

# CHAPTER – ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Forest is one of the important components of ecosystems, which is self-perpetuating and protective of the environment. It is an integral part of farming system of mountainous country like as Nepal. It provides feeding material of livestock, which in turns provides farmyard, manure to maintain productivity of farmland of 85 percent of people living in rural area (CBS, 2001), whose economy is based on subsistence agriculture. Forest is not only fostering to the agriculture system but also one of the sources of basic needs of rural people. Out of 147 million hectare of land, 54 million hectare is covered by forest. The valuable species of forest product like timber wood of Sal, Chilaune, Sallao, Utis and Sissoo, fuel wood poles for agriculture implements, grass for thatched roofing, non timber forest produce and herbal plants like Chiraito, Jatamasi, Tite, Dhobini, Timur, Gaikhure, Ghottapre, Kyamu, Aank, Amala, Harro, Barro, Bayar and Panchaule are viable source of economy, which can be extracted from forest directly. Indirectly, it contributes to maintain land productivity. It balances ecological system by controlling soil erosion and landslide and improving hydrological regime of fragile young mountain of Nepal (Bajracharya, et al. 1983)

After the achievement of democracy in 1950, the “Private Forest Nationalization Act” was passed in 1957 in order to remove the remnants of feudal land tenure. The different successive act came during the period of 1957 to 1977 however, were failed to manage the forest resource through bureaucratic machinery. In 1978, the government introduced the Community Forestry Legalization with the provision that the part of government owned forest, which is accessible to nearest VDC, could be handed over to then Village Panchayat as Community Forest. The legislation established a framework where each Panchayat could be given official control over the local resource and is responsible for the implementation of scientific forest management plan prepared by District Forest Office. (DFO, Kaski, 2009)

The Panchayat and Panchayat Protected Forest was handed over to the locally elected political body of the same Village Panchayat. This approach of management

highly benefited the elite classes of the village than general people. This practice was also impractical because the regulations were not clear and only isolated small patches of forest could be handed over. The local leaders took this program as a government program and they used the program simply to employ their people as forest watcher. The government field staffs concentrated on the reforestation of degraded lands because raising seeding and planting were easier than to work within User Group formation. As a result, the Community Forestry Program was started in Nepal since 1978.

The forest declination rate of the forest between 1978 to 1988 was 3.4 percent. To address these issues and find a good solution in protecting and increasing forest land. The Master Plan for Forestry Sector MPFS was enacted in 1989 as a concrete forest policy supporting the people's Participation concept. This MPFS adopted the concept of Forest User Group (FUG) for the management of forest in local level irrespective of political boundary. (MPFS, 1989)

The regulations were subsequently revised after the change of the political system in 1990 and then the Forest Act 1993 and Forest Policy 1995 was approved following the norms of MPFS. Thus the name of Panchayat Forest and Panchayat protected Forest was changed to Community Forest. The Community Forestry is a Participatory approach. It necessarily recognize the involvement of the local user from the beginning (from identification of users) until the implementation in which FUG is responsible to manage, utilize and protect the forest while Government officials involve as a catalyst or facilitator to provide technical knowledge and other relevant support. The government supports to prepare constitution of the User Group and management plant of Community Forest. During the formation of the Community Forest Process, there is provision for reorganization of social arrangement and their need.

The emphasis given in Community Forestry was a radical change in protecting forest in Nepal. This change was also based on the national and international factors like international perception of ecological crisis shift in the development philosophy from "trickle down" approach to "bottom up" approach world trend on the common property resource management system, realization of capabilities of local communities and decentralization Policy 1982 of Nepal.

The community Forestry Program is the largest program of forest protection implemented in Nepal. Different International Non-government Organization (INGOs) and Non-Governmental Organization Program. They directly take part and are also involve in funding the Community Forestry Program. They see this program as a tool in improvement of environment as well as upgrade existing livelihood of local people. In this respect, they use Community Forestry as a tool for community development. During last 24years, the experience has shown positive indication in the improvement of environment and community development.

Community Forestry Program was launched in 29 districts up to mid 1980s. Initially; Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest were handed over to the local political body, "The Village Panchayat", that was responsible to take care of the forest. In late 1980s the concept of User Group was introduced. After that Community Forestry has been handed over to local user irrespective of political boundary and political body.

Nepal is a predominantly an agricultural country where the majority of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Most of the rural people depend upon forest for their different needs like fuel wood, fodder, timber and leaf litter, the community forestry program has been developed as one of the potential pragmatic means of poverty reduction in the rural context of Nepal. It has been playing an important role on the entire socio-economic alteration of the Nepalese society as well. There are more than 14,258 Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) covering an area of more than 11,87023 hector of national forest as community forests i.e. 20.5% of total forest area where more than 39% of the total population is benefited these community forests (DFO, Kaski,2009).

Since, Community Forestry Program is people oriented program and its success depends on the active peoples' participation, there is a need for more research both on technical and social aspects. The technical aspects include management operation, protection rules, conservation strategy etc, whereas social aspects include forest User Group and their cultural and social norms interest, religion, need etc. Both aspects should be considered equally because they affect each other and consequently reflect the success of Community forestry. In this regard, study of people's participation in Community Forestry is very important which allows evaluating the

success rate of the program. Affecting factors of participation has been studied in Pasthekhola Community Forest of Hansapur V.D.C., Kaski.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Community forestry policy was firstly introduced in order to control and protect from deforestation, encroachment and several other factors. It was introduced as a protective measure rather than to manage. A number of forest patches have been handed over, since, the introduction of community forestry policy. Different issues have been raised together with the increased number of community forest. Role of women, Disadvantage Groups (DAGs), strengthening of FUGs have been simultaneously studied and developed policy to include these so as to balance the different aspects of community. After strengthening CFUGs in their all aspects, community forestry is being a means of poverty alleviation in local level.

There are some studies done in the field of peoples' Participation in Community forestry. Most of them pointed out the multi ethnic group, language religion practice and different ideology in politics, which are making problems in people's participation in Community Forestry Program. Problem is that the people who involve in community forestry as forest users are not satisfy to Pasthekhola C F management system. Most of forest users are not involved as member of Pasthehola community forestry. Similarly, the users' view towards this CF community is not positive because of different ethnic group. Political ideology and culture of one group of community differ from another as a result; they do not want to work together. Similarly, people living near to the forest are not ready to involve outsiders' forest management activities, if the forest is in different VDC or on the boarder of the two VDC the problem is more severe.

In practice, the People's participation has been given a variety of meanings and perceptions. The problems prevail because of inadequate understanding on how the idea of people's participation and empowering the people could be effectively put into practice. This could be because of the lack of knowledge about the social, cultural and economic context of the communities or localities when the ideas have to transfer into practice. There is gap between realities and rhetoric in people's participation in Community Forestry. Participation of people in plantation work may be carried out by FUG with the help of DFO or other line agencies. Most of the user may involve in

plantation in return for wages. This type of involvement is named with as full participation on such participation, elite people are involved in decision making while other are not fully informed about actual objectives of the program. General people involve only in the implementations and they may misrepresent the program thus, may not give expected result.

There are some problems that some Community Forestry might be over utilized and the local elite people may try to capture the benefits. Rural elite of Nepal generally owns more land, big houses and has larger family and keeps larger herds of animals. Eventually the rural rich use forest product. Products in larger quantities and consequently benefit form the Community Forestry may go in their favour. Till now, the issue of equality and equity of Community Forestry has received little attention.

Sometime low caste people don't speak out in a community dominated by high caste people. As a result when User Group is formed such disadvantaged persons are left out later the conflict will suffer on the time of benefit sharing. (Shrestha, 1994)

Forest rules and regulations of Nepal have made provision that there should be representation of all interest group in the FUG. In Community Forestry most of the decision is made by Forest User Committee, how the voices of all interest groups can be heard? Not only participation of ethnic group but also the participation of women users may help in the success of Community Forestry as they are the major collector of forest products. However, most of the women are not directly involved in decision making and their involvement is found not satisfactory. In this respect, women in executive committee are kept just to fulfil the government norms. Thus, they are not actively, involved in major decision-making meetings. This demonstrates that the present male based model of development has basically neglected women's work, knowledge and potential capacities in sustaining resources.

Based on the above discussion it can be seen that there are still many issues, which needs attention properly. Most of the researcher pointed out that the ignorance of local factor the presence of different ethnic composition with different interest, lack of their role in decision making and less or lack of awareness of the interest groups on Community Forestry development are the main reasons for the less participation of users in Community Forestry.

Based on the above-identified issues, the researcher has set following research questions.

- ) Which factors are contributing for the peoples participation?
- ) Which factors are prohibiting people from active participation?
- ) Who are the real beneficiaries of the Community Forestry?
- ) How people are participating in implementation process of Community Forestry?
- ) What special recommendation can be given to strengthen and enhance people's participation in Community Forestry?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to examine the factors effecting people's participation in the study area.

This study was mainly focused on the following objectives

- i) To assess the nature of people's participation in Community Forestry.
- ii) To find out the factors affecting People's participation in Community Forestry in the study area.

