

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The term participation means taking part in any activities carried out in the society. Korten (1984) defined participation as a process of releasing people from being the subject of development and making them agents of modernization and change. McPherson and McGarry (1987) defined participation as process of including beneficiaries in the solution of their own problem (cf Shukla, 1997). Therefore, People's participation is the process of involving the people in all the activities of development including problem identification, appraisals, planning, implementation, operation and maintenance, monitoring and evaluation.

The concept of people's participation became known after the failure of the trickle down model of economic development advocated after the end of the Second World War (Lohani, 1980:2). “Thus, People’s participation, putting people first, empowering the locals, bottom up approach, community participation, etc., (a complete list of such phrases in use today could fill more than one page) have been cited as essential parts of the strategies for conservation and development or in administering all sorts of programs and projects in Nepal” (Chhetri, 1999)

Forest is an important and essential aspect of human life that provides various items like timber, firewood, fodder, and leaf-litter and non-timber forest products needed for livelihood by the human populations. In rural area of Nepal majority of people depend on agriculture and animal husbandry for subsistence. Such people’s livelihood is directly or indirectly related to the forest resources. However, these people were not only using the forest but also managing the local resources for the ages.

The concept of peoples' participation is widely used in different development and conservation and management of resources. The Community Forestry (hereafter CF) is taken as one of the best example of people participation in Nepal. The local people called forest user groups are actively involved in various activities of CF like planting of

saplings in the barren forest land, thinning and pruning of bushes, sharing of forest products, mobilization of resources, decision making and so on.

The main focus of the study is to understand people's participation in Saheli-Pakha Community Forest User Groups (SPCFUGs) in Arthar Dandakharka VDC, Parbat district. However, the study especially tries to find out the people's participation in cost and benefit sharing and in-decision making based on caste/ethnic and occupational backgrounds of Arthar Dandakharka people.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

From the very beginning of the human history forest has remained as an integral part of human life (Kattel, 1992). It can be argued that history of human development is related to the forest. As mentioned above, human have depended on the forest to meet their essential requirements. Just like that agricultural and animals husbandry were the major activities in the study areas, which are associated with CF. Forest resources are the source of agricultural tools and instrument. Similarly, grass, fodder, leaves are the major source for the animals. Also the firewood and timber necessary for cooking and household activities are obtained from the forest. The above mention things show that CF is the integral part of human life.

Forest is a renewable natural resource, which plays an important role in economic and social life of Nepalese people. It helps to alleviate poverty and generate the employment (Regmi, 2000). Majority of the people depend on agriculture and animal husbandry for subsistence. Such people's livelihood is directly or indirectly related to the forest resources. So, it is said that forest is an integral part of rural economy in Nepal (Kayastha, 1991). In the same way, the study also focuses and analyzes the importance of forest resources in the life of the people.

The participation of people has become the slogan of development and conservation of resources in the developing countries including Nepal (Chhetri, 1999). It was also seen in the forest management. Some scholars pointed out the local people have well participation in different activities of CF (Acharya, 2002) and on contrary some scholar

pointed out the participation in CF is seen like a story of explaining the elephant by six blind people (Chhetri, 1999). That means there is variation between theory and practice in participation of people in CF. Therefore; it is essential to identify who are "People" being referred to in the term "peoples' participation"? How is participation achieved, fostered or facilitated a different issue for different "people" in question. Nelson and Wright (1995) argued that participation means the active, not passive, involvement of poor people. In this sense, it is essential to identify situation of the people participation in CF especially Saheli-Pakha CF those who are really taking part in decision-making process and cost and benefit sharing or not.

The government of Nepal started conservation and management activities of the forest through forest Nationalization Act 1957. The government has tried various phases of conservation and management with trial and error and finally come up with CF program in 1970s. Most of this conservation and management strategies (Government Forest, Panchayat Forest and Community Forest) started by the government were silent about cost and benefit sharing process in heterogeneous society. It is necessary to know local strategies in the activities of protection, promotion and utilization after handing over as CF.

In the present time, forest conservation and management has become a major issue in the development discourse in Nepal. The planners, policy makers, development practices and other interested institutions and individuals are also concerned with this issue because they are all eager to check any further destruction of forests in the country. However, many technical experts still only focus on the scientific management of the forests, thereby neglecting knowledge and skill of local people in the process of cost benefit sharing and decision making activities (Chhetri, 1999).

The central theme of the study was to understand the overall participation and composition of the community users groups (CUGs). In the community forest the people participation plays the vital role for the betterment of the forest resources. The aim of the study was to analysis caste/ ethnic-wise participation because different caste/ ethnic people have been involved. In addition, the aim of study was to analyze the people's

participation in the community forest. Either the participation of male and female is equal or not? If not, who are in majority position? What is the situation of decision-making process? Who plays the vital role in decision-making process? Both male and female are participating equally or not. On what basis community members are making the decision for the further development of the forest in the present situation by the members of the users groups was also the another equally important subject to be studied. In addition to the problems mentioned above, the researcher emphasized to analyze the situation of the forest after the participation of the local people.

Thus, the present study is based on the following research questions:

-) What is the organizational structure of the forest user groups?
-) Is there equality in resource distribution in CF?
-) What are the roles of the people in utilization of forest products (FPs)?
(Grass, fodder, leaf-litter, firewood and timber)
-) Is there equal participation of different caste/ethnic and gender groups in community forest (CF) activities?
-) Is there equal participation of people in decision making process of CF?
-) What are the responsible factors that affect in people's participation in CF management?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to find out people's participation in different dimension of CF, particularly Saheli-Pakha Community Forest. However, the specific objectives of present study are as follows:

-) To identify the people's participation in cost and benefit sharing in Saheli-Pakha CF.
-) To find out people's participation in decision making process in Saheli-Pakha CF.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

People's participation is an important issue in sociological study. This research analyzes it to understand people's participation in Saheli-Pakha Community Forest User Groups (SPCFUGs) in Arthar Dandakharka VDC, Parbat district. However, the study especially

tries to find out the people's participation in cost and benefit sharing, decision-making process and to examine the factors that hinder the people's participation based on caste/ethnic and occupational backgrounds. Therefore this study will add one brick in the field of people participation especially in CF. So, researcher hopes that it will guide for the further researchers who will be interested in this field for further investigation.

Moreover, this study finds out the situation of people participation in CF by carrying out detail study among the Arthar Dandakharka people. In this sense, this study will be beneficial for the planners and policy makers who are working and will work in the field. Moreover, this study draws a debate to the further researcher who will interest in the field.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

The overall conceptual framework has guided this research. The conceptual framework has been developed to investigate the factors which are mainly responsible to make people's participation in community forest management. In this study people's participation is taken as independent variable. People's participation in different CF activity has its impact in CF management. Indicators that are considered to ensure the people participation in different management aspect of this study.

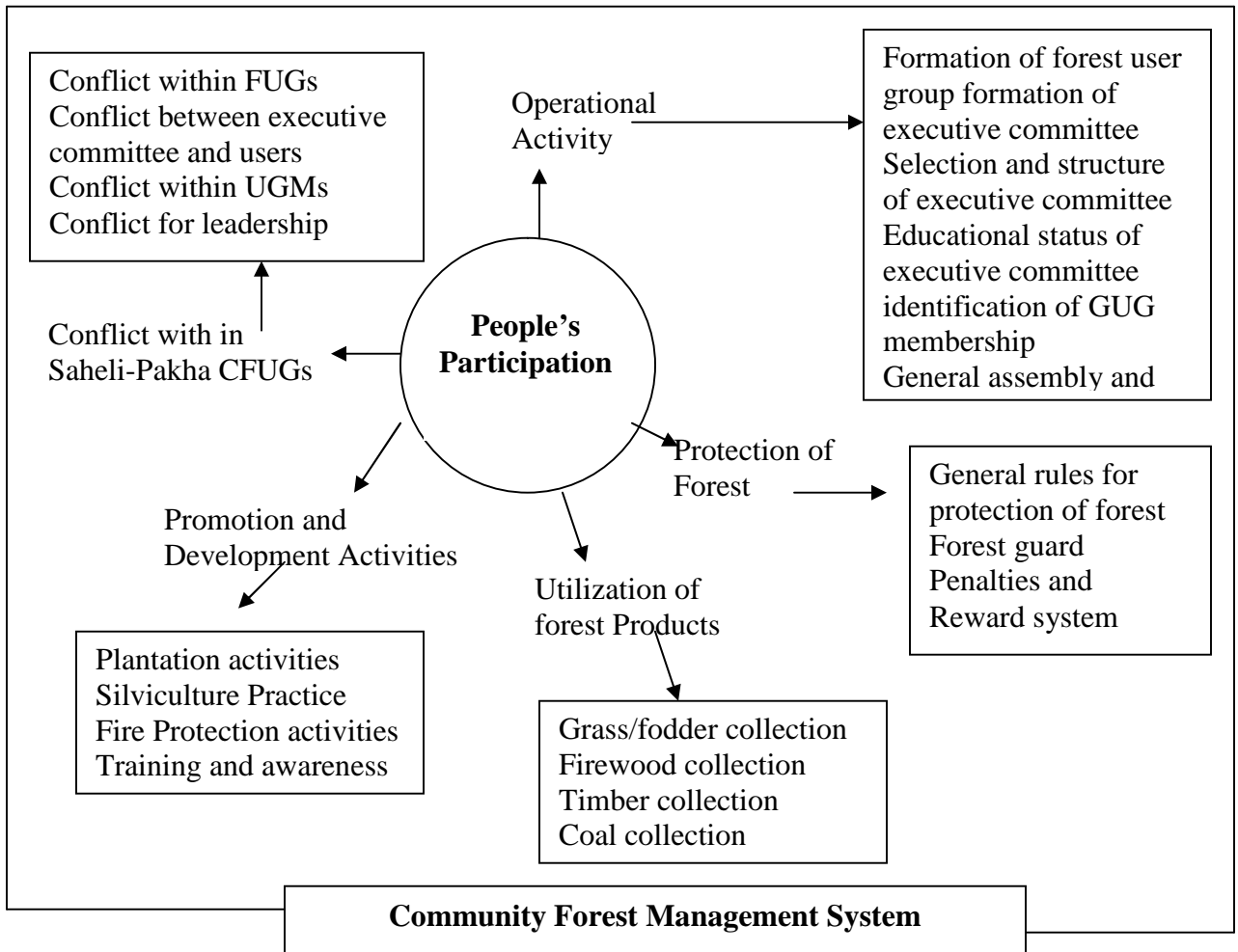


Figure 1.1 Conceptual Frameworks

1.6 Organization of the Study

The present study consists of eight chapters. The first chapter is an introduction including background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, rationale of the study, conceptual framework of the study and organization of the study.

The second chapter is review of literature. This chapter is divided into two sections. The first section presents theoretical review and second section is a review of the previous studies.

Chapter three discusses about research methods applied in the study. This chapter is divided into two sections. The first section presents rational selection of the study site.

The second section discusses sampling procedure, research tools and techniques and their use.

The fourth chapter gives the general geographical account and demographic characteristics and socio-economic features of the Arthar Dandakharka VDC of Parbat District. This chapter also discusses the climate, flora and fauna, other natural resources, house patterns, population composition by age and sex, caste and ethnic composition, religious composition, economic setting found in the study area.

The fifth chapter discusses the overall management system of community forestry in Saheli-Pakha CFUGs. This chapter is divided in to three sections. The first section presents operational activity, the second present protection of forest and the third section present promotion and development activities. This chapter also discuss about the conflicts within the user groups.

Similarly, the sixth chapter deals with the cost and benefit sharing system of community forest whereas seventh chapter is about the peoples participation in decision making process. Like wise summary, finding and conclusion are presented in chapter eight. At last, interview schedule and checklist are presented.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter focuses the review of previous documents related to, theories and history of community forest and participatory community forest management. The proper review of the literature helps the researcher to gain insights on a particular research problem which eventually assists him/ her in formulating the research problem in much more specific manner. Similarly, review also helps to know what has already been done and strength and weakness of previous studies. In so doing one can identify the research gaps, which need to be bridged by the new research efforts.

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Concept of Community Forestry

The forest act 1961 defines community forest as “That national forest should be understood as the community forest which, as part of the national forest, the District Forest Officer hands over to the users for development, protection, utilization and management in accordance with the work plan, with authorization to freely fix the prices of the forest products, and to sell and distribute the forest products for the collective benefits and welfare” (Singh, 2004).

Ecklom (1979:39) highlighted that community forestry is “a process of social change that requires the continuous participation of whole communities in planning developmental activities, sharing of products and solving of problems and conflicts.”

Rao (1983) has mentioned that community forestry is a conceptual transformation from traditional rural forestry to a new form with a strong focus on popular participation. Modern community forestry is based on forestry as a resource industry in which local people fully participate. It plays a key role in mitigating the interrelationship among economic, ecological and social factors in rural community development, helping the poor, increasing their income, lessening their burden, protecting forest resources, improving the quality of environment, providing employment opportunities for the

people and therefore facilitating harmony between man and nature. As a result, poor farmers who participate in it are both enthusiastic and active. The innovative use of participatory approaches in community forestry is a new way of thinking, which through the process of participation helps farmers recover certain things that belong to them. Community forestry will only succeed if the local people are convinced and their needs are fulfilled.

CF of Nepal has been acknowledged as the most successful, most innovative and truly community oriented program (Hobly, 1996; Acharya, 1999; Pokharel, 2004)

The goal of CF is to contribute to overall socio-economic improvement of the rural people and ensure an equitable and fair distribution of income and other resources. The socio-economic upliftment and conservation of natural resources is achieved if people become aware of their roles and responsibilities. CF is not just a special technology rather a process of socio-economic change that requires a continuous participation of the community in planning, implementing and problem solving (Kayastha, 1991)

2.1.2 People Centered Approach: A Framework of Analysis

In the early periods of post World War II, it was thought that development would be achieved when the economy of the developing world was improved. The main indicator for measuring development was economic growth in terms of per capita income (PCI). Late 1950s W.W. Rostow proposed a development approach for the development of 3rd world countries i.e., modernization approach. According to this approach every society must pass certain development stages (i.e., five stages) for the social and economic development of any society. According to him there is no 'leaps' or short cut way to develop society, (Slattery, 2003). In 1970s the theory was strongly criticized by A.G. Frank. He proposed dependency approach. According to him, modernization approach of development never developed the society rather it creates dependency to third world countries over the western countries, (ibid). Further more, Frank emphasized modernization was developing to exploit resources of third world countries creating metropolitans and satellites global structure. He argued that any society of third world countries never develop until and unless they detach the relation from global economy

structure. Certainly, the theory outlined the global structure and its nature of exploitation by developed country to underdeveloped countries, (ibid). Never the less the theory failed to offer concrete solution to get ride off exploiting structure as well as any new development model.

