been made by user's committee. The forest development gives only technical and financial support.

Community forests are national forests handed over to the local user groups for protection, management and utilization according to the Forest Act, 1993. The forests are managed according to the Operational Plan (OP) prepared by Community Forests User Groups (CFUGs), approved by the District Forest Office (DFO). According to the Act, CFUGs have to be established and registered at the District Forest Office (DFO) before handing over of the forests and they are self-sustained institutions (Kanel, 1993). The CFUGs can act as self-governing entities to generate, utilize and sell the forest products as mentioned in the operational plan. Procedural details of the community forests are explained in the Forest Rules 1995 and Community Forestry Guidelines and Directives (Kanel, 1993).

Community forestry has contributed mainly to the improvement of forest condition and people's livelihoods in three ways namely;

- Capital formation in rural communities;
- Policy and governance reforms of various organizations and agencies; and
- Contribution in the process of community empowerment and social change.

Capital formation in rural communities and its flow

Community forestry has become a means to increase natural, social, human, and financial and to some extent to the physical capital of community forest users.

❖ Natural Capital

Community forests handed-over to community are natural capital. Evidences show that there are positive changes in both forest condition and the availability of forest products, with a concurrent reduction in the time spent for collecting forest products. Thousands of FUGs have planted and protected denuded hills, carried out forest management and sivicultural operations, utilized and marketed various forest products for their livelihoods.

❖ Social Capital

It is reported that the community forestry process has increased social cohesion, which has enhanced social capital of those who have been powerless, left in isolation and excluded from mainstream social and political processes.

❖ Human Capital

Since the inception of the CFP a number of trainings, workshops and exposure visits have been conducted for a number of organizations and individuals at community level, government and non government organization level that has increased knowledge and skill related to forest siviculture, community development, organizational management and leadership development, all of which are basically human capital.

❖ Financial Capital

The group fund generated form the sale of forest products, levies and outside grants are the financial capital created through community forestry. It is reported that there is a balance of about of 100 million Rupees among 12,000 FUGs in the country (CFD, 2002). This amount is almost equivalent to government's annual forestry development budget allocated to all districts. There are numerous examples where many of these FUGs have established low interest credit scheme as well as grants to poorest household members from the FUG fund.

❖ Physical Capital

Numerous FUGs have carried out many community development activities on their own. Construction of village trails; small bridges, community building, schools and temples are the good examples of physical capital created through community forestry programme.

Governance reform

Through community forestry, re-orientation of Forest Department staff to move away from their traditional role of policing to a role of facilitator and advisors has been possible. As a result, changes in attitudes and behavior of many government staff (mainly Forest Department staff) have been possible. Community forestry is the only one national programme in the country by which creation of thousands of local institutions at community level (FUGs) and continuously building their capacity as viable local institutions has been possible. In addition, nested enterprises such as user group networks and Federation of Forest User Groups have been established to safeguard the rights and responsibility of forest users. Additional service providers such as NGOs, local bodies, private sector agencies have emerged. These institutions have started to collaborate and work together. Government officials and staff, service provider agencies, stakeholders and community members are becoming increasingly aware of equity issues. All stakeholders involved in community forestry have begun to realize the need for the active participation of marginalized groups in all stages of project planning, implementation and monitoring, since their involvement will have direct effects on forest systems and on poor peoples' well being. Hence, more benefits have started to flow to the poorest, which are the most in need. Subsequently, as their roles as forest managers begin to increase and be valued, the impact on forest systems is increasingly positive.

Many stockholders have begun to work collaboratively and collectively, by which exchange of information has taken place. Through the interaction process, power and positions are being negotiated and redefined. All interested parties are realizing increasingly better opportunities to be engaged in decision-making processes. Mutual trust, accountability and transparency have begun to increase.

There is an increasing recognition of the need to enable pro-poor policies. Ground level realities have started to feed into the different layers of governance during the process of policy revisions through the more consultative processes. Policy intentions are more or less translated into practice by innovative officials and in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders. Participatory bottom-up planning process has begun to institutionalize especially in annual and periodic plan preparation.

There has been realization among some forestry officials on the importance of bi-directional flow of information from community level to the central level that have to be taken place vertically and horizontally. Civil society actors have started to demand good forest governance to be established in all levels (from FUGs to forestry administration and national government).

Community empowerment and Social Change

Community forestry has become a vehicle in bringing change in social processes empowering poor and disadvantaged members of the community. In some FUGs awareness is raised among disadvantaged and marginalized members of the group in matters related to inequality, social injustice and their exclusion from social and political processes including the benefits from mainstream development. It is reported that in some cases community forestry has made significant contribution in increasing the participation of some marginalized sections of the community. In some FUGs, marginalized users' (including women's) representation has increased in the users' committees and many of them have begun to develop an increased voice in meetings and assemblies. They have also begun to demand services from government, other service delivery agencies and powerful members of FUGs.

Community forestry is contributing to livelihood promotion in many ways. These include fulfilling the basic needs of local communities, investing money and supporting income generations activities of the poor people and providing access to the forestland for additional income or employment (Kanel et al, 2008).

Since, Community Forestry Program is people oriented program and its success depends on the active peoples' participation, there is a need for more research both on technical and social aspects. The technical aspects include management operation, protection rules, conservation strategies whereas social aspects include forest user group and their culture social norms, interest, religion need etc. Both aspects should be considered equally because they impact each other and consequently reflect the success of CF. In this regard, study of peoples' participation, its affecting factors as well as its socio-economic characters will be studied in Jita VDC of Lamjung District.

2.3 Hill Community Forestry-Nepal

In the middle hills of Nepal, a generally road less region where villagers remain extremely isolated because of the nature of the terrain, local supplies of arboreal fodder, green mulch, fuel and timber have always been, and remain, central to the local agricultural systems. Historically, forests were controlled under various forms of tenure, some feudal, some in the name of the state and some communal. Though many land owners sought of generate revenue from use of the forests, local people were generally allowed free access to products that they needed for their own need (FAO, 1998).

An overthrow of the feudal systems in the 1950s brought an end to the privileges and power of the landowner classes. Their forests were brought under the control of state, under the private Forests Nationalization Act of 1957. Since the government was unable to exercise its authority in the remoter regions, this control was circumvented by many owners. Where there was strong local leadership, forests remained effectively under local control, and as was mentioned earlier, many of the indigenous communal management systems date from this period. However, uncertainties over ownership, aggravated by concerns raised by the cadastral survey and formal demarcation of private land, led to widespread exploitation of forests and conversion of forests land to agriculture (Arnold, 1998).

In the mid 1970s, forest depletion and degradation were leading to shortages of forest products in some area. In 1978, the government passed legislation enabling substantial amounts of

public forest land in the middle hills to be handed over to local communities to manage, in recognition of the practical difficulties of managing the country's dispersed forest resources through the forest department. Local management was to be achieved through the Panchayats, the lowest level of political and administrative organization. Panchayats would enter into agreements with the government of manage local areas under agreed forest management plans. Participating Panchayats were required to set up a Panchayat Forest Committee with the forest department providing an infrastructure of nurseries and extension staff, and financing for locally recruited nursery foremen and forest watchers. Funding and technical assistance were provided by a number of donors (FAO, 1998).

Progress was slow at first, initially; the programme had to overcome the villagers' widespread suspicion that it was just another way of abrogating their customary rights. Panchayats usually proved to be unsuitable bodies to undertake local forest management, as the areas they administered seldom coincided with user group boundaries. Though forest management committees were formed, they seldom functioned as represent active discussion and decision-making bodies. Management plans designed by the forest department to increase productivity tended to be neither technically acceptable nor intelligible to villagers. Cumbersome bureaucratic procedures surrounding authorization of the hand over of forest lands to communities, the granting permission to harvest and sell product from communal forest area, and the slow payment of revenue to the community discouraged local involvement.

Subsequently, a succession of adjustments has moved the government programmes in the direction of the indigenous control and management systems that many communities with in the middle hill areas were practicing spontaneously. The indigenous systems were typically based on user groups, rather than whole villagers, wards or panchayats. User groups established simple and usually conservative management rules based on limiting harvesting by areas, size or quantity of product, or by time of year, with the rules being enforced by means of forest watches and social sanctions.

Following passage of the Decentralization Act in 1982, the government initiated a series of measures that shifted the focus from the Panchayat to the user group, with more authority and

responsibility progressively devolving to these groups. An important step in refining the system has been the recognition that there are different categories of users interested in a particular forest resources, the range from primary users who depend on the resource for all of their forest product needs, to secondary user who use it for a more limited purpose, and to other interest groups, such as collectors of medicinal products. Experience also showed that user group motivation (or lack of motivation) to engage in participatory forest management is related to factors such as manageable size, quality of resource and technical ease of management.

User groups now develop their own operational plans, set the prices at which the product is sold and determine how surplus income is spent. Groups are being established at an increasing rate and are building steadily on the authority they have acquired through legal control over the resource. User groups are now coming together and sharing experiences in networking workshops and vary-level planning exercises. Some are also becoming general local development organizations and are registering as NGOs in order to gain greater access to government services.

The experience of the 1970s and 1980s has been entrenched in the 1989 Master Plan for the forestry sector. This has formalized much of the experimentation with new institutional formats, and the user group approach was given legal authority in the 1993 Forest Act. Ownership of the land remains with the state, through the state reserves the right to take back possession of the community forest if the terms and conditions of hand over are not met. The state's role is thus defined as being that of a regularly authority only. Management control rests solely with the users of the resource.

The approach to formalizing a collective system for managing local forest areas has proceeded further in Nepal than in most countries. There has been a steady decentralization of forest department staff and functions to the districts, and authority to transfer forests areas to user groups now rest with the District Forest Officer. Training has helped remove many of the impediments to and reservations about the process that forest staff had experienced earlier. Nevertheless, given the importance that control represents in terms of political and economic

power, and the role that patronage and hierarchical structures play in the bureaucracy, it must be expected that further progress will still encounter some reluctance and even resistance from within the forestry establishment (Arnold, 1998).

2.4 Overview of Community Forestry Policy in Nepal

Community Forestry, as name implies has two major components; forest resources and local communities. The process of establishment and maintenance of the relationship between these two elements could be called as community forestry. Government, Civil Society and local bodies are the main agencies that help to promote community forestry in Nepal (Shrestha, 2005).

The Department of Forests was established in 1942 for the scientific management of forests under state ownership (HMG, 1976). During the period from 1942 to the mid 1970s forest management was exclusively protection oriented. Because people live near and are dependent on forests, management must include local people as, they fulfill their needs for firewood, fodder & timber. Although the forest have been nationalized and forest officials made very powerful as a result, deforestation continued and forest management was practiced exclusively by the department was not successful. Including local people in forest management and providing an incentive for local management became a crucial issue. The National Forest Plan of 1976 was highly committed to initiate peoples' participation in forest management and made provisions to hand over a part of government forest to local political units or village councils called "Panchayats" (Kanel et al, 2008).

2.4.1 Master Plan for the Forestry Sector

The Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) was prepared in 1988 and approved in 1989. It provided a 25-year policy, planning and budgetary framework for the development of forestry sector. The long-term objectives of the MPFS are:

- ❖ Meet the people's basic needs for forest products on a sustained basis;
- ❖ Conserve ecosystems and genetic resources;
- ❖ Protect land against degradation and other effects of ecological imbalance; and
- ❖ Contribute to local and natural economic growth

The MFPS gave the highest priority to the community and private forestry programme(Box 4).

- ❖ Handover all the accessible hill forests of Nepal to user groups to the extent that local people are willing and capable of managing them;
- ❖ Emphasis on the supply of forest products form community forests to those who depend highly on them;
- ❖ Women and the poor should be involved in the management of community forests;
- ❖ Changes in the role of forestry staff to that of extension service provider and advisor; and
- ❖ Forestry staff should be provided with reorientation training so as to deliver the services needed by the CFUGs (Kanel, 2008).

Box 2.2: Program of the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector

Primary Programs:

1. Community and private forestry
2. National and leasehold forestry
3. Wood-based industries
4. Medicinal and aromatic plants
5. Soil conservation and watershed management
6. Conservation of ecosystem and genetic resource

Supportive Programs:

1. Policy and legal reforms
2. Institutional reform
3. Human resource development
4. Research and extension
5. Forest resources information system

Source: Kanel, 2008.

2.4.2 Forest Act 1993 and Forest Rules 1995

After the restoration of democracy in 1990, the Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) conducted intensive exercises with local people, non-government organizations, development partners and other institutions to prepare comprehensive forestry legislation in line with the recommendation of MFPS. Finally, the legislation was enacted as the Forest Act of 1993. Under this Act, the government formulated the Forest Rules of 1995. The Act and the Rules have given absolute rights to community Forest Users Groups in managing their community forests. Presently, CF is regulated by these legislative instruments. The focus of the legislation is on institutionalizing CFUGs as an independent and self-governing body, nationwide expansion of community forestry and providing utilization and management rights to the local people. The Rules also describe the role of the DFO as facilitator, monitor and regulator. The main features of existing CF legislation are as follows (Acharya 2002, Kanel 1993, Kanel et al, 2008).

Forest Act 1993

- DFO may handover any part of national forests to the communities, who are traditional users of the resource.
- Land ownership remains with the state, while the land use rights belong to the CFUGs.
- All management decisions (land management and forest management) are taken by the CFUGs.
- Each household is recognized as a unit for the membership and every member has equal rights over the resources.
- CFUGs and forest hand over will not be affected by political boundaries.
- Outsiders are excluded from access to community forests.
- There are mutually recognized use-rights.
- Equitable distribution of benefits.
- State provides technical assistance and advice.
- National forests can be handed over to CFUGs irrespective of size of forests and number of households.

- Handling over of national forests as community forest has priority over handing over as leasehold forest.
- User groups are recognized as independent, self-governing, autonomous and corporate body with perpetual succession.
- CFUGs can accumulate their fund from grant received by HMG and other local institutions, sale of CF products & amount received by other sources such as fine etc. CFUGs can use their funds in any kind of community development works (Kanel, 2008).

Forest Rules 1995

- User groups are allowed to plant short-term cash crops like NTFPs such as medicinal herbs.
- User groups can fix prices of forestry products for their own use.
- CFUGs can transport forest products under their jurisdiction any where in the country.
- In the case of forest offences, CFUGs can punish their member according to their constitution and operational plan.

The legislation and the rules give absolute authority to local communities to manage the forests and get all the benefits from the forests. Therefore, local communities have full authority in the management of community forests. Hence, the legislation and the rules are claimed to be the most progressive ones in existence. In fact, CFUGs have access, withdrawal, and management rights over their forests, but they do not have rights over the sale of total stock of forests and the land on which the biomass stand (Kanel, 2008).

2.4.3 Forest Sector Policy 2000

Initially, the focus of community forestry program was on conservation. However, gradually, it focused on community empowerment and institution building for forest management and community development. Unfortunately, the forest sector policy of 2000 reverted back to the

conservation issue of forest management through government domination. The policy exclusively mentioned as below:

-) The barren and isolated forestlands of the Terai, inner Terai and the Churi hills will be made available for handing over community forest. As community forest operational plan will be prepared and forest products will be utilized based on annual increment.
-) As the main objective of community forests is to fulfill the basic needs of local communities for fuel wood, fodder, and small timber, when surplus timber is sold by CFUGs, 40 percent of the earnings from the sale of surplus timber in the Terai, Siwaliks and Inner Terai will be collected by the government for program implementation. Until July 2003, CFUGs paid 40 percent of their income to the government, which was reduced to 15 percent through the bill enacted in July 2004 (Kanel, 2008).