### **1.4 Rationale of the Study**

This study points to the existing knowledge gap on community forestry especially in the formal level of participation of people from different segments of the society. Thus the findings of the research will be helpful for people involved both in the academic in supplying knowledge in practice and policy formulate.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

This research deals only on certain aspects of participation decision making, implementation, conflict management and benefit sharing. The finding of the research can not be generalized for whole community forestry. It's limited to the Pastekhola Community Forestry, Hansapur VDC of kaski district only.

## **CHAPTER –TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Forest protection and management by the local people has a long history in most of the hills in Nepal. But institutional arrangements for participatory forest management were not democratic and transparent in before 1978. Most of the forest patches were under the control of local elites. This control made people to think the forest “theirs”. Forest became an economic and political focal point with increasing demand and scarcity of forest product and agricultural land as well as state’s growing interest in collecting revenue from the forest. Thereafter H.M.G./Nepal enacted the ‘Private Forest Nationalization Act 1957’, which not only engendered a shift in perception of ‘People’s forest’ became ‘government forest’ but also eliminated the indigenous system of forest management. However, that can be considered as the major step of government concerning the management of forest, the successive following acts deal only with sale of forest products, prohibition, punishment and organizational changes. None of these changes dealt with sustainable management, future planning and needs of the local people. These changes in acts and policy could not control the forest degradation and deforestation; instead the rate of deforestation and degradation in a speedy rate. D.O.F. has neither been able to manage the remaining forests in successive years. It was until 1976, the government felt that the remaining forest could not be managed only bureaucratic machinery and enforcement of law and eventually persuaded to change the policy. In 1976, the government prepared the National Forestry Plan. The Panchayat protected forest rules 1978 were enacted, under this plan with the provision of handing over national forest in an attempt to revive the conservation of the forest resources. It was the first step to formally commencement of the community forestry programme in Nepal. The government gave further emphasis on community forestry and private forestry programme as a major component of development. Master plan for forestry sector was published in 1988, as a concrete policy supporting the peoples’ participation concept. On the basis of MPFS [1988] the forest law 193 was finally passed. This act has also inspired the community forestry as a major priority through users’ group (DFO, Kaski,2009).

Gilmour and Fisher 1991, define community forestry in terms of control and management of forest resources by the rural people who use them especially for domestic purpose and as an integral part of their farming systems. Community forestry projects are small scale, seek to strengthen and use community-based institutions, deal with issues of decision-making and are based on participation. Community based forestry programmes have both social and an ecological focus and aim to involve local people in the management style which contrasts with earliest programmes involving large scale industrial plantation, by emphasizing the importance of resources for local consumption and of self-reliance in resource management. (FAO, 1985; Hobley, 1991).

## **2.2 Evolution of Community Forestry Concept**

Evolution of the development paradigm influenced on forest policy of Nepal. In 1957, under the forest nationalization act of 2032 B.S., Government of Nepal nationalized all the private forest from 1957 to 1977; subsequent amendment was made in rules and acc (Joshi 1991). The legislations proved to be completely ineffective because the act controlled the utilization of forest products and only gave importance on controlling the users to enter the forest. The Department of Forest was incapable of maintaining effective control over thousands of small patches of forest through the hills (Fisher 1990, cited in Uperety, 2000).

Management and utilization are mentioned in the operational plan and Forest User Group is responsible to implement these. They have total right to fix price of their forest products, they can use forest products for their collective benefits and use surplus income in authorities can be practiced in a way that should not be affect on sustainability of forest. Third phase is implementation phase than includes carrying out approved plan at the request of FUG or the expiry of the operational plan after five years. It is continuous process. The first two phases are concerned with formation of FUG and the rest two are concerned with strengthening of FUG (Karki et. Al. 1994, Shrestha, 1999 ad Fisher 1991).

The second phase of Community Forestry Process is negotiation phase in which User Group is formed, their need and problems are identified and discussed on the problems and issues and find the solution themselves with the assistance of DFO staff. In this phase they prepare constitution of group and operational plan of forest.



During the preparation of constitution, they formed one executive committee called Forest User Committee FUC on the basis of consensus or voting mechanism of forest protection, management and utilization are mentioned in the operational plan and Forest User Group is responsible to implement these. They have total right to fix price of their forest products, they can use forest products for their collective benefits and use surplus income in authorities can be practiced in a way that should not be affect on sustainability of forest. Third phase is implementation phase than includes carrying out approved plan at the request of FUG or the expiry of the operational plan after five years. It is continuous process. The first two phases are concerned with formation of FUG and the rest two are concerned with strengthening of FUG (Karki et. Al. 1994, Shrestha, 1999 ad Fisher 1991).

Through the Community Forestry Program, following rights are given to the FUG.

- Any part of the forest can be handed over to FUG who is traditional users of the forest irrespective of the political boundary.
- There is no limit of forest to be handed over as Community Forest to FUG that depends upon their willing and capability.
- FUG must be registered at DFO with their constitution and manage the community forest according to their operational plan approved by DFO.
- FUG can freely fix price, transport and market the forest products from the community forest.
- FUG can grow long term cash crop applying inter cropping system inside the Community Forest.
- FUG is allowed to establish forest-based industry that can be run with the raw material yielded by Community forest.
- FUG can utilize the fund generated through the sale of forest product in any development work but amendment of Forest Act 1993 make compulsion to utilize 25% fund in forest management work.
- FUG can take action to member of FUG who breaks the rule of constitution of operational plan (Joshi 1993 and Lamichhane 2000).

In terms of function there are two basic groups: Expressive and instrumental. Expressive groups are formed primarily for the purpose of specific goal. FUG is combination of both these types. It is primarily a task oriented instrumental group. It

is designated to manage forest. To reach their goals, forest users become a close: well knit members of community (Subedi, 1997).

### **2.3 Community Forestry Programme in Nepal**

Community Forestry is the major strategy in Nepal's forest policy. The Community Forestry program resulted due to the failure of forest nationalization act 1957. The nationalization act ignored traditionally managed communal forest, which act came into conflict with this traditional type of community management of forest resources (Dahal, 1994). The lack and difficulties of supervision from the centre, bureaucratic practice, the lack of the forest, led to the failure of the nationalization policy.

In 1975, a conference was held in Kathmandu to consider issues relating to management of forest in Nepal. This conference formulated the National Forestry Plan NAFFP 1976. NAFFP recognized that the Department of Forest had ignored forest of hills, which led to the deterioration of watershed. To overcome this problem, the concept of "Panchayat Forest" which aims on the planting of bared land was proposed. NAFFP provided base for the formulation of "Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest Act, 1978". Thus, it can be said that the community forestry program in Nepal formally commenced in 1978 (Gilmour et al 1991).

Now, community forestry program covers almost all hilly districts of the Nepal. The most of the forest areas were handed over to communities and its considerable success in the hills earned a lot of recognition internationally (Joshi 1997, cited in Pokharel-1999), whereas, the picture of the Terai in this field is different. The reason for not gaining momentum of Community Forestry in the Terai could be due to different social-economic and resources use tradition. Most of the settlements around the Terai forest are of new origin with heterogonous society which may cause difficulties to bring them under one umbrella. This may be the reason why User Group forestry having hard time to get full momentum in the Terai (Upadhyay 1997).The community forestry in Terai was initiated in mid 1980s by Terai Community Forestry Development Project (TCFDP). Except Bara district, most of the Terai districts forest either natural or plantation is handed over to the communities (Joshi, 1997 cited in Pokharel-1999)

Although, Community, Forestry Program is effective participatory program of Nepal, it is not out of debate. One of the major issues of debate is revenue from forest especially in Terai. Baral, Subedi and Pokharel had discussed the issue of revenue from Terai Forest in the process of Community Forestry Program. They argued that there is a need of a new model of forest management in Terai then in the hill forest. They suggested a new model should ensure Community Forestry's contribution to the national treasury without effective local enthusiasms for participation. "Success can be achieved through the joint efforts with community and Department of forest. This could be done by sharing the revenue between two parties" (Pokharel-1999). But Federation of community Forest User Group (FECOFUN) is in against sharing of revenue through any model of participatory forest management. They argue, "Terai people want an area that would be enough to match their needs and be granted the right according to the provision of forest act 1993" (EFCOFUN, 1999, cited in Aryal-2000).

Next major debate is about unclear guideline where the objectives of Community Forest is only to fulfil subsistence need of forest product or whether it may commercialize the community forestry by permitting installation of wood based industries in sustainable way (Shrestha-1996). The sustainability of Community Forest Management of Nepal depends upon economical, social and cultural diversities of Nepal. Diversities of social cultural setting make diverse natural resource management practice and allied resource use conflict. Conflict in Community Forestry in Nepal is one of them which are rooted in the communities themselves (Kharel-1994). In Community Forestry, conflicts are seen within a Forest User Group, between two and more Forest User Group or between Forest User Group between two and District Forest Office (Shrestha, 1994).

R. Pokhrel 2000 studied three User Groups each User Group from Kaski Palpa and Surkhet district. He found that Phedipatan user Group of Kaski district had distributed firewood on the basis of group contribution where as he found group contribution with lottery system in Bharkesh User Group of Palpa district and individual contribution in Surkhet district.