As an alternative model of development, in the last year of 1980s new theoretical approach was developed i.e. called 'people or community based approach' (cf Bhattachan, 2000). It strongly supports "bottom up approach" with the participation of the targeted people as the alternative approach of "trickle down approach" for the development of any society. The concept of people centered development leads us to the profound realization the development must be an indigenous process. The concept of indigenous development per se envisages a perspective in which people living in a specific social, cultural, economic and ecological setting define their own concept of development definition of relevance and correspond indigenous circumstances (Berreman, 1994). Above all, it should be indigenously inspired, selected, guided and evaluated. This means development policies and practices must identify, nurture and sustain indigenous potential, means and resources to express diversity and plurality of social values, culture institutions and identities of each nation and community (ibid). Accordingly, for the purpose of this study people centered development is primarily defined as a culture relative, location specific, ecologically conditioned and social setting ingrained concept.

The present study is about the people participation in CF among the Arthar Dandakharka inhabitants. The study area was heterogeneous in terms of caste and ethnicity. Different caste and ethnic groups were found to be involved in different level of CF activities like plantation, silviculture, firewood collection, timber collection, grass and fodder collection, coal collection. They were united to identify the problems and were going thoroughly to solve them for the protection, promotion and rational utilization of forest resource. This is impossible without direct involvement of local people. In the view of researcher, without basic knowledge about people central approached the researcher can not explain the hindering factors for people's participation, cost and benefit sharing and decision making process.

Participation refers to a development-programmed effort in enabling people to take initiative in related activities and mobilization for over all development (Cohen and Uphoff, 1977:6). P.C. Lohani, (1980) has divided people's participation in six different criteria for effective people's participation. They are: conceptualization and identification, decision making, mass participation in resource mobilization, mass participation in implementation, mass sharing of benefits, and evaluation and control. Literally, his division of people participation is more or less right. Although he has not clarified method of division of people's participation in community forest

Korten, (1984) defined participation as a process of releasing people from being the subject of development and making them agents of modernization and change (cf Shukla, 1997). Participation, therefore, has been viewed both as mobilizing as well as empowering masses and both these orientations have their own justification (ibid). However, Korten was unable to clarify the definition of participation. Who are the "people" being referred to in the term "Peoples' participation"? As question raised by Chhetri (Chhetri: 1991)

Kanall,(2000:172) mentioned that the term "people's participation" (or its synonyms "Popular", "citizen" or community Participation), means different things to different people. But what ever the definition is citizens' participation has to be considered both as a gate of socio- economic development as well as a means for achieving development taking this dual nature into account, popular participation can be described as a process, which in the context of socio-economic development comprises for analytically distinct but in fact interrelated processes. However, Kanall, was unable to review practiced of participation as reviewed by Devkota. Devkota observed the elite dominated social structure and "Top-down" and" Blue Print" development model as obstacles of participation. He has, therefore, recommended for "Vision from below" and "grass roots" development to maximize the people's participation (cf Bhattachan, 2000).

The participation of the local people is a crucial factor for the establishment and management of community forests. But this is often narrowly defined as the voluntary contribution of labour or cash by local people to the construction of certain projects. However, conceptually people's participation includes making, implementation, benefit

sharing and evaluation (Cohen and Norman, 1976/77). The researcher agrees with Cohen's and Norman's argument that the people of study area were united in different level of CF to identify the problems and solve them thoroughly. As argued by Chhetri and Pandey (1992). *People's participation* and *grass root approach* are the key words to effective and sustainable management of common resources like forests. Several researches have stressed the need to involve local people in forest management.

2.1.3 People's Participation in CF in Nepal: A General Overview

Prior to 1957 most of the forests were under control of local community. The traditional forest management strategies followed the principle of considering the needs of local people. Pokharel et.al. (1996) stated that before 1957 nobody could cut trees to thatch or collect fodder from the forest without local indigenous organization's permission. Permission to cut down fuel wood was granted depending on household size and gathering of thatching grass was allowed in proportion to roof area of a house. Hence, the forest utilization behavior was largely controlled by the local organization in the past. Gilmour and Fisher (1992) noted that Nepal had different forest management strategies in different historical epoch. As stated during the unification period *Thari* and *Jimbuwal* were responsible to control the forest and the government looked after few forests. They made rules, regulations and operational plan. Dahal, (1994) notes that before 1964, there existed primarily *Kipat* and *Raikar* system of land tenure in the Eastern Hill Region. Both land and forest resources were held under the *Subba*, *Jimuwal*, *Pahari*, and *Thari*. They were responsible for both the sustainable use of the resources and its allocation. It is said that people's forest consumption behavior was regularized by the local and traditional organizations in the past.

In the 1970s, the shortage of fuel wood (the energy crises) and the Sahelian drought gradually started to draw attention of the planners and policy makers. Since then there has been an increasing recognition of the rural people's dependence on forests for fuel wood, fodder, timber, forest litters and other forest products. It also drew world's attention to the drought in Africa and flood in Asia, which were generally attributed to the continuous degradation and deforestation of forest. World's attention was also drawn to the rapid population growth that was causing forest degradation (Forest Rule, 1995).

In late 1980s, the concept of community forest emerged as new approach. The approach focused on people-centered forestry management. The approach of community forestry in Nepal emerged in response to an increasing awareness of the implication of decline forestry (Saussan et. al, 1995). However, several scholars (Chhetri and Panday, 1992) viewed that community forestry was started in Nepal because of the existence of indigenous forest management system.

After the government intervention in forestry sector late 1980s and early 1990s, several changes have been experienced in the field of forest consumption. The mode of behaviors of people has changed because of outside factors such as government intervention, population growth, migration, integration into national and global economy and other processes. Because of new invention, people have developed many adjustments to obtain and use resources. In this regards, Stevens (1996) states the people of Himalayan like highland regions, have developed for subsisting the distinctive conditions of ecosystems.

Community forestry program began in Nepal as a problem solving strategy in the late 1970s. The problems to be addressed were of two major types. First, deforestation and deteriorating condition of the forests in the country were believed to be critical and community forestry program was identified as a strategy to combat such problems. Community plantations and handing over the authority for the protection and management of local forests to the communities (called Forest Users groups) have been the means of achieving this goal. Second, people were alienated from forestry due to the Private Forest Nationalization of 1957 and it was realized that this could pose problems for any conservation efforts in the country. It was acknowledged that the Department of Forests neither had the capacity nor adequate resources to effectively protect and manage all the national forests in the country. Seeking the involvement of local communities bringing the people back has been considered as a viable approach to set up an effective protection and management of such resources (Chhetri, 1999).

Today's concepts of peoples' participation are coloured with enticement or in some cases coercion. Participatory ideals often appear to be mechanisms "designed to impose controls on the rural population rather than allow involvement in decision- making"

(Hillary, 1995). Therefore, the real hurdles of achieving long-term participation are not fully recognized. The types of participation seen in some development programs like afforestation particularly in Nepal have been possible because of stimuli or baits like wages paid for pitting, planting, and weeding. If such definitions of participation were to be valid, it would be worthwhile even to argue that a pair of oxen pulling the plough as well as the ploughman was in fact participating very well in the framework of a *Jamindar* (Chhetri, 1994). If peoples' participation itself were to be taken as a goal and in order to reach this means were used to foster sensitivity among the people to consider their genuine participation as essential, things could become very different.

The active participation of villagers should be encouraged in the different activities of community forest. Accordingly, implementation of the operational plans, which were developed by the users in conjunction with Forest Department Field Staff after the plan has approved. Where the villagers do not have experience in harvesting green forest products training many be required. When conflicts arise the field staff or DFO may be requested to act as an arbitrator. It is preferable that the villagers be given the opportunity to solve their own conflicts before the field staffs taken an active role. It must also be recognized that in many cases the first operational plan negotiated with the users groups may not be perfect and it may need to be modified as the users gain experience. The composition of the user group may change over time and the users may wish to vary the rules and management prescriptions (Acharya and Barlett, 1991).

2.2 Review of the Previous Studies

There has been a change in emphasis from centralized management of the forest by the department of the forest to decentralized management by the community, community forestry originally involves heavy emphasis on plantation activities while today the focus is more on the natural regeneration of the forests and protection and management by the user groups. The DOF field staff, whose role at one time was patrolling and protecting the forests, is now technical advisors to the community helping them to undertake forestry development. One of the main problems is that some CF might be over utilized, and that local elites and unscrupulous people may try to capture the benefits. Overutilization could result in the degradation of the forest resources. Equity problems

will also occur if benefits are captured by the elites among the FUGs members. The elites from urban areas and district headquarters and high ranking government officials tend to disregard or overlook the tenureship right of FUGs in their respective CFs. There have some isolated cases of this nature, this need to be controlled (Chhetri and Jackson, 1994: Pp-47). He further states that, "The community forestry mandate states that the preparation of a management plan is an essential step that integrates forest management with a greater understanding of local communities and needs".

In Nepal, over 3300 community Forestry user groups were legally registered and about 135,151 hectares of forest land had been handed over to them. More community forest user groups were in the process of being handed over, the total number of Forest user groups in the hilly region is 2987 (ICIMOD, 1995: Pp-24).

In forest management and benefit sharing, social exclusion is a process by which Poor, Women, Dalits and Janajati lack access to membership in user groups, participation in decision making and thus lack access to benefits derived from it. Such inability to claim for membership, to participate effectively and benefit proportionately from forest management is often context specific, related with class, caste and gender relations in the community and institutional barriers including inequitable rules and regulations of the institutions they are involved with (Gurung, 2006: Pp-12). It is certain that promoting more inclusive democratic and equitable decision making structures will give proportionately greater advantage to poor and marginalized forest users (Shahbaz. et.al, 2005: Pp-18).

Chhetri and Rana (1995), reported that women's participation in CF has so far been mostly in terms of labour contribution. They are often not involved in decision making or in the formulation of plans. *Brahmin* and *Chhetri* women in particular are not expected to attend formal meeting, Initiation to meeting and gathering. The forest are to be successful managed by local users, then women must participate; they are responsible for collection most of the fuel wood, fodder, leaf compost and bedding as well as controlling grazing. They also provide much of the labour for nurseries and tree planting. The men on the

other hand, generally take care of cutting selling timber and with administrative decision about forest (Inserra, 1989: Pp-59).

There has been some progress in addressing livelihood needs of poor and marginalized most importantly Dalits and women through their participation in forest user groups under community forestry. However, there still exists a wide gap between the expectation and the achievements in reality. There is continued conceptual debate around the notions of exclusion and inclusion. How an excluded community or group could be included in the mainstream for nation building. Firstly, we need to understand the dynamic processes taking place that encourages different forms of exclusion in Nepal. There is lack of data and information on various sub components of social, economic and political exclusion. And then to investigate the institutional aspects which could prevent exclusion and promote recovery, regeneration and inclusion. These fact-finding attributes would form the research agenda and discussed in a group before finalizing them. The attributes, their nature and usefulness would be more detailed in the seminar exclusion persists (LFP, 2005).

Banjade et.al. (2004), stated that most of the CFUGs are formally led by the local elites. These powerful elites vary from place such as local political leaders, particular caste, rich and educated people. Even if some CFUGs involves the marginalized section particularly the poor, the Dalits and *women* of the community in the decision- making body, in most of the cases either they hardly ever spoke up or their voice were not heard properly. The importance of women must be clearly recognized; at least 60 percent representation for women on executive committee was required in order to give women a decisive role.

G.C., Sivan, (2004) has reported that CFUGs of Baglung district have been able to uplift the overall livelihood of the target group after implementation of CF program. CF has good contribution on controlling the forest from rules and regulation of grass root level, progressive increase in group fund, formation of different forums for discussion, construction of physical structures, attainment of various trainings and support for local school and health post were some of the CF works improving natural, financial, social, physical and human capitals of the users.

Cost and benefit pattern are not based on equity; in fact that community forestry is making the rich richer and poor even more disadvantaged (Maharjan, 1993)

The significant improvement in the lives of those who are dependent on local forest resources is yet to be seen across most community forestry users group. The most popular participatory program has been unable to reach to the poor (Chhetri et.al., 2001)

With in the CFUGs, rich and poor, male and female and so called upper caste and lower caste with differences in power, speak and heard differently. The poorest are the ones who suffer most because first of all they can't afford to participate. Secondly, if they do, they hardly speak. If they do speak, they are rarely heard and if heard, they hardly get decision made in their favor. If heard, very few decisions are implemented and if implemented only few are benefited (Pokharel and Nurse, 2004)

Due to the emphasis on the protection, rather than sustainable utilization, of the resource, the potential benefits, that could be accrued through an active management of community forest, has remained untapped. The FUGs members, especially those from poorer households, are unable to benefit from community forests, and they are now beginning to loose interest in community forestry programme (Malla, 2002)

To sum up all the reviews, we can simply conclude that for sustainable development there should be equal distribution of the resources to make the accessibility among all groups of people. In the beginning the development is defined from materialistic point of view which did not address the equilibrium arrangement. They focus on national development which is associated with nature. Sustainable development is durable plan for the long period of time which simple need to encompass all groups of people. It is because social doctors always address all groups of people equally in the development activities with any discrimination. Equal distribution and participation does not only mean the inclusion of social actors in the development process but, also their knowledge, creativity, institutional and cultural arrangements in which their societies are based. It should focus on local potentiality.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter focuses on the overall methods and limitation of the present study. It explains the procedure of the study from the beginning i.e., selection of the study area to the end i.e. analysis of the data and presentation. It includes research design, nature of data, sampling procedure, and data collection technique used for the study and data analysis.

3.1 Rationale for the Selection of Study Area

There are many CF in different parts of the country even in Parbat district. But this study was carried in Saheli-Pakha CFUGs in Arthar Dandakharka VDC. The researcher was interested to select this area because it was found to be the oldest forests in Parbat district. It has been formed for 14 years. Therefore, this area was suitable for the researcher to find out the answer of the questions which were raised in the course of study, i.e. cost sharing, benefit sharing, people's participation in decision making process and hindering factors for the participation in CF.

It was a heterogeneous community in terms of caste/ ethnic, occupational background and religious backgrounds. Different caste/ ethnic groups such as Brahman, Chhetri, Puri/Giri, Gurung, Kami, Damai, Sarki are habitants in the study area. This community was fertile place to the researcher to find the level of participation and hindering factors on the basis of gender, sex, caste, and ethnicity in cost and benefit sharing and in-decision making process.

Majority of the people were depended on agricultures, animal husbandry for their livelihood. To conduct both activities (agriculture and animals husbandry) directly or indirectly people have involved for collecting of forest products. For the agricultural activities different types of instruments and tools like *Halo*, *Juwa*, *Kuto*, *Kodalo ko bid* were essential which have made by the forest products. People were bringing grass, fodder and leaves for their animals from the forest. In this sense, the area was suitable for

researcher to find out the relation of the people towards the forest products according to their occupation.

3.2 Research Design

Different research designs have been used to conduct different research under sociological study. But the present study was based on descriptive research design. Descriptive research design helped the researcher to identify the access and affecting factors to the people in benefit sharing, cost sharing and in decision making process.

3.3 Universe and Sampling

The total number of the forests in Arthar Dandakharka VDC is the universe. Randomly the researcher has selected Saheli-Pakha community forest as the study area. The study area lies in Arthar Dandakharka VDC of Parbat district. Which lies towards the northern part of the VDC.

The total population of the ward no. 1 is 360 with 162 males and 198 females (CBS2001). The ward has 65 households. But only 40 households were the users. So, the researcher has taken the total (40 HHs) as the sample. They are different in terms of caste, ethnicity, economic and occupation aspects.