2.4.4 Community Forestry in the Tenth Plan (2002-2007)

The Government's Tenth Five-Year Plan and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) have targeted the reduction poverty in Nepal from 38 to 30 percent by the year 2007. In line with the overall objective of the PRSP, the Forestry Sector Plan focuses on reducing deforestation, soil erosion and degradation of biodiversity as well as solving the problem of poverty and unemployment. As per the plan, the forestry sector has two objectives:

- Sustainable forest management and Conservation: This includes sustainable supply of forest products and environmental preservation through conservation, management and enterprise development of forest, watershed, plant resource and biodiversity.
- Poverty Alleviation: This includes creating employment and income opportunities for poor, women and disadvantaged groups through participatory approaches.

The major strategies of community forestry program in relation to the objectives of poverty alleviation are:

-) Increased livelihood opportunities of the people living below poverty by expanding forest development activities; and
-) Extend community forestry program to increase participation, and the access of poor, women and disadvantaged groups to forest resources (Kanel, 2008).

Table 2.1: Community Forestry Targets in the Tenth Plan

Community and private forest development	Target (numbers)	
	Normal Case	Low Case
CF User Group Formation	2500	2500
Operation Plan Preparation and handing over	3000	3000
Operational Plan revision	4000	4000
Forest Management Support to user groups	2500	2500
Siviculture demo plot establishment and operation	500	425
Forest enterprise dev. for poverty alleviation	500	500

Source: Kanel, 2008

2.5 CF Management Trend

The initial phase of community forestry was geared towards assigning responsibilities and rights of local forest management to the village level political bodies. It was based on protecting and planting trees to meet the forest product needs of the local people based on the principle of ‘gap analysis’. Three years of rigorous study and consultation in the preparation of the MPFS, and the first national level workshop on community forestry held in 1987 laid the foundation for handing over forests to groups of the traditional forest users so that they could meet their basic forest product needs and at the same time conserve these forests. The MFPS further stressed that participation of local communities in decision-making and benefit sharing was essential for the conservation of forest management. The endorsement of MPFS in 1988, and the political regime change in 1990 were instrumental in the formulation of new act and regulations was on institutionalizing CFUGs as an independent and self-governing entity, expanding CF not only in the hills but also the Terai, providing utilization and management rights to these CFUGs, and making DFOs the ‘gate keepers’ of community forests (Shrestha, 2005).

The second national workshop on CF, held in 1993, contributed considerably in the formulation of new forest legislation. The third workshop was held in 1998. It drew a new vision-poverty alleviation through community forestry, based on the four pillars-social justice, equity, gender balance and good governance. The Tenth plan of the government has its target the reduction of poverty in Nepal from 38 percent to 30 percent by the year 2007. The workshop identified action area not only for the government but also for other stakeholders. Thus the workshop stressed the need of action from the different actors to attain the vision set out in the workshop. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed at the United Nations (UN) in 2000 specifically aims at reducing the level of global poverty by half by 2015. The poverty alleviation or livelihood improvement is the main objectives of the Tenth Plan (2002-07) and community forests have the potential to meet subsistence needs and to provide income. Thus the CFP can help in achieving the objectives of poverty alleviation. After years of protection, most of community forests have increased their growing stock and have increased their potential yields than previous protection oriented operational plan period. FUGs are using the community forests to meet their minimum needs while removing shrub, dead, dying and decreased trees, and cutting braches. In this way, they are just meeting subsistence needs and not utilizing full potential of forest productivity (Shrestha, 2005).

Considering the above-mentioned issues, Nepal Government issued a circular on February 2000 stating that for scientific management of CFs, green trees could be harvested after growing stock inventory and calculating the annual increment in operational plan. The circular has been positively operated for the sustainable management of community forest. According to forest Act and Circular of February 2000, forest users in the way of incorporating amended 1996 operational guidelines, in operational plan to manage their forest by multiple forest management system includes managing forest for different product and purpose, which can be received from the forest like non-timber forest products, wildlife recreation, education and biodiversity conservation (Shrestha, 2005).

2.6 Socio-Economic Analysis and Livelihood in Nepal

Out of the total population of the country, 86.4 Percent of the people live in the rural areas and rest in urban area (CBS, 2006). The incidence of the poverty is 2.6 times higher than the urban areas (UNDP, 2002). It is relatively higher in the higher altitude, remote areas and among lower caste people and ethnic minorities. Similarly, occupational households with agricultural workers are more prone to poverty. Income is unevenly distributed among the regional and social groups. Analysis of national time series data suggested that poverty is lowering in urban areas compared with rural areas, although inequality is higher.

Subsistence level farming is the major occupation of the more than 80 Percent people in the country. It is intimately correlated with the forestry livestock raising half of the population is experienced of food deficit of more than 6 months (Shrestha, 1997). Ethnically Nepal is more diverse, poverty is more pronounced in mid and far western districts of the country (LFP, 2001). Caste based discrimination is higher in the rural areas and people becoming disadvantaged.

The HMG/Nepal has targeted the poor through area-based programmes by providing infrastructure to the more backward and isolated regions and through target-people like lower caste, women and marginalized. However, in practice these programmes are very small and the benefits tend to go to the non-poor (UNDP, 2002). Women and lower caste people are disadvantaged, with little access to or control over resources and subjected to the domestic violence. Government's ninth and tenth plans focus on poverty alleviation and reduction of gender and regional inequalities (LFP, 2001). The CF programme has been prioritized as one of the potential activities to contribute to poverty reduction through increased household income as a result of supplying adequate forest product, income generation opportunities and more raw materials for farming and livestock rising.

Livelihood is simply a means of living for which resources (or capital or assets) are needed. Various macro and micro level factors such as natural calamities, shocks, policy, legislation, government and non-governmental structures and agencies, market, social processes (cultural

norms, values, customs, festivals and traditions) do affect the livelihood of people. More the capacity of the individuals and communities to increase the resources and the ability to cope with the factors of various types, the better will be the livelihood of the rural people in three ways namely helps to increase resources; contributes to reform organizations, agencies and policies and facilitates to bring social change.

Firstly, community forestry has become a means to increase natural, social, human, financial and to some extent the physical capital of community forest users. Community forests handed over to community are users' natural capital. Evidences show that there are positive changes in both forest condition and the availability of forest products; with a concurrent reduction in the time spent for collecting forest products. It is reported that the community forestry process has increased social cohesion, which has enhanced social capital of those who have been powerless, left in isolation and excluded from mainstream social and political processes. Since the inception of the community forestry programme a number of trainings, workshops and exposure visits have been conducted for a number of organizations and individuals related to community forestry that has increased knowledge and skill related to forest siculture, community development, organization management are basically human capital. The group fund generated from the sale of forest products, levies and outside grants is the financial capital created through community forestry. There are numerous examples where many of the FUGs have established low interests credit schemes as well as grants to poorest household members from the members form the FUG fund. Numerous FUGs have carried out many community development activities on their own. Construction of village trails; small bridges, community building; schools and temples are the good examples of physical capital created through community forestry programme (Shrestha, 2005).

Secondly, through community forestry programme, reorientation of Forest Department Staff to move away from their traditional role of policing to a role of facilitator and advisors has been possible. As a result, community forestry has contributed to bring changes in attitudes and behavior of government staff (mainly forest department staff). Community forestry is the only one national programme in the country by which creation of thousands of local institutions at community level (i.e. FUGs) and continuously building their capacity as an established and

utilization of forest resources have been possible. In addition ... enterprises such as user group networks and Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) have been established to safeguard the rights and responsibility of forest users. In this way community forestry is no more a programme rather it has become a system that will go for ever (Pokharel, 2002).

Following the implementation of community forestry programme, all forestry development programmes have been designed in a participatory way through bottom-up planning process.

Thirdly, community forestry has become a vehicle in bringing change in social processes empowering poor and disadvantaged members of the community. The aim of community forestry has been to build FUG's institutional capacity so as to ensure that awareness will be revised among disadvantaged and marginalized members of the group in matters related to inequality, social injustice and their exclusion from social and political processes including the benefits from mainstream development. It is reported that community forestry has made significant contribution in increasing peoples' participation of many marginalized section of the community. In many FUGs, their representation has increased in users committees and many of them have begun to voice in meetings and assemblies. They have also begun to demand services from government, other services delivery agencies and powerful members of FUGs. In addition, community forestry has become a plat form for various stakeholders to work together. The major stakeholders include; district forest office, local government, user federations and non-government organizations and academic and research institutions (Shrestha, 2005).

2.7 Definition of Participation

Participation is a collaborative decision making process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and resource which affects themselves (World Bank, 1996).

Participation is development process calls for increased empowerment of citizens. However only the sufficient organization and strong families, communities, interest groups and pressure

groups (organized stakeholders) are able to exert greater voice and influence public policy agenda and provide effective check on unnecessary interventions, as well as enforce transparency accountability and rule in decision making.

Participation is defined as a voluntary contribution by the people to one or another of the public programs supposed to contribute to national development but the people are not expected to take part in shaping the program or in criticizing its contents (Economic Commission for Latin America, 1973).

Cohen and Uphoff (1977) define participation as involvement of people in decision-making processes, in implementing programs, their sharing benefits of development program and risk of development in efforts to evaluate such programs.

2.7.1 Peoples' Participation

Peoples' participation is the most essential feature of community forestry. In field practice, idea of people's participation in community forest has gained high level of popularity in Nepal. The institutional arrangement and policy behind this program is quite good in the sense of peoples' participation and empowering the people could be effectively put into practice. Most of the user involved in plantation in return for wages. This involvement is given name of full participation. All researchers asked to users during his field visit about such behavior, it is known that they were thinking that plantation of government seedlings means losing their convenient grazing land. From this study, it is concluded that the type of people involved in decision making were elite while some other people were not fully informed and the need of general people was not recognized (Neupane, 2005).

It is realized that peoples' participation is the best way to achieve the objective on effective protection and management of forest research. It is suggested for popular participation that existing local particles, institution, organization structure and local user group should be recognized. People should be convinced that they are not only the protector but immediate beneficiaries as well. Effective participation can be further increase if people are well

informed about the program and sense of belonging is created through motivation and awareness (Kayastha, 1991).

Peoples' participation is essentially to do with economic and political relationship with in the wider society; it is not just matter of involvement in project activities but rather the process by which rural people are able to organize themselves and through their own organization, are able to identify their own needs, share in design, implement and evaluate participatory action (Khanal, 2005)

Participation of women is crucial for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of the forest products such as fuel wood, fodder and dry leaf. So, consequences of deforestation directly impact on women. District forest office and other line agencies must motivate women to participate in community forestry program through extension and awareness classes (Kayastha, 1991).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section describes the method which is used in this study. Since, the objective of the research requires both quantitative and qualitative information, method and tools of data collection. There are various aspects to understand the community forestry but the study is mainly based on limited area with in certain indicators such as socio-economic status, development activities and benefits of people.

3.1 Research Design

The study has adopted both the descriptive and exploratory research designs. Descriptive research design is concerned with the describing characteristics of a particular individual or of a group. Community Forest User Group's characteristics and their rules and process in community forestry are descriptively discussed Participation of different level of community forest activities, factors affecting participation are discussed on the basis of exploratory design.

3.2 Rationale of the Selection of the study

The research focused on the role of people managed forest on the rural livelihood and the factors contributing the development of rural area. The reason for the selection of only one forest user committee was the time and budgetary constraints.

Ninety-four numbers of households have been using forest resources. The forest area is 112.02 hectare. There are heterogeneous people live in the study area. Scheduled caste such as Damai, Kami and Sarki and others Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar are using equally forest resources according to community forest rules and regulation. The study also selected due to following reasons.

1. Researcher is interested, familiar with this area because the researcher is one of the user households of this community forest.
2. Community forestry has been implemented since 1996.
3. The place is not easily accessible for all the people due to far from the highway and nothing research will be found about this related places.
4. For inspiring other researcher to others aspects.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The research is field –based study. The primary data like socio-economic information, people's participation, factors affecting the participation and benefit sharing were collected through fieldwork. The available relevant written documents eg; village profile, User Group Constitution and Operational Plan of forest, Forest User Group and Forest User Committee meeting minutes and documents, publication and reports of District Office and Forest User Group member were the sources of secondary data. To fulfill the objective the necessary tables, map and figures were also used and analyzed according to need.

3.4 Sampling

Badahare Patal Forest User Group of Jita VDC ward no 6 of Lumjung district was purposively selected as the study area. There are total 94 households of forest user group, among them for the proper representation of universe, 30 percent of households were taken in sampling process which is equivalent to 29 households. The sampling process was done simple random sampling without replacement process. The other 2 key respondents were selected from other forest user committee member, 3 key respondents were taken from District Forest Office, Lamjung and local leaders.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

The following techniques and tools were used for the collection of primary data.

3.5.1 Household Survey

Through household survey, quantitative data were collected for socio-economic characteristics of users like caste and ethnicity composition, land holding and food production, educational status and occupational status were collected. Close-ended questions (Structure) were used for the socio-economic information. 30 percent households were considered for sampling survey for proper representation of universe. Questionnaires were filled by the facilitation of the researcher and fill questionnaires by themselves, mostly visited by the researcher and fill questionnaires by themselves. Researcher visited their respective housed or in the field for the collection of survey.

3.5.2 Interview

Some question regarding peoples' participation in decision-making implementation and benefit sharing, factors affection participation were asked to sample respondents. Semi structure and structured questionnaire were used for interview process. 54.55 percent male and 45.45 percent female respondents were considered in the interview process. Both qualitative and quantitative data were gathered through interview.

3.5.3 Key Informants Interview

Staffs of District Forest Office, Forest User Group Committee members, Village Development Committee members and other educated persons were the key informants for the study. Formal and informal discussions were performed with them. The discussions were basically held on their contribution, history of community forestry, status of participation of women, disadvantage people and general users. Checklists were prepared to discuss with them. Based on the discussion, the relevant information was recorded in the plain sheet. In depth informal

discussion was carried out their experience, feelings, attitude and contribution. Maximum focus was given to collect the qualitative rather than quantitative data from the key respondents. Especially, four people (2 Rangers, 1 DFO and 1 Section Officer) were selected for informal key interviews.

3.5.4 Observation

Direct observation was applied to get relevant information for the study. In the course of fieldwork, present condition of forest, applied forest management operation was observed. The researcher attended one of the user committee meetings as an observer. Participation of women and their activeness in the meeting (Committee) was also observed. Fire wood consumption, feeding materials of domestic animals, agricultural practices were also observed. The observation helped very much in understanding the field reality, which became very fruitful for the study that could not be captured through verbal discussions.

3.6 Data Analysis Technique

As discussed above, the data were collected through various sources using various data collection techniques and tools. Qualitative and quantitative data were gathered from field visit. Information related to population structure ethnic distribution, education, economic and participation status were quantified. Qualitative data were discussed analytically on the basis of findings. Quantitative data were tabulated and analyzed descriptively. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage were used to present the data. The details of other data analysis are discussed in the following chapters.