## 2.4 Peoples' Participation

Peoples' participation has been used in a variety of context such as community development, social mobilization, community participation, public participation etc. Various authors define people's participation in divergent way. Soen 1981 regards community participation as the means of involving people outside of the government in the planning process. While Fagency 1977 sees it is a means of reducing power differences and is therefore, contributory to equalization and social justice. Similarly, white 1981 calls it as involvement of people actively in the decision making concerning development project or in the implementation. World Bank1995 defines "Participation means their active not passive involvement and it should be transformative. According to Cohen and Norman, people's participation is often narrowly defined as the voluntary contribution of labor and or cash by the local people. However, conceptually people's participation includes their participation in identifying needs, decision making, implied benefit sharing and evaluation (cited in Bhandar: 1997). People's participation has been taken as a means by the government agencies and the projects for achieving their goals. A problem free situation of people's participation is not easy. There is no common understanding regarding what people's participation different level of people has different perception about it. Participation in the sense of only physically involvement is passive participation. Such participation does not seem long last (Chhetri, 1999).

Participation refers to a development program effort in enabling people to take initiative in related activated and mobilization for over all development (Cohen, 1997). Similarly, Malla1986 states "Participation means involvement of People in development Process voluntarily and willingly." People participation can also term as "Popular Participation." The concept of people's participation has been used since ancient time of Plato and Greek philosopher in Public affairs especially in political science. Participation on those days was merely a matter of voting, holding office, attending the state. The meaning of participation however has changed with the passage of time. Participation of people in the affaires of the state is necessary for a modern welfare state. The participation ideology 'bottom-up' approach is originated in reaction to colonial, bureaucratic failure in 1950s. Social activists and field workers advocated on the side of participatory development against the top-down approach (Rahhewa, 2000).

During the later half of the 1970s, the concept: people's participation in development became more popular and fashionable as opposed to the "top-down" approach. World Bank also realized the participatory development approach due to far less achievement on expected output from billions spent on development projects through "top to bottom" approach of development. The concept of people's participation has become a politically attractive slogan, it is perceived as an instrument for greater effectiveness as well as new sources of investment. Participation is becoming a good fund raising device and it could help the private sectors to be directly involved in the development business. Community participation is now generally taken as a necessary precondition to the successful implementation of any project. Participation is generally agreed to be important for the long-term success of local resource management system (Joshi 1990).

Mass sharing of benefits of development, mass contribution for development and mass involvement in decision-making process of development and implemented embraces participatory approach in Nepal. One such program aimed at developing rural community is known as social forestry or community forestry, which has been identified as an important factor of rural development (Kayastha, 1991). Environmental program of United Nations (UN) found the situation of Nepal's Forest Management unsatisfactory. Plantation unscientific utilization pattern along with massive deforestation. (UNFPA, 1982). In the National Forest Plan covered a wide range of forestry and related activities. It focuses on five strategic areas environment, conservation and economic mobilization through forestry, Scientific forest management developing technology and people's participation. (DOF, 1978)

In Nepal there has been a tradition of community approach with rural people involving themselves in Community Forestry resource management. Nepal has successfully implemented community forestry program with the active participation of local people. Forest committee formed by User Groups takes the responsibility of protecting, plantation and conserving rural forest. People participation in all stages of decision making, planning and reaping benefits. They show special interest in nursery and plantation works. According to one study it has been found that private planting is the most successful components of the community forestry program. Even the poor are willing to participate in community forestry program because they can collect fuel

wood and fodder from the community forests and save their time for earning wages. (Kayastha, 1991).

People's participation is the most essential feature of Community Forest. In field practice, idea of people's participation in Community Forest has earned high level of popularity in Nepal. The institutional arrangement and policy behind this program is quite good in the sense of people's participation. But the gap between rhetoric and realities is seemed in the practices. It is happening because of an inadequate understanding of how the idea of people's participation and empowering the people could be effectively put into practice. Chhetri research 1999 gave feed back to know that there is no real participation of people in plantation work carried out by Forest User Group with the help of District Forest Office. Most of the users involved in plantation in return for wages. This involvement is given name of full participation. All seeding were pulled out in the same evening of loosing their convenient grazing land. From this research it is concluded that the type of people involved in decision making were elite while some other people were not fully informed and the need of general people was not recognized.

It is realized that people's participation is the best way to achieve the objective on effective protection and management of forest resource. It is suggested for popular participation that existing local practice institution, organizational structure and Local User Group should be recognized. People should be convinced that they are not only the protector but the immediate beneficiaries as well. Effective participation can be further increased if people are well informed about the program and sense of; belonging is created through motivation and awareness (Kayastha, 1991 and Chhetri et al. 1992).

Lamichhane 2000 found that before the involvement of District Forest Office and other line agencies in providing training to users, need of interest group was not addressed in most of the community. The local elite controlled most of the forest resources. The group was not mobilized effectively. But after awareness training to local users, users started to adopt democratic decision-making process. Involvement of lower caste in Forest User Committee also increased from 2% to 7% in 1999.

Participation of women is crucial for the success of Community Forestry. Women are the major collectors of the forest Products such as fuel wood fodder and

dry leaf. So consequences of deforestation directly impact on women. District Forest Office and other line agencies must motivate women to participate in Community Forestry Program through extension of awareness classes (Kayastha, 1991).

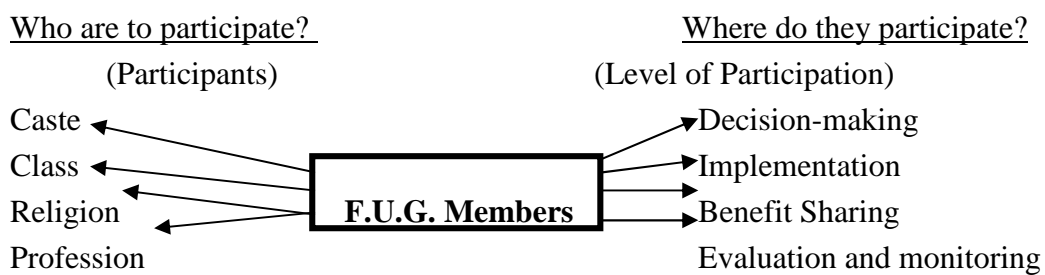
## 2.5 Conclusion of the Literature Review

From the views of various scholars it was revealed that the community forestry is the involvement of people in forest management for their own welfare. Therefore, it is known as community forestry that includes not only technical aspect but also social aspects of the communities. Nepal is ethnically and culturally heterogeneous country. So consideration of these factors in participation is essential for the sustainability of community forestry through peoples' participation.

The involvement of all kind of people in forest user group is precondition for effectiveness of community forestry. Because of different culture, religious and political ideology, the problems may arise in identifying User Group in decision-making and benefit sharing. Even though, they have different perception in forest resource, a good mechanism should be established so that there is an equal share in benefit, active participation in all type of decision-making. It is not an easy task to satisfy all kind of people. It requires social mobilization through awareness. Use of Sociological knowledge can help to handle community forestry more successfully.

## 2.6 Conceptual Framework

Aspects of factors affecting people's participate in FUGs.



## **CHAPTER – THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

#### **3.1 Rational of Selection of the Study Area**

The research was conducted in Pastekhola Community Forest of Hansapur VDC kaski district. The site is selected because of the community forest has been awarded as the best CF by district by government, there are users from different caste groups, there was heavy settlement of people around the Community Forest, this community forest was selected as heterogeneous of people are involved in the user group. Brahmin, Ethnic group and Dalit are the users of the community forest, the researcher is familiar with this area which was effective during data collection process, in the past, this forest user group was not studied by anybody else focusing on factors affecting on people's participation.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study has adopted both the descriptive and exploratory research designs. Descriptive research design is concerned with the describing the characteristics of a particular individual or a group. Community Forest User Group's character and their rules and process in Community Forestry activities are descriptively discussed. Exploratory research design find out some problems and then analyzed these problems applying different research method. Participation of different category of people in Community Forest activities, factors affecting in participation and skill and knowledge are discussed in participation and skill development are discussed on the basis of exploratory design. The status of participation was measured asking the respondents to express the frequency of their participation in meeting.

#### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Both qualitative and quantitative data were gathered in order to fully understand and analyze my research objectives. Quantitative data were collected number of meetings participation, involvement and attendance of FUG in different activities. On the other hand qualitative data were collected on perception, thinking and attitude of the FUG members were collected and analyzed in relation to research question.



Primary and secondary data were collected to obtain the mentioned research objectives. Primary data were collected through key informants interview, focus group discussion and observation. Likewise secondary data were collected through books, documents and literature related to participation and community forest management from libraries of different institutions and organizations. Those institutions and organization are institute of forestry, library search from central campus, Tribuban University, Kirtipur, Anapurna conservation area, Pokhara, District forest office, Kaski, community forest user group (CFUG).

### **3.4 Definition of Related Terms**

The researcher has used the following terms with their operational meaning as follow.

**Peoples' Participation(PP):** Peoples' participation means the involvement of people to any activities of Pasthekhola Community forestry program.

**Forest User Group (FUG):** People who are involving in and using products of Pasthekhola Community forestry. The term 'Forest User Group' refers to a specialized group of people who share mutually recognized claims to specified use-right of a forest (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). Actually, the term was derived from the concept of use-rights Nepal's Forest Act, 1993 defines a user group as a recognized group of concerned forest users desirous of developing and conserving the forest and using the product or collective benefit (HMG, 1993).