3.4 Sources and Nature of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of data collection methods were used in this study. Primary data were collected from field by using observation, interview schedule, focus group discussion and household survey. Secondary data were collected from the related published / unpublished documents, articles and books. The nature of the data was both qualitative and quantitative.

3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

To fulfill the specific objectives, this study was based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Following tools and techniques were used to collect primary data:

3.5.1 Household Survey

To acquire relevant information from the field household survey were conducted. By this survey, the researcher collected caste/ ethnic, age and sex structure, literacy and educational composition, occupational composition, religion composition of the users. This tool was helpful to the researcher to identify the nature of people's participation in the process of grass, fodder, timber, coal and firewood collection.

3.5.2 Observation

Observation is a major technique of data collection in social research. During the course of field study, the researcher observed the overall process of people's participation in Saheli-Pakha CFUGs. Especially, the researcher observed caste/ ethnic and sex wise participation in cost and benefits sharing, decision making process, physical, social setting and hindering factors for the people's participation. In the study, observation provided as a main tool to recheck their information that were collected through the use of other tools. For example, an informant reported to (in HHs census) the researcher his family used biogas for cooking but when the researcher observed the researcher found the use of firewood for cooking.

3.5.3 Key Informant Interview

This method was used to check the validity of the data with some knowledgeable persons. The key informants were the respected persons of the communities. Local leaders, VDC secretary, forest user committee chairperson, elderly persons both male and females, members of FUGs were chosen as key informants. By the help of key informant researcher tried to understand past and present condition of the forest, formation of forest user committee, hindering factors for people's participation, types of forest product eg. Firewood, fodder, timber as well as not-timber products such as ritual plants, herbal plants available in the CF. Along with this, access of people in forest products.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

In order to meet the objective, the researcher conducted group discussion method to assemble related data. Focus group discussions were conducted among the members of FUGs on the basis of sex groups, mother group, different ethnic and caste groups and

socially marginalized groups to assess the cost sharing, benefit sharing in decision-making process and hindering factors or the people's participation in CF.

3.6 Data Presentation and Analysis

Analyzing and processing of data is the vital process and main part of this study (Baker, 1999). The collected data through various techniques were analyzed and interpreted descriptively. It was coded and classified into descriptive and numerical character. The quantitative data were presented in various tables. After the presentation of the data in tables, they were analyzed and interpreted coherently.

3.7 Limitation of the Research

Research refers to the systematic and objective attempt, which is used to study a problem for the purpose of deriving general principles. (Bhushan, 1994). This study is related to only Saheli-Pakha CFUGs in Arthar Dandakharka VDC of Parbat district. It has been conducted only for the partial fulfillment of the Master Degree in Sociology. The findings are mainly based on the levels of participation in cost and benefit sharing and decision making process by FUGs. Therefore, its findings may not be generalized more widely.

CHAPTER IV

SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

This chapter discusses the geographical location, setting and biophysical setting of the study area and the socio- economic profile of the community forest user group.

4.1. Ecological Setting

4.1.1 Location

Parbat district is situated in Dhaulagiri Zone at Western Development Region of Nepal. This district is adjacent with Kaski in the east, Baglung in the west, Syangjha in the south and Myagdi in the north. The geographical location of the district lies between 28⁰ - 28⁰³' north latitude and 83⁰³' - 83⁰⁴⁹' east longitudes. The district is situated at altitude ranging approximately 471 meters above the sea level. (Parajuli, 2001)

On the basis of administrative division, Parbat district is divided into 11 Illaka and 55 Village Development Committee (VDC). The Arthar Dandakharka VDC is situated in the mid-western part of Parbat district. It is surrounded by Bangsing VDC to the east, Pakuwa VDC to the west, Thulipokhari VDC to the south and Ramja Deurali VDC to the north. The VDC office is located in ward no. 6. The study area (Saheli-Pakha Community Forest) is extended in ward no. 1 and 2 of Arthar Dandakharka VDC. Raldada is bound to the east, Jaisirumta and Karbare to the south, Garane to the west, Jhaurikuna and Chalsumre to the north. The forest covers approximately 3800 square kilometers area. The study area is near about 22 Kilometers, from the headquarter, Kushma.

Arthar Dandakharka VDC does not have any good access to moterable road. However, since the last 5 years it has been touch muddy motor-able road that linked at Khadketari of Syangjha district to Siddhartha Highway and Dobilla of Parbat district to Bhupi Sherchan Highway. In the name of transportation only mini- trucks and Tata Mobile Mahendra Jeep are available only in the summer season.

4.1.2 Biophysical Setting

4.1.2.1 Climate

The study area is located between subtropical and temperate zone, which means annual temperature 17⁰C, and 29⁰C in summer and winter respectively (Parajuli, 2001).

4.1.3 Natural Resources

All objects / things available in nature are generally called natural resources. Especially there are three types of natural resource they are: renewable natural resources, non-renewable natural resources and perpetual natural resources. They are mentioned below:

4.1.3.1 River

Jahare Khola is one of the main water resources, which flows in the middle part of the forest. Especially, the water source of *Jahare Khola* is used for the irrigation of the agricultural land and drinking purpose for both human beings and domesticated animals. People use the water of the *Khola* for drinking while working at their field. The researcher found that the water of the *Khola* irrigating half part of the study area.

Panchase is the place of Saheli-Pakha CF from where the supply of drinking water has been supplied since 5 years to the people of ward no. 3, 4, 6 and 8. But rest of the other wards people of the VDC depend on locally available water resources like *well* and *springl* which are located in different location of the VDC.

4.1.3.2 Types of Land

The land structure of the study area is generally terrace. The local people of the study area have divided the arable land into three types on the basis of land use: *Khet*, *Bari* and *Pakho*. *Khet* is the fertile wetland where, rice is cultivated. *Bari* is the terrace land where maize and other vegetables are produced and the *Pakho* is the unfertile land. During the course of field study the researcher found that the upper caste people like Brahman, Chhetri, and Giri/ Puri have much *Khet* and *Bari*. However the lower caste and ethnic people like Gurung, Damai, Kami, Sarki have more *Pakho* and *Bari*. The farmers cultivate different types of crops in different period of time by using their traditional

knowledge. At the time of cultivation people practice Parma system. *Parma*; is a labour exchange system

4.1.4 Flora and Fauna

Arthar Dandakharka VDC is rich in bio-diversity. It is a habitat of different kinds of wild animals, birds, reptiles, insects and plants. The *Launth Salla (Pinus roxburghi)* forest is available in the VDC. The following titles deal more about it.

4.1.4.1 Forest and Vegetation

Forest is the most peculiar, valuable and renewable natural resources of the village. Therefore, it has to be preserved carefully and honestly by villagers. According to the constitution of Saheli-Pakha CF the forest covers approximately 3800 square kilometers of land. The product of the forest is used for fuel wood and timber. Besides this, the forest also provides shelter to the large number of wild animals such as rabbit, jackal, tiger, monkey, fox leopard and wild birds. Similarly, it provides leaf litter and fodder for large number of domestic animals in this village area.

It has different types of natural vegetations. Some types of vegetations are found in the high elevation and some are in the low. *Sal* (*Shorea robusta*), which is a dominant tree species of this area that is used for the construction of house, cow shed and furniture. Beside this, *Chilaune* (*Schima walliclhi*), *Chaamp* (*Michelia champaca*), *Utis* (*Alnus nepalensis*) are also used so far as same purposed. *Bans* (*Dendrocalamus*) is one of the important forest product which is used to make different types of instrument such as *Doko*, *Nanglo*, *Bhata*, *Choya* for household activities. *Amriso* (*Thysanolaen maxima*) is used to make broom which is use to clean house and its surrounding. *Katus* (*Castanopsis indica*), *Dhaairo* (*Woodfordia fruticosa*), *Simal* (*Banbaz simal*), *Budi Dhiyaryl* (*Lagerstroenia indica*), *Kutemero* (*Lisea monopetala*), *Khanays* (*Ficus cunia buch*) are used by FUGs for both firewood and fodder to their domestic animals. *Bel* (*Aeque mormelus*) *Asuto* (*Adatoda vasica*), *Chaamp* (*Michelia champaca*), *Chiuri* (*Mashuca butyracea*) are used to perform the different religious and ritual activities by the people who believe in religion. Some of the plants, which are found in the forest, have multiple used. In some content *Amaro* (*Spondius managire*), *Simal* (*Banbaz simal*), *Amala*

(*Embliva officinalis*) are used as a herbal plants to make herbal medicine by the people. Local people categorized *Banmara* (*Eupatorium adenophora*) as destructive plant. During the field study one of the elderly person inform that, this plant has no any special use. It has inhibited the regeneration of grass and other different bushy plants. But one-third part of the forestland is covered by it. It has been known that different activities like cutting and burning done by FUGs for the destruction of this plant could not destroy it completely.

4.1.4.2 Animals

Wild animals like fishing cat (*Felis viverrina*), foxes (*Vulpes montana*), jackals (*Canis aureus*), rabbits (*Lepus ruficaudatus*), wolves (*Canis lupus*), jungle cats (*Felis chaus*), deer, doe, monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) { the local people categories the monkey into three categories: *Pahare*, *Dhedu* and *Hanumane* } are common in this area. Birds like parrot, pheasant (*Lophura euomelana*), peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), owls (*Bubo nipalensis*), several kinds of snakes and other reptiles, butterflies and insects are also found in the forest. During the course of field study the researcher could not find the exact number of animals but the villagers have reported that the number of wild animals, birds, reptiles butterflies and other insects are increasing in the study area after the establishment of CF. Because the forest has been changed into dense forest through which wild animals shelter is improved.

4.2 Social setting

4.2.1 Socio- economic Profile of Saheli-Pakha CFUGs

In order to analyze and describe the socio-economic status of the respondents, different indicators such as ethnic group, sex group, level of education, occupation and main source of income were used.

4.2.2 Population Composition by Age and Sex

Age and sex are the major characteristics of the population. It is essential to study population composition because their activities are directly associated for the exploitation of forest resources. The age and sex composition of the studied population is shown in table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Study on Age and Sex-Wise distribution of Households

Age	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Total Percentage
0-4	05	2.22	09	4.00	14	6.22
5-9	03	1.33	05	2.22	08	3.56
10-14	07	3.11	06	2.67	13	5.78
15-19	10	4.44	14	6.22	24	10.67
20-24	08	3.56	11	4.89	19	8.44
25-29	10	4.44	09	4.00	19	8.44
30-34	10	4.44	09	4.00	19	8.44
35-39	12	5.33	11	4.89	23	10.22
40-44	06	2.67	08	3.56	14	6.22
45-49	18	8.00	17	7.56	35	15.56
50-54	09	4.00	08	3.56	17	7.56
55-59	04	1.78	07	3.11	11	4.89
60 ⁺	03	1.33	06	2.67	09	4.00
Total	105	46.65	120	53.35	225	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

In the study area it is found that 82.86 percentage male and 78.33 percentage female are from the age of 15-59, which is considered economically active in Nepal where as 14.28 percentage male and 16.67 percentage female are from 0-14 years and 7.86 percentage from 60 years above. In total 88.44 percentage population is considered as economically in active or independent population, who were equally participating for collecting grass, fodder, leaves, firewood, cost sharing, benefit sharing and in decision making process of CF. Beside this, it is found that the children between the age of 10-14 are helping to their parents in their domestic tasks (bringing water, carrying firewood, cleaning house, washing clothes, cooking, raring cattle) and also helping for agricultural activities.

4.2.3 Caste and Ethnic Composition

In the study area, different caste/ethnic groups people are living such as Brahman, Chhetri, Giri/Puri, Sarki, Kami, Damai, Gurung,. According to household survey there

were 13 households Brahman, 9 households Chhetri, 2 households Gurung, 6 households Giri/Puri, 5 Sarki households, 3 Kami households, 2 Damai households. The table 4.2 shows the caste / ethnic distribution of the study area.

Table 4.2 Study on Caste/ Ethnic-wise Distribution of HHs

Caste/ Ethnicity	HHs	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total Pop ⁿ	Average pop ⁿ per HHs
Brahman	13	37	35.23	40	33.33	77	5.92
Chhetri	9	27	25.71	31	25.84	58	6.44
Giri/Puri	6	16	15.23	19	15.83	35	5.83
Sarki	5	9	8.58	13	10.83	22	4.40
Kami	3	7	6.67	8	6.67	15	5.00
Damai	2	4	3.81	5	4.17	9	4.50
Gurung	2	5	4.77	4	3.33	9	4.50
Total	40	105	100	120	100	225	36.59

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 4.2 it is clear that Brahman and Chhetri caste are the majority in the study area followed by Gurung, Giri/Puri, Sarki, Kami, Damai. Generally the average population per household is more in Brahman, Chhetri, Giri/Puri (upper caste) i.e. 5.92, 6.44, 5.83 respectively. However it is less in rest of other ethnic/ castes households. These households, which do have more average population than number of children, are also more. According to one of the elderly person, the lower caste/ ethnic people have sent someone from their household to the abroad to earn money. They don't stay with their family for a long time, which affects the fertility rate and so they do have the less number of the children. But the upper caste people do stay with their family round the years, which results to increase the birth rate yearly on the one hand and on the other hand the researcher found that mostly the households which are composed by higher number of population have adopted the joint family system where, the people of different generation are living together.

4.2.4 Religious Composition

All the forest user groups of Saheli-Pakha Community Forest are Hindus and follow Hinduism. The people perform all rituals according to Hinduism. The main festivals are Dashain, Tihar, Makar Sankranti. Specially, elders and housewives worship their Gods and Goddesses daily.

4.2.5 Education

Education status of the community people has an important role for the participation in different CF activities. So that it is regarded as the corner stone for development. In this subject the researcher tried to show the educational status of the respondents. Here the level of education has been divided into six categories like illiterate, literate, primary, lower secondary, secondary, intermediate and above. Table 4.3 shows the educational status of the respondents.

Table 4.3 Educational Status of HHs in the Study Area *

Academic qualification	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illiterate [†]	13	13.54	29	28.43	42	21.21
Literate [‡]	28	29.17	23	22.55	51	25.76
Primary (Class 1-5)	21	21.88	24	23.53	45	22.72
Lower-Secondary (Class 6-8)	15	15.62	13	12.75	28	14.14
Secondary (Class9-10)	11	11.46	8	7.84	19	9.60
Intermediate and Above	8	8.33	5	4.90	13	6.57
Total	96	100	102	100	198	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

* Those persons who were under the age of 5 are not included in the table

† Only those individuals were calculated who were in the age of 6 and above.

‡ Literate means those individuals who have not introduced to school but are able to read and write.

The study area was introduced to modern education after 1980s only where as modern education was introduced in Nepal after the political revolution of 1950s. Various school and colleges were established after this political upheaval in different parts of the country through the study area could not get chance to establish a primary school until 1980s. A primary school named Subha Kalyan Primary School was established in 1982s. After the completion of the primary education students used to go to join secondary school of neighboring VDC, Pakuwa and Thulipokhari walking around one hour up to last one decade.