3.7 Limitation of the Study

This study is carried out for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Art in Rural Development. Among 14 Forest User Group of Jita VDC of Lamjung District, the researcher has only confined to the one forest user group "Badahare Patal Community Forest", among 29 households for the collection of socio-economic information of the user groups.

Due to limited resources like time, money and manpower, the detail survey of other aspects of Forest User Group could not be made, as a researcher is student. Except sampled households, some key informants were considered together necessary data and information. Therefore, the response of partial users may not be adequate to explain the exact situation and the findings of the study may not be conclusive. The generalization made in the study may not represent other forest user group unless some socio-economic and socio-biological contexts were existing due to taken small area for the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

This Chapter begins with general introduction of the Lamjung district, Jita VDC and Badahare Patal Community Forest User Group. In Lamjung district, the utilization pattern and their physiographic structures are described. Climate, natural resources and demographic profile has been described to Jita VDC. Location, Background, formation of FUGs and FUGC, preparation of constitution and OP, implementation process, their duties and responsibilities and main objectives, fines process and rules of distributing forest products are described in the sub chapter of Badahare Patal Forest User Group.

4.1 Lamjung District

Lamjung district is situated in Gandaki Zone of the Western development region of Nepal. In the central part Manaslu Himal lies and in north Lamjung Himal extending from east to west. Geographically, this district extends from hill area in centre to mountain area in north. Besishahar, the district headquarter is situated at 80 msl.

Lamjung district shares in boarder, with Gorkha in east, Kaski in west, Manang in north and Tanahun in the south. Area of this district has 1707.61 Sq. Km. This district lies between 28⁰ 3' 19" to 28⁰ 30' 38" north latitude and 84⁰ 11' 23" to 84⁰ 38' 10" east longitude. The elevation of this district from mean sea level ranges from 385 m (Ramghat) to 8162 m (Manaslu Himal). The district area divided as the following type.

Table 4.1: Physiographic Structure of Lamjung district

S.N.	Type	Area (Sq. Km.)	Percent
1	Center hill area	720	42.5
2	High hill area	663	39.2
3	High mountain area	309	18.3

Source: DFO, Lamjung

Soil of this district has found mainly Lateritic, Sandy soil, Laimy soil and sandy soil etc. The general climate of this district is neither too hot nor too cold. Due to Geographical diversity various kinds of climates have been found. The climate categorized into tropical, subtropical, winter, alpine and tundra. The maximum and minimum temperature is 26.67 °C and 14.08 °C respectively where as the average rainfall pattern is 2944.23 mm per year.

According to population census of 2058 BS, Total population of this district is 204458, where male consists of 52.75 Percent and female lies 42.75 Percent. Out of this total population, 57.2 Percent is economically active (15-59 years). The total number of household size is 6.35, which is more than national average 5.14. The population increasing rate is 1.43 Percent and density is 104.8 person per square kilometer (CBS, 2002).

Politically, this district is divided into two election constituencies, 61 VDC, 11 illakas, and two-town development committees. Marsyangdi River has divided this district into two parts. It has flat valleys in the south and upland gradually transversing to towering heights to the Himalayas in north.

The demographic composition of this district shows that there are as many as 15 ethnic/caste groups. Among them, Gurungs are the most dominant ethnic group of the district is 35.35 percent. Population followed by Brahmin (17.18 Percent), Chhetry (16.1Percent), Kami (6.12 Percent), Tamang (6.0 Percent), Sarki (3.5 Percent), Damai (3.3 Percent), Newar (3.24 Percent), Magar (2.84 Percent), Dura (1.8 Percent), Gharti (1.5 Percent), Sanyasi (0.78 Percent), Kumal (0.68 Percent), Muslim (0.43 Percent) and others (1.13 Percent) (CBS, 2002).

The major River system of this district are Marsyangdi, Madi, Chepe, Midim Dordi, Khudi, Ngadi, Rudi, Kisedi, Risti, Pisti, Naudi etc. Middle Marsyangdi hydropower is under construction process since 2001.

Agricultural farming is the main occupation for the majority of households in this district. The major crops grown in the district are paddy, maize, wheat, millet & potato. Agricultural practices on this district are still based on traditional skills of the farmers. Limited modern

technologies of farming practices have been reached in this district. Among them Bangre-Bhorletar Irrigation Project, Ramgha Irrigation Project are the main irrigation program help to produce better production. Various traditionally managed irrigation Kulos have provided irrigation facilities. As a consequence, farming in this district is of subsistence type rather than commercial. Livestock cum filed has practices mostly people in this district.

According Topographical Survey, the district land utilization pattern shows following information.

Table 4.2: Utilization Patterns of Lamjung District

Land	Area (Ha)
Agricultural land	28,770
Non agricultural land	15,014
Pasture land	22,623
Forest	66,623
Shrub land	17,643
Others	20,058
Total	1,70,781

Source: DFO, Lamjung

The literacy rate of this district is 62.05 percent comprising male 71.05 percent and female 53 percent which is above the national level. At 42 Km long Bhanu Marg (Dumre-Besisahar) links Prithvi highway at Dumre. Besides this, 2 Km black topped road (Sundarbazar – Bhotewodar) links Bhanu Marg at Siundibazar. There are also seasonal roads constructed in this district, some of them are Damauli-Sotipasal-Jita, Damauli-Bhorletar, Besisahar–Siundibazar- Kunchha, Sundarbazar-Koiralaphant-Neta-Bhorletar, Besisahar- Khudi- Sanghe, Besisahar – Baglungpani, Besisahar-Khatrithanti-Parewadanda-Kunchha-Jita etc. INGOs also help to construct agricultural (greenery) roads such as Besisahar- Baglungpani, Karaputa-Salmehanjyang etc. The communication system which provides people for communicating are based on VHF (Very High Frequency), Master, GSM (General Service for Mobile), CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) and limited number of land line as provided by Nepal Telecom.

Lamjung is full of natural beauty and resource; it has been developed as one of the tourism center. Eight VDCs are linked to the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP). It has full of florae and fauna. The major attraction centers of Lamjung district are as follows (DFO, 2008).

Lakes: Barahpokhari, Dudhpokhari, Ilampokhari, Memepokhari etc.

Archeological & Religious Places: Lamjung Kalika, Udipur Kalika, Akala Temple, Narayansthan, Bouddha Gumbha, Karupeshwor Mahadev, Ihaneshwor Mahadev, Gaunshahar Lamjung Darbar, Sindure Dhunga, Jitakot Goundakot, Turlongkot, Rainaskot, Purankot, etc.

Village Tourism Centers: Ghalegoun and Pasgoun.

Forest area has covered 39.01 percent of total area of this district. In tropical area, Sal Chilaune, Katus, Kadam, Simal etc are found. Similarly, these types of forest are found from sea level to 2000 m altitude. In subtropical area, forest which extends from 2000 m to 3000 m are found Chilaune, Katus, Uttis, Oak, Khasru, Laligurans, Champ, Dar etc. In Mountain area, Bhojpatram Okhar, Spruse are most important plants which are found in ranging between 3000 m to 4500 m altitude.

Following types of important Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) could be found in this district. They are namely Lauth Salla, Pipla, Majitho, Nirmasi, Kutki, Nagbeli Powder, Padmachal, Sungandhawal, Bish, Chiraito, Indrenikobia, Tejpat, Musali, Jhayau, Silajit, Ban lasun, Dalchini, Kurilo, Panchaunle, Yarshagumbha, Satuwa, Jatamashi, Guchhi Mushroom, Gurjo, Gujargano, Gibanti, Pasanbed, Kukur Tarul, Nigalo, Lokta, Bhorla, Honey bee.

4.2 Jita VDC

Jita VDC, the selected study area, is one of the 61 VDCs in Lamjung district. It is located in south-west border of the district at a distance of 23 Km from the district headquarter, Besishahar. This VDC is situated between 28⁰6' to 28⁰9' north latitude and 84⁰17'30" to 84⁰20' east longitude. The VDC comprises very different geographical settings. The altitude ranges from 4000-5200 feet from the sea level. This VDC is boarded with Kunchha in east,

Tandrang-Taksar in west, Neta-Dhuseni in north and Risti in South. It is also surrounded by four small streams namely Paundi, Khahare, Pisti, and Risti along four sides. The total area of this VDC consists of 1219 hactre. Among them, cultivated land comprises 58.16 percentt forest consisting 22.87 Percent and non productive & grazing land contributes 18.97 percent (Kamal, 1988).

Agriculture is the main occupation and the main source for the livelihood of the VDCs people. According to the village profile about 89.9 percent people are directly engaged in agriculture, 6.9 percent engaged in small own business or salary wages and 6.9 percent engaged in others different kinds of work. There is not even a single industry in the VDC. Unemployment in the non farm season is common. People, especially youths go to the different parts of the country and foreign countries for job.

4.2.1 Climate

The climate of the VDC is moderate. The average temperature of the VDC reaches up to 15°C-27°C. The relative humidity recorded in between 50 percent to 80 percent. Some times snowfall can be seen in this VDC. Summer Monsoon comes across with heavy rainfall in his area, which is a major source of irrigation in upland. In low land local streams and rivulets are the main sources of irrigation. The mean annual rainfall of the VDC is about 2057.8 mm (Kamal, 1988).

4.2.2 Natural Resources

In general land, forest and water are the important natural resources of the VDC. Brief account of these resources is as follows:

4.2.2.1 Land

Land is one of the most exploited and utilized natural resources in the study area. The total area of the VDC is 1219 hectare. Among the total population 89 percent people are involved in

agricultural activities. On the basis of availability of irrigation facilities, land is classified as Khet (paddy field), Bari (dry cultivated land) and Kharbari (livestock field). Maize, paddy & millet are the major food crops and pea, mustard, green vegetables & potatoes are the major cash crops produce in this VDC. The VDC has full potentiality of goat farming due to availability of green fodder, forest grazing, common bushes, stream beds & enough pasture land. Most of the households of this VDC experiences integrated (livestock cum land cum poultry) farming practice (Kamal, 1988).

4.2.2.2 Forest

Another important natural resource of the area is forest. The total area of community forest with this VDC is 437.24 ha among this 112.02 Ha of forest area is managed by Badahare Patal Community Forest User Group. There are 14 forest user groups managing 437.24 Ha of community forest area.

4.2.2.3 Water

Even though water is one of the most important resources of Jita VDC, one major stream (Risti Stream) is located south border of study area. Other main water resources are Jimire Khola, Taple Khola, Guihe Khola, Kharale Khola, Chinde Khola, Budhi Khola, Ijar Khola, and Khahare Khola. These resources are useful for drinking water supply and irrigation facility. One irrigation cannel is constructed in the VDC for agricultural purpose. Different type of drinking water projects is supplying drinking water to the people of VDC.

4.2.3 Demographic Profile

The total population of the VDC is 3005. Among them, 45.52 percent are male and 54.48 percent are female. The total household number of the VDC is 632 and the average family size is 5.24. Jita VDC is heterogenous in terms of ethnic composition, viz., Brahmin (33.27 Percent), Chhettri (11.57 Percent), Gurung (11.68 Percent), Gharti/Bhujel (11.38 Percent), Sarki (7.59 Percent), Kami (6.52 Percent), Newar (5.36 Percent), Damai (2.76 Percent),

unidentified caste (1.6 Percent), Sanyasi (1.53 Percent), Thakuri (1.3 Percent), Tamang (0.17 Percent) and others (0.27 Percent). Among the total population, 70.64 percent are literate. Among the total literacy, 86.92 percent male and 56.36 percent female are literate. Nepali language (87.55 Percent) is spoken most of the people followed by Gurung (10.25 Percent), Newar (1.96 Percent) and others (0.23 Percent). Hindu religion is followed by 91.88 percent people of total population, 7.65 percent followed Bouddha, 0.09 percent followed Kirat, and 0.06 percent followed Islam religion (CBS, 2002).

4.2.4 Age Structure

The age structure of people in the Jita VDC was highly dominated by 10-19 years age children, which represent 27.72 percent of total population, while the proportion of elderly people was of 10.79 percent (of those 60 and above). This shows that the VDC has high dependency rate, causing the economic problems in households – thus increasing the poverty level. The working age group (20-59 years age group) represented 38.7 percent of total population which shows more than half of the population depends upon the fewer proportion for their daily survival.

Table 4.3: Age Structure of Population of Jita VDC

Age Group	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
0-9	342	11.38	343	11.41	685	22.79
10-19	423	14.08	410	15.64	833	27.72
20-29	128	4.26	231	7.69	359	11.95
30-39	126	4.19	181	6.02	307	10.21
40-49	97	3.23	169	5.62	266	8.85
50-59	90	3	141	4.69	231	7.69
60-69	98	3.26	102	3.39	200	6.66
70 and +	64	2.12	60	2.01	124	4.13
Total	1368	45.52	1637	54.48	3005	100.00

Source: CBS, 2002

4.3 Badahare Patal Forest User Group

4.3.1 Location

Badahare Patal Community Forest User Group (BPCFUG) is one of the 14th forest user groups of Jita VDC. It is the largest type of forest in terms of its area. This community forest is situated at ward no 6, south-east part of the VDC. People of ward no 6, 5 and 7 are the major users of the community forest. The community forest has total area of 112.02 hectare. Slope of the forest is about 20^o to 45^o facing towards north-west. Forest is surrounded by Damini Chautara to Thuli Budhiko Chautara, Purano Bato-Guniko Chautara to Handi Khola to Dumbre in east, Ijar Khola in west, settlement of ward no 6 in north and Risti Khola - Dumbre, Male Bagar in south. The total number of household of forest user group is 94. This forest was handed over to forest user group in 2052 BS. This community forest has mixed and natural type of forest. Major species of forest are Sal, Chilaune, Katus, Simal, Aap, Pipal, Bar etc where Leopard, Monkey, Tiger, Bhalu, Jackle, Longure-Bannar, Malsapro etc wild animals are commonly found in forest. Different species of the birds including Kalij, Bankukhura, Titra, Dove, owl etc are found in the forest. The forest is divided into ten blocks for the sustainable management.

4.3.2 Background

After the enacted of Forest Nationalization Act in 1957, all traditionally managed communal forest nationalized as a national forest and they, started to control use of forest directly from government. This step of government could not be able to achieve expected success. The Forest Nationalization Act affected Badahare Patal Community Forest as well. Users of the forest over used forest products supposing forest are of government under nationalization act, villagers were not aware about the consequence of forest degradation. Thus, they used forest in a way that the forest almost changed bare land. Because of rapid destruction of forest, fire wood and other forest products became scarce. Villagers had to go far to bring fire wood and fodder. Especially this adverse situation impacted on women who are real collector of forest products had to spend more time to collect forest products.

Because of heavy degradation of forest in the study area also led to destruction of medicinal plants, herbs and habitat of birds and other wild animals. To come out from these problems, District Forest Office and staff motivated some educated and lending people of the village to form Forest User Group to manage village forest as community forest. Leading people are also agreed with the view of District Forest Office of Lamjung to form Forest User Group.