**Community Forest (CF):** Community forest is that kind of forest where the forest users have maximum responsibility to protect and use the forest products then the government. In addition, we can say that its programme which known as community forestry programme, which indicate that the people's participation in different activities should be managed properly. So that community forestry is a programme, which ruled by community or local people or forest users, is to get more benefit for that it in same level. It is necessary to use the common policy in each activities of forest management and similarly in benefit sharing. Community Forest program is a partnership program between local communities and the staff of Department of forest (DOF) for the management of locally accessible forest. Community Forestry involves the control and management of forest either natural or planted by a specified User Group. Several amendments in Community Forest

Policies were made supporting for better people participation. The term forest management encompasses both technical and social arrangements. Forest management includes the planting, protection, harvesting and distribution of forest products.

**Forest Users Group Committee (FUGC):** To build CF rule or policy one legal committee is necessary which also declare about the income and expenditure and help to manage the people's participation of users in different activities. Its meeting is necessary to held in each month. These FUGC members can work for two year.

**FUG Assembly:** For the purpose of all users discussion about development and effectiveness of forest management one assembly is there which select the FUGC members. That will call in each two year.

**FUG Constitutional assembly and operational plan:** To make operational plan and constitution the FUGC can make a committee but its work will finish after completing that plan or constitution of CF.

### **3.5 Universe and Sampling Procedure of the Study**

The total population of this study includes 60 households. All the 60 households in the universe was taken for sample size.

### **3.6 Data collection Techniques and Instruments**

#### **3.6.1 Interview**

Interviews were carried out with household members to collect first hand data from the study area after finalizing questionnaire. A face-to-face interview was conducted with a total 60 respondents. The household list was obtained from constitution of CFUG and visited with two committee members.

#### **3.6.2 Key Information Interview**

In depth interview was conducted with some key information's like FUG members, village elders, local leaders, school teachers and DFO staffs, with an expectation to gather detailed information. A total of fifteen key information's were interviewed. These key informants were selected purposively for interview so as to cover representation from different categories of people. Through this researcher collected information related to the condition of the forest before and after changes in

each of the five livelihood capitals of the people agents responsible to bring these changes

### **3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

According to Greenbaum (1988) multiple respondents of similar background can get opportunities for intersection with their own views and ideas on a related issue in focus group meetings. FGD in this study helped to understand the real situation on the issue. Two FGDS were carried out for acquiring actual information from women and men separately, who is valuable to put their voice and also to understand their real situation in conflict.

Focus group discussions were conducted to discuss the research issues and to gather information about programmes lunched in the study area. Through these discussion information about proper programmes and their performance income generation activities, micro credit programmes were collected. The participants in the discussion were represented from the committee members, women, disadvantaged groups and the poor. The checklists were made to record data and information of different items.

### **3.6.4 Observation**

This method was used to make qualitative data like physical and social conditions of the studied population as well as area. Direct observations were made in various places like respondent's home, farms. Amounts of forest products in homestead, decision making process in committee, distribution of forest products and selling within CFUG were observed.

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

Since the nature of field study is more qualitative, information related to population structure, ethnic distribution, education, economic and participation structure were quantified. Qualitative data was discussed analytically on the basis of findings. Qualitative data was tabulated and analyzed descriptively.

Quantitative data was tabulated and discussed analytically on the basis of findings. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage are used to analyze quantitative data. Finally, this types of research descriptive analysis was for suggestive opinion. The information was collection from the observation form questionnaire interview to determine the factor affecting people's participation of community Forestry. Each category was analysed and interpreted from the tabulation of the data in descriptive way.

## CHAPTER – FOUR

### PEOPLE AND THE STUDY AREA

Hansapur VDC lies on western part of Kaski District. And also the Pastekhola CF lies on western part of the district. It was handed over to the community in 2056 Baishakh 7. Its area is 72.10 sq. km and situates in ward no three of Hansapur VDC. There are 60 households and 299 people who are depending upon this forest The main forest products of this CF are Saal and Chilaune. (DFO Kaski). The selected research site of this study is Pastekhola community forest of Hansapur Kaski. The V.D.C. is easily accessible with a motor able road. Study unit of research is Passtekhola Community forest, is selected purposively among four community forest of Hansapur V.D.C. because this Community forest is one of the best community forest of Hansapur V.D.C. according to district forest office staff. This community forest was also selected as there is a mixed caste composition within the user group. There are Brahmin, Ethnic group and Dalit who are the users of the community forest. During the last nine years of its operation, these C.F. users have gained significant knowledge and skill which can be examined. In the past, this forest user group was not studied by anybody else focusing on people's participation.

#### 4.1 Peoples' participation in different sectors

Peoples' Nature, Process and Attitude towards participation in Community Forestry are divided in to different sectors i.e. age, caste and ethnicity, education, gender and occupation etc.

The people who participate in Pastekhola Community Forestry classified in this way:

**Table No. 1: Age Composition of the Respondents Family**

Age	Number of Frequency
5-15	41
16-30	100
31-50	101
51-70	45
71-80	10
Total	299

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

According to data of 299 peoples, 10 peoples participate from the age of (71-80) and 100 from (16-30) where Maximum peoples participate from the age of (31-50). According to households of Pastekhola Community Forestry the people of participation from Brahmin, ethnic group and Dalit are as follows.

**Table No. 2: Caste/Ethnicity Composition of the Respondents Family**

<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Brahman	26	43.3
Ethnic group	17	28.3
Dalit	17	28.3
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

This table shows that the participation form ethnic group maximum of 26 households where the participation of Brahman and Dalit is equal.

Education level (status) and gender status from the survey of Respondents of 299, 139 (46.5%) are literate and 41 (13.7%) are illiterate where 2% are not applicator their education status.

**Table No. 3: Sex Composition and Education Status of the People**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
Illiterate	16	25 (16.9%)	41 (13.7%)
Literate	64	75 (50.7%)	139 (46.5%)
S.L.C.	28	23 (15.5%)	51 (17.1%)
I.A. (Equivalent)	25	15 (10.1%)	40 (13.4%)
B.A.(Equivalent)	11	6 (4.1%)	17 (5.7%)
M.A. or Above	4	1 (0.7%)	5 (1.7%)
Not applicable	3	3 (2%)	6 (2%)
Total	151	148	299

Source: Field Survey 2009.

#### **4.2 Peoples' participation in different sectors activities**

Participation from different sectors of community forestry activities are Decision Making, Committee meeting, Group Assembly/meetings, Participation of women in Decision making, Participation in Implementation etc.

#### **4.2.1 Committee Meeting**

Committee meeting is held regularly once in a month. If members feel necessary, a meeting is being held more than regular meeting. When a meeting is called, it is usually the secretary or the chairperson who informs other members. Usually meeting is called on Saturday or evening time of any day, which time is free time of committee members. After gathering, members recommended agendas for discussion. Participation rate of committee members is found 9 to 11 members per meeting. Generally decision to implement forest operational plan is being made by forest user committee. It is necessary to analyze the representation of women use and lower users of community in forest user committee. It is necessary to analyze the representation of women user and lower users of community in Forest User Committee. If the people from the lower casts and women are not the members of forest committee, it may be assumed that there is less participation of these groups of people in decision making. Forest User Committee has enough authority to make decisions with regard to community forest user group process such as what sort of seeding to be planted, which members should participate in different training, tours and workshops.

#### **4.2.2 Group Meeting /Assembly**

Group meeting and assembly is called when the user committee feels its necessarily general assembly of group is held at least once in a year. At least majority assemblies (more than 50%) must be present to pass decision. In group meetings, the users express their view and decisions are carried out by a majority vote of user group. Every member has the right to keep his or her opinion in each agenda during group meeting.

Pastekhola User Group organised group assembly during the preparation of constitution of group and operation of constitution of group and operational plan of forest. Every year users evaluate the progress through group assembly. Users Group can raise questions in different issues of report if they want. Due data of operational plans generally about should prepare next operational plan or revise. First five years operational plan of Pastekhola Community Forest was finished in 2004 A.D. After then, they prepare one year operational plan through assembly for every year. It is already mentioned that User Group has given authority to use committee to prepare

operational plan and constitution through meetings. User committee first made draft of the document and presented in group meeting. The user group member actively prepared and gave suggestion, adding some points and changed a little also during the discussion period. The decision is taken by consensus of the user members.

#### **4.2.3 Participation in Process of Decision Making**

Decision making is a crucial element for the success of any project. In the decision making process, if majority are involved they feel projects to be their own. Thus research has found that participation is affected not only by those who make and implement decisions but also by how decisions are made. In the case of Pastekhola Community Forestry a major reason facilitating peoples' participation was the involvement of women in the executive committee membership and their control and involvement in both decision making and implementation phases of committee activities. Though the women members of the committee had every right to decide what to do, that right was based on a common understanding in formants reported that executive committee members. Key informants reported that executive committee has always consulted User Group members while taking any decision and implementation its decision. The committee aimed at mobilizing women's participation in committee work.