Elderly people of the village reported that, the boys both from rich and poor family had joined the school however only few girls of the rich family had joined school. After the completion of primary education the girls left school. There were many reasons behind it like early marriage, social values, geographical difficulties, household activities and many more. However the boys gave continuity to their education as more priority was given to the boys.

Since last decade, Subha Kalyan School has been upgraded to lower secondary level, which has 256 students with half of the girl's population. The secondary level educational status of the girls has been better than before. But there are no institutions for further studies in the village therefore the number of girls attaining higher education is very low as comparison to the boys.

4.3 House Pattern

Generally, the economic condition of a family, climate and culture determine house pattern of an area, in the study area, the researcher found two types of houses: single storied and two storied made up of mud, timber and bamboo. Table 4.4 shows the type of houses.

Table 4.4 Pattern of Households

Types of house	Roofed by corrugated iron	Percentage	Roofed by thatch	Percentage	Total
Single stored	4	10.00	9	22.50	13
Two-storied	11	27.50	16	40.00	27
Total	15	37.50	25	62.50	40

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 4.4 shows that 37.50 percent houses were roofed by corrugated irons. This indicates that the use of thatch grass in roofing is decreasing day by day. According to the villagers, corrugated iron is available in the local market and it also lasts longer than thatch roof. The main cause of decreasing thatch grasses is introduction of broom grass as a cash crop, which is planted in the thatch grassland (Kharbari). The houses, which are roofed by corrugated iron, are rich. They have high social status in the society. However, the single storied households, which have just single storied, are poor and have low social status in the society.

Almost all houses are similar in the study area. Each house has a courtyard used by children for playing, for drying and threshing grains, handicraft works and for making other agricultural equipment. If a man has a two-storied house, the first floor is either used to store the grains or as kitchen. The second floor is used for bedrooms separated by bamboo or wooden planks. In the study area, poor people have single storied houses. Most of them do not have a separate room for kitchen.

4.4 Economy Setting

4.4.1 Occupation

Without the study of economy in any society we cannot understand the whole system because economy is regarded as the dominant factor of any society. In the study area directly or indirectly, majority of the population are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. 22.50 percentages of people were engaged in service, 7.50 percentages of people were engaged in business and 70.00 percentages of people were engaged in

agriculture and animal husbandry. Table 4.5 shows the population composition of sampled households according to occupation.

Table 4.5 Occupational Status of Respondents in the Study Area

Occupation	Total households	Percentage
Agriculture and Animal husbandry	28	70.00
Service	9	22.50
Business	3	7.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

It is clear that due to the lack of well managed market, factory and industries in the Arthar Dandakharka VDC only less percentage of the people were engaged in business where as majority of the people are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. It shows the dependency of the population on the forest and its product for their livelihood was higher. For example, farmers had depended on forest for agricultural instruments like *Halo, Juwa, Kuto, Kodalo ko Bid* and for animals they collect grass, fodder and leaves. In this sense, different categories of people use the forest products in different ways based on the function in their life (Parkin 1992).

Agriculture is the backbone of Arthar Dandakharka because it supplies main food items to the inhabitants. Farmland of Arthar Dandakharka area is fertile and productive because it does not have rocky land structure and it has alluvial soil as reported by JTA during the course of field survey. However, the farmers are unable to produce as much as possible due to lack of irrigation facility.

Arthar Dandakharka area does not have enough irrigated land (*Khet*). The water of the same stream irrigates a small portion of land on the bank of Jahare and Wagadi streams. Therefore, much of the land is dry (*Bari*). The main crops grown in the *bari* land are maize and millet. In the *Khet* land people grow paddy, wheat and maize. Agricultural calendar begins from March- April (*Phalgun*) and ends in November-December (*Mangshir*).

Animal husbandry has taken as an integral part of agriculture in the study area. In Arthar Dandakharka VDC almost all people keep animals. Cows, oxen, buffaloes and goats are raised in Brahman, Chhetri, and Giri/Puri families. Kami, Damai, families keep pigs, hens including the above-mentioned animals. But Brahman, Chhetri, and Giri/Puri families do not raise pigs and hens. They have categorized these two animals as untouchable animals because they eat human stools and phlegm. However, the cow is regarded as the mother; it is worshiped by the both upper and lower castes peoples in different occasions (Molnar, 1981). The lowest and highest number of cattle in each family is 3 and 22 respectively. Oxen are used for plugging field. Buffaloes and cows are kept for milk. Goats, pigs and hens for meat. Arthar Dandakharka VDC has the heterogeneous community. The people of different caste and ethnic community have different religious, social, cultural norms and values, which brings differences in the social practices.

The people who have enough land (Both *Khet* and *Bari*) usually do not depend upon the forest for grazing their cattle where as people with less land depend up on the forest to graze their cattle.

4.4.2 Cooking and Lightening

The house survey shows that all households use kerosene for lightening. Different materials like gas, kerosene and firewood are used for cooking. The table 4.6 shows the cooking materials currently used by the households.

Table 4.6 Cooking Materials Currently Used by the Respondents

Cooking Materials	Sampled Households	Percentage
Firewood	29	72.50
Kerosene	7	17.50
Bio - gas	4	10.00
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 4.6 shows that about 72.50 percent of the households use firewood for cooking. Similarly, about 10.00 percent of households use biogas. Generally to those households, which have permanent toilet use biogas to reduce the quantity of cow-dung. 17.50 percent of households use kerosene. They are enrolled in government services and different business. They do not have leisure time to collect firewood from the CF. Majority of the households use firewood as cooking materials because it is easily available and cheaper than other materials.

4.4.3 Land Holding Pattern of the Respondent

As Nepal is a country of an overwhelmingly agricultural based economy, the primary source of economy of the people is land. Therefore, it is necessary to look at ownership of land to understand the extent of basic economy of the study population. Respondents in the study area have possessed agricultural land. Most of them have huge plot of land for the agricultural purpose, the further details about the land holding pattern among the respondents has been shown in the table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 Land Holding Pattern of Study Population

Land Size (in Ropani)	Land Category and Percentage			
	Khet	Percentage	Bari	Percentage
Less than 2 Ropani	3	7.50	11	27.50
2 - 4 Ropani	7	17.50	15	37.50
4-6 Ropani	11	27.50	7	17.50
6-8 Ropani	2	5.00	5	12.50
8-10 Ropani	14	35.00	2	5.00
10 and above	3	7.50	-	-
Total	40	100.00	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 4.7 illustrates that almost all the respondents have very huge land holding that proves that the respondents of the study site mainly based on the agricultural activities, The respondents possess both the irrigable and non irrigable land for the different agricultural activities.

4.4.4 Food Condition of Sufficiency

The main crops grown in the study area are Paddy, Maize, Millet, Wheat, Barley; Potato etc. in accordance with the land holding pattern case of the respondents it seems that the respondents do not suffer from the food deficit. Most of the families can meet food requirement around the year from their land and its yield and even they can produce more than the requirement and surplus can be sold in the market to earn profit or as a means of income generation. Few families have food deficit because they have little non-irrigable land holding in size. Production in this VDC is relatively more than other VDC. The food situation (sufficiency and deficits) was also surveyed on the basis of the knowledge of the respondents during field work period which we can observe in the table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Food Sufficiency at Household by Month

Sufficiency Months	Households	Percentage
Up to 3 Months	6	15.00
3-6 Months	3	7.50
6-12 Months	19	47.50
12 Months and above	12	30.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

As per the collected fact by the researcher from the field among the total 40 respondents who responded on food sufficiency issue, the food deficiency as a whole was reported by 9 (22.50%) households. After studying the figures of the table, it is obvious that large number of the respondents 31 (77.50%) household were able to meet their food requirement for more than 6 months from their own production. Wherein 47.50 percent of the respondents could meet the requirement for up to 12 and 30.00 percent of the respondents had reported that they produced more than the requirement for their family in the year. Thus, we can conclude that the population of the study site does not suffer from the food deficiency.

CHAPTER V

COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This chapter discusses the overall management system of community forestry in Saheli-Pakha Community Forest User Group.

5.1 General Overview of Management System in SPCFUGs in present Context

Saheli-Pakha CFUGs formally was registered in the District Forest Office (DFO) of Parbat on 2052/09/29 for forest conservation, utilization, management and development. As per discussion with the executive committee members, key persons and review of Operational Plans and Constitution of CF. Following objectives are found in Saheli-Pakha CFUGs.

-) To conserve and to promote the existing forest within the CF area resulting a healthy and worthy forest.
-) To perform plantation in the barren land of the CF.
-) To provide different forest products to the entire members without any disturbances to forest status.
-) To communities the forest by improving the degrading environmental pollution.
-) To disseminate the communal feeling.
-) To decrease the land - slides and erosions by conserving the forest.
-) To disseminate the appropriate conservation system to the wildlife available in CF area.
-) To conduct various service oriented as well as money oriented programs.

Since the time of establishment, the Saheli-Pakha CFUGs has been managing the forest resources according to the forest operation plan. They are following the guideline, legal rules and regulations as stated in the approved forest operation plan for the forest management. Besides, it was found that the user groups usually used to give priority to

things according to deed assessments. According to DFO staffs and local users, the condition of the forest is becoming glorious after community had started to manage the forest. The water resources also improved after establishment of CF. The overall forest management system in Saheli-Pakha CFUGs can be described as:

-) Operational Activity.
-) Protection of Forest.
-) Promotion and Development Activities.

5.1.1 Operation Activities

The operation management includes the overall operation process for management. It includes identification of the user group and formation of executive committee as well as general rules of community forest, office management and financial status.

5.1.1.1 Formation of Forest User Group

The forest user group includes all the member of a community that regularly uses a particular area of forest for grazing and collection of forest products and form themselves into a group to protect, manage, and utilize that area of forest (HMG/N, Master Plan for the Forest, 1988).

Before initiation of new Community Forest Policy (CFP), the process of registration of forest was very difficult. According to the elderly person of the village the educated population of the study area (Arthar Dandakharka VDC) established a club and started to manage and conserve forest by organizing different awareness programs in the community. Although they did not have legal authority to do such works, they were self-motivated towards management of forest and started to converse a small part of the forest. After the initiation of new CFP, the people of the study area were also encouraged to register there nearby forest as the community forest and they consulted DFO for the further process.

Prior to registration, they had already started to conserve the forest. They performed clear filling in a small part of forest with the technical support from DFO to develop the forest.

When they cut down all the trees completely, they had to face different problems and conflicts in the community. Different types of negative whims and impressions were convinced and supported the activities of committee. They again convinced other users personally and also by conduction of different programs i.e. *Ghar- Dailo* programs, *Samuhik Ban Samrakshyan Abhiyan* (i.e. Protection of forest in collective form).

After, the club members had convinced all the local users of Arthar Dandakharka VDC for the formation of CFUGs. The people participation in the meeting, identified the user group of the forest themselves. The committee was inclusive in the structure where different males and females from different caste and ethnic groups were represented. That mass meeting had given the authority to the executive committee for the further process viz. the registration, management and conservation of forest resources. After that, the forest was legally registered as the Saheli-Pakha CFUGs in 2052 B.S. at DFO of Parbat.

5.1.1.2 The Formation of Executive Committee of Saheli-Pakha CFUGs

The term executive committee denotes to the group of people from the several socio-cultural background that are united to identify the problems and solve them. Forest executive committee also a kind of committee, which is responsible for the identification of the different sorts of problems, related with the forest and go thoroughly to solve them for the protection, promotion and rational utilization of forest resources.

The general assembly of forest users group forms executive committee (see 5.1.1.3). The forest EC consists of 13 members. The members were 1 Chairperson, 1 Vice-chairperson, 1 Secretary, 1 Treasurer and 9 Members. The tenure of each committee is three years .To give necessary suggestion and advice an advising committee was formed from the forest user group. As noted by the elderly person of CF the members of this committee were formed by the social workers, clubs and mother groups, father groups. This committee along with FUGs formulates the rules and regulations about forest protection and management such as plantation, silviculture, collection process of forest products and many more.

5.1.1.3 Selection and Structure of Executive Committee

The forest executive committee is formed by the general assembly of the forest users groups through the exercise of democratic voting system as per their constitution by the direct involvement of entire users of CF. There is no secured seat for the female and the low caste groups. Table 5.1 shows the forest executive committee structure according to sex and caste/ethnic composition in the study area.

Table 5.1 Caste/Ethnic and Sex Wise Structures in Executive Committee in the Study Area

Caste / Ethnic	Males		Females		Total
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
High Caste	7	53.58	2	15.39	9
Janjati [§]	1	7.69	1	7.69	2
Dalit ^{**}	1	7.69	1	7.69	2
Total	9	69.23	4	30.77	13

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 5.1 shows that, there are 13 members including 4 woman and 9 male members in executive committee. The percentage of male is 69.23 and female percentage is 30.77. The females occupied among the five vital post one vital posts (Treasurer) and other three members, where as the rest other by the male. It shows that the male are in majority in the post of executive committee.

The study area is highly dominated by high caste people i.e. Brahman, Chhetri, Giri/Puri, along with *Janajati and Dalit* were the inhabitants of the study area but their presentation in EC was found less. The executive committee of FUGs has tried to include the members from each caste and ethnicity as far as possible. But it did not include all caste and ethnicity in executive committee.

[§] Only one Janjati groups, i.e, Gurung were found in the study area.

^{**} Only three Dalit groups, i.e, Damai, Kami and Sarki were found in the study area.

On the basis of field study, the researcher found that most of the ethnic people did not actively participate in executive committee. This is mainly unawareness. The ethnic people are illiterate due to which they show passiveness in the work. Having no any new idea they are forced to do only physical labors like porter to fulfill their daily needs and essentiality. Therefore, they couldn't give time for forest executive committee whenever they become the member of the executive committee they have to attend regular meeting for several time but it has been found that they were unable to do so.

In the case of lower caste people as reported by key informant it was very difficult even to select 2 members (including male and female) in the executive committee from the low caste. On the one hand they were illiterate that has made them passive and also they had created the negative attitude towards forest because the Arthar Dandakharka VDC is highly dominated by untouchables. One of the *Damai* informants had reported that they had to stay at corner place while conduction of the meeting of executive committee. It has made them to think inferior due to which they were not actively participating in executive committee.

As mentioned in operation plan, executive committee serves the service for 3 years. Similarly 2/3 (two third) majorities can call the general convention and no confidence motion passed by the majority of member can dissolve the committee (Bidhan of Saheli-Pakha CF). Mainly the roles and responsibility of the executive members is to prepare the future plan for the proper management, protection, promotion and utilization of the forest resources.

5.1.1.4 Educational status of Executive Committee

Education plays an important role in development and management of the CF. Education is promoting factor for people participation in different level of activities in CF like in decision making process, cost and benefit sharing process, participation in meetings. Educational level of the present executive committee member was broadly classified under 5 headings as illiterate, literate, school level, intermediate level and graduate level. Table 5.2 shows the education status of the executive committee members.

Table 5.2 Educational Status of the Executive Member

Level of Education	Number of Member	Percentage
Illiterate	3	23.08
Literate	3	23.08
School Level	5	38.46
Intermediate Level	1	7.69
Graduate Level	1	7.69
Total	13	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

From the above mentioned table 5.2 it is cleared that educational status of the executive committee is quite good because 76.92 percent executive committee members are from literate to graduate level where as maximum numbers are from the school level i.e. 38.46 percent.