4.3.3 Formation of Forest User Group and Forest User Committee

Formation of Forest User Group (FUG) and Forest User Group Committee (FUGC) is the first step of community forestry program. All users of the forest must be identified to form a forest user group. DFO suggested some leading people of ward no 5, 6 and 7 of Jita VDC to form user group for the management of their forest as community forest with the initiation of some leading person, users are mobilized themselves and they organized forest initial group discussion where teachers, villagers and district and district forest officials were presented. From informal group discussion, they decided to make forest according to Forest Act, 1993. In 1996, all people of ward no 6 and some people of 5 & 7 had made one Community Forest.

BPCF users are classified into the Ka, Kha & Ga category on the basis of right of access and usages. Primary users are the real user falls on category Ka. On group Kha, the people who are not directly accessed for utilization of forest products, but can be uses these forest products as determined by FUGCs and boarder with this VDC. Besides, these adjoining VDC, all users fall on category Ga.

Forest user group included seven ethnic groups are Brahmin, Chhetri, Damai, Sarki, Sunar and Newar. Ethnic composition of forest user group is presented in following table (Table No. 5). The table shows that there are 94 households with 672 users in Badahare Patal community forest user group. Castes of Brahmin are the largest group among the ethnic groups having 372 users. Other community represented such as Chhetri, Damai, Kami Sarki, Sunar & Newar are 29, 61, 75, 51, 57 and 17 respectively.

Table No 4.4: Caste/Ethnic Composition of Badahare Patal Forest User Group

S.N.	Ethnic Composition	No. of HHs	Users	Percentage
1	Brahmin	47	372	55.35
2	Chhetri	4	29	4.32
3	Damai	8	61	9.08
4	Kami	13	75	11.16
5	Sarki	9	51	7.59
6	Sunar	8	57	7.48
7	Newar	5	17	4.02
Total		94	672	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

In latest user committee there is representation of 9.09 Percent Damai, Chhetri and Sunar. Sarki Coverage 18.18 Percent of total committee members. Brahmin has occupied vital posts of user committee.

Table No. 4.5: Ethnic composition of Forest User Committee

S.N.	Ethnic group	Sex	Committee
1	Brahmin	Male	3
		Female	3
2	Chhetri	Male	0
		Female	1
3	Damai	Male	1
		Female	0
4	Kami	Male	0
		Female	0
5	Sarki	Male	1
		Female	1
6	Newar	Male	0
		Female	0
7	Sunar	Male	1
		Female	0
Total			11

Source: Field Survey, 2008

This above table describes that there is the higher representation of Brahmin community in the user committee; their number is 6 in total. Similarly, Sarki represent on this committee is 2 and remaining Sunar, Damai & Chhetri occupied one-one position respectively. Male are covered more than 54.54 Percent. But while talking about the use of forest products, females

are the direct users. The interesting finding was that there is no representation of Kami and Newar community in the use committee. This shows that the committee is unable to cover the entire ethnic group.

4.3.4 Preparation of Constitution and Operational Plan

Every community forest needs to make one written constitution of user group and one operational plan for community forest. This provision is included in forest regulation 1995 and community forest guideline 1995.

Constitution of users is the guideline to go on specific direction and to participate systematically. It is document of policies, rules & regulation. It is necessary to include the name, address, objectives and stamp of user's group in constitution. Total household, estimated population of user's group, formation of procedure of user's committee and the name list of user's committee member is also needed to include in constitution. Working procedure of the user's committee, the ways to control forest offences, penalties for the user members who don't obey the constitution, a system of collection of funds and auditing are also must.

Preparation of constitution was a difficult task for user members. First, they organized the users' assembly to discuss regarding the preparation of the constitution. User's had no knowledge about it. Therefore, they requested the Ranger to help them. The user assembly gave authority to the user's committee to prepare to constitution. The user's committee members discussed and prepared the draft of the constitution with the help of the Ranger. Therefore, they called user's group assembly to discuss on the draft constitution. After the ratification of the constitution; they registered in District Forest Office and issued a certified of registration in the prescribed form on 1995.

Operational Plan is a legal document prepared by user groups for the management of a particular forest area under their jurisdiction and approved by the District Forest Office. The plan guides the management of a particular CF normally for five years.

District forest office evaluated and monitored the situation of forest and working style of Forest User Group. Then from 2000, forest user group was extended the authority to manage the forest for next five years. However, there is provision of making five years operational plan. Badahare Patal community forest user has making 5 years operational plan through group assembly since 1995. It was approved by District Forest Office.

4.3.5 Implementation Process

For the implementation of community forestry activities, they have formed user committee and made constitution of user group and operational plan of forest. During implementation user group must follow the rules and regulation of constitution and operational plan. Forest user group had developed protection and management rules to implement community forestry activities properly which are described below.

4.3.5.1 Duties and Responsibilities of Forest User Committee

Forest user group committee plays a vital role in protecting and managing the forest with the help of people. They have to follow constitution of user group and operational plan of forest. If user committee needs to change and to add new rules, they have to call general assembly to formulate and approved the rules. They can formulate new rules with the agreement of the general users but it is necessary to take approval from DFO.

Forest user committee has set some duties and responsibilities for the effective implementation of community forestry activities with full participation as much as. The duties and responsibilities of the forest user committee are as follows.

1. To call the committee meeting in every week for the discussion on forest management and other causal problems.
2. To take the necessary step to implement the operational plan.

3. To punish and fine the individual who is against the rules and regulation of operational plan and constitution. As per need, they get help from District Forest Office for further punishment.
4. To consult with DFO to take necessary technical advice and other helps if needed.
5. To keep the records of income and expenditure of the committees and to present in every half-annual general assembly for the approval from committees.
6. To dismiss the position holder user committee members if they done wrong activities with forest and forest user group.
7. To use and distribute the forest products equally as mentioned in operational plan for the satisfaction of users.
8. To check whether user are performing their duty of forest protection.
9. To notify the users about the works and decisions of forest user committee.
10. To perform other concerned works of community forest with the help of general rules.

4.3.5.2 Objectives of the BPCFUG

Badahare Patal Forest User Group has set two types of objectives i.e. long term and short term for the sustainable use of forest and its users.

Long term objectives

1. To utilize forest with the scientific management process
2. To help rural development with improvement of beautiful environment
3. To improve social and economic condition of forest user group with income generation activities
4. To supply forest product easily and continuously on sustainable way
5. To help for reduction of rural poverty
6. To protect biological diversity on a sustainable basis.

Short term objectives

1. To conserve the forest product on sustainable way
2. To protect the forest with proper management
3. To protect the lives of wild animals
4. To distribute the forest products equally to user groups
5. To reforestation in barren places and remove unnecessary species from dense places.

For the fulfillment of above objective, it is consider taking advice or suggestion from technician to gain full objectives by forest user group.

4.3.5.3 Protection Rules

Protection of forest is major task of community forestry program. Different rules are made in different community forest for the protection purpose. Forest user group of Badahare Patal community forest has divided into ten blocks for protection. Every user has been assigning to protection duty as a volunteer on a rotation basis. Additional manpower i.e. Heralu was kept on the basis of necessity. For the effective protection of forest, grazing is completely prohibited for two years in each block for improvement purpose. Each block has been controlled to fire, encroachment and smuggling of forest products. For the effective management of forest, there has been keeping forest symbol in each boarder area. If any work was done with illegally, S/he should be paid certain amount of money or in kinds to forest user group with in seven days. All forest user members are responsible to control fire hazard if happen. Wild animals and birds of the forest are strictly prohibited to hunt.

4.3.5.4 Offences & Penalties Rules

FUG has made some norms and rules regarding forest management & protection; posed penalties for any person who violets the rule. Constitution has not given permission to enter the forest without notice. S/he should get penalties in accordance with his/her nature of crimes. There are different rate of fines for separate penalties are mentioned in the table below.

Table No 4.6: The Rate of Fines for the violation of Rules and Penalties of BPCF (I-attempt)

S.N.	Offence Items	Unit	Penalties (Rs.)
1.	Sal	Q. ft	250.00
2.	Chilaune, Katus	Q.ft	150.00
3.	Others	Q.ft	100.00
4.	Green firewood	Bhari	25.00
5.	Grass cutting	Bhari	10.00
6.	Foilage (except Sal)	Bhari	50.00
7.	Plough	Piece	200.00
8.	Harish	Piece	50.00
9.	Danda, Bhata	Piece	25.00
10.	Miya, Jhikra	Piece	100.00
11.	Balla balli, Khanba	Piece	200.00
12.	Fire hazards	Ropani	1000.00
13.	Encroachment of land	Ropani	2000.00
14.	Absent to forest mgmt.	Person	75.00
15.	Grazing	Cattle	As decision on committee.

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Note: 1 Bhari is equal to 35 Kg.

- ❖ Except stated above crimes, offender get punishment on decision by user committee. In I-attempt, offender should attempt their fines with in 7 days to FUG committee. If they will repeat the crime again and again, they punished automatically double for II-attempt and tribal for III-attempt.
- ❖ Rewarded as 25 Percent tip-off pay for the person who give truth evidence and right information of total amounts about violating the rules of Forest User Group Committee (FUGC).
- ❖ Offender should double punishment if S/he is not right member of forest user group.
- ❖ Absent of any member in any assemblies without any proper information, they should punished as decision on committee.

4.3.5.5 Rules of Distributing of Forest Products

The extra forest products such as green fire wood, fodder, dry fire wood etc are equally distributed in nominal price to those needy consumers set by FUGC during the process of forest management. These products are extracted without affecting the sustainability of forest. Extra forest products than the need of Badahare Patal forest user group were sold to outside (whole Nepal) with private tender ship process and increasing prices with out decreasing the minimum rate of tax defined by Government of Nepal. The following table shows the different products are selling in nominal prices with in group.

Table No. 4.7: Nominal Price for different Forest Products

S.N.	Forest products	Unit	Penalties (Rs.)
1.	Sal	Q. ft	25.00
2.	Chilaune, Katus	Q.ft	10.00
3.	Others	Q.ft	10.00
4.	Green firewood	Bhari	1.00
5.	Grass cutting	Bhari	1.00
6.	Plough	Piece	10.00
7.	Harish	Piece	20.00
8.	Satha, Bhata & Ghochha	Piece	2.00
10.	Balla balli, Khamo	Piece	10.00
11.	Dry firewood		Free
12.	Foilage (Sal)		Prohibited for cutting
13.	Religious & natural disaster		Free up to 50 Q.ft. timber

Source: Field Survey, 2008

FUG committee has decided to provide timber or other forest products for public working via marriage, funeral works, religious activities etc. New people, who are migrated from other places, get a membership card if s/he pay entrance fee decided by committee/Assemblies. Now this fee set 1000/- per household for new membership. Except above Rules of distributing of forest products for other usages forest product could be extracted without affecting the sustainability of forest, taken suggestion & advice with technical personal. This topic was discussed into FUGC and sends it to DFO for approval. After arriving approval letter, the process is forwarded.

Above stated rules and regulation could be changed by two -third present members. This information is send to Range post and DFO. Timber and wood can be extracted from Mangsir to Magh per year during forest management process. Essential timber and fire wood is provide free of cost to poor families. Written application should be submitted to forest user committee to get such benefit. FUGC has set to decide the rules & rate for other Kha category member.

CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND FOREST RESOURCES AVAILABILITY

This chapter begins with socio-economic analysis and forest resources availability. The socio-economic characters provide general characters of the sampled respondents, caste/ethnicity, age/sex composition, land ownership, agriculture production and food sufficiency, livestock holding and occupational structure of the sampled respondents. Sources & availability of forest products starts with availability of fuel wood, availability of timber, forest products' collection process, price of forest product, availability of NTFPs & agricultural implementations, availability of wild life and awareness regarding environmental quality.

5.1 General Characters of the Sampled Respondents

The respondent households are considered as a prime information center on which this research basically depends for drawing conclusion. Some social and economic activities of the respondents were examined to discuss the social characteristics of forest user group using 29 randomly selected respondent households.

Table 5.1: Composition of Respondent According to Socio-economic Stratification

S.N.	Strata	No. of Hhs	Percentage Shared
1.	Rich	5	17.24
2.	Medium	12	41.38
3.	Poor	12	41.38
Total		29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Out of the total respondents (29), Poor and medium both strata comprises 41.38 percent and rich shared only 17.24 percent.

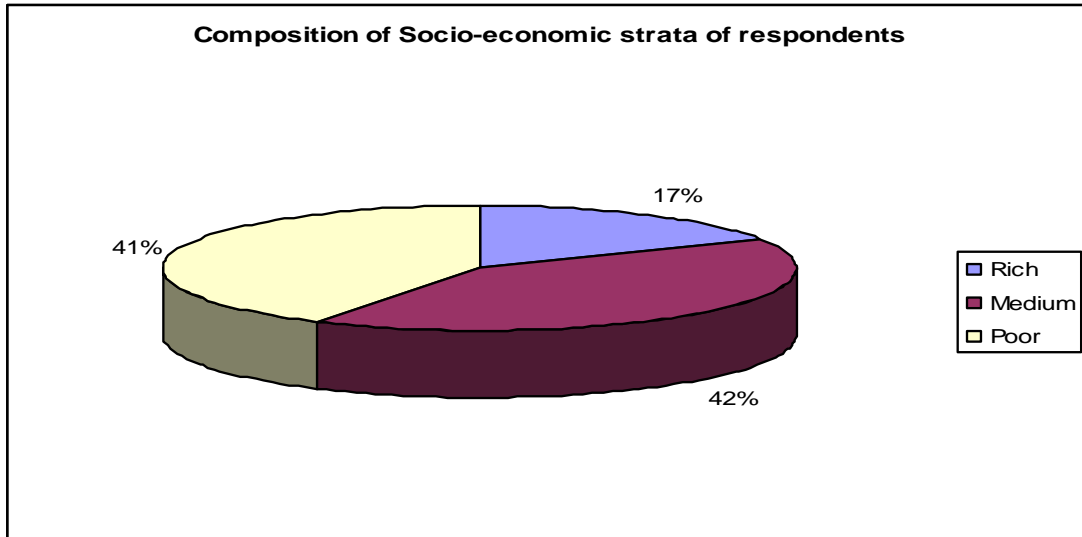


Fig 5.1: Socio-economic Strata of Sampled Respondents

5.2 Distribution of Caste/Ethnicity of Sampled Respondents

Badahare Patal Community Forest User Group has 94 households and the total population of FUG is 672. These households are the primary users of the forest. The FUG is combined by different caste/ethnic composition. The cast/ethnic composition of the sampled households of the FUG is presented in the figure below:

Table 5.2: Distribution of Caste/Ethnicity of Sampled Respondents

S.N.	Ethnic Composition	No. of HHs	Users	Percentage
1	Brahmin	17	118	59.3
2	Chhetri	1	11	5.53
3	Damai	1	6	3.02
4	Kami	3	25	12.56
5	Sarki	3	14	7.04
6	Sunar	3	20	10.05
7	Newar	1	5	2.5
Total		29	199	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above figure shows that Among the 29 sampled respondents, 59.3 percent are Brahmin, 5.53 percent are Chhetri, 12.56 percent are Kami, 7.04 percent are Sarki, and 10.05 percent are Sunar and 2.5 percent are Newar.