Forest User Group makes decision through group assembly or Committee meeting. Meeting of group of committee members decide minor issue to be decided. Committee members decide minor issue where a group decided major issue. The chairperson and secretary call every group meeting and committee. It is mandatory that, all members of committee should be present in committee while one member from one household should represent in group meeting. The member of FUG is a household but not an individual. So, the household decides which of its member should represent the household at the group meeting. Both meeting need more than half representative to decide any decision.

Every decision is carried out by consensus. Every member has right to keep his or her opinion regarding each label, people's participation in decision making is known by asking their representation in meeting and asking some questions to access their active participation. For institutional development, the process of decision

making makes great difference whether this institution really could run or not. Group meetings and committee meeting are means of decision-making.

#### 4.2.4 Participation in protection of forest

Pastekhola Community Forest User Group has not appointed paid watcher for the protection of forest but they protect forest by volunteer guarding on regular rotation basis. Evaluation of last year by user themselves revealed that there were only 40 households participated in guarding among fifty households in last year. Among forty households three had participated for twelve days in guarding for forest. Minimum contribution of households was one day and average contribution households was five days.

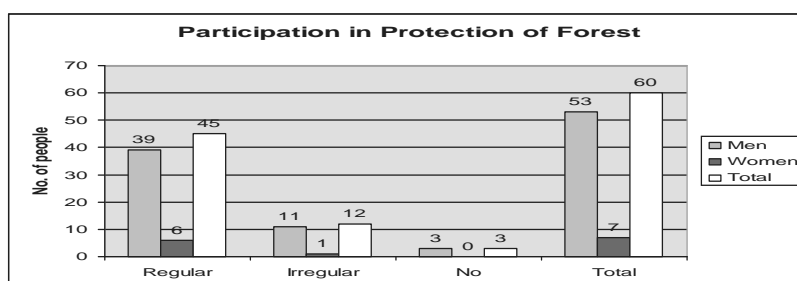
To implement protection rules effective forest user group has made some incentive for those who involve more in protection works.

These incentives are:-

- a) Users who are more in guarding of forest more than 80 percent will be given forest products with 50% discount.
- b) User who involve in guarding forest more than 60% will be benefited with 25% percent discount benefit sharing.
- c) Similarly, who involved less than 40% and never must pay 25% and 50% extra respectively to take benefit from forest.

Above-mentioned rules were applied last year and two households benefited to use forest products with 50% discount. The following shows the details participation of respondents in protection of forest.

**Table No. 4: Participation of Respondents in Protection of Forest**



Source: - Field survey 2009.

Above table indicates that there is less participation of learning of females than male in group meeting similarly in the protection of their representation also



indicates by this same table. According to women, respondents they have to engage in household work and cannot make time for guarding. According to above table there are 45 respondents with regular participation among them 39 men and 6 are women. Similarly, 12 are in irregular participation and 3 never participated. Occupation of people who involve in Community Forestry

#### 4.2.5 Occupation of People Who Involve in Community Forestry

Forest Management is the scientific operation that is applied in Forest Management Operation includes plantations weeding thinning, pruning, clearing of bushes, and firer line construction inside the forest area. It needs technical knowledge forest management operation needs technical assistance from district forest officials often play several rules simultaneously in forest management but there is always need to take initiation from forest user group. Ranger of the post of the area has providing such assistant for Pastekhola Community Forest.

Plantation of seedling in open area of the forest is one of the main tasks of forest management. Pastekhola Community Forest planted more than 20,000 trees seedlings inside the forest area. For the production of seedling one user established one temporary nursery in his field. It helped him for income generation to some extent. Forest user group bought seedling form him. Every year they carry out thinking, pruning and cleaning and thinning where males are participating in pruning and transportation of extracted material from forest to open land during forest management. According to respondents, due to lack of sufficient knowledge of forest management they are not getting expected output in forest managements. However, most of the users have participated in carrying out management activities. Above forty respondents could brief forces management activities to some extent. Thus it can be said there is good participation of users in management of forest. The table below presents the participation level of respondents during application of management operation.

**Table No. 5: Occupation Composition of People**

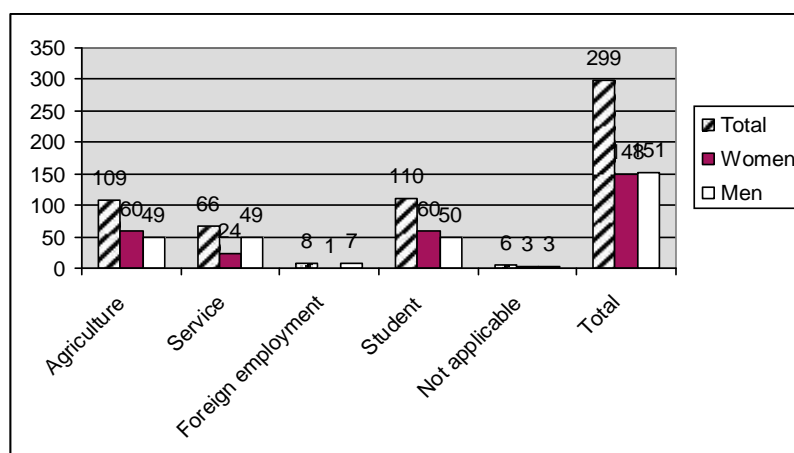
Occupation	Men	Women	Total
Agriculture	49	60	109
Service	49	24	66
Foreign employment	7	1	8

Student	50	60	110
Not applicable	3	3	6
Total	151	148	299

Source: Field survey 2009.

This data shows that the maximum people who are taking participation in Community forestry are student and farmers. They are follows:-

**Table No. 6: Occupation of people who involve in Community Forestry**



Source: Field survey 2009.

It was shows that the maximum people who are taking involve student and farmers but others people are involve service, foreign employment and not applicable.

#### 4.2.6 Participation in Implementation

Implementation is the done in real practice. It is the main responsibility of the user committee to implement all decision and operational plan with the full participation of users. It is responsibility of forest users to be involved in implementation of community forest program protection, management of these activities cannot be successful in the absences of people participation

#### 4.2.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation are the essential factors for providing feedback to the project management regarding only corrective actions to be taken of adjustment in the policies to be made during the implementation of the project.

In the study are of Pastekhola community Forest, forest committees have duties to monitor the growth of seedling planted in the community forest area. Monitoring system is concerned with regularly keeping tracks of the community

forestry Development programmers. To accomplish these, committees members agreed that each of them would visit the community forestry area at least once a week due to which several infiltrators sneakers were caught red handed while cutting forest resources during the dessert ants stay in the field.

The main objectives of monitoring and evaluation on the Pastekhola community forest are as follows:

Improving performance through providing timely information to management and implementing units and project performance (inputs and outputs) and implication for support requirements.

Identifying and analysing problems incurred during implementation and suggesting possible solution of the problems for tackling the problems of community forestry.

Increase people communication with Nepal Government forest staffs.

## **CHAPTER – FIVE**

### **FACTORS AFFECTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

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

- a) Social and cultural factors
- b) Economic factors and
- c) Other related factors.

#### **5.1 Social and Cultural Factor**

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

##### **5.1.1 Age**

From field study, it is revealed that the respondents below the age of 25 years are young generation users who are mostly busy in their study. They have limited time to contribute in Community Forestry activities. Most of the respondents with the age between 25 to 40 years are busy in their professional job and also contribute their free time in Community Forestry activities. The respondents between age 40 to 60 years are the one whose participation and contribution in community forestry is found in higher then other age group users. Users above 60 years are unable to contribute due to their physical weakness. Due to age factor, many old users left User Committee. However, Forest User Committee has tried to integrate all the age group people above 16 years. The elderly users are placed in the position of advisor.

##### **5.1.2 Family Size**

Family size is another contributing factor in participation. It was revealed from field study that respondents with larger family size are participating in most of the activities. Such households have managed to send one representative from their house. Sometime small family sizes have faced problem in sending their representative from their household during Community Forestry activities as they are occupied in their own jobs.

Especially, there is a high influence of family size in women's participation. Women of large family size household have to devote her time in preparing food and other inside housework. However, in the large family size where number of women is higher, well participation of women was found.

### **5.1.3 Gender**

In Pastekhola Community Forest, no gender discrimination was found in community forestry activities. Women are equally participating as they get free from their housework. Although there is restriction for women to participate actively in decision-making process, their participation was found no equal to male users in decision-making but participation in implementation is good. Women users participated in training as well as study tour to other districts even though, as per Nepali culture there is a hesitation to allow women to travel without their family far from their house.

### **5.1.4 Caste and Ethnic Group**

Culturally and religiously, User Group of Pastekhola Community Forest is a homogenous group. All users are Hindu. But ethnically users are heterogeneous. Social values and religious belief on caste system are affecting in participation of users. Dalit are untouchable caste. Brahman do not touch as well as eat food made by them in Hansapur VDC. Brahman, chhetry also do not eat food provided by Dalit users. Even though, it is illegal in practicing caste discrimination based on the constitution of Nepal, still there is social/cultural practice of caste discrimination in Hansapur V.D.C. Such social norms are inhibiting Dalit users to participate equally.. According to the respondents, they set the criteria like education, free time, leading capacity and gender of the users during the selection of member of user committee. But they did not consider criteria for caste, ethnic group, and disadvantaged group. Thus, there is only one representation of Dalit group in Forest User Committee. Dalit users expressed feeling of caste inferiority to the researcher during his field visit. However, caste inferiority feeling was found less in Gharti group than Dalit. Both group expressed that there is a domination of Brahman in decision making and they did not feel necessary to influence in decision making process.