5.1.1.5 Identification of FUGs Membership

As stated in constitution of Saheli-Pakha CFUGs, all the interested household living with- in the boundary of Arthar Dandakharka VDC of Parbat district who are agreed to follow the rules and regulation mention in the *Bidhan* of Saheli-Pakha CF, mentally healthy and without any immoral habits can obtain the membership of CF. By the study of document of CF the researcher found these procedure to be the member of CF.

-) First the individual has to submit hand written application for the membership with entrance fee of Rs 20 in forest executive committee.
-) After getting legal membership by the executive committee the member can get permanent membership after the three months by charging of Rs 35.
-) Whenever family breakup to get the new membership the individual has to follow the same procedure.

The membership of UGs withdraws or rejects membership by general assembly in following cases:

-) If any member betray the user group regarding its operation, promotion and financial aspect.
-) If any member does not follow the rules and regulations as stated in constitution.

5.1.2 Protection of Forest

The protection of forest includes the activities regarding conservation and protection of forest, forest products, wildlife and encroachment. It includes forest general rules and regulation, forest guard and penalty and reward system.

5.1.2.1 General Rules for Protection of Forest

In the field study researcher found that the CF has developed certain operational Plan and constitution for the protection of the forest and its products. The major strategies were as follows:

-) Grazing is strictly prohibited in the forest areas where recent plantation is made. But the other barren areas of the forest are open for grazing.
-) Hunting of wildlife and birds are strictly prohibited within the forest area.
-) Besides the recently planted areas, grass cutting is opened in other forest areas. In these areas the small grass are allowed to cut. But green branches are strictly prohibited to cut.
-) Firewood, fodder, timber, wood, coal are allowed to collect only in the prescribed dated and amount.

5.1.2.2 Forest Guard

Saheli-Pakha CFUGs has made certain provisions for protection of forest from fire, grazing different domestic animals, and encroachment of forestland, illegal cutting and collection of forest products. They have appointed and arranged one of the forest guards to protect and watch the forest every day. They are paying Rs. 2500.00 per month to the

forest guard. There was no directly involvement of households to protect forest like *Lauripale*.

5.1.3 Promotion and Development Activities

The promotion and development management includes all the techniques that are used for development of community forest status i.e., plantation, silviculture practices, fire protection activities, training and awareness programmed.

5.1.3.1 Plantation Activities

Saheli-Pakha CFUGs have conducted the plantation activities for four times in different years, after the registration of forest as the community forest (2054 B.S.). It comes to know that, generally plantation (*Biruwa-ropne*) is carried out once in three years particularly during the agriculturally slack period. The activities of plantation run for one-two weeks in each time.

According to the villagers, FUGs members were planted about 9670 different saplings such as *sallo*, *chilauni*, *lakure*, bamboo along with *Pipal*, *Bar*, *Swami*, *Bel* in different areas of the forest. These saplings were brought from the nursery of district headquarter *Kusma* but saplings of all religious plants and bamboo were brought from the surrounding of the village. However, all the planted saplings were not grown well. The key informants reported that due to drought, lack of knowledge of plantation and selection of different place for different saplings, 2765 sampling were dead. During the time of field study the villagers reported that FUGs were not planted any fodder related saplings except bamboo in the forest. During the plantation the user members cleared the shrubs, buses and climbers, which covered the land. It clearly indicates that in the name of plantation FUGs have destroyed small shrubs, bushes and climbers from the forest (Chhetri, 1999). However the elderly people of the village were not in favor of these activities. According to them it was not good because it destruct more forest resources for regeneration.

5.1.3.2 Silviculture Practice

Silviculture is defined as a practice of cleaning and cutting of undesired tree species for improving the forest condition thereby increasing the quantity and quality of products. The silviculture activities are generally based on operational plan but sometime they used to change the timetable and strategy on the basis of need assessment. According to DFO staffs, the technical supports for different silviculture activities are also provided to this FUGs. This FUGs is following the same cutting, thinning, and pruning procedures as prescribed in operation plan. According to executive committee members and monitoring from DFO, it was found that the silviculture activities in this CF are satisfactory.

Since the beginning of the community forest, several new management practices were implemented in SPCFUGs. For the better management and development of forest, the SPCFUGs has performed different silvicultural practices (*Ban Godne*) i.e. *Jhadi Safai* (cleaning), thinning, pruning, singling. In every three years, the committee arranges this activity. All users are involved during the course of silviculture practices, which runs from 7-12 days. FUGs usually carried out the silviculture in group rather than individual due to the fear of carnivorous wild animals like tiger, fox, deer.

5.1.3.3 Fire Protection Activities

Every year *Arthar Dandakharka* people used to light fire in the forest before CF formation because they believed that ground grass grow very fast after fire, mainly cattle grazers were responsible for forest fire. Along with the formation of CF the forest fire practice has stopped. The researcher found that they have not faced forest fire since that time. Executive committee has made rule. If someone lights the fire unknowingly then he/she has to pay Rs 600 but if someone light the fire knowingly then committee fixes the penalty amount according to the seriousness of the crime. In addition to this, users light the fire in the forest then he/she is restricted to collect forest products for one year. Key informants have reported that after registration forest as SPCF. It was fired for two times in 2054 and 2066. For the first time fire was controlled immediately. But forest EC was unable to identify the person who had lighted the forest. However, for the second time it had taken two and half days to control. This had made great destruction of forest resources along with wild animals. But this time the person was identified but he was

mentally disordered EC had charged Rs.3100 from his house. According to respondents different ways were applied to control the fire from the forest in direct involvement of FUGs.

-) By drawing fire lines.
-) By using branches of green trees.
-) By using soil and water.

5.1.3.4 Training and Awareness Programs

The executive committee frequently conducted various training and awareness programs to the entire members and users of the CF. Simply to those members who have shown the interest to work and have been working hardly in different activities of CF. If interested members became more they make quota and get them involved in different programs provided by different agencies. Besides, DFO and Other line agencies also provide various types of training to the executive members and FUGs for better management, protection, development and utilization of the forest products.

5.1.4 Conflict with in Saheli-Pakha CFUGs

Marx stated that conflict is an integral part of society (Ritzer, 2000). The conflict is found between individuals, within a group, between groups or even between institutions. SPCF is not exception. It was seen within a forest users' group, between two forest users' groups and executive committee, and authority between users which is discussion in below;

5.1.4.1 Conflicts within High Caste and Low Caste FUGs

During the period of field study it was informed that the low caste people did not speak out in a community due to the domination of high caste people. In the study CF, the researcher found that male Brahmans and Chhetri have significant presentation in executive committee (see table 5.1). Therefore forest resources were exploited according to their interest. However, in the constitution of SPCFUGs there was an equal opportunity all forest users to use the forest products either from upper caste or from lower caste.

The high caste people informed that socially disadvantaged groups were remain absent during the formation of EC. They did not take interest to participate in EC of CF. Some people from low caste groups were came to the assembly to organize for selection of EC but they sat in the corner. It was due to the concept of caste purity and pollution, which was deeply rooted in Arthar Dandakharka VDC. The high caste people and ethnic groups were taken as pure where as low caste people as impure or polluted. Therefore, the concept of touchability and untouchability was main constraint to participate in EC for the low caste people.

Similarly, it was found that the conflict between lower caste and other caste for the distribution of forest products. In the SPCF, there was a rule to distribute forest products to the users during the death ritual, marriage ceremony, *puran* and so on. However, the researcher found the biasness to the distribution of forest products in such ceremony for high caste and low caste. In the field observation, one of *Dalit* respondent reported that he demanded the firewood to the executive committee during the marriage ceremony of his daughter. It was due to the low participation of low caste in the EC. High caste people had in major and majority position in executive committee and it did not make decisions to provide firewood for him. Not only to him high caste people had dominated to the low caste people due to which in different time different types of quarrel took place between high caste and low caste people in Arthar Dandakharka VDC.

5.1.4.2 Conflict between Forest Executive Committee and Users

In the study area, user groups blamed that EC was remained ideal except at the time of harvesting of forest products. On the other hand, EC members reported that they did not get any thing (money/commodity) for their service. They felt full time social worker. Thus they should get high respect from users. On the other hands the users felt that the EC was not working well for the community. The users also told that they made bias in distribution of forest resources. They fixed the price of the forest product themselves without decision of general assembly. In the field observation, it was found that all users either rich or poor had equal charge for consuming the forest products. As a result, the rich people could afford the large amount of the forest product especially timber as compared with the poor people. The economically poor users were requested to charge

low for them but EC was disagreed. It also leads to the conflict between EC and poor users.

5.1.4.3 Conflict within User Group Members

In Saheli-Pakha CF, Some of the user members were found unable to participate in different activities. The main reason was of their nature or physical condition as well as absent of male members in the household. The active member's felt that because of low participation the inactive members should not enjoy benefits equal to active members. But all the members of user group wanted or captured equal benefits of forest resources than the conflict raised there. The degree of conflict among the users was higher during the forest harvesting period. There was communal harvesting system for firewood. Each and every member (household) should participate in the harvesting activity. There was no discrimination among and between the strong and weak participants. Therefore some time active, energetic member felt that they were doing more, but were receiving equal share. Their demand was that they should get more than the inactive, ideal, nominal and weak participant of communal harvesting. Harimaya Sarki, one of forest user had reported that, her husband was physically disable. Due to poverty she was unable to participate in different activities of CF even though she was the member of CF. Last year she had to marry her daughter and she had demand 5 *Bhari* (amount of firewood) firewood. However, EC did not provide firewood to her due to the pressure of active FUGs. That had made a sort of quarrel with active members with her.

5.1.4.4 Conflict for Authority

Social organizations are imperatively coordinated associations rather than social systems. Authority structure, which is an integral part of every social organization, leads inevitably to the crystallization of interest groups and inherent possibilities of conflict. Authority structure always involves relations of super-ordination and subordination (Francis, 1999). He further stated that authorities creating a dichotomy of positions of domination and subjection. It was also seen in the study area. The people of Arthar Dandakharka wanted to gain social status either by wealth, or by education, or leadership. Being nominated as a chairperson or a secretary or to any other vital position in a user-group committee helps one elevate his/her status. This situation also leads to the conflict among the users for the

vital position. This becomes very serious when their desire is driven by political motives. One of the elderly respondents has reported that, for the first formation of EC, two persons from two political parties NC and NCP (UML) respectively were nominated their name for the post of chairperson. That divided the mass into two different groups to elect their candidate from their political parties. This created the conflict while selecting leadership of the EC.

CHAPTER VI

COST AND BENEFIT SHARING

This chapter deals with the cost and benefit sharing of community forestry in Saheli-Pakha community forest user group.

6.1 Source of Revenue

The present study focused on the cost management of the community forestry. It is very important to know the source of revenue of any social organization, Sense of belonging aims to encourage the sustainable management of forest products, considering the social, economic and environmental aspects. Higher the sources of revenue collection better and sustainable management it will be. In context of Nepal community forestry are the better sources of uplifting the living standard of the rural setting. Keeping the important of the cost management following heads was developing to find out the major revenue collection.

6.1.1 Cost Collection from Membership Charge

As stated in constitution of Saheli-Pakha CFUGs, all the interested household living with- in the boundary of Arthar Dandakharka VDC of Parbat district who agree to follow the rules and regulation mention in the *Bidhan* of Saheli-Pakha CF, mentally healthy and without any immoral habits can be the member of CF. By the study of document of CF the researcher found these procedure to be the member of CF.

-) First the individual has to submit hand written application for the membership with entrance fee of Rs 20 in forest executive committee.
-) After getting legal membership by the executive committee the member can get permanent membership after the three months by charging of Rs 35.
-) Whenever family breakup to get the new membership the individual has to follow the same procedure.
-) After being the member of the community forest user group an individual have to pay the monthly fee collection of 10 Rs. The collected amount is kept under the user group's fund and utilized in the betterment of the forest. It is also landed with

interest to the money landed. And the amount is permanently kept as the fund of CFUGs.

6.1.2 Cost Collection from Timber Products

Every year the forest sells different forest product. The forest is managed with the silviculture, in which the branches are rafted and wanted plants are remove from the ground. During this process the unwanted timber are used as a fire wood, and are distributed among the users groups. For the purpose of that the individual have to pay the amount of Rs 40. It also sells the timber for the construction of the house in the community, and it charges the 50 Rs per tree and two trees are provided to an individual while constructing the house.

6.1.3 Cost Collection from Non-Timber Products

Trading of non timber forest products (NTFPs) is basically operated by two actors: primary collectors and local brokers. About 72 percent of the total households were found to be primary collectors whereas 9 percent of the total households were involved in trading of NTFPs species as brokers. Local brokers had more bargaining power and better access to market information through business and social networking and are thus capable of setting prices sometimes to the detriment of primary collectors. The forest sells the fodder as one of the most important non-timber plant to the members. And beside this it also sell the coal produce from the fire wood, and forest users had grown the broom plants and make the annual selling the product and collected amount goes to the fund of the forest. Annually the users collect the shaded leaves of the trees and are paid for it also. The data collected from field shows the following as,

Table 6.1 Cost Collecting from Non-Timber Products

Non timber products	Costs
Fodders	Membership
Leaves	Membership
Coals	Rs.135 (per doko)
Brooms	Market price
Stone	Rs. 25 (18 inches)

Sources: field Survey 2010

Beside this, it also had charged the fine to those who had knowingly or unknowingly lit the fire in the forest as the 600 Rs for unknowing case and in the case of knowing torch the fire to the forest will be decided by the executive body.

6.1.3.1 Penalties and Reward System

The operational plan of the group it has mentions punished the violators of the rules in accordance with the nature of the crime and the level of destruction. The levy imposed on the user in initially at a normal rate but gradually increases if the offense is repeated. Finally she/he can be expelled from the user group. In the case of a non-user, the charge is double than of the users and the tools were sized.

The operational plan has some provisions regarding penalties and rewards in the context of the forest management. The following provision has been written in operation plan and constitution of Saheli-Pakha CFUGs:

- i. In the case of forest resources destruction such as collection of green firewood, collection of saplings of plants as grass and fodder, grazing in planted areas have been done all the cut products and animals along with cutting tools were returned to executive committee and punished according to returned.
- ii. Different level of punishment and charge system according to the mistake was developed by EC which were listed below:

-) Cut timber without permission -----Rs. 400.00
 -) Copy or change of tree demarcation ----- Rs. 500-700.00
 -) Setting fire -----Rs. 600.00
 -) Change of demarcation of forest -----Rs. 300 - 500.00
- iii. Any person who was involved in any forest destruction activities like animal grazing in planted areas were prohibited and punished has fixed as per the numbers of animal grazed. During the course of study nearly 1600 Sq. Km. areas were planted by the UGs. From the discussion and interaction with respondents and executive committee, the lists of penalties were shown in table 6.2 according to the entering of animals.

Table 6.2 Animal wise Detail of Penalties

Animals	First time	Second time	Third time
Goat	10.00	15.00	20.00
Cow / Ox (Cattle)	15.00	20.00	25.00
Others	5.00	10.00	15.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

In the case of non-users the penalties charge is double then of the users. Individual who helps to carry out different activities regarding forest protection, management and development will receive various prizes. Therefore, users are motivated to protect and participate in forest management for the prizes and not misuse or avoid the forest rules due to the fear of penalties.