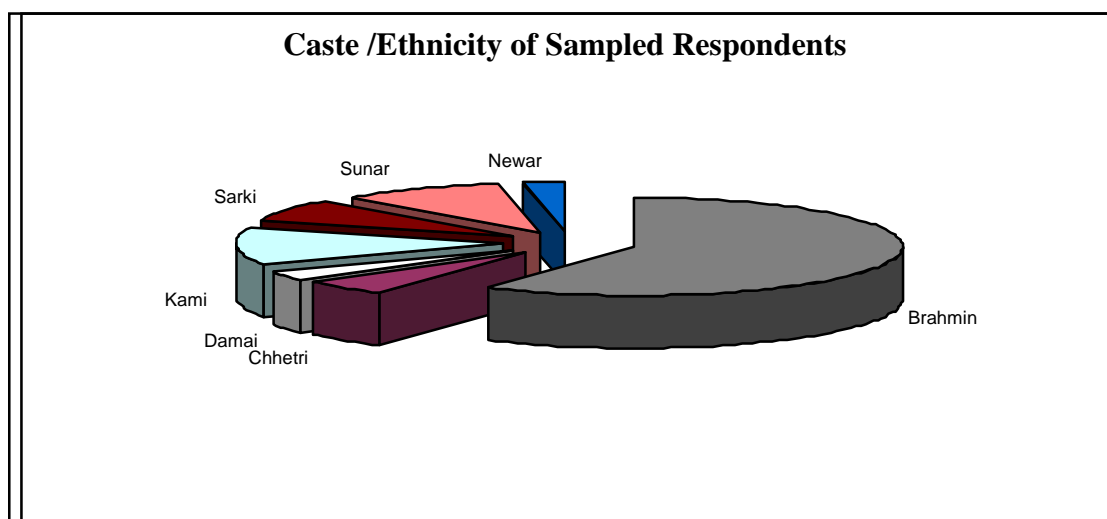


Fig 5.2: Ethnic Group Composition of Sampled Respondents

5.3 Age-sex Composition of Sampled Respondents

Age and sex status are major characteristics of population which directly affect its economic activities. Therefore, ecologists argue that adoption of population is affected by such characteristics and sex structure of the population is directly connected with the activities of resource activities of resource exploitation. The age and sex composition of the studied household respondents is shown in the table below.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Sampled Respondents According to Age & Sex

S.N.	Age group	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
1	0-14	1	3.75	-	-	1	3.45
2	15-39	8	27.59	7	24.14	15	51.73
3	40-59	3	10.34	6	20.69	9	31.03
4	60 & above	4	13.79	-	-	4	15.79
Total		16	55.17	13	44.83	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Generally, population between the ages of 15-59 is considered economic active population in Nepal. It means below 15 and above 60 aged group is considered dependent population. But in the study area, the population of the age above 60 is found actively participation in forest management and agricultural activities in the study area. 10-14 years old children provides crucial assistance to their parents. They begin helping their parents with domestic tasks (carrying water, gathering fodder, clothing, cooking caring of cattle, cleaning houses, collecting firewood etc) as well as agricultural tasks (carrying manure to the fields, transplanting paddy & millet, weeding of maize, ploughing, thrashing etc). It indicates that more than 80 Percent of the total population is economically active in the studied area. In the study area, the death rate is higher than the birth rate.

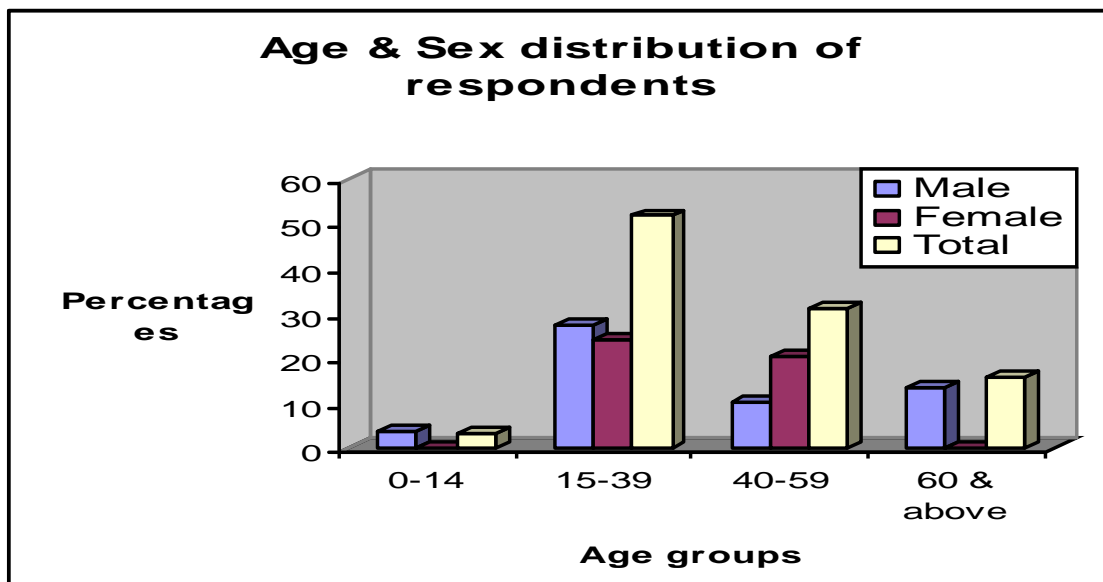


Fig 5.3: Age & Sex Composition of Sampled Respondents

5.4 Educational Status of Sampled Respondents

Education is the ingredient factor of socio-cultural and economic changes in the society. Any development programme depends upon education for successful implementation. And CF programme is the same. This study revealed that the poor and disadvantaged groups in the study area were not fascinated by the modern education through there are secondary school accessible to the villagers. However, the poor and Dalits are not conscious about education. It

was found that in the study area; most of the population is limited only to the primary education. Most of the students quit their study and leave the school before completing secondary school. It was because of their household miseries due to poverty. Another cause is that the people above the age of 10 are actively engaged in agricultural works, wage labor and whatever they find and can do for their hand to mouth problem.

Considering the importance of the study, it is better to show the educational status of the sampled households on the basis of five main categories.

The following table reveals that educational status of the respondent was seen not satisfactory. Most of the female respondents are illiterate comparison to the male users.

Table 5.4: Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Educational Status

S.N.	Level of education	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
1	Illiterate	2	6.9	3	10.34	5	17.24
2	Literate (Upto 10 classes)	2	6.9	2	6.9	4	13.8
3	SLC	5	17.24	3	10.34	8	27.58
4	Intermediate and above	5	17.24	2	6.9	7	24.14
5	Literate but no attended school	2	6.9	3	10.34	5	17.24
Total		16	55.17	13	44.83	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

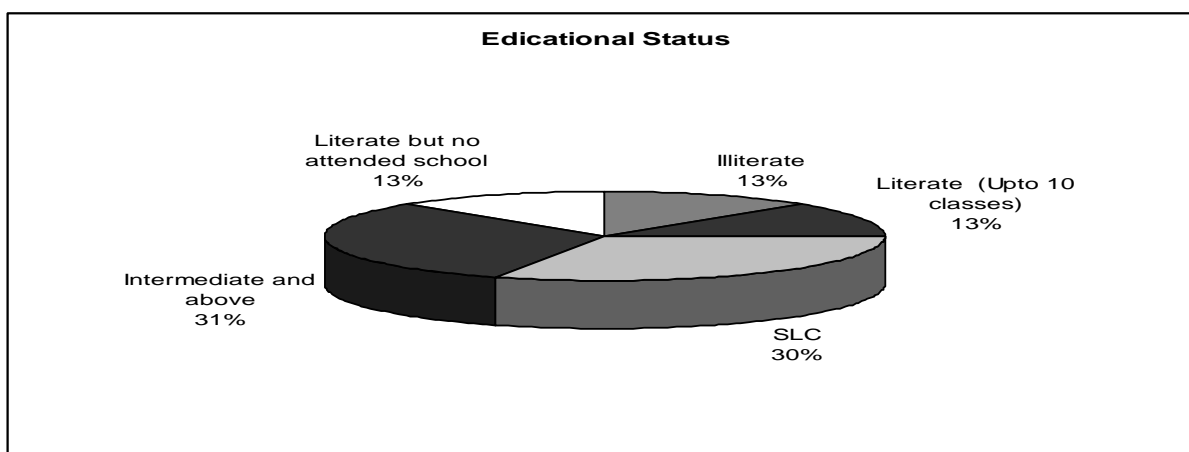


Fig 5.4: Educational Status of Sampled Respondents

5.5 Economic Activities

Land ownership, livestock holding capacity, agricultural production, food sufficiency and occupation of the Forest User Group were surveyed and examined. The details of these activities are briefly in the following section.

5.5.1 Land Ownership

The possession of land shows both social and prestige and source of wealth. Land, as for other rural inhabitants of Nepal, is the main source of livelihood of CFUG people. The land of Badahare Patal has been characterized into Khet and Bari by the land reform Act 1964.

In Nepal, land has traditionally been considered to be the property of the state (Regmi, 1999). However, there are two types of land: Raikar and Guthi. Raikar land belongs to state and Guthi to the temples, schools, hospitals, tanks, ponds, water poutes, wells, Bathing Ghatta, roadside shelters and the like (Regmi, 1999). In the study area, only Raikar land is found. The farmers have been cultivating such land with in the limited requirements of the state. Therefore, the farmers have to pay taxes to the state annually. Raikar land is divided into four categories: Abbal, Doyam, Sim & Chahar on the basis of their productivity. All four types of land are found in Bahahare Patal CFUG. The land tenure system is still in practices. Land in this area is measured in Ropani and major production is measured in Muri as in the other hilly region of Nepal.

In the study area, large portion of the cultivated land is not irrigated land farming is generally done under rain fed condition. The land in the study site could be classified in three broad categories;

- ❖ The land in which wet rice is cultivated (either irrigated or rain fed) is called Khet.
- ❖ The land where is no irrigation facility and cultivation is done under rain fed condition is called Bari or Pakho.
- ❖ The upland which is uncultivated is called Kharbari.

On the basis of land structure and texture, the nature of soil varies from place to place. Generally, the soil of Badahare Patal is Doham and Sim in character and brown in color. The following table shows the size of land of sampled households.

Table 5.5: Distribution of Sample Respondents by the size of Land Holding

S.N.	Land holding Ropani	Land type			
		Khet	Bari	Kharbari	Pasture
1.	landless	2	-	9	20
2.	up to 5	5	25	16	8
3.	6-10	12	4	1	1
4.	11-15	5	-	1	-
5.	16 and above	2	-	2	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.5.2 Agriculture Production and Food Sufficiency

Main agricultural productions are rice, millet, maize, potatoes and green vegetables in the settlement of Bahahare Patal User Group. Potatoes and green vegetables are produced as cash crop. Brahmin and Chhetri have extended their services in different organizations.

Generally, females of household involved in the agricultural work and males were mostly involved in government and non-government sector service. Only 3 percent households of Brahmin are completely dependent in agriculture that has sufficient production for their livelihood. They have small family size and sufficient land for themselves.

It was observed by the researcher that most of the households fall under the food deficiency, only 7-10 Percent households produce sufficient food for their annual requirement. Among 90 percent food deficiency households, 50 percent households produce food for only six months. The household who can not produce sufficient foods do wage labor for their subsistence.

The following table shows the production pattern of agriculture in BPCFUG.

Table 5.6: Distribution of Sampled Respondents based on Agricultural Crop Production

S.N.	Agricultural Production (Muri)	Rice	Maize	Millet	Cash crops
1.	zero production	2	-	5	-
2.	1-3	-	11	22	13
3.	4-6	2	16	2	10
4.	7-9	2	2	-	3
5.	10-12	6	-	-	2
6.	13-15	6	-	-	1
7.	above 16	11	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.5.3 Distribution of Livestock Holding of the Sampled Respondents

According to the respondents and stakeholders, the livestock rearing pattern in the study area has been decreasing due to the lack of human source and bad effects of animal diseases. The main livestock reared by the sampled households are goat, buffalo, cow, ox and pig. The purpose for rearing these animals are for getting fertilizer, milk, meat, plough land and other income generating activities. The major livestock reared by the sampled Households is given in the table below:

Table 5.7: Livestock Holding of the Sampled Households

Types of Livestock	Number	Average	Percentage
Buffalo	48	1.66	11.08
Cow /Oxen	42	1.45	9.7
Goat	131	4.52	30.25
Pig	58	2	13.4
Poultry	154	5.31	35.57
Total	433	2.99	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that the share of the Goat is higher than other in the total livestock holding. It occupies 30.25 percent of the total livestock. Likewise, in the total livestock, the share of Cow/Oxen is 9.7 percent, Buffalo are 11.08 percent and Pig is 13.4 percent.

5.5.3 Occupational Structure of the Sampled Respondents

Livelihood of the users is mainly based on subsistence of the agricultural production. However, only agricultural production is not sufficient for their livelihood. Brahmin, Chhetri and Newar Community extended their occupation in the services of government and non-governmental organization. Some female respondents are also engaged in the government school as a teacher. Newar communities are involved in small business besides agriculture. Now the young generation of male people is going aboard in search of better job. Occupational distribution of sampled households is shown in following table.

Table 5.8: Distribution of Occupational Structure of the Sampled Respondents

S.N.	Occupation	Household No.	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	9	31.03
2.	Service	6	20.69
3.	Business	2	6.9
4.	Wage labor	6	20.69
5.	Student	4	13.79
6.	Occupational Job	2	6.9
Total		29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Like the respondents occupation, agriculture is also the main occupation of the sampled population. According to the field survey, 31.03 per cent of the total people's main occupation is agriculture, 20.69 per cent are engaged in different types of services (government and private service), 6.9 per cent have their own business, 13.79 per cent are studying in school and college (but they are also helped to their family), 20.69 per cent are wage labor and 6.9 per cent are engaged in different types of works.

5.6 Sources & Availability of Forest Products

Local people had no or little influence on access to and control over forest resources before hand over to local communities. The forests at that time were national forests where both land ownership and management control over held by the nation. However, some patches of forest were locally protected on their own initiative local people were collecting forest products for

fulfilling their basic needs and the forest were a means of livelihood for many poor families. After formally hand over, the restrictions imposed upon use severally impacted on the resources availability and livelihoods of those people who have no alternatives to fulfill the needs by other means. The Dalit families were faced more scarcity of the resources than other families (Khatri, 2004).

5.6.1 Availably of Fuel wood

Fuel wood was the main source of energy used by the most of the respondents for cooking and heating. CF are the main sources of fuel wood besides that some respondents are fulfilling their needs by residue of foliage. The consumption of fuel wood was decreasing day by day because CF help to promote on building of biogas plant which is environmentally clean and free from health hazards. Before the CF handed over to local people, they were going to collect fuel wood far from their houses leaving small children at home. It takes to collects one Bhari fuel wood for three hours. But, after implantation of CF, the quality of timber has been increasing and people get their necessities with in 20 minutes distance from their house. It is the remarkable position indicator for providing fuel wood by community forest.