## **5.2 Economic Factor**

Economic factor includes size of agriculture land, livestock and nature of occupation. Economic level within Brahman and Chhetri community is similar in Pastekhola Community Forest. They have no great different in farm size and live stock number whereas, other communities have less farmland and no livestock. This factor is especially affecting on participation of others in community forestry. They argue that they do not need fodder and grass, as they have no livestock. This factor is especially affecting on participation of others in community forestry. They argue that they do not need fodder and grass, as they have no livestock. Therefore, they do not participate during benefit sharing of fodder and grass. Brahman, chhetry are using firewood by paying money but Dalit users do not do so. A Dalit respondent told that they are economically weak and unable to pay money to bring firewood and to renew membership of user.

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

Brahman, chhetry and some Dalit group work as a wage labour in Hansapur. They have no holiday and leave like others who work in government and non-government organizations. Therefore, they cannot contribute their time even like service holder man. They have not managed to attend meeting and other activities of same day avoiding their work. To avoid such difficulties, the Forest User Committee is making maximum effort for the high participation of User Group in the meeting by calling it either in evening period or during holidays.

## **5.3 Other Related Factors**

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

### **5.3.1 Educational Status**

Attitude, education, awareness and interest play in developing self-consciousness in a person. Most of the respondents are very much aware and have interest and position attitude in Community Forestry work excluding *Dalit* group.

Education factor is highly affection in active participation in decision-making. Illiterate users who are participating in meeting do not raise their voice. Researcher asked them why they do not speak in the meeting and their response was that they are uneducated and do not know as educated. They think that decision made by educated users are always good and thus support their decisions. Thus, in committee members selection the priority is given in selecting educated persons. All committee members are literate except two women in existing committee. Illiterate users participate during implementation as equally as literate users and is not affecting in implementation of any decision made.

In general, wealthy users are literate but poor and land less users is illiterate. For the illiterate users, it is difficult to hold the leadership position in forest Users Committee as the leaders should perform daily administrative activities of the committee (letter writing, minute keeping and reporting to higher officials). Literacy plays a vital role as a source of power and privilege in rural context. The researcher asked question of the leader of User Committee?" Their reply was "we are poor, and illiterate, we have no knowledge and thus how to perform leader's responsibility. Due to this reason we select literate person in the position of the leader". Two illiterate women are committee members but do not hold leadership position. Participation in user who is self-conscious understands the importance of forest. Such user devotes his or her time in protection and management of forest although they do not need forest products from the forest. Lack self-consciousness was found in the two households of Brahman group. They have large farm size. They are fulfilling their need of forest products from their own land. So, they are not participating actively in Community Forestry activities. They should understand that they are getting indirect benefit from the Community Forest and it is not wise for them not to participation actively in the User Group.

### **5.3.2 Government Support**

Another important factor that affects people's participation is government support Government official is supporting Hansapur Forest User Group that has enhanced their participation. Forest User Group organized one community Forest Management Training them and requested technical support (trainer) to District Forest Office. District Forest Office provided such support. According to the provision of forest Act 1993, there should be representation of women in one-third seat of

committee member and should encompass all interest group from users. The government officials have failed to convince all ethnic groups to be in user Committee. In researcher's opinion; Dalit users lack awareness in Community Forest and are not interested to participate in Community Forestry activities.

#### **5.4 Participation in Decision Making**

Participation in decision-making is directly connected with the participation in benefit sharing and implementation of the decision made. The users, who participating in decision making their participation in implementation and benefit sharing, seems good whereas, those whose participation is less during decision-making lack in information.

For an example, a women respondent reported to the researcher that she interested to participate in one of the Community Forestry training program but she could not participate in the training as she was unable not involved in decision making meeting. She was unhappy on the decision made by the user committee favouring their relatives. Thus, such practice makes her unhappy and even sometime she is unwilling to support committee activities but she has not made such decision yet.

#### **5.5 Rule of Forest User Group**

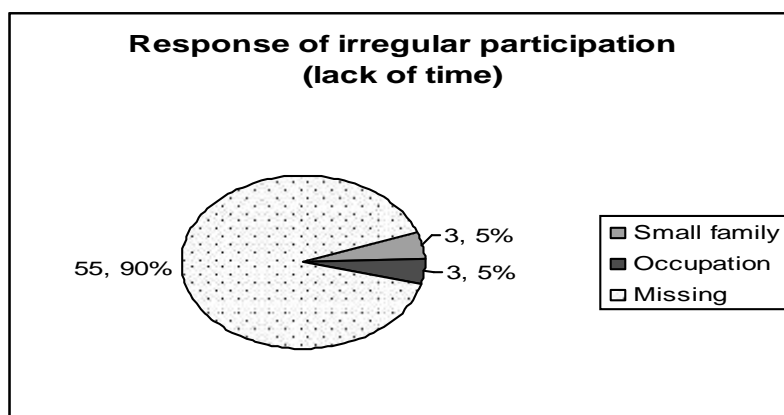
Forest User Group formulated the rules to smoothly operate Community Forest. The rule states that in every Community Forestry activities one representation from one household is compulsory. There is no compulsion for every user. This rule is inhibiting in the participation of all users especially women users are more affected as most of the time male represent such meeting. Frequencies of participation can be divided into three levels. Some of them are regular, some are irregular who only participate when they have leisure form other works, and some of the users have never participated the meeting till now.

#### **5.6 Cause of Non-participation**

By the study of Pastekhola Community Forestry most of people who participate are male and in other way most of them are Ethnic group (Gurung, Magar etc.) from the participation of 60 house holds 54 (90%) are participant in forest conservation and 6 or 10% are not participant in the forest conservation. And similarly 12 or 20% are in irregular participation. Now the response why they are irregular participate not participate.



**Table No. 7: Causes of Irregular Participation**



Source: Field survey 2009.

According to response that are not participating regular are 6 where they explain their reason of being small family. By their small family they do not have time because of their own important work then other 3 person explained their reason of occupation. By the case of their job/occupation they cannot participate regularly.

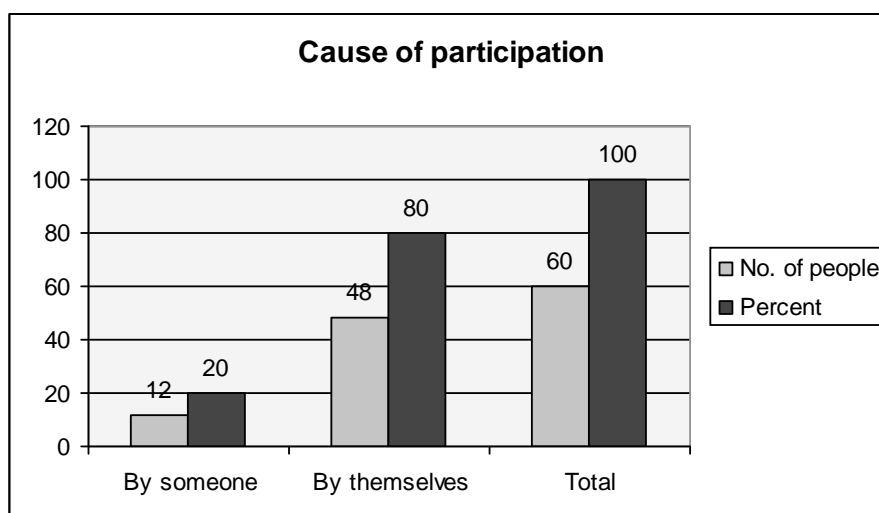
Besides these one explained his view do not heard by group of community members.

Among the 60 households 59 use forest products and one cannot use forest production.

### 5.7 Causes of Participation

The person who participate by someone and themselves

**Table No. 8: Cause of participation**



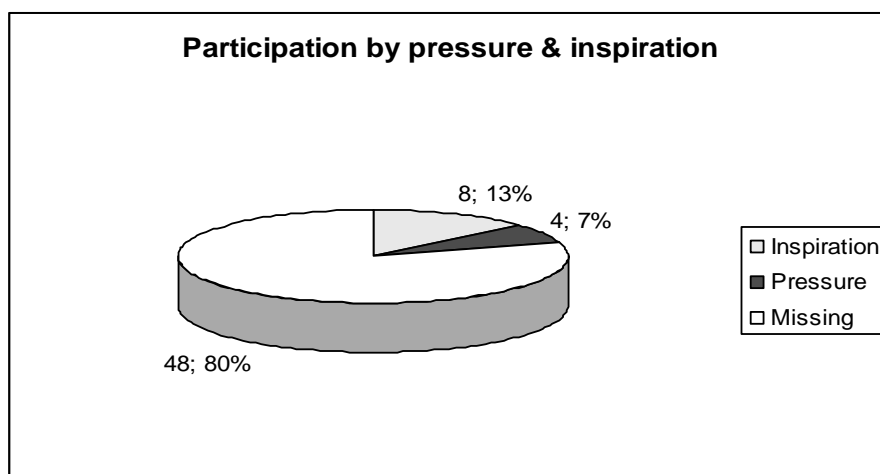
Source: Field Survey, 2009.

