

Women's Participation in Community Forest Management and Use:
A Case Study of Bhaktapur District, Nepal

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Exam Roll # 3203
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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in Rural Development

Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
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Recommendation Letter

This is to certify that Mr. Narsingh Bahadur Thapa has completed his thesis entitled Women Participation in Community Forest Management and Use: A Case Study of Bhaktapur District, Nepal under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this thesis for evaluation by the Examination Committee.

Dr. Ek Raj Ojha
Research Supervisor

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled Women's Participation in Community Forest Management and Use: A Case Study of Bhaktpur District, Nepal submitted by Narasingh Bahadur Thapa has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

Expert Committee

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Narsingh Bahadur Thapa
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Abstract

Forest plays an important role in our daily lives and clearly. It is one of the country's most important national resources. Nepalese economy based on agriculture and livestock farming is greatly dependent on forest resources so in this dissertation, one of the most important to promote women's empowerment awareness.

The objectives of the Study was to describe the activities and tasks, of the women committee, women's role in utilization of forest resources and management decision making to determine the factors of women's participation in community forest and to describe the present condition of community forest committee and its management.

Applying the purposive sampling technique essential information has been collected from five VDCs of Bhaktapur District. Semi-structural questionnaire, discussion with key informants, participation observation and secondary sources of data also has been used for collection data to meet the objectives the study.

The life of people especially in the out of municipalities areas is totally dependent upon forest resources. Firewood, timber, fodder leaf litters, which form the vital needs for the forming as well as cattle rearing activities in the out of municipality's area. In fact there has been a very intimate linkage between agricultural activities and forest resources.

For good management of community forest, independent and dependent variables play vital roles. Independent variables such as size of user group, participation of women, size of forest, social and cultural norms have been analyzed for showing the relationship with dependent variables. In the research the dependent variables is Women's participation and collective group. The relationship between independent

variables and dependent variables has been found positive relationship for good management of community forest.

Many women think that as they are uneducated, the presence in the community meeting and assembly is unless this hesitation has also contributed in making women's participation low. The absence of obligatory rules (except for the quota requirement of women in the committee) is also a factor that has not promoted the women's participation in CF activities. Women always been relegated to a secondary status due to countries of male domination in the society. This has also become a hindrance to women's participation in CF activities.

Out of total population of the study area, there was 9% illiterate women's participation. Male participation in executive committee was 89% and female participation in executive committee was 11%. The monitoring of CF was satisfied. They social composition of the study population is mixed.

Due to gender's work differences and interests within the same products in the society, it has been necessary to address gender issues. Without addressing gender issues in the plan and program, it is very difficult to launch development strategy for the upliftment of the society. Lack of awareness among the women themselves and insufficient awareness program by the donor's agencies and the government to involve women in CF management has also hindered women's participation in CF activities. Social and cultural practices, customs and traditions are the greatest factor that restricts women's mobility. Many families disapprove of their women going away from home to participate in CF activities, training and work.

The dissertant noted that women's participation means to promote women's involvement in the programme, mentally, physically and economically for their common welfare.

Two type of Recommendation are given end of the study chapter nine.

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Abbreviations

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| CF | : | Community Forest |
| CFUG | : | Community Forest User Group |
| DFO | : | District Forest Office |
| EC | : | Executive Committee |
| FRM | : | Forest Resource Management |
| FUG | : | Forest User Group |
| HMG | : | His Majesty Government |
| INGOs | : | International Non-government Organization |
| NGO | : | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NRM | : | Natural Resource Management |
| PF | : | Panchayat Forest |
| PPF | : | Panchayat Protected Forest |
| VCD | : | Village Development Committee |
| WAD | : | Women and Development |
| WED | : | Women Environment and Development |
| WID | : | Women in Development |