Perception about availability of fuel wood to the respondent was assessed under the subtopic "fuel wood is more sufficiently available after CF". The majority of respondents agree with high degree of assurance. Each and every household was allowed to collect, deal and dry fuel wood at any time without using any harvesting tools.

Table 5.9: Perception of the Respondents on the Statement "Fuel wood is more sufficiently available after CF".

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree		←—————→ St. disagree		
		1	2	3	4	5
Fuel wood is more sufficiently available after CF	Male	31.25	25	37.5	-	6.25
	Female	30.78	23.07	46.15	-	-
	Average	31.02	24.04	41.83	-	3.13

Source: Field Survey, 2008

On average, the perceptions of respondent trend were slightly different. Most of the respondent's agree with the statement on neutral position then after 31.02 percent respondents agree with strongly agreed position.

5.6.2 Availability of timber

Timber is demanded for the construction of houses, public works such as temples, schools and animal sheds and upgraded above of all. So, the amount of annual consumption varied year by year. The average Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of this community forest is Sal 3014.99 Q.ft., Chilaune 330.04 Q.ft., and Katus 313.35 Q.ft. The Total Growing Stock (TGS) of timber of study area were found Sal 10537.78 m³, Chilaune 1021.66 m³, Katus 675.01 m³ and others 732.67 m³ (OP of BPCFUG, 2008).

However the perceptions of respondents were assessed under the sub-hypothesis "timber is more sufficiently available than before".

Table 5.10: Perception of the Respondents on the Statement "Timber is more sufficiently available than before".

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree	←————→			St. disagree
		1	2	3	4	5
Timber is more sufficiently available than before	Male	50	43.5	12.5	-	-
	Female	23.07	46.15	30.77	-	-
	Average	36.54	44.83	21.64	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Most of the respondents were accept on neutral with this statement. One of the respondents charge their committee members that they were cut down each and every year but we are not seen utilize these timber in their home. Where are going this timber?

Availability of other forest products such as fodder, green and thatching grass and their quality, collection process and time for the collection of these materials were analyzed with

the information given by respondents in the study area. Although the price of each commodities has fixed very nominal price to its members, but the CFUG members were carrying these material free of cost. The following table reveals the clear aspect of respondents relating these with commodities.

Table 5.11: Perception of Respondents to Other Forest Products

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree ←————→ St. disagree				
		1	2	3	4	5
Fodder is more sufficiently available from the forest now.	Male	31.25	37.25	18.75	12.5	-
	Female	30.77	46.15	23.07	-	-
	Average	31.01	41.7	21.23	6.25	-
Green and thatching grass is more sufficiently available	Male	25	25	18.5	25	6.25
	Female	23.07	30.77	30.77	7.69	7.69
	Average	24.04	27.89	24.64	16.35	6.97
Quality of fodder has improved	Male	6.25	37.5	37.5	18.75	-
	Female	38.46	30.77	7.69	23.07	-
	Average	20.36	34.14	22.6	20.91	-
Fodder collection process is easy	Male	31.25	6.25	50	12.5	-
	Female	15.38	46.15	30.77	7.69	-
	Average	23.32	26.2	40.39	10.1	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.6.3 Forest Products' Collection Process

The perception of the respondents of the forest products collection processes was assessed in terms of differences in case and time spent in the collection of products after the implementation of CF.

Table 5.12: Perception of the Respondents on the Statement "Forest Products' Collection Processes".

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree	←————→			St. disagree
		1	2	3	4	5
The collection of forest product is less time consuming than before	Male	6.25	18.75	31.25	31.25	12.05
	Female	15.38	30.77	30.77	15.38	7.69
	Average	10.82	24.76	31.01	23.32	9.87
The process of forest product collection is easier after CF	Male	12.5	37.5	25	18.75	6.25
	Female	23.07	30.77	30.77	15.38	-
	Average	17.79	34.14	27.89	17.07	3.13

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.6.4 Price of Forest Product

According to CF operational plan and legislation, CFUGs have the right to decide the prices of their forest products. That is why the prices fixed by CFUGs varies. Bedding material fodder and fuel wood were distributed free of cost in all users after paying nominal charges. The majority of the users did not accept the prices fixed for forest product. The following table shows the perception of the users with the statement "price of forest product is more reasonable now".

Table 5.13: Perception of the Respondents on "Price of Forest Products is more reasonable now"

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree	←————→			St. disagree
		1	2	3	4	5
Price of forest product is more reasonable now	Male	25	31.5	18.75	6.25	18.75
	Female	7.69	30.77	38.46	7.69	15.38
	Average	16.35	31.14	28.61	6.97	17.07

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.6.5 Availability of NTFPs and Agricultural Implementations

NTFPs are natural forest resources, which refers to natural capital and natural assets. NTFP constitute an important source of livelihood particularly for the mountain people of Nepal as well as a potential source of natural economy. Informal discussions were adopted to acquire information regarding problem, prospects, planning and future improvement of NTFPs. DFO suggested that we are currently working to explore the species and amount of NTFPs with I/N/Gos in forest sector.

Many respondents said the local name of the species of NTFPs and its usages. One of the respondents said that:

Box 5.1: Awareness regarding NTFPs

I am Neupane Sita Devi, live on this place since my marriage. Before handed over CF to people, we are regularly going to search of Gurjo and Seto Jara for the medicinal purposes near the beds of Handikhola. We are making dust of these materials and used over to rural women. We are experimented over three women's to rescue the unwanted birth of baby. We are success to this field. Here we found many more spices of the non timber forest product if we could do research in this filed by the same experts. We increase the income of forest user group by selling these products.

Forest is the source of timber for making agricultural implements. Basically agriculture implements such as plough, handles, leveling tools, poles and pegs were fully or partially based on forest products. These products are more demanded by the local people because most of the respondent's households are engaged in agricultural activities. The following table shows that the perception about NTFPs and agricultural implements.

Table 5.14: Perception of the Respondents on "NTFPs and Agricultural Implements".

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree	←————→			St. disagree
		1	2	3	4	5
NTFPs products are more sufficiently now	Male	25	6.25	25	37.5	6.25
	Female	15.38	-	53.85	-	30.77
	Average	20.19	3.13	39.43	18.75	18.51
Agricultural implements are more sufficiently available	Male	25	31.25	31.25	12.5	-
	Female	23.07	46.15	30.77	-	-
	Average	24.04	38.7	31.01	6.25	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table reveal that the most of the respondent were in neutral with the statement NTFPs products are more sufficiently now and in the second case they are agreed with the statement to available of agricultural implements more easily.

5.6.4 Availability of Wild Life

Community forest management is improved and forest has been dense, automatically the availability of wild animals has increased and their movement has been clearly seen. Thus, it is important to know the wild life movement and their availability in the forest area and surroundings.

Table 5.15: Perception of the Respondents on "Population of Wild Animals has increased"

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree	←————→			St. disagree
		1	2	3	4	5
Population of wild animals has increased	Male	81.25	6.25	-	-	12.5
	Female	92.31	7.69	-	-	-
	Average	86.78	6.97	-	-	6.25

Source: Field Survey, 2008

In the study area, 86.78 percent respondents were strongly agreed with this statement "Population of wild animals has increased". Only 12.5 percent male respondents are strongly disagreeing to the statement. While discussing the issue during informal discussion in Badahare Patal CF, one respondent said:

Box 5.2: Effect on livelihood by Wild Animals

I am Chandrabati Poudel live in this village is one of the member of this FUG. Before CF, I could not see any wild animals moving around our houses. They all were limited to the forest but now we are greatly suffering from dangerous wild animals and their movement has increased day by day. It was being very problem to protect livestock from them. She said that I have lost four goat equivalents to Rs.15, 000 which were killed by tiger with in two months. She added romantically why this tiger killed not other family's goat? This tiger must know my livestock and again the same tiger will come to kill my goat. She requested sincerely to protect them by any solution.

5.6.7 Awareness regarding Environmental Quality

Community Forestry is one of the major elements for the clean and healthy environment. If the management of CF are divided on the basis of the science & technology, many environmental hazards and problems were automatically solved. Man's activities has always subject for decreasing the quality of forest. CF has helps to keep free from landslide and floods which are the natural hazards over human beings. Thus, CF maintains productivity of land by cleaning health environment to plants.

Table 5.16: Perception of the Respondents on "Awareness regarding Environment Quality"

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree		St. disagree		
		1	2	3	4	5
Environmental quality has been maintained due to CF	Male	75	25	-	-	-
	Female	76.92	23.07	-	-	-
	Average	75.96	24.04	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table reveals that most of the respondent highly agreed on first statement. No respondent give answer with the negative attitude. About 75.96 percent were respondent were highly agreed to above statement.

CHAPTER SIX

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION, FACTORS AFFECTING IT AND LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FROM COMMUNITY FOREST

The closest synonym of people's participation is popular participation. Various resolutions of UN bodies have identified mass sharing of benefits of development, mass contribution to development and mass involvement in the decision making process of development as the three basic ingredients of popular participation (Lohani, 1978).

The main key fact for good participation is the consensus of the members or participation in their plan or work through discussion, listening to others, views and taking responsibility on the work. Interaction and discussion are the only way of success of any work so the members of the follow this way strictly. If some body manages mass discussion, that can't be said participation. Good participation can be made only with sharing of its output indiscriminately among the participation. If it is shown in practice the good participation among the participators are possible (Khanal, 2005).

6.1 Participation in Decision Making

In Badahare Patal Community Forest, FUG makes decision through group assembly or committee meeting. Meeting of group or Committee relied on the issue to be decided. Committee members decide minor issues whereas group decides major issues.

The Chairperson and secretary call every group meeting & committee meeting. It is mandatory that, all the members of the committee should be present in the committee meeting while one member from one household should represent in the group meeting. The member of the forest user group is a household, but not an individual. So the household decides which of its member should represent the household at the group meeting. Both meetings need more than half representative to decide any decisions.

Every decision is carried out by consensus. Every member has a right to keep his/her opinion regarding each case. People's participation in decision-making is known by asking their representation in meeting and asking some questions to access their active participation. For institutional development, the process of decision-making makes great differences whether this institution really could run or not. Group meeting and committee meeting are means of decision making, which are discussed below:

Committee Meeting:

Generally, Committee Meeting (CM) is held regularly once in a month, if members feel a meeting is held more than regular meeting. When a meeting is called, it is usually the secretary or the chairperson who informs other members. Usually meeting is called first Saturday of every month or other holiday. After gathering members recommend agenda for discussions participation rate of the committee member is found four to forty-nine members per meetings. FUC has enough authority to make decision with regard to community forest user group possess such as what sort of seedlings to be planted, which members would participate in different trainings, tours and workshops. Therefore there should be representation from all interest group.

In the fresh committee, there is highly representation from Brahmin Community. Although, women are regularly attending the committee meeting, they told that they have never taken any decision favor with the subject of themselves. They are speaking a lot but educated and experiences members make a final decision of a meeting. The researcher chances to participate to committee meeting, as a CFUG member, seen the process of that meeting. This meeting was ended with the decision that all BPCFUG members will get black coil and meter box from the fund of this community forestry.

In committee meeting, no female user was participating except member. So, there is very poor participation of woman in decision making process and implementation of forest related activities. The following table deals general trend of participant in the committee meeting during two years before.

Table 6.1: Total Participants in Committee Meeting

Year	Sex	Month												
		B	J	A	S	Bh	As	K	M	P	Ma	F	C	
2063	Male	8	12	-	4	7	-	17	-	8	13	50	11	
	Female	1	3	-	0	2	-	3	-	1	2	15	2	
	Total	9	15	-	4	9	-	20	-	9	15	65*	13	
2064	Male	61	25	3	9	10	22	8	50	9	8	16	4	
	Female	37	8	1	4	2	6	2	20	7	3	5	4	
	Total	98*	33 ⁺	4	13	12	28 ⁺	10	70 ⁺	16	11	21 ⁺	8	
2065	Male	12	21	-	10									
	Female	11	8	-	4									
	Total	33 ⁺	29 ⁺	-	14									

Source: FUG Record, 2065

Note:

+ Committee meeting was held two times in one month.

* Committee meeting was held three times in one month.

B = Baisakh, J = Jestha, A = Ashad, S = Shrawn and so on.

The general trend of the CFUC before decision making process was much discussed in the subject matter to pass one agenda. This will take more than two meeting for same agenda by priority work plan.

Group Meeting/ Group Assembly

Group Meeting and Group Assembly (GA) is called when the user committee feels its necessity. Generally assembly of group is held at least twice in a year. At least 50 Percent members must be present to pass a decision. Every member has the right to keep his/her own opinion in each agenda during group meeting.

Every year users evaluated their progress through group assembly. Committee presents a progress report at that time. User member can raise question on different issues of report, if they like. Every five years, the FUG should prepare operational plan or revise. The user

group members actively participated and gave suggestion, added some points and changed during the discussion period. The decision was taken by the consensus of the user members.

Due to untrained forest user group, BPFUGC has been unchanged many times by group meeting or without any research who acts transparent activities towards any works. The committee members will be formed based on education, leadership and attitude of membership and also considered gender participation. From record it was found that the participant of female is less in comparison to male participation.

The following table shows the total no of participants of households in a group meeting/group assembly with in last two years.

Table 6.2: General Trend of Participation in GA

Date	Male	Female	Total
2063-04-09	47	23	70
2063-10-20	75	24	99
2064-03-16	61	22	83
2064-04-09	36	19	55
2064-08-22	43	17	60
2064-11-11	40	43	83
2065-03-12	20	22	42

Source: FUG Record, 2065

6.2 Participation in implementation

Implementation is the real practices of operational plan, constitution and other decisions made by user group. It is the main responsibility of User Committee to implement all decisions and OP with the full participation of users. Forest user is to be involved in implementation CFP. Protection, management and benefit sharing are major implementation activities of CF. There is no meaning of decision-making unless it has not to be reflected in positive & supportive action by all users.

In BPFUG, participation in implementation activities are protection of forest; implementation of management operation and benefit sharing. In the study, participation in implementation is

categorized in three levels. Users who take participate more than two third activities are categorized in high participation. Who participating more than half activities to two third activities are categorized in moderate participation and at last who participating less than half are categorized in less participation.

6.2.1 Participation in Protection of Forest

Yet BPFUG has not appointed paid watcher for the protection of forest but they protect forest by volunteer guarding on the regular rotational basis. It was found that there was all household participating in guarding in protection of forest. The following table shows participation respondents in protection of forest.

Table 6.3: Participation Level of Respondents in Protection of Forest

S.N.	Caste/Ethnic Group	Sex	Participation level				Total
			High	Moderate	Less	Never	
1	Brahmin	Male	2	4	4	-	10
		Female	3	2	2	-	7
2	Chhetri	Male	-	1	-	-	1
		Female	-	-	-	-	-
3	Damai	Male	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	1	-	-	1
4	Kami	Male	-	1	-	-	1
		Female	1	1	-	-	2
5	Sarki	Male	1	-	-	-	1
		Female	1	1	-	-	2
6	Sunar	Male	1	1	1	-	3
		Female	-	-	-	-	-
7	Newar	Male	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	1	1
Total			9	12	7	1	29

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table describes there is less participation of female than male in protection of forest. According to one female respondent, they have to engage in household were and cannot make time for guarding them. On their own words they are protecting forest going one person from east direction and another person from west direction, meet at Baguwako Tundo. In the returned time, they changed their way with each other.