According to response of households, 12 of them are participating by the cause of second person and 48 or 80 percent themselves.

## 5.8 Participation by Presser or Inspiration

According to response of participators 4 are participate by the pressure of other person and 8 are participation by inspiration.

**Table No. 9: Participation by pressure and inspiration**



Source: Field survey 2009.

By the field survey, it was found that 8 persons participate by inspiration of profit and others benefits of training of forest organization programme. Moreover, similar types of benefits for themselves and four persons explained their reason they are participating by the pressure of society or organization because they have not required forest products but are in high level of political power; and some of them who have no sufficient time to involve to do forest activities.

## 5.9 Participation by Themselves

According to field survey most of people say the main factor to participation in regularly is income for forest and similarly they most of them explain that forest conservation is necessary to get long term profit.

According to response of 60 households respondents main factor to participate are as follows:

**Table No. 10: Response of 60 Households**

Main Cause	Number of People	Percentage
Labour/income	18	30
Forest conservation	41	68
Both of above	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2009.

41 Most of respondents explained their cause of participation is to conserve the forest and only one person explained the reason of participation is income and conservation, and 18 of respondents explain or focused on the income source play the important role to participate in community forestry activities.

### 5.10 Management of Community Forestry

Response towards the development of C.F. after handed over to community is concluded as follows. It was asked that whether the management of forest became good or bad then the responses are as follows.

**Table No. 11: Attitude Management of Community Forestry**

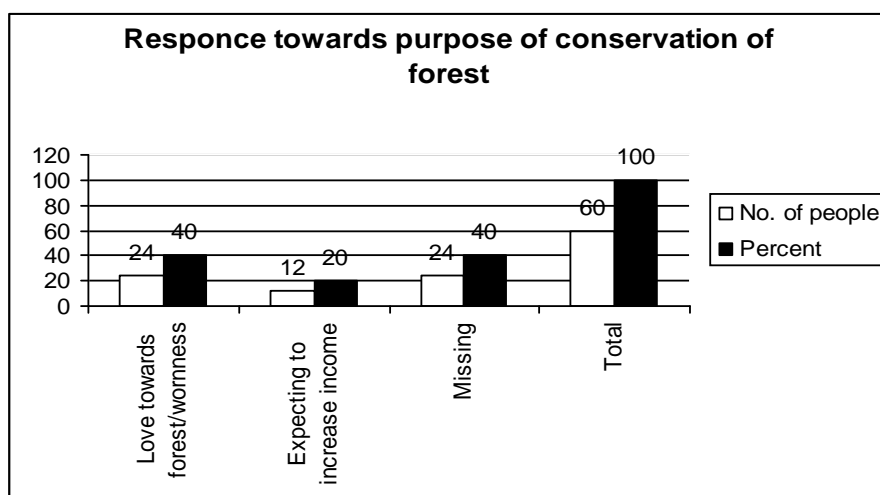
Attitude of Management	No. of people	Percent
Good	36	60
Bad	12	20
Don't know	12	20
Total	60	100

Source: Field survey 2009.

According to above table 36 people explain the management of forest became good and 12 people blamed that the condition of worse than before due to more destruction of forest and they are not satisfied with the process of benefit sharing. Twelve of them answered on none of the side.

Peoples' answer on the question related to the purpose of conservation of community forest is as follows:

**Table No. 12: Response Towards Purpose of Conservation of Forest**



Source: Field Survey 2009.

Whenever the Pastekhola Community Forest is national forest, then the forest user group think it is not belong to them but after handed over towards community then they want to conserve the forest and they think how to develop or increase the forest products in long term. Among that people who interest to develop the forest after handed over are divided into two categories. From the 60% people 40% people think or feel it is their own forest and 12% think it can be source of income or products.

Among the participation people 40%, they think the forest after handed over is not managing properly. Their responses are divided in to two categories:

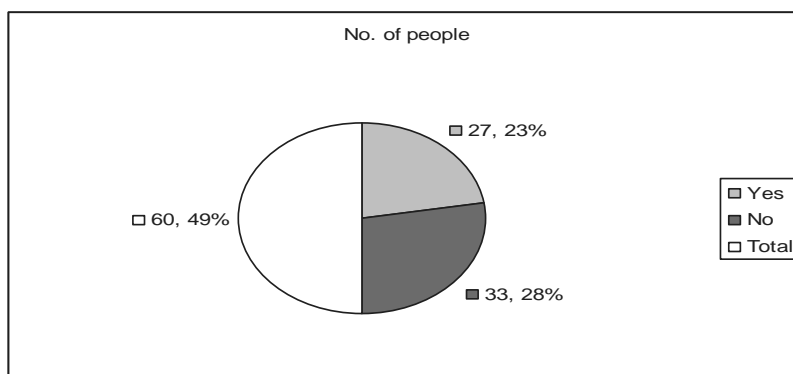
**Table No. 13: Response Towards Purpose of Conservation of Forest**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>No. of people</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of hand policy	10	16
Case of individual selfishness	2	3.3
Missing	48	80

Source: Field survey 2009.

The people who explain the decreasing management system after handed over to community, they think people are destroying forest by thieving forest products because of lack of hand policy and they claim that the selfishness of user group they are thinking the forest products are source of income and they don't know why to conserve forest product and they think their own necessity is high and they are intended to fulfil their recent requirements not of long term profit. Most of the people who are oppose to develop the community forest are farmer of several goats and buffaloes they used to graze their cattle in this forest when it was not handed over but after handed to community it became tight to graze their cattle in this forest. So they are not satisfied to this community forest. Also some of the people who have no other source of income besides forest they are using it as a source of income by selling timber from it. In the time of national forest but after handed to community they cannot sell them freely so they are not satisfied towards the management of Pastekhola Community Forestry. It was asked them whether their need could be fulfilled by this community forest. Then 55% reply no and 45% replied yes.

**Table No. 14: Response of People's Participation**



Source: Field survey 2009.

Among the 60 households 27 people of participation said that the Pastekhola community forest can fulfil their needs but 33 of people said that the Pastekhola Community forestry couldn't fulfil the needs. Most of them claim the Pastekhola community forest is far then the other forest so they are fulfilling their requirement from the nearest forest. It was found that they are using next forest then Pastekhola. They are bringing forest products from their own forests and other nearer forest from their community.

## **CHAPTER - SIX**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **6.1 Summary**

The study was carried out at the Pastekhola community forest of Hansapur V.D.C. The study has covered 60 households. There are altogether 299 benefited users in the 60 households. Among them 148 are female and 151 are male. The size of household is varied from two to nine members. And the average household size is 5.5 people per household. Among the ethnic group Brahman appear at highest position (43.4%) and Gurung and Dalit are in equal position 15%.

Among the people age of 15-75, 13.7% are illiterate and 86.3% are literate. Among the 60 households, 299 members - 39% have their occupation agriculture, 22% have services and 2.6% have foreign employment.

Among the 60 households 17 households have 20 or above ropani irrigated land and 33 households have 10-20 ropani irrigated land similarly 10 households have less than 10 ropani irrigated land. They have their own forest near their land and 23 have above 3 ropani and 27 have below 3 ropani and 2 households have 3 ropani forest land.

In 60 households survey it was found that the food sufficient months for their family are divided in four categories. 6 households have sufficient only for three months, 18 households have six months sufficient, 25 have twelve months sufficient and 11 have more than twelve months or they sell them as a income source.

Maximum people of Pastekhola community forestry user group are firewood, grass (leaves) and timber only few people use the forest products as medicine. It was found that one household among the 60 households cannot use the forest production because of the settlement in city area by migration but he also is in the forest user group. He was as adviser member of user group.

In Pastekhola community Forest decision is made by two types of meetings— Committee meeting and Group meeting/Assembly. There was active participation from the Brahman and Chhetri in the monthly meeting but the participation of other group was moderate. There were 45 respondents among 60 households who were found regular participating of group meeting. Among them 39 were male and 16 were

female. Minute of group meeting revealed that there was poor participation of Chandhara and B.K.

Respondents of Pastekhola community forest user group were asked their participation in forest conservation. It was found that 90% were participating in protection or conservation and 10% were found they were not participating in forest conservation and protection. Similarly, 17 out of 60 were participating in policy making and 43 out of 60 were not participating in policy making.

It was found that, to keep regular trace of the community forest members have made a special provision of monitoring and evaluation. Committee members agreed that each of them would visit the community in forest area at least once a week. Researcher found that 17 users were benefited from the various kinds of training program. Similarly, satisfactory participation was seen to make relation to District Forest Officials in information sharing and in raising and mobilizing fund. The community forest members were also involved in different community and village development works.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

On the basis of the above findings the following conclusion can be drawn:

The forestry policy mentioned that there should be representation of women in one third seat of committee and must integrated representation in community forestry programme, the findings of the study has shown that it is not applied satisfactory in the process of Pastekhola community forest user group formation and user committee formation.

The findings reflect that user committee is responsible body to take decisions in minor issues, where as major issues are decided in general assembly group meeting.

All committee members actively participate during decision making, implementation and benefit sharing process. The findings reveal that education is the major influencing factor in decision making and leading the group in user committee.

