

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY FOREST ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN, POOR AND DALIT

(A case study of Kalika Chandika CFUG, Bhainse-2, 3, Makawanpur)

By

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Dissertation Submitted for the Partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Bachelor of Science in Forestry

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this type of research entitled "An Assessment of the Contribution of Community Forest on Socio-economic Upliftment of Women, Poor and Dalit" a CFUG level study at Bhainse VDC, Ward No.- 2, 3, Makawanpur District, Nepal is my own work except otherwise as acknowledged. No part of this research has been submitted to any other academic institutions for any degree.

Bechu Kumar Vinwar Yadav

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BS	Bikram Sambat
CARE	Co-operative American Relief for Everywhere
CF	Community Forest/ Forestry
Cft	Cubic feet
CFUGC	Community Forest User Group Committee
CFUGs	Community Forest User Groups
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DAG	Disadvantage Group
DDC	District Development Office
DFID	Department for International Development
DFO	District Forest Office/ Officer
DoF	Department of Forests
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FINNIDA	Finnish International Development Agency
HHs	Households
HMGN	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
IGAs	Income Generation Activities
IGTK	Indigenous Technical Knowledge
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organization
IOF	Institute of Forestry
MFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MPFC	Master Plan for Forestry Sector
NARMSAP	Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Program
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization

NPC	National Planning Commission
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
NTFPs	Non- Timber Forest Products
NUKCFP	Nepal-UK Community Forestry Project
OP	Operational Plan
PF/ PPF	Panchayat Forest/ Panchayat Protected Forest
RHHs	Respondent Households
TISC	Tree Improvement and Silviculture Component
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
VDC	Village Development Committee

LIST OF VERNACULAR NAMES

Bhari	Back load (1 bhari = 30 kg fuel wood or 15 kg grass)
Bigha	20 katha of land
Birta	A free hold land
Dalit	The disadvantaged occupational caste
Damai	Untouchable caste, so called the Tailor
Guthi	1. Religious funds for association 2. A form of tax-free land tenure for holdings dedicated to religious purposes.
Kami	Untouchable caste, so called the Blacksmith
Kipet	An ancient type of land tenure having legal standing that days
Katha	Measuring unit of land (340 sq. m. of land)
Panchayat	A local politico-administrative unit during panchayat system
Ropani	Unit of land measurement in the hills equivalent to one-twentieth of a hectare
Thekedar	Contractor
Sarki	Untouchable caste, so called the Cobblers
Talukdari	A kind of traditional land tenure system in which the local headman (talukdars) were authorized for the responsibilities for controlling access to the forest and distributing forest products.

ABSTRACT

Nepalese society is made of complex mixture of castes, orders, families, ethnicity, communities and tribes, which create discrimination to have access and control over the resources. Discrimination affects the participation of users in the implementation of Operational Plan (OP) leading to the failure of programs.

The study entitled "An Assessment of the Contribution of Community Forest on Socio-economic Upliftment of Women, Poor and Dalit" was proposed and carried out aiming to assess the contribution of Community Forest (CF) on socio-economic upliftment of women, poor and dalit of Kalika Chandika CFUG, Bhainse- 2 & 3, Makawanpur District.

The findings were made using questionnaire survey as a research tool where altogether 30 respondents were taken for interview. Information on natural, social, human and financial aspects of the livelihood assets were chosen and compared the before handed over CF with CFUG at the present. Discussion with users and field observation taken from different socio-economic status also helped to draw findings.

Poor and Dalit fulfill their subsistence needs of forest products, but CF could not have contributed to uplift their economic condition as existed before CF formation. Now, women are little bit encouraged to participate in social development activities. Financially, contribution of CF to the women is not satisfactory. It seems to be in sprouting stage for the socio-economic upliftment point of view. Women, poor and dalit should be represented in CFUG-committee on the equity basis and also Income Generation Activities (IGAs), social development activities and human resource development should be given top priority for their livelihood.

Keywords: Socio-economic, Livelihood, Equity, Human resource, IGAs