6.2.2 Participation in Forest Management Activities

Forest management is the scientific operation that is applied in forest. Forest management includes plantations, thinning and pruning, cleaning of bushes and fire line construction inside the forest area. It needs technical knowledge for the forest management. Therefore, management operation needs technical assistance from DFO. But, there is always need to take initiation from forest user group. Ranger of related Ranger Post of the area has been providing such assistance for Badahare Patal Community Forestry.

For the plantation of seedlings, BPFUG established one temporary nursery in the field. It helped him for income generation to some extend. Every year they carry out thinning, pruning and cleaning operation in the forest. For the forest management they have divided forest area into ten blocks and given separately name. Every year one block is considered for the application of management operation on the rotational basis.

Forest management needs physical exercise, so there is high participation of male compared to women. Women were participating in cleaning and thinning where as male is participating in pruning and transportation of extracted material from forest to own houses during forest management. According to one respondent lack of sufficient knowledge of forest management, they are not getting expected out put in the forest management. However, most of the users have participated in carrying out management activities to some extend. Thus, it could be said that there is good participation. The perception of the respondents of the women participation was assessed in term of statement "women are to be encouraged to participate in community forestry activities," most of the respond agreed with this statement. The following table shows exact perception.

Table 6.4: Perception of the Respondents on "Women are to be encouraged to participate in Community Forestry Activities"

Statement	Sex	Scale in Percent				
		St. agree	←————→			St. disagree
		1	2	3	4	5
Women are to be encouraged to participate in CF activities	Male	25	50	25	-	-
	Female	46.15	53.85		-	-
	Average	35.58	51.9	12.5	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2008

6.3 People's Involvement in Benefit Sharing

Benefit sharing is an important element of people's participation. If there is no equal sharing of forest products, people may be frustrated with the CF programme. Equal sharing of forest products may make user's to realize the CF as their own. Some common issues of benefit such as forest products sharing, opportunities to participate in training and utilize the benefits to be available from social activities launched from the income of community forest are analyzed in the study.

The members of BPCFUG were asked whether they share the benefits from the Community forest equally or not and they are satisfied with the present condition of distribution system or not. It was found that benefit is shared equally on household basis. A detail of people's involvement in benefit sharing process is described below:

a) Forest product sharing- After the establishment of CF, women of the study area are benefited remarkably. According to the respondents, almost of the forest related work like fuel wood and fodder collection have to perform by women. Before establishment of CF they had to walk far for this purpose. But, now the forest products are easy to get comparing to a decade ago.

Users were found mainly concerned with distribution of timber and non-timber forest products from CF. In the initial days due to limited production of timber the CFUG was found adopted

equal sharing of forest products to be available from the CF. According to the executive committee members, now users are getting timber as per need based, season based and cost based as determined by committee and forestry technicians.

The field survey found that the CFUG used to consider each household as unit of user and distribute forest products based on HH concept. Throughout the study, the researcher found that no gender based forest resources were distributing system in the study area.

b) Human Resource Development- Mainly the training, workshops and study tour were considered under the HRD activity. The younger and adult user was found very enthusiastic in HRD activities. However, elderly people were found not so interested to participate in training and visits.

It was found that planning, management and awareness related activities were conducted mainly by the Illaka forest office, Lamjung. The data reveals that there is dominance of male in such trainings. Researcher found various reasons behind low participation of female. Some of them are – lack of female representative in the executive committee, depends on range post, conduction of trainings without female consultation. Beside lack of awareness was also found among them which hinder them in their meaningful participation. Similarly, lack of earlier information, lack of confidence and lack of time are also some of the major obstacle.

During the study, it is found that Badahare Patal community forest user's group has conducted limited number of community development activities from the income of the community forest. Some of them are timber supporting program for school building, road construction within the community forest area, river bank protection and donation to victims of natural disaster.

Majority of respondent reported that both male and women are getting benefit for those social and community development activities. The researcher found that there is lack of special program targeted to people like skill development and income generating activities which supports them to become self-reliant.

There are some factors which are responsible for the active participation of people in Community Forestry Program. These factors are classified as:

- 1) Socio-economic factor,
- 2) Economic factor and
- 3) Other related factors

6.4 Socio-economic Factor

Social factors include age group, family size and structure, cultural practices, gender and social value and norms. How these social factors effecting in people participation of Badahare Patal Community Forest is briefly described in the following section.

6.4.1 Age

From field study, it is revealed that the respondents below the age of 20 years are young generation users who are mostly busy in their study. They have limited time to contribute in Community Forestry activities. They contribute their free time for Community Forestry activities. Most of the respondents with the age between 20-40 years are busy in their professional job and also contribute their free time in community forest activities. The respondents between 40-60 years are those who participate and contribution in community forestry is found higher than other age group users. Users above 65 years age are unable to contribute due to their physical weakness. Due to age factor, many old users left user committee. However, Forest user Committee has tried to integrate all age group people above 15 years. The elderly users are placed in the position of advisor.

6.4.2 Family Size

Family size is another responsible factor in participation. It was revealed from field study that respondents with larger family size are participation in most of the activities. Such households have managed to send one representative from their house. Sometimes small family sizes have faced problem in sending their representative from their household during Community Forestry activities as they are occupied in their own jobs. Especially, there is high influence of family size in women's participation. Women of large family size household have to devote her time in preparing food and other inside housework. However, in the large family size where number of women is higher, well participation of women was found.

6.4.3 Gender

In Badahare Patal Community Forest, no gender discrimination was found in Community Forestry activities. Women are equally participating as they get free time from their housework. Although there is no restriction for women to participate actively in decision-making process, their participation was found not equal to male users in decision making but participation in implementation is good. Women users of Badahare Patal Community Forestry participated in training as well as study tour to other districts even though, as per Nepali culture there is hesitation to allow women to travel without their family member far from their house.

6.4.4 Caste and Ethnic Group

Culturally and religiously, user group of Badahare Patal Community Forest is a homogenous group. All users are Hindu but ethnically users are heterogeneous. Social values and religious belief on caste system are affecting in participation of users. Damai, Kami & Sarki are untouchable caste. Brahmin do not touch as well as eat food made by Damai, Kami & Sarki in Jita VDC. Other caste did not eat food provided by Damai, Kami and Sarki users. Even though, it is illegal in practicing caste discrimination based on the constitution on Nepal, still there is social/cultural practice of caste discrimination in Jita VDC. Such social norms are

inhibiting these disadvantage users to participate equally without any discrimination. According to the respondents, they set the criteria like education, free time, leading capacity and gender of the users during the selection of members of user committee. But they did not consider criteria for caste, ethnic group and disadvantaged group.

6.5 Economic Factor

Economic factor includes size of agriculture land, livestock and nature of occupation. Economic level within Brahmin community is more or less similar in Badahare Patal Community forest. They have no great difference in farm size and livestock number where as, Damai, Kami & Sarki Communities are less farmland and poor livestock. This factor is especially affecting on participation of Damai, Kami & Sarki in Community Forest.

Nature of occupation is also affecting on participation of users. Service holder respondent said that they have no time to involve in guarding of forest. However, they are participating on group meetings and assemblies, if activities are organized during leave days or holidays. They again argued that they are unable in participation as free members because of their job in government and non-government organizations.

Usually Damai, Kami and Sarki ethnic group work as a wage labor in VDC. They have no holiday and leave like others who work in government and non-government organizations. Therefore, they can not contribute their time even like service holder man; they have not managed to attend meeting and other activities of same day avoiding their work.

To avoid such difficulties, the Forest User Group Committee is making maximum effort for the high participation of user group in the meeting by calling it either in evening period or during holidays.

6.6 Other Related Factors

In researcher view, the other related factors consist of self-consciousness, government support proximity and participation in decision-making.

6.6.1 Self-Consciousness

Attitude, education, awareness and interest play important role in developing self-consciousness in a person. Most of the respondents are very much aware and have interest and positive attitude in community forestry work. Education factor is highly affecting in active participation in decision-making. Illiterate users who are participation in meeting do not raise their voice. Researcher asked them why they don't speak in the meeting and their response was that they are uneducated and don't know as educated. They think that decisions made by educated users are always good and thus support their decisions. Illiterate users participate during implementation as equally as literate users and is not affecting in implementation of any decision made.

In general, wealthy users are literate but poor and landless users (Damai, Kami, Sarki) are illiterate. For the illiterate users, it is difficult to hold the leadership position in Forest User Committee as the leaders should perform daily administrative activities of the committee (letter writing, keeping and reporting to higher officials), Literacy play a vital role as source of powers and privilege in rural context. The researcher asked question to the illiterate, poor and users with less land on "why don't they hold the position of the leader of user Committee?" Their reply was "We are poor, and illiterate, we have no knowledge and thus how to perform leader's responsibility. Due to this reason we select literate person in the position of the leader".

User who is self-conscious understands the importance of forest. Such user develops his or her time in protection and management of forest although they do not need forest product from the forest. Lack of self-consciousness was found in the five households because they have large farm size and are fulfilling their need of forest products from their own land. So, they are not

participating actively in community forestry activities. They should understand that they are getting indirect benefit from the community forest and it is not wise for them not to participate actively in the user group.

6.6.2 Government Support

Another importance factor that affects people's participation is government support. Government official are supporting Badahare Patal Forest User Group that has enhanced their participation. Forest user group organized one community forest management training themselves and request technical support (trainer) to District Forest Office. District Forest office provided such support.

According to the provision of forest Act 1993, there should be representation of women in one third seat of committee member and should encompasses all interest group from users. The Government Officials have failed to convince all ethnic groups to be in User Committee.

6.6.3 Participation in Decision Making

Participation in decision making is directly connected with the participation in benefit sharing and implementation of the decision made. The users, who are participating in decision making, their participation is implementation and benefit sharing seems good whereas, those participation is less during decision making lack in information. For an example, a woman respondent reported to the researcher that she was interested to participate in one of the community Forestry training program but she could not participate in the training as she was unable not involved in decision making. She was unhappy on the decision made by the user committee favoring their relatives. Thus, such practice makes her unhappy and even sometime she is unwilling to support committee activities but she has not made such decision yet.

6.6.4 Rule of Forest User Group

Forest User Group formulated the rules to smoothly operate community forest. The rule states that in every community forestry activities one representation from one household is

compulsory. There is no compulsion for every user. This rule is inhibiting in the participation of all users especially women users are more affected as most of the time male represent such meetings.

6.7 Changed Knowledge, Attitude and Skill

Community Forestry was launched in Jita VDC in 1996. During 12 years, users managed to learn and experience many things through the Badahre Patal Community Forestry Program. This Community Forestry also became effective to change attitude of users towards Community Forestry Program and Forest Officials. From the discussion researcher found changes in knowledge, attitude and skill of the users of Badahare Patal Community Forest.

6.7.1 Effectiveness of Group Work

Before the formation of user group, the condition of forest was very poor. At that time all the villagers had to travel three to four hours from their village for collecting firewood and fodder. At present they fulfill their need of firewood and fodder from Badahare Patal Community Forest. Now, they realized the effectiveness of their group work. They say, their group work made it possible to bring the forest near by their village. During the 10 years of experience in community forestry they fully realized on its importance. This realization has changed their positive attitude towards Community Forest Program. Most of the respondents define community forest as the forest management by the user group.

6.7.2 Importance of Forest

Before formation of forest user group, they were using forest products for their domestic need and they are using it even today. In past, they did not realize the importance of forest but now every user is fully aware in the importance of forest. They said, “if we use forest with protection and conservation, it supplies forest products regularly”. They understand that the forest gives not only forest products but also it helps to increase wild life and natural beauty of VDC. They say, having good forest means having increase in wildlife population which

ultimately attracts tourists to enjoy the natural beauty of the forest. They also know trees of the forest provide healthy air for them as well as around them and it helps in protecting from soil erosion and landslides during monsoon.

6.7.3 Importance of wildlife

Before community forestry was launched in 1996, the users of the forest had negative perception towards wildlife. But at present the perception of the user has changed and they take the wildlife as a beauty of their forest. The hunting is restricted in Badahare Patal Community Forestry.

6.7.4 Skill on Scientific Management

The government forest officials are helping to the user group on how to apply scientific management of forest as well as other community forestry activities, which have led to change the past negative attitude of the users towards official to positive attitude. The improved skill in the implementation of operational plan has increased their knowledge about scientific management of forest. Many of the users know cleaning, thinning, pruning and plantation. Some users may apply management operation without help of technician. Practice made them perfect.

6.7.5 Rules and Regulation of Forest Act

During the process of Community Forest, User Group became familiar with rules and regulation of Forest Act. They prepared constitution of user group and operational plan of forest following rules and regulation of Forest Act.

6.7.6 Training on Difficult Issues

Users have got opportunity to involve in Community Forestry related training and gathered knowledge in community forestry. Users gain knowledge in income generation, Community

forest management, resin tapping and medicinal plant production. Users were also involved in study tour. The know-how learning during the training program is shared among other users. Users planted some medicinal plants inside the forest using their knowledge and consulting related technician. They know the importance and economic value of medicinal plant. Now, they are planning to produce medicinal plant in large scale and increase user group fund, which can be used for the development activities in the village.

6.7.7 Self Identification of Problems

The Badahare Patal Community Forestry User Group managed to learn many things by doing. They made provision to discount in benefit sharing to those users who actively involved in community forest protection. They have also allocated prize money for those who identify thief (stealing of forest products) and inform User Committee.

User group felt more need of community forest management training to them. They organized such training themselves and requested a trainer from district forest office. For the effectiveness of Community Forest of whole VDC, they have taken initiative to form user Group Co-ordination within the VDC with the help of Ranger from the range post.

Community forests have multi-functions ranging from protection to production. It is one of the major resources directly affecting the survival of rural people. It serves services and products to rural livelihood and environment. CF fulfils subsistence needs of women, poor and backward people as well as commercial needs of well off people. The benefits providing to local communities and environment by community forest of Jita VDC range from protection of erosion to religious function to watershed stabilization to bio-diversity conservation to community developments to upliftment of socioeconomic condition. The development in this study is defined as all those perceived by the users. The study has demonstrated that there were significant changes taking place in forest condition following hand-over to FUGs. Total development achieved by local communities can be categorized into three major headings i.e Social, economic and ecological.

6.8 Social Development

It is strongly anticipated that CF if managed on a sustainable basis by local people, could offer various social development.

(i) Increased the status of FUGs users and poor

FUG, a legal body and functional unit of CF, manages its forest according to an OP that defines the use pattern and their needs. Principally FUGs are groups of people residing around forest vicinities that are entrusted to manage, converse, develop the forest resources and utilize the forest products (Dhungana, 2001). It is an autonomous institution and solely responsible for the management CFs (Shrestha, 1999). Executive committee is representative of users, responsible to accomplish the activities and authorities provided by the general assemblies of users (Upreti, 2000). The level of awareness, self-confidence and management skills of CFUGs are increasing because of various forest extension activities.