Other users rather than Brahman were some how affected by their economic situation and are unable to actively participate in community forestry activities making as well as benefit sharing due to lack of awareness.

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**APPENDIX-I**  
**FACTORS AFFECTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

**Questionnaire Schedule for Household Survey**

१. सामान्य परिचय

१.१ उत्तरवालाको नाम :

१.२ धर्म :

१.३ वैवाहिक अवस्था

२. पारिवारिक विवरण (Family Description)

क्र.स	नाम	उमेर	लिङ्ग	घरमुलिसँगको सम्बन्ध	शिक्षा	पेशा
१						
२						
३						
४						
५						
६						

३. आर्थिक जानकारी:

३.१ जमिनको विवरण (Land Ownership)

क्र.स	जमिनको प्रकार	क्षेत्रफल रोपनीमा	जमिनको प्राप्तिको प्रकार	कैफियत
१				
२				
३				
४				

३.२ कृषि उत्पादन (मुरीमा)

१. धान..... २. गहु .....  
३. मकै ..... ४. अन्य .....

३.३ उत्पादनले पुग्ने महिना

१. ३ महिना                      २. ६ महिना                      ३. १ वर्ष  
४. अझ बढी वचदछ

३.४ पशुपालन

१. भैसी                      २. बाख्रा                      ३. कुखुरा                      क ४. अन्य .....

४. वन्य उत्पादनको आवश्यकता

क्र.स	विवरण	मात्रा	कस्तो वनवाट			कैफियत
			सामान्य वन	सामुदायिक वन	आफनै जमिनमा उपलब्ध वन	
१	दाउरा					
२	काठ					
३	स्याउला					
४	जडिबुटी					

५. खाना पकाउन के को प्रयोग गर्नु हुन्छ ?

१. दाउरा            २. मट्टितेल            ३. गोबर ग्याँस  
 ४. ग्याँस            ५. अन्य

**APPENDIX-II**  
**FACTORS AFFECTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

**Questionnaire Schedule for Interview**

क्र.स.	प्रश्न	उत्तर
1	FUG ले सम्पूर्ण उपभोक्ता समेटेको छ ?	१. छ २. छैन
2	तपाईंलाई किन FUG ले सम्पूर्ण उपभोक्ता नसमेटेको जस्तो लाग्छ ?	
3	वन संरक्षणमा तपाईंको तपाईंको सहभागिता छ कि छैन ?	१ छ २. छैन
4	वन संरक्षण सम्बन्धी कुन काममा तपाईंको सहभागिता छ ?	
5	निति नियम तथा कार्ययोजना निर्माणमा तपाईंको सहभागिता छ कि छैन ?	१ छ २. छैन
6	निति नियम बनाउनमा तथा कार्ययोजना निर्माणमा कसरी सहयोग गर्नु भएको छ ?	
7	वनबाट उत्पादित पैदावारको प्रयोग गर्न पाउनु भएको छ वा छैन ?	१. छ २. छैन
8	वनबाट कस्ता पैदावारको प्रयोग गर्दै आउनुभएको छ ?	१. दाउरा      ४. जडिवुटी २. स्याउला    ५. अन्य ३. काठ
9	तपाईं कसैको कारण यहाँ सहभागि हुन भएको हो ?	१. हुने २. हैन
10	तपाईं कसैको दवाव वा हौसलाको कारण सहभागी हुनु भयो ?	१. हौसला २. दवाव
11	कस्तो हौसलाको कारण तपाईं सहभागि हुनु भयो ?	
12	कस्तो दवावको कारण तपाईं सहभागि हुनुभयो ?	
13	तपाईं स्वयं सहभागि हुन कुन कारणले प्रभाव पारे जस्तो लाग्छ ?	१. दाउरा      ४. जडिवुटी २. घाँस      ५. अन्य ३. काठ
14	तलका मध्ये कुन कुरालाई वनमा सहभागि हुन सहयोग गर्ने प्रमुख तत्व मान्नु हुन्छ ?	१. ज्याला वा अँम्दानी २. वन संरक्षण
15	ज्याला वा आम्दानीलाई किन सहभागिताको कारण मान्नुहुन्छ ?	
16	वन संरक्षणलाई किन सहभागिताको प्रमुख तत्व मान्नु हुन्छ ?	
17	यस वनमा वास्तविक जन सहभागिता जुटेको हो ?	१. हो २. होईन

18	के कारण वास्तविक जनसहभागिता नजुटेको जस्तो लाग्छ ?	१. आफ्नो वन भन्ने सोचाई नआउनाले २. ज्यालको कारण ३. सम्पूर्ण उपभोक्ता नसमिटिएको कारण ४. अन्य
19	तपाईंको बैठकमा उपस्थित कस्तो छ ?	१. नियमित २. अनियमित ३. छैन
20	बैठकमा किन अनियमित उपस्थित हुनुहुन्छ ?	१. समय हुदैन २. विचारको कदर हुदैन ३. इच्छा छैन
21	तपाईं बैठकमा उपस्थित हुन किन समय पुग्दैन ?	१. सानो परिवार भएर २. पेशाको कारण ३. अन्य
22	तपाईंको विचार बैठकमा किन नसुनिएको जस्तो लाग्छ ?	१. उच्च बगेको समितिमा प्रभाव पनाले २. महिलाको प्रतिनिधित्व नहुनाले ३. फरक जाति वा संस्कृतिको कारण
23	समूह बैठकमा उपस्थित हुनको कारण तलका महत्व कुनलाई मान्नु हुन्छ ?	१. वन्य पैदावार तथा वनको आम्दानी र भत्ता पाइने हुनाले २. आम्दानीको साथै वन संरक्षण र सम्बर्द्धन सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रम बनाउन र गर्न सकिने हुनाले ३. उपस्थित जनाउन
24	तपाईंको वनमा चोरी निकासीको प्रभाव छ की छैन ?	१. छ २. छैन
25	वनको चोरीमा कसको हात देख्नुहुन्छ ?	१. उपभोक्ता २. बाहिरी व्यक्ति
26	चोरीको काममा उपभोक्ता नै किन लाग्छन् जस्तो मान्नु हुन्छ ?	१. दिनचार्य वा गुजारा टार्न २. अत्यावश्यक सामान ल्याउन ३. आर्थिक उपार्जन गर्न
27	बाहिरी व्यक्तिबाट किन चोरी भइरहन्छ होला ?	उपभोक्ताहरु FUG भित्र नसमेटिनाले २. वनको हेरालो राम्रो नहुनाले ३. संरक्षणमा सबैको चासो नपुग्नाले
28	समुदायमा हस्तान्तरण भए पछि वन संरक्षणमा कस्तो प्रभाव परेको जस्तो लाग्छ ?	१. राम्रो २. थामा छैन ३. नराम्रो
29	सामुदायमा हस्तान्तरणपछि किन वन संरक्षण गर्न सजिलो भयो ?	
30	हस्तान्तरणपछि किन संरक्षण हुन सकेन ?	
31	यस सा.ब.को उत्पादन वितरण प्रणाली ठिक छ ?	१. ठीक छ २. ठीक छैन
32	किन सा.ब.को उत्पादन प्रणाली ठिक छैन ?	१. उत्पादनको वितरण अनियमित र अपारदर्शी हुनाले २. सम्पूर्ण वेचविखनका सामग्रीको रेकर्ड नराखनाले

33	उत्पादनको किन अपारदर्शी वितरण भइरहेको छ ?	१. राजनैतिक कारण २. आफन्तवादको कारण ३. अन्य
34	सम्पूर्ण उत्पादनको तथा बेचबिखनको रेकर्ड स्पष्ट नहुनको कारण के होला ?	१. जिम्मेवार वा सक्षम व्यक्तिलाई जिम्मा नदिइनाले २. अन्य व्यक्तिको चासो नहुनाले ३. अन्य लोभमा पर्नाले
35	यो सा.ब. ले तपाईंको आवश्यकता पूरा गरेको छ ?	१. छ २. छैन
36	जनसहभागिता सम्बन्धमा सा.ब.लाई राम्रो बनाउन तलकामध्ये कुन कुरालाई उपयुक्त मान्नुहुन्छ ?	१. चेतनशील व्यक्तिलाई मात्र FUG भित्र राख्ने २. वनप्रति माया भएका र पायक पर्ने सबैलाई FUG मा राख्ने ३. उपभोक्तमा अर्थिक पारदर्शीता र समानुपातिक वितरण प्रणालीको सुनिश्चितता प्रदान गर्ने ४. अन्य

**APPENDIX-III**  
**FACTORS AFFECTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY**  
**FORESTRY**

**Observation (Check List) form for Researcher**

1. Distance between village and forest.
2. How are people utilizing the forest.
3. Use of forest as source of firewood, grass, timber, herbs, etc.
4. Type of the jungle/forest.
5. Security system of the forest.
6. Affects of peoples' activities in the forest.
7. Condition of the wild animals and types available.
8. Response of people towards the rules and policies of C.F.
9. Cooperation among different ethnic groups.
10. Regulation of CF meeting.
11. Gender discrimination in the area.
12. Age group and gender wise participation in C.F.
13. Class relationship and effect in participation of C.F.
14. Regulation of monthly meeting and annual assembly.