- iv. If any members of FUGs were remaining absent during the course of plantation and silviculture practice, Rs 50 per day penalty system was enforced by the executive committee. Due to penalty system, all users were involving during the period of plantation and silviculture practices.

6.2 CFUGs Deliver Training to the Users

Researcher in the field survey had made a query about the training provided by the CFUGs to the users, then different responses were given by the respondents as some of them had marked that it provides training to the users while some said they had still not

yet known about the training given to them. While some had reported that the training was basically for the senior members. The reported facts were presented in the figure 6.1 below.

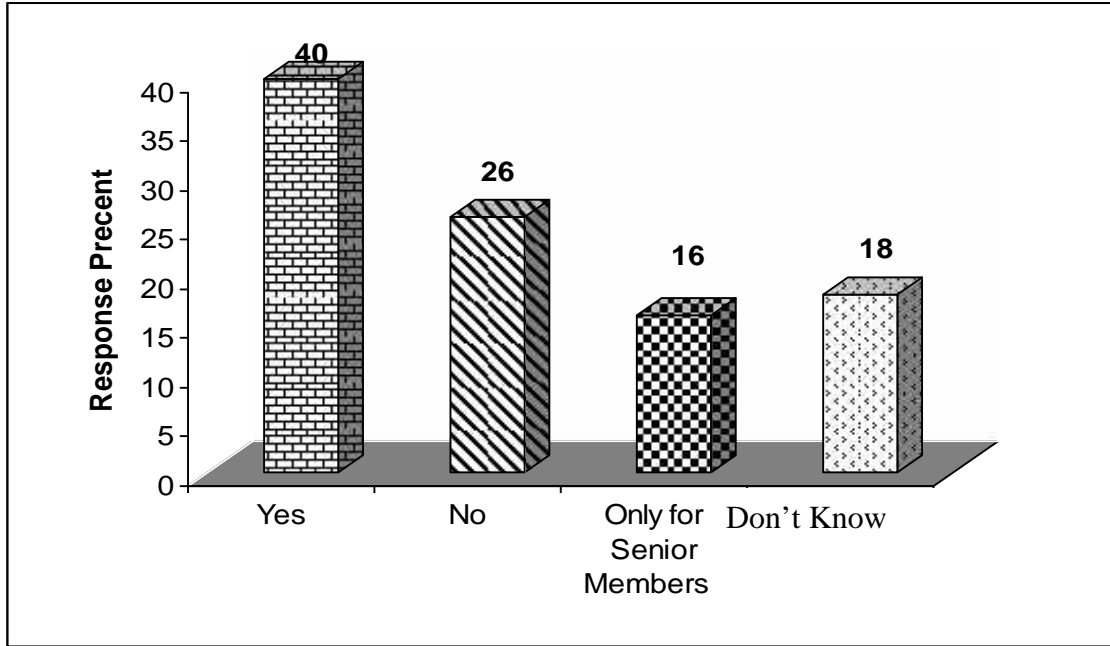


Figure 6.1 CFUGs Organized Training
Source: Field Survey 2010

The figure 6.1 above demonstrates the fact that CFUGs organize the programs and training to the users groups but the distribution and sharing of the training to all users are not found similar. 40 percent of the respondent had reported that it provided the training while 26 percent of the respondents had marked that it did not provide training to the users. On the other hand 34 percent of the respondents had marked that it provided the training, but it is not meant to all. It give training opportunity to the senior member of the committee only while some other had marked that they are not inform about the training organized by the committee.

6.3 Users' Participation in the Training

The field survey was made to know the participation of the users in the training provided by the committee. And the fact collected from the field was shown in the figure 6.2 below. It illustrates the users' participation in the trainings provided by the CFUGs.

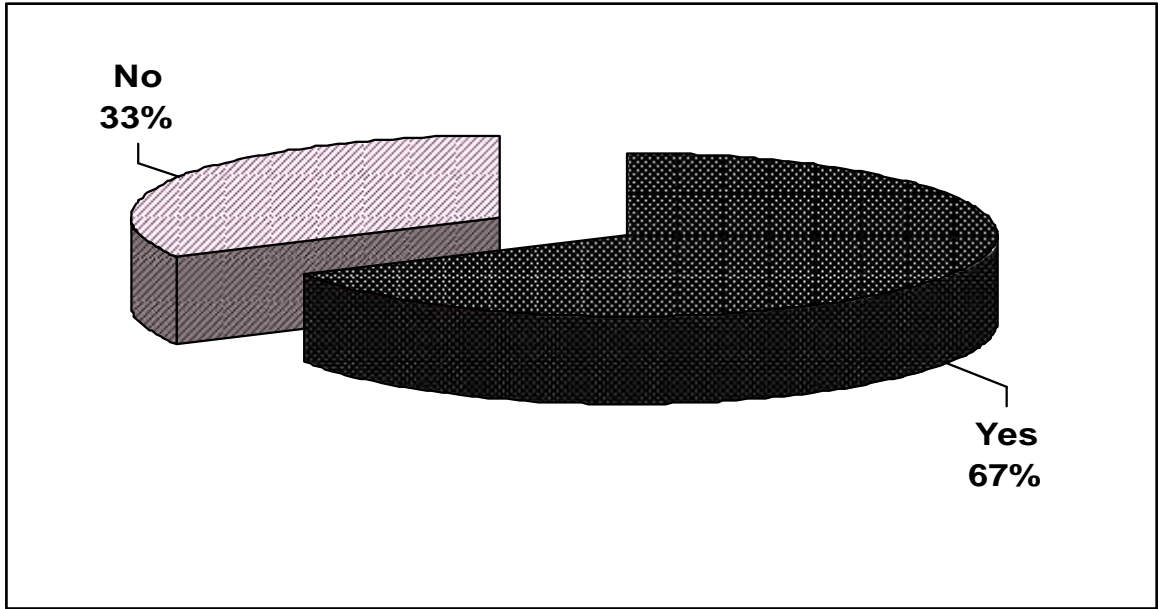


Figure 6.2 Users Participation to the Organized Training

Source: Field Survey 2010

The figure 6.2 demonstrates that 67 percent of the respondents had taken the trainings provided by the CFUGs. While 33 percent of the respondents had marked that they had not taken any kind of training from the CFUGs. So from the fact we can draw that still the female were not totally involved in all sort of activities of headed by the male.

The researcher of the study had made an investigation about the lack of participation on the training provided by the CFUGs to the users committee. The following facts have been registered that were shown in the table below.

Table 6.3 Reasons for Not Participating

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Not informed	5	38.46
Discrimination	5	38.46
No time	3	23.08
Total	13	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The above table shows the fact collected from 13 respondents those who had reported that they had not participated in any sort of training provided by the respondents. Out of

the total of 13 respondents 38.46 percent each had reported that they were not informed about the training and other groups had stated that there is discrimination among the users groups and executive member so they do not relay message all the users. While 23.08 percent out of total of 13 respondents had reported that they do not have time to take training from the organized program.

The researcher had made an interview who had reported that they had taken part in the training about the information they receive from. They had marked different sources of gaining the information, which the researcher had shown through the help of the table 6.4.

Table 6.4 Source of Information the Training

Sources	Frequency	Percentage
Neighborhood	13	59.10
From notice board of EC member	5	22.72
Other members had informed	4	18.18
Total	22	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 6.4 above illustrates the fact that most of the respondents made the system of getting the information through the neighbors. It had been marked by the 59.10 percent of respondents out of the total of 22 respondents from the field survey. While 22.72 percent of the respondents from the total of 22 had reported that they help themselves to inform through the notice board of EC member public notice board. On the other hand 18.18 percent of the respondents had reported that they get information from the other member of the user groups. So there it seems that there is not a proper method to relay the information to all the member of the user committee.

6.4 System of Benefit Sharing among Users

The investigation was made by the researcher about the benefit sharing among the users, and had discovered the fact that all of the respondents had marked that the distribution pattern of the forest products is fair. And then researcher had interviewed again about the

method of sharing the benefits the following facts were collected from the field, which is shown in the table 6.5 below.

Table 6.5 Method of Benefit Sharing among the Users

Methods	Frequency	Percentage
Equality	30	75.00
Quantity basis as per family numbers	4	10.00
According to operational and system plan	6	15.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The Table 6.5 above illustrates the facts that the system of sharing the benefits in the *Saheli-Pakha* community forest reported by the respondents of the field study. As 75.00 percent out of the total had reported that the distribution is made on the equality basis to all the user members. While 15.00 percent of the respondents had reported that the benefit is shared as the operational and system plan executed in the beginning similarly, 10.00 percent of the respondents reported that it is shared as per the family members and their needs. So the different respondents had reported different way of distributing the benefits among the users, somewhere they seem to be the same as an equality basis.

6.5 Benefit Sharing of Forest Products

The utilization management includes all the collection process by the FUGs like as grass/fodder, firewood, timber and coal collection.

6.5.1 Grass/ Fodder Collection

Grass cutting is not strictly controlled in forest area besides recently planted area and *Sal* regeneration area. But green branches are strictly prohibited to collect. During the period of '*Jhadi Safai*', users can collect green leaves of trees and branches at free of cost. During the time of festivals and ceremonial function they can taken products like leaps and firewood at free of cost. Informants have reported that female participation is more in the process of grass/ fodder collection.

In the study area majority of females were taking part in domestic activities. Also as the grass / fodder collection were taken as a part of domestic activities due to which more responsibilities have been added to females. Among the females mainly daughter in law were involved in this process. However in the absent of daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law or husband were involved in the household activities. Generally the female were going to forest in the morning time for grass and fodder collection during agriculture slack period. The girls had been involving themselves in it since their childhood. They were bringing grass and fodder making *Bhari* according to their physical capacity. It was found that the female of those households who doesn't have sufficient land but have more number of animals were going to the forest for collect of grass and fodder regularly. They collect grass and fodder according to need of hhs. Generally, the hhs who has more animals was found to collect more amounts of grass and fodder from the forest.

6.5.2 Firewood Collection

When the forest is open for firewood collection the entire users can collect dry firewood at free of cost. Generally, forest is open during the special festival like *Dashain* and *Tihar* for firewood collection. The distribution of firewood is not depending on family size.

During the social occasions like marriage, *Saptaha*, *Puran*, *Bartabanda* funeral function the entire members can easily get the required amount of firewood at free of cost. Besides ceremonial occasion, if any users need large amount of firewood they to take permission from the committee and to pay Rs.40.00 per load (*bhari*). Informants have reported that as like as fodder and grass collection female participation in more in fire wood collection too.

Along with female, male were also involved in the firewood collection whenever it was opened to all FUGs. It was because they had to collect the fixed amount of firewood at the allocated time. However it was found that during the special festivals and occasions female participation was more where as male were remain busy in different task to earn money for the celebration of festivals and social occasions on the one hand. On the other hand male members were engaging in different occupation and services inside as well as

outside the country. As described in grass and fodder collection it was also regarded as the household activities. Firewood was the main sources of fuel in the study area for cooking purpose where females were involving. Generally in the study area mother was found to be involved in cooking process. Firewood was the main source of fuel due to which more females were found to be involved in this process.

6.5.3 Timber Collection

According to operation plan, committee can harvest about 58.69 m³ woods per year from old and damage trees; Generally, *Sal* and *Sallo* trees are used for timber wood. The entire members have to drop application to buy timber wood from community forest. Because of status of forest, the amount of timber in community forest is very limited. So the committee selects the household according to the need assessment. They give first priority for those who have to build up the house and then only other purposes are considered. The rate of timber was found to be same to both poor and rich but the rate of timber also varies according to their type and amount. They have fixed the amount of timber on common conscience in the direct involvement of the members of executive committee. However, they were unable to fix the rate on the basis of volume of the timber. Informants have reported that the participation of male members in the process of timber collection is more than female.

Timber collection was taken as the difficult and complex task. It is difficult to bring timber from the forest in the absence of sufficient physical efforts. Naturally it is believed that male is stronger in compare with female. So, the participation of male members was found more than that of female members. Among the male people the role of carpenter (mainly the male who performs wood work) is vital in the process of timber collection because they can make the pieces of timber, as they required in different purposed. During the period of field study the researcher had got an opportunity to see an event of carrying timber from the forest to make ceiling. Where 20 male members were carrying by putting on their solder but involvement of female was zero.

6.5.4 Coal Collection

In the study area all FUGs were not participated in the process of coal collection. Only the people of *Kami* community were involved in it. In Arthar Dandakharka VDC *Kami* households people have adopted the occupation of making the iron tools and instruments such as *Aansi, Kodalo, Fali, Bancharo* of their *Bistas*; *Bistas* are the people from the high caste and *Janajati* who give different crops annually to *Kami* in return of making their tools and instruments.

As mentioned above in caste /ethnic composition (4.2.3) all *Kami* households were found to be involved in coal collection process. But the amount of coal collection was different. It was more in Joint family but less in single family. If one *Doko* (*Doko*; was the instrument made by bamboo for bringing coal which contain 100Kg. to 135 Kg) coal was given to single family double amount was given to joint family. In the normal condition an individual household is given a chance to collect coal two times per year.

To collect the coal the users have to drop the application mentioning the amount of coal to forest executive committee. After the application is accepted users can collect coal from the CF in presence of executive community members. According to operation plan, it cost was found 50 percent less than the prescribed rate of the other forest products in case more collection was need to be made.

6.6 Type of Forest Product Consumed by the Respondents

The respondents were interviewed about the consumption of the forest product they get from the community forest of their own. As being the farmer they also had reared the animals and needed the fodder for the animal and they also had marked that they used to collect the timber for the forest at the time of need. In the same way they were fond of collecting the leaves for the cattle shade and later on to use it to the farm land. The collected data stated about the use of forest product by the respondents in the table 6.6 below.

Table 6.6 Forest Product Consume by the Respondents

Product Consume	Frequency	Percentage
Leaves and Fodders	2	5.00
Woods and Leaves	5	12.50
Woods and Timber	3	7.50
Woods, Grass, Timber and Leaves	30	75.00
Total	40	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 6.6 above demonstrates clearly that the respondents use the forest for the multipurpose. Out of the total 75.00 percent of the respondents had reported that they consumed the leaves, woods, timber and fodder for the animal. Similarly 12.50 percent of the respondents had reported that they consumed woods and leaves from the forest. In the same way 7.50 percent of the respondents had reported that they consumed woods and timber from the forest sources lastly 5.00 percent of the total respondents had marked that they consume leaves and fodders for the animal and farmland.

6.7 Attitude towards the Distribution of Forest Products

Even though the respondents had reported that the distribution of the forest product was fair. But when the researcher had investigated about the satisfaction on the distribution of the forest product some of the respondents were found dissatisfied with system of distribution of forest product. The facts collected from the field were listed in the figure 6.3 below.