All users of community forest have equal right and responsibilities. Majority of the users in study area is suffering from poverty and deprivation. They are depending mainly on available community forests for their survival. The position of women and poor in the study area is subordinate due to socio-cultural structure of the society. Even within such environment, the status of women and poor people has been gradually improved due to efforts of community forests. Women and poor/backward people are increasingly involved in community forests management processes in Jita VDC.

Allocation of certain patches of community forests to rural poor for the cultivation of cash crops has been started in some part of Nepal (Upreti, 2000) but, there were no any special schemes and such initiatives for poor and backward people for increasing and promoting their livelihood opportunities in study area. The domination of elite and higher class and caste groups on CGUC formation, decision-making and forest resource distribution is still prevalent. CF management system is started to give priority for creation of a forest structure and silviculture system more suited and poor people do not have capacity to purchase sawn timber (traditionally they had been obtaining it, albeit illicitly, free of cost) and it may not be a priority for them (Yadav and Branney, 1999). Furthermore, though they diversify their livelihood, they rarely have skills or knowledge to allow them to switch into occupations offering higher returns to efforts. However, the level of direct benefit from CFs to rural people is relatively satisfactory in this area.

(ii) Increased Level of Awareness

The local people's cooperation and their involvement in forest management activities have key role in community forest management. Without the participation of local people in forest management, all the efforts and initiatives would not give any fruitful result from such efforts. The level of awareness of users has been increasing in Lamjung district due to the participation of local people in several opportunities and extension programmes (training, workshops, general assemblies, executive committee etc) created by themselves and different stakeholders in CF. The increasing level of awareness of local people towards CF and its benefits has played significant contribution in management of CF on sustainable basis. Such

successive and effective implementation CF has the level of awareness towards forest management.

(iii) Increased People's Participation

Effective implementation of CF has increased the people's participation. Various forestry extension programme are contributing in increase the awareness level of propel in regards to community forestry and it ultimately leads to increase in people's participation in various community forest management activities. The participation of women and disadvantaged groups is particularly important for the success of community forestry at local level. The participation of women and disadvantaged groups in the study area Jita VDC is relatively low in comparison to other groups and men but the number of participant's form them is progressively increasing.

(iv) Increased Community Development Activities

Many community development activities are conducted either by partial or full support by the FUG members. The financial assistance is provided from the FUG fund as decided by the committee meeting. Where there is need for labor work, the FUG members participate by volunteering for labor. They usually volunteer for labor work from 2-5 days at a time depending on the task. Every year, in the General Assembly, the committee members present their summary of activities carried out in the year and proposal for the coming year, so most of the FUG members know what is happening to the FUG fund and activities. The CFUGC permits auditing of its account by the external auditor and makes the account transparent as much as possible.

Badahare Patal Forest User Group has funded many different programs. Some of the major programme accomplished by this CFUG is described below. It was found that this FUGs has invested in total amount Rs. 11, 25,211 (In words Eleven lakhs twenty five thousands two hundreds and eleven only) for upliftment of people living standard.

Table 6.5: Local Community Development Activities in Jita VDC

S.N.	Activities	Total Cost (Rs.)	Remarks (Benefited To)
1	Timber & financial donation to different Schools & Campus	Unlimited	Shanti Shakti, Kunchha; Managala, Sotipasal; Shapta Dhara, Jita and Surrounding Other Schools.
2	Financial donation	1,11,111	Shapta Dhara Ma. Vi. (On the occasion of 25 th Silver Jubilee Anniversary)
3	Road Construction and maintenance of trial	1,00,000	Shapta Dhara Marg
4	Road Construction and maintenance of trial	3,00,000	Shapta Dhara to Sat Tale (Forest Office), Ambot to Archal Bot.
5	Donation of Construction of Toilet	94,000	47 households get @ 2000.
6	Donation of Construction of Tauwa	42,500	85 households get @ 500.
7	Donation of Construction of Biogas Plant	1,15,000	23 households get @ 5000.
8.	Donation to use Iron plough	24,000	80 households get @ 300
9.	Financial Support to construct water supplies and maintenance	13,600	Jimire, Bhusalthok & Sunar Gaun.
10	Financial Support to rearing improved goat	25,000	10 poor households get @ 2500
11	Financial Support to rural electrification	3,00,000	All FUGs members
Total		11,25,211	

Source: Field Survey, 2008

(v) Conflict Management

Rural life is centered on the use of forest resource and large number still dependent on a productive base for living. However, increasing biotic pressure, inadequate investment and lack of appropriate management techniques have led to progressive decline of forest resources in a number and quality. Efficient management of community forestry holds the key for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, ensuring food security, and equitable access to

resources. This is only possible with the active involvement of stakeholders and local people who inhabit in that area.

Due to the unsustainable harvesting, those people who inhabited in that area gets much affected that others. Within the affected communities, the more vulnerable groups such as women, children, scheduled castes and tribes tend to get further marginalized by the existing power and gender relations. Environmental regeneration can be effectively coalesced with economic well being if people are involved in the management of their natural resources.

6.9 Economic Development

Local communities have managed their forest resources to obtain various wood and non-wood forest products and services. CF provides not only products and services but also possibilities for income. The increased forest resources and effective management of these resources in CF has provided the significant economic benefits to the users.

Various community development activities and CF management activities have generated several employment opportunities for local people especially off farm employment. Some people are employed as forest watchers, fire protection, nursery manager etc. through CF. More over, community development activities performed by CFUG fund account for generating more employment opportunities to wage labor people. CF at present in Jita has increased fulfill the basic needs, and few are stepping towards collection, selling and processing the forest products. Several highly economic medicinal plants from CF could generate adequate employment opportunities. And thus helps decreasing the poverty level and increase the standard of living.

6.10 Ecological Development

The important characteristic of environmental benefit is that their presence and absence may strongly affect the social welfare of the user groups (Dixon et. al., 1989). Hence it is necessary to include these benefits in sharing mechanisms among the users. The major benefit is successful regeneration of natural resources.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations are given in this chapter. The first section of this chapter introduces, the second summarizes the results of this study, the third draws conclusion from the study and finally, the fourth section draws attention on recommendations with area of further research.

Community forestry is one form of the participatory forest management which recognizes the intimate relationship of people and forests, aims to meet the basic requirements of forests products of the users, focuses on increasing benefits from forests for rural people and local rural development. Especially, women and disadvantaged groups involve in project identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of CF. Though, there is faster rate of handing over phenomenon and rhetoric in throughout the country and same pattern is in Lamjung district, there have few efforts to reflect on the livelihood of rural people.

Community forest is found to be viable option in the hills of Nepal for controlling deforestation problems and to meet basic needs of forest products of rural people. It has demonstrated a positive impact in Hill region of Nepal, especially to control forest from illegal operation. Regeneration quality is better in community managed forests than in government managed forest.

7.1 Summary

The study "Role of People Managed Forest on the upliftment of People's Living Standard " was conducted in Badahare Patal community forest of Jita VDC of Lamjung district aiming to assess socio-economic status and status of people's participation in CF in the study area. Among the total 94 households 29 households were surveyed.

On the basis of the study, some major findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

-) There are various caste and cultural groups who are the users of CF. The Badahare Patal Forest User Group is a multi-ethnic group where Brahmin, Chhetri, Damai, Sarki, Kami and Newar work together.
-) Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the study area. But agricultural production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of the area are involved themselves in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well as foreign employment.
-) The Badahare Patal FUG has made rules for protection, management, benefit sharing and implementing following those rules and regulations. The main leadership has been taken from Brahmin community.
-) People's participation in general assemblies and regular meetings of FUG is not satisfactory. In the study area, People's participation in CFM is found limited. Women's involvement in operational plan preparation is found very low and was not active and decisive.
-) The FUG consists of 45.45 percent women members in EC which is not that much lower from gender balance perspective. But men have occupied the vital portfolios.
-) No representation of Damai and Newar Users in EC. Reason behind it were either they hesitate to hold such post or they rejected from those so-called highly recognized people.
-) EC members seen more dependent on educated and experience members due to lower confidence and knowledge on subject matter for the fresh members.
-) Both women & men found involved in forest products collection and transportation. However, the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the actual field.
-) The field survey found the FUG used to consider each household as a unit of user and distribution forest products based on household concept. There is no gender based forest resources distribution system in the study area.
-) BPCFUG found weak in conducting number of training. EC totally depends on range post and do not arranged training and visits by own initiation.

-) BPCFUG has conducted limited number of community development activities in study area from the income of CF. Respondent reported that both sexes are getting benefit from those social and community development activities.
-) There is lack of special program targeted to poor people like, skill development and income generating activities which support them to become self-reliant.
-) Majority of the respondents of the study area were involved in forest resource management for the fulfilment of day to day requirement of forest products.
-) The findings reveal that education is the major influencing factor in decision making and leading the group in user committee.

7.2 Conclusion

The concept of community forestry programs a vital one for preserving and developing natural resources in general and forest resources in particular in Nepal. Forest is one of the major resources of rural livelihood. It is the source of food, firewood, timber, fodder, leaves and litters etc. The rapidly increasing population growth and its subsequent effects on natural resources particularly forest resources has been noticing since long.

CF, as integrative approach, has facilitated to increase the level of awareness, self-confidence, self-reliance and knowledge (human capital) of rural people regarding forests and people interaction and biodiversity. Increasing greenery, biodiversity and healthy environment (natural capital) and networking (social capital) between and among the CFUGs, DFO, Rangers and other stakeholders are also the result of CF. Furthermore, it has provided several income generating activities thus, the individual income level and CFUG fund (financial capital) have also increase in Lamjung district. The generated CFUG fund has been used to develop community infrastructure (physical capital) and very less amount to manage forest ecosystem (natural capital).

Badahare Patal community forest is used mainly for fire-wood, fodder, grass, leaf litter, poles and timber. The forest products are collected for the domestic purposes. General rules for using forest products are outlined in the FUG constitutional forest operational plan.

During the field observation most of the people were busy the whole day in doing productive as well as reproductive work. Most of people were involved in Paddy transplanting, vegetable farming, animal husbandry, caring family members and labor work. Due to people had no leisure time, the research work extended many days.

Timber is used for house construction and HH tools. Except very few houses, others houses are made by the timber and forest products. Fodder is the main animal feed for the live stock in this area. People used this fodder for stall-feed which is important for animal husbandry. Every HH maintain livestock for domestic purposes. Therefore, collection leaves and litters become the main job of the local people. Tree leave a litter are collected specially for bedding purposes.

Forest is an integral part of the farming system in general and therefore, the management of CF has helped to protect the fragile ecosystem Nepal succeeded to protect the several species of medicine plants in particular.

People's participation is important in almost all aspects and activities of CFM. But the self-motivated participation is considered the real participation. The importance of people's participation noticed from the period of formation to the protection of forest.

Findings of this study show that people can play significant role in CF development, protection and management. Hence, success of the community forestry program largely depends upon degree of people's participation in its management from the very beginning. But people's participation in CFM was greatly determined by various factors like biophysical situation of CF, socio-economic and cultural practices, institutional culture of the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organizations, perception and attitude towards CF and allied issues. Participation of people in implementation process was found high. Male's influences in decision making in the family, requirements of forest products, and tendency of giving less response to social works, prevailed in the community are

the reasons for it. People's participation in monitoring and evaluation process was found poor in the BPCFUG due to lack of knowledge.

In the case of benefit sharing from social and development activities implemented by FUG, access of both sexes was found almost equal in the study area. But there was lacking of social focused development activities. For the better involvement of people in CFM human resource development activities should be lunched effectively and sufficiently.

The participation of people on forest management is very limited. Women are found highly busy involving household chores and household level and male are found busy with their occupation and farming activities. However, majorities of people are participated in the group interview and discussion.

Factors like regular household's chores, inadequate knowledge, illiteracy, poor economic condition, self humiliation, patriarchal influence in the family and society, and backbiting nature of society found as hindering factors of women participation in Community Forest Management.

Educational status of the people plays a key role for better involvement of CF activities. High educational status of the people, higher would be the participation. Similarly, if any support from DFO and other line agencies are provided and professional development opportunities among FUG members are available, greater would be the chances of generating people's participation in community forest management.

7.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions can be formulated:

7.3.1 Related with Policy Makers

Forestry policy is the apex body at national level that directs to constitution, strategy and implementation procedures formulation. In this context, some recommendations are made to the policy-making body, which are as follows:

-) A mandatory provision should be formulated ensuring at least equal and proportional participation of people in executive committee, which leads to compulsory participation of Dalit and Disadvantaged people.
-) Being a corporate body the FUG empowered to develop operational plans independently.
-) Compulsory mandate should be given to FUG to organize the annual general meeting with equal presence of users and active participation of all caste.
-) FUGs should be reviewed, categorized and awarded regularly based on their performance.
-) A special meeting of FUGs should be arranged annually at district level.
-) Focus should be given to introduce alternative strategies to bring people in to main stream of development in general and their role in decision making process in CFM in specific for gender equity.

7.3.2 Related with Respective FUG

Forest user group is a corporate body that is authorized regarding operational plan preparation, forest resource distribution and CFM as a whole. In this context, FUG has a crucial role in policy formulation at local level and user mobilization. Some recommendations related with FUG are as follows:

-) Key positions such as chairman, secretary and treasures should be assigned to Dalit community. Such type of practice helps to boost up knowledge, morale and feeling of responsibility among all people that ultimately will increase people's participation.
-) The agro forestry practices like plantation of fodder and fuelwood species in homestead and farm boundaries helps to reduce the pressure on forest and encroachment. Thus, the initiatives of high plantation yielding varieties species providing the adequate rural people's household needs should be prioritized.
-) User group has no sufficient technical knowledge on forest management. Thus, more training should be conducted in this field..
-) People participation in decision making should be increased through awareness. They should be encouraged to hold responsible position in user committee.
-) The FUG should organize non-formal education program to uneducated people. So that the importance of CFM for the present as well as future generation could be well understood.
-) A gender sensitizing training should be organized at village to minimize the feeling of misconception regarding people's involvement and their leadership in development process.
-) Operational plan should be prepared with equal presence of both sexes and maximum number of users.
-) Income received from the CF should be invested on those activities, which could make benefited to Dalit and disadvantaged groups.

7.3.3 Related with GOs/NGOs

The GOs/NGOs launching in the FUG area play a catalytic role in the community. GOs/NGOs have a vital role in supporting and sensitizing the users. Major recommendations related with development agencies are as follows:

-) These organizations should provide facilitation support to FUG member to improve people's participation in CF development and management.
-) Training materials of technical aspect should be provided to user committee as reference material.

-) Users are aware of the value of forest products but lack of technical knowledge on how to grow. Therefore, technical knowledge should be provided to them and linked them to appropriate market.
-) Several studies could be made on this subject with more explanation and emphasis on ethnic perspectives.

7.3.4 Area of the Further Research

This study is based on limited area with certain indicators of role of community forestry in rural development. So, the further study could be focused on the following.

-) To extend this research to different geographic, socio-economic and ecological zones of the country of generalize the research problems and their solutions.
-) To carry our participatory action research in different CFUGs in various ecological and socio-economic conditions to devise appropriate forest management and sivicultural methods beneficial to poor.
-) To study and social dynamics of communities interrelation to power structures to control the decision making and benefit sharing processes of CFUGs.

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