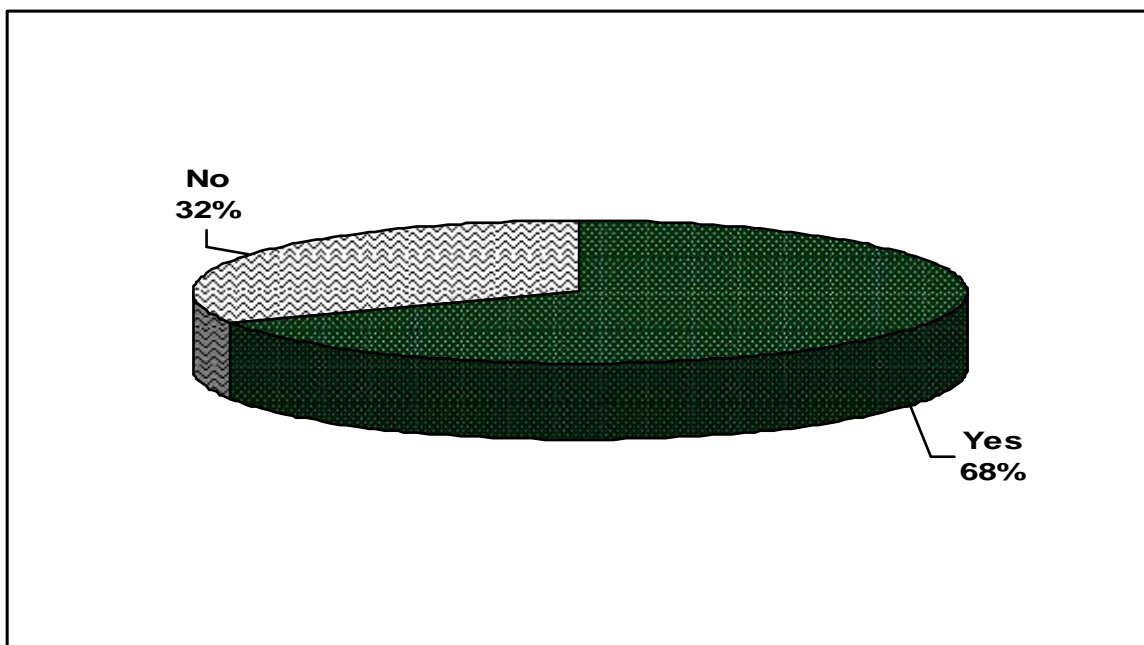


Figure 6.3 Satisfaction in the Distribution of the Forest Products

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The figure 6.3 illustrates the fact that 68.00 percent of the respondents had marked that they were satisfied in the distribution system adopted for the distribution of the forest product, while 32.00 percent of the respondents had marked that the users of the Saheli-Pakha CF were not satisfied with the distributional system of the forest product.

The researcher of the study had made an interview to the respondents who were found dissatisfied with the distributional system, about the way how it can be made better or why they were not satisfied to the system. The fact gathered from the field has been presented in the tabular form below.

Table 6.7 Step Forward for the Proper Distribution

Recommended Steps	Frequency	Percentage
Low Charge for Products	5	45.45
Equal Access to All	2	18.19
Equal Distribution to All	4	36.36
Total	11	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2010

The respondents who had reported that they were not satisfied with the distributional pattern of the executive committee were asked about the way to adopt to make more democratic in the in distribution of the forest, then they had 45.45 percent out of the total respondents of 11 had reported that the charge of the product must be made low so that all the people can make the easy assess to get the products. In the same way 36.36 percent of the respondents had reported that there should be equal distribution of the forest product to all while 18.19 percent of the respondents had marked that it should be made easy access to all the groups of people. They suggested the point in order to make the distributional process more democratic in nature.

6.8 Discrimination in the Benefit Sharing

The respondents were interviewed about the sense of any discrimination they experience during the benefit sharing of the forest related product and issues of loan provided by the committee. The data demonstrates that somewhere they have slight discrimination in the distributional pattern. The figure 6.4 shows the view of respondents about their experience of discrimination in the benefit sharing among them.

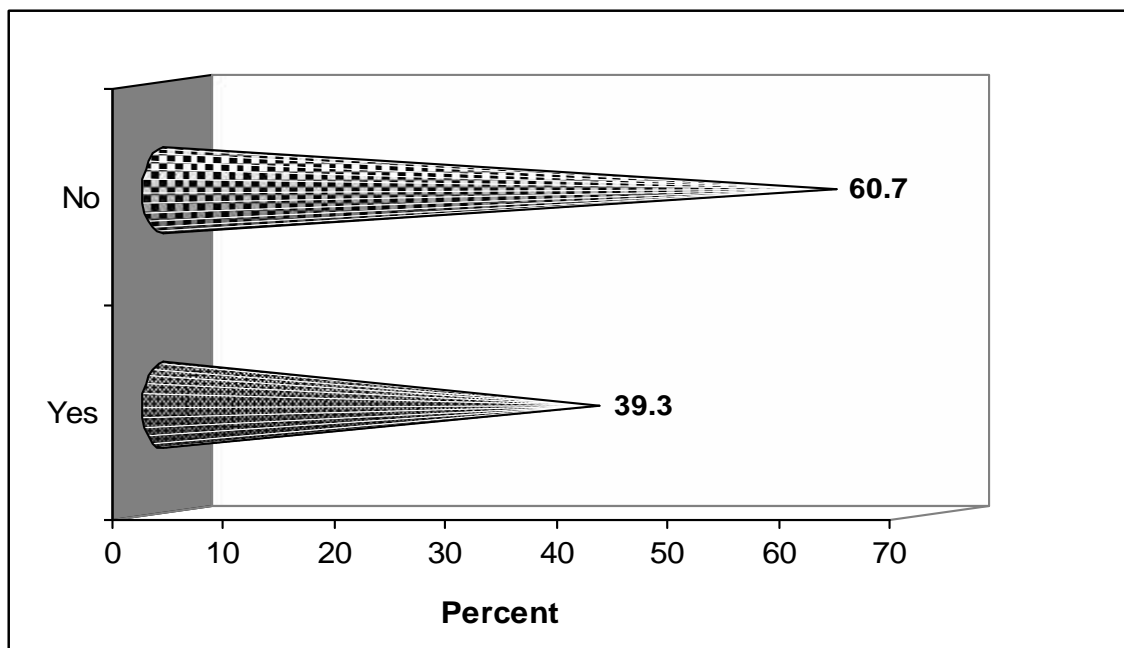


Figure 6.4 Discrimination in the Benefit Sharing

Source: Field Survey 2010

Out of the total respondents of 39.3 percent of the respondents who had marked that they have experienced the discrimination in the benefit sharing of the forest products. While 60.7 had reported that do not yet have any knowledge of discriminatory practice in benefit sharing. They had reported that they use to distribute the benefit as the operation plan.

Out of the total respondents of the field survey who had marked that experience of the discriminatory practices, were asked in which aspect of the benefit sharing they experienced the discrimination. The reported fact had been shown in the table 6.8 below.

Table 6.8 Grounds of Discrimination in Benefit Sharing (N=40)

Grounds	Frequency	Percentage
Social and Cultural	5	33.33
Economical	3	20.00
Political	7	46.67
Total	15	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2010

The field survey among the 15 respondents who had marked that they experienced discrimination had stated different ground of discrimination. 46.67 percent of the respondents out of the total of 15 had reported that discrimination was found on the basis of political ground: that one belongs to which party of political affiliation. In the same way 33.33 percent of the respondents had marked that they were discriminated on the socio-cultural aspect: it sees one belongs to which caste while other 20.00 percent out of the total of 15 had reported that they discriminated on the basis of economic condition of an individual.

CHAPTER VII

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

The researcher tried to find out the people's participation in decision making process in the study area. On the basis of the information obtained from the interview with respondents, interview with key informants and from focus group discussion, the researcher found different things related with the decision making process.

7.1 General Assembly and Meeting

During the course of data collection in the field the researcher has found that the user group organizes the general assembly once a year and the committee meeting generally held once for two months. Generally in general meeting they discussed about the activities and programs such as protection visit, benefit sharing, evaluating and monitoring. During stay in the field, the researcher has got an opportunity to participate in two meeting. At that time the researcher has found that about 78% members were attended the committee meeting. However the female members were mainly absent in the committee meeting lack of suitable time. Generally the meeting was conducted in the morning time however the female remained busy in their household activities such as to prepare meal, to make ready to their children for their school. Beside this lack of the consciousness and awareness were also the causes of absent in the meeting. It was because of low literacy rate. Along with this, the condition of *Dalit* members was found to be measurable. The corner place was fixed for them in the meeting because the study area was badly dominated by high caste and deeply rooted the practice of untouchability due to which the present of *Dalit* members were found less than upper caste and *Janajati*. The researcher found that the place for general assembly was always conducted at *Pancha Ratna Primary School* that is situated at the central part of the study area.

7.2 Information Delivery System

It is an important aspect to know the system of information delivery system on and among the user's members. So the researcher of the study had interviewed with the respondents about the methods of getting the information of the committee programs. The reported fact had been listed in the table 7.1 below.

Table 7.1 Medium of Gaining Information

Medium	Frequency	Percentage
Public notice	17	42.50
Home to home information system	18	45.00
<i>Katwal System</i>	2	5.00
From Friends	3	7.50
Total	40	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 7.1 gives the glimpse of the information delivery system among the user groups. It shows that 45.00 percent of the respondents receive the information through the system of home to home information system, while 42.50 percent of the respondents marked that they use the public notice board of the committee to get the information, while 5.00 percent of the respondents had reported that they get the information through the *Katwal* system. In the same way 7.50 percent of the respondent had marked that they get the information through the help of their friends. So, it is clear from the above reported fact that different groups of people receive the information through different medium.

7.3 Decision Making System in the CFUGs

It is very important to know about the process of decision making in any system. Here the researcher had focused on the community forest users groups management and decision making process. For that the researcher had made an interview schedule to the respondents to know about the process of decision making process. The facts gathered from the field have been shown in the table 7.2 below.

Table 7.2 Process of Decision Making

Process	Frequency	Percentage
Passed agenda by the committee member	3	7.50
Involved all CFUGs members	35	87.50
Passed agenda only by influential person	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 7.2 above states clearly that there are different ways marked by the respondents about the process of decision making adopted by the CFUGs committee. Wherein, 87.50 percent of the respondents had reported that while making the decision it calls all the user groups and formulates the decision. Similarly 7.50 percent of the respondents had reported that the decision is made by passing the agenda by the committee members. In the same way 5.00 Percent of the respondents had marked that decision was made by passing the agenda by the influential person.

It has been investigated again about the decision made by the different methods is effective or not. The respondent had marked different view in it. The fact collected from the field is listed in the table 7.3 below.

Table 7.3 Views about Decision Making Process

Methods	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	24	60.00
Good	13	32.50
Not so bad	3	7.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

For the field survey report presented in the table 7.3 demonstrates the facts that the 60.00 percent of the respondents had marked that the process of decision making in the CFUGs is very fair, 32.50 percent of the respondents of the total had reported that it is normal and while 7.50 percent they marked that the decision making process is not so bad. Here it

seems that some of the respondents are not very much happy with the decision making process. So they are again asked reason for giving the answers as not so bad. The facts reported by the respondents were shown in the table 7.4 below.

Table 7.4 Cause of Disagreement at Decision Making Process

Causes of Disagreements	Frequency	Percentage
All the users do not participate in all programs	3	50.00
The decisions are made by the elite groups	2	33.30
They do not accept the decision of the users group	1	16.70
Total	6	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

Among the respondents who had reported that the decision making process is not so bad; they had marked the reasons for such answer in the table 7.4 above. Out of the total of 6 respondents 50.00 percent of them had reported that at the time of decision making process all the users' member do not participate in all the programs. In the same way 33.30 percent of the respondents had reported that the decisions were made by the elite group of people. Similarly, 16.70 percent of the respondents out of the total of 6 had reported that while making the decision the executive member do not accept the decision of the users group.

7.4 Decision Making and Female Chances

It was studied in community forest especially about the role in decision making and the life chances and the independence of female in expressing their view openly in the male zone while formulation of the constitution and in the process of decision making. The respondents were asked whether or not they get the chance to put their ideas / opinion and knowledge in the decision making process. The researcher had collected different responses in regard to the interviewed question; reported facts were shown in the table 7.5 below.

Table 7.5 Independence for Female to put forward the Views

Chances	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	72.50
No	9	22.50
Sometime	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 7.5 above illustrates clearly that 72.50 percent of the female gets the chances to express their view and opinion freely, while 22.50 percent of the respondents had reported that they do not get the free chances to put their views in the decision making process. Whereas, 5.00 percent of the respondents had reported that only sometime they get the chance to put their opinion freely. But all the time it is made by the influential persons. The facts state that respondents of the study area are not much independent in expressing their opinion in the decision making process. So, to democratize the system there must be more equality among all the members.

7.5 Reasons for Not Getting Independent Chances

Out of the total respondents from the field survey 9 of them had reported that they do not get the independents chances to express their views and the opinion were properly been address. The fact recorded from the respondents was presented in the table 7.6 below. It illustrates the causes of not addressing their opinion while formulating decisions.

Table 7.6 Cause for Not Addressing the Female's Views

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Do not care the words of female	3	33.33
Due to the male domination	4	44.45
Female themselves are not aware	2	22.22
Total	9	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 7.6 above demonstrates the causes of not addressing the ideas and opinion of the females as stated by the female respondents from the field site. Out of the total of 9 respondents 33.33 percent of them had reported that, the committee members do not give emphasis to the ideas of the female and it is not considered important. In the same way, 44.45 percent out of the total of 9 respondents had reported that the culture of our society is responsible behind the low chances of female's ideas being addressed while formulating the constitution it is because of the male dominated culture. While 22.22 percent of the respondents had stated that female themselves are not aware of the concerned issues so they are lagged behind in the process of decision making procedure.

7.6 Factors Affecting for Decision Making

Some of the respondents reported that views were not properly addressed or their views were not much given importance. The researcher of the study had made an attempt to investigate the influential factors that affected the decision making process on the CFUGs. The facts reported by the respondents were marked below in the table 7.7. It is to know the socio-culture environment in the community forest management and also to find out how the issue of female is addressed in the CFUGs.

Table 7.7 Influential Factors that Affects the Decision Making Process

Related Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Educational status member	21	52.50
Size and condition of forest	10	25.00
Socio-economic condition of the members	6	15.00
Caste system	3	7.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

The table 7.7 above illustrates the fact that 52.50 percent of the respondents marked that the users committee considers educational status of the member as a prominent factor in decision making process. In the same way 25.00 percent of the respondents out of total had reported that the size and condition is main factor consider by the committee member for making decision. Similarly, 15.00 percent of the respondents had reported that socio-

economic condition of the member plays pivotal role in the decision making or formulation in the CFUGs. While 7.50 percent of the respondents had reported that the caste system plays important role in making the decision. The respondents of the study site had marked different reasons for the decision making process.

7.7 Attendance in Meeting

The effectiveness of the decision taken in the meeting is determined by the attendance of the users in the meeting. So, researcher tried to find out whether the users attend the meeting of CFUGs or not?

Table 7.8 Attendance in Meeting of CFUGs

Attendance	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	37	92.50
No	3	7.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 7.8 shows that 37 respondents attended the meeting of CFUGs which is 92.50 percent of the total respondents where as remaining 7.50 percent of the total respondents were found to be never attending the meeting of CFUGs.

7.8 Trend of Attending the Meeting CFUGs

Though 92.50 percent of the total respondents reported that they have attended the meeting of CFUGs but all of them do not attend the meeting regularly. Though some of them responded that they always tried to attend the meeting but due to different circumstances they could not regularly attend the meeting.

Table 7.9 Trend of Attending the Meeting CFUGs

Attendance	Frequency	Percentage
Always	26	70.30
Sometimes	8	21.60
Rarely	3	8.10
Total	37	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

Note: 3 persons never attended the meeting

Table 7.9 shows that large number of respondents 70.30 percent reported that they always attend the meeting of CFUGs. 21.60 percent of the respondents reported that they attended the meeting only sometimes where as only 3 respondents out of 37 total respondents reported that they rarely attend the meeting which is 8.10 percent of those respondents.

7.9 Trend of Raising the Management Problem in Meeting

Here presence of the users in the meeting does not hold any meaning, if they do not raise the managerial problem of CF in the meeting. So such a trend of raising the known problem in the meeting is the important thing to increase the users' participation in forest management.

Table 7.10 Trend of Raising the Management Problem in Meeting

Raising Problem	Frequency	Percentage
Always	29	78.40
Sometimes	7	18.90
Never	1	2.70
Total	37	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

Note: 3 Persons never attended the meeting

During the interview with the respondents, it was found that 78.40 percent of the total respondents always raised the known problem of the forest management in the meeting of

CF. Few respondents 18.90 percent reported that they raised the known problem only sometimes and negligible number of respondents 2.70 percent reported that they never raised such problem in meeting. This data indicated that except 1 respondent, all the respondents participated actively in the decision making process of CF.

7.10 Discussion among the Members of CFUGs in Meeting

After raising the managerial problem in the meeting, it is important to have active interaction among the users of the CFUGs so as to come to the conclusion for taking decision. Hence, the active participation of the users in the meeting is must for effective management of the forest. This is why the researcher tried to know whether the users actively interact in the meeting or not.

Table 7.11 Trend of Discussion in Meeting

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Remain silent	5	13.50
Speak sometimes	12	32.40
Discuss actively	20	54.10
Total	37	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2010

Note: 3 Persons never attended the meeting

From the above table 7.11 it is clear that few respondents 13.50 percent remained silent in the meeting where as 32.40 percent of the total respondents reported that they speak only sometimes in the meeting but in other time they do not want to participate in meeting where as majority of the respondents 54.10 percent reported that they always discuss actively in the meeting so as to come to the fruitful decision. Hence, in the research site the average of participation of users in decision making was found.

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY, FINDING AND CONCLUSION

8.1 Summary

The present study focused on the People's Participation in Community Forest management. It concentrated mainly on the cost and benefit sharing of the users groups of SPCF. It had also tried to explore the different activities related to the involvement of users in SPCF. This study had tried to address the issues related with the cost and benefit. Keeping the goal in consideration researcher of the study had set different research questions to gain in-depth knowledge about the issues set for the study. Similarly, researcher of the study had drawn general objective to know the people's participation in different activities of SPCF. And to meet the requirements of research questions, researcher had set the following specific objectives;

-) To identify the people's participation in cost and benefit sharing in Saheli-Pakha CF.
-) To find out people's participation in decision making process in Saheli-Pakha CF.

Because of being an academic study, the research had to be bond with cost of limitation as such time, area, budget etc. To gain the required information, to meet the objective researcher had adopted different research method learnt from the class. This research work mainly had applied the primary data to gain qualitative data. Interview schedule had remain as a main tools to collect the data from the field, beside this household survey, observation, key informant interview and focused group discussion were also applied to collect the required data for the study. And secondary data were also use to make cross checking and for more reliability.

The collected data have been analyzed by using computer program SPSS 11.5 while qualitative data have been arranged manually and analyzed descriptively. Results of quantitative data analysis have been shown by using various tables, charts and diagrams to make easier for the reader to understand well.

The study was based on the 40 households, who were registered as the user group of community forest of Saheli-Pakha. And had investigated on the way how the user groups manage the cost and benefits of the SPCF.

8.2 Findings of the Study

During the field survey, it has been explored and examined the different aspects regarding the people's participation in community forest. The major findings of the study are listed below:

Out of the total respondents 21.21 percent were reported to be illiterate, while, 25.76 percent out of the total had marked to be literate. Similarly, 22.72 percent of the respondents were found to have 1-5 class, 14.14 percent were 6-8 class, 9.60 percent were 9-10 class. While 6.57 the least percent of the respondents were found to be Intermediate and above.

The study shows that 67.00 percent of the respondents had taken the trainings provided by the CFUGs. While 33.00 percent of the respondents had marked that they had not taken any kind of training from the CFUGs.

The system of sharing the benefits in the *Saheli-Pakha* community forest reported that 75.00 percent out of the total respondents that the distribution is made on the equality basis to all the user members. While 15.00 percent of the respondents had reported that the benefit is shared as the operational and system plan executed in the beginning similarly, 10.00 percent of the respondents had reported that it is shared as per the family members and their needs.

Out of the total 75.00 percent of the respondents had been reported to have consumed the leaves, woods, timber and fodder for the animal. Similarly 12.50 percent of the respondents had been reported to have consumed woods and leaves from the forest. In the same way 7.50 percent of the respondents had been reported to have consumed woods and timber from the forest sources lastly 5.00 percent of the total respondents had marked to have consumed leaves and fodders for the animal and farmland.

The study shows that 68.00 percent of the respondents had marked that they were satisfied in the distribution system adopted for the distribution of the forest product, while 32.00 percent of the respondents had marked that the users of the Saheli-Pakha CF were not satisfied with the distributional system of the forest product.

Out of the total respondents of 39.3 percent of the respondents who had marked that they have experienced the discrimination in the benefit sharing of the forest products. While 60.7 had reported that do not yet have any knowledge of discriminatory practice in benefit sharing. They had reported that they distributed the benefit as the operation plan.

It shows that 45.00 percent of the respondents receive the information through the system of home to home information system, while 42.50 percent of the respondents marked that they use the public notice board of the committee to get the information, while 5.00 percent of the respondents had reported that they get the information through the *Katwal* system. In the same way 7.50 percent of the respondent had marked that they get the information through the help of their friends.

The study shows that 87.50 percent of the respondents involves while making the decision and marked that the user member call all the user groups and formulate the decision. Similarly 7.50 percent of the respondents had reported that the decision is made by passing the agenda by the committee members. In the same way 5.00 percent of the respondents had marked that decision is made by passing the agenda by the influential person.

From the field study report 60.00 percent of the respondents had marked that the process of decision making in the CFUGs is very fair, 32.50 percent of the respondents of the total had reported that it is normal and while 7.50 percent they marked that the decision making process is not so bad.

From the field report 72.50 percent of the female had reported that they get the chances to express their view and opinion freely, while 22.50 percent of the

respondents had reported that they do not get the free chances to put their views in the decision making process. Whereas, 5.00 percent of the respondents had reported that only some time they get the chance to put their opinion freely. But all the time it is made by the influential persons.

Out of the total 52.50 percent of the respondents marked that the users committee consider educational status of the member as a prominent factor in decision making process. In the same way 25.00 percent of the respondents out of the total had reported that the size and condition is main factor consider by the committee member for making decision. Similarly, 15.00 percent had reported that socio-economic condition of the member. While 7.50 percent had reported that the caste system play important role in making the decision.

Out of the total respondents 92.50 percent of the respondents attended the meeting of CFUGs where as remaining 7.50 percent of the total respondents were found to be never attending the meeting of CFUGs.

The large number of respondents 70.30 percent reported that they always attend the meeting of CFUGs. 21.60 percent of the respondents reported that they attended the meeting sometimes where as only 3 respondents out of the total respondents reported that they rarely attend the meeting which is 8.10 percent of those respondents.

The study shows that 78.40 percent of the total respondents always raised the known problem of the forest management in the meeting. 18.90 percent reported that they raised the known problem only sometimes and 2.70 percent reported that they never raised such problem in meeting.

From the field study report that few respondents 13.50 percent remained silent in the meeting where as 32.40 percent of the total respondents reported that they speak only sometimes in the meeting but in other time they do not want to participate in meeting where as majority of the respondents 54.10 percent reported that they always discussed actively in the meeting.

8.3 Conclusion of the Study

On the basis of the above findings it can be concluded that the users of SPCF were actively co-operative to manage the economic problem of the SPCF. They had drawn different method of collecting the revenue for the long run of the community forest. It had also noted the role of users in formulating any sorts of decisions and also in the process of distribution of the forest products.

To analyze cost and benefit sharing process among the FUGs of Saheli-Pakha CF was the main objective of the researcher. Due to which at the time of field research researcher had paid his attention to it. Mostly, females were found to be involved in household activities and to collect forest products such as firewood, grass and fodder but their level of participation was less in general assembly due to low literacy rate, lack of awareness and suitable time. On the other hand the participation of males was found less in forest product collection. But their participation was found more in executive committee, general assembly along with timber collection. But participation of both males and females were found equal during the time of plantation. The educational status of males was found higher than that of the females. Finally the participation of males in decision-making process was found more. The participation of *Dalit* groups was found less in benefit sharing activities of CF. They had to sit in the corner place at the time of meeting because the study area was deeply rooted by the concept of untouchability.

However, most of the research, which was made in CF in different parts of the country in different period of time, has shown harmonious relationship among the FUGs. As argued by Marx conflict is an integral part of society (cf, Shrestha, 1995). But the researcher has found different conflict among the FUGs of SPCF. Mainly the conflict existed between forest committee and users, with in forest user groups, user group members and for the leadership regarded to cost and benefit sharing and participation in-decision making process.

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Appendix-1

S.No.	Nepali Name of the Plants	Botanical Name of the Plants
1	Ainselu	<i>Rubus ellipticus</i>
2	Amala	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>
3	Amriso	<i>Thysanolaen maxima</i>
4	Asuto	<i>Adatoda vasica</i>
5	Banmara	<i>Eupatorium adenophora</i>
6	Bans	<i>Dendrocalamus spp</i>
7	Bayar	<i>Zizyphus jujube</i>
8	Bhalayo	<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>
9	Bel	<i>Aegle mormelus</i>
10	Budi Dhiyaryl	<i>Lagerstroenia indica</i>
11	Chaamp	<i>Michelia champaca</i>
12	Chilaune	<i>Schima wallichii</i>
13	Chiuri	<i>Mashuca butyracea</i>
14	Dhaairo	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>
15	Gunyelo	<i>Elaragrus parvifolia wall</i>
16	Imali	<i>Tamarindusi indica</i>
17	Katus	<i>Castanopsis indica</i>
18	Khanayo	<i>Ficus cunia buch</i>
19	Koiralo	<i>Bauhenia variegata</i>
20	Kutemero	<i>Lisea monopetala</i>
21	Launth Salla	<i>Pinus roxburghi</i>
22	Niur	<i>Dcohleata</i>
23	Sal	<i>Shorea robusta</i>
24	Simal	Banbaz simal
25	Uneu	<i>Dryopteris spp</i>
26	Utis	<i>Alnus nepalensis</i>

9.	Food sufficiency from the production of your land?	a) 1-3 month c) 6-12 month	b) 3-6 month d) 12 month And above	
10.	Do you have cattle?	a) Yes	b) No →	12
11.	If yes please provide information.	a) Cow..... d) Goat.....	b) Buffalo..... e) Pig.....	c) Ox..... f) Sheep.....
12.	Do you get regular fodder/grass supply for your cattle from the CF?	a) yes	b) No	
13.	Who inspired you for membership of forest user group?	a) Friend c) Staff of the forest department	b) Leader of the village d) Others	
14.	What are the main sources of cooking fuel?	a) Firewood c) Kerosene	b) L.P.Gas d) Others	
15.	Who collects the fuel wood?	a) Women c) Women + Children	b) Women + Men d) Hired labor	
16.	Who collects the timber?	a) Women c) Women + Children	b) Women + Men d) Hired labor	
17.	Do you think the grass and fodder problem has been reduced after the initiation of the program?	a) Yes: How..... b) No: Why.....		
18.	Have you participated in plantation activities of CF?	a) Yes	b) No →	20
19.	If yes, how many times have you participated?	a) One c) Three	b) Two d) Four	
20.	How much do you obtain from CF?		
21.	How is the benefit shared?	a) Equality basis b) Equality basis a per family numbers c) According to operational plan d) According to decision made by EC e) Decision by influential/Elite person.		
22.	How are the forest products distributed among users?		

	general meeting?	c) Both	d) None		
38.	Who make the decision in CF?	a) Forest executives committee	b) Forest user group		
		c) Both			
39.	What is the process of decision making generally followed in your CFUGs?	a) Passed agendas by committee members	b) Involved all CFUGs member		
		c) Passed agendas by only influential person	d) Others		
40.	What do you think about the decision that has been made by the user group committee??	a) Excellent	b) Good	42	
		c) Not so good	d) Very poor		
41.	If not so good or very poor why?			
42.	Does the users committee give chances to female to put their views?	a) Yes	b) Only sometime	c) No	44
43.	If no why?			
44.	What are the factors affecting decision making?	a) Educational status	b) Socio-economic condition		
		c) Caste system	d) Size and condition of forest		
45.	Have you ever attend the meeting of CFUGs?	a) Yes	b) No		
46.	How often do you attended the meeting of CFUGs?	a) Always	b) Sometime	c) Rarely	
47.	How often do you raise the problem of forest management in meeting?	a) Always	b) Sometimes	c) Never	
48.	During discussion in meeting how do you present?	a) Remain silent	b) Speak sometimes		
		c) Discuss actively			
49.	Did CFUG organize any training tour and other special programs for their users?	a) Yes	b) No	51	
50.	If yes, did you participate in that?	a) Yes	b) No	52	
51.	If no why?	a) Not informed	b) No interest		

		c) Discrimination	d) Others
52.	Do you know about decision that is made by executive committee?	a) Yes	b) No
			└───▶ 54
53.	If yes, how do you know?	a) Neighbors	b) From notice of EC or as member
		c) Others members of group	d) Other
54.	What is the method of information sharing in your CF?	a) Public notice	b) Home to home information system
		c) Katuwal system	d) Others
55.	Do you have any suggestion for the future improvement of your CF regarding its management, conservation and development?	

Thank You.

Appendix-3

CHECK-LIST

1. What kinds of forest products are available in your forest?
2. Why do you need these products?
3. How do you use?
4. Who collects this product?
5. How many times do they collect forest products in a year? Please mention its type too.
6. What do you do in the absence of forest product?
7. What types of plants do you use for firewood?
8. Do you collect firewood for sell?
9. Do you take your cattle in forest for grazing?
10. Do you use forest product for agricultural tools and instrument? If yes, Please mention its use.
11. Who participates in plantation and silviculture activities?
12. Is the participation of male and female equal in CF? If not why?
13. Who makes the decision in CF?
14. Are the forest products distributed equally among the FUGs?
15. Do you collect coal? If not who collects it?
16. What are the ways applied to control the fire?
17. What is the present condition of forest resources? If decreasing could you suggest something to improve its condition.