

**SOCIO - ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN SARASWATI
AND THANESWORI COMMUNITY FOREST USERS'
GROUP OF GORKHA DISTRICT, NEPAL**

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of Economics,
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of
MASTER OF ARTS
in
ECONOMICS**

By

Pradip Prasad Panday

Roll No: 293/064

T.U. Regd. No. 7-2-302-86-2002

**Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal**

April, 2014

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Date: 2071/02/02

This Thesis entitled **Socio-economic Status of Women in Saraswati and Thaneswori Community Forest Users' Group of Gorkha District, Nepal** has been prepared by Pradip Prasad Panday in Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics under my guidance and supervision.

I approve this Thesis and forward it to Central Department of Economics for approval.

Prof. Dr. R.K. Shah
(Supervisor)
Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan, University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: 2014/05/16

APPROVAL LETTER

The Thesis entitled **Socio-economic Status of Women in Saraswati and Thaneswori Community Forest Users' Group of Gorkha District, Nepal** has been accepted as a Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics has been accepted.

Thesis Committee

Dr. Ram Prasad Gynawali
(Head of the Department)

(Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna
(External)

Prof. Dr. R.K. Shah
(Supervisor)

Date:
.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Tribhuvan University for providing me the opportunity, which has made me possible to study Master's Degree in Economics. I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Professor Dr. R.K. Shah to guide whole research and report writing period. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Associate Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Gynawali head of Central Department of Economics who accepted my proposal and gave me opportunity to write this thesis.

I am also thankful to Saraswati and Thaneswori Community Forestry Users' Group and Central Library for providing me required information and relevant materials to prepare this research work. I am grateful to the members of the Saraswati and Thaneswori Group who responded my survey questionnaire friendly. I am heartily gratified to the VDC secretary Mr. Ramesh Poudel, chairperson of Saraswati community forest Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamichhane, Co-chairperson Mrs. Tilu Kumari Banjara, Secretary Mrs. Bijaya Khanal, Treasurer Mrs. Madhu Kharel and other member of Executive Committee who provided me essential information and raw data about the CF.

I am also appreciative to Mr. Krishna Prasad Kharel and Mr. Shyam Prasad Lamichhane advisor of the community forest for providing me the important information about the CF. I extend my special thanks to the staff of DFO Gorkha, FECOFUN Gorkha and Aruchanaute Range post for their hospitality and co-operation.

Last, but not the least, my gratefulness goes to my respected father, mother, beloved brother and dear wife for their support. Sincere gratitude also goes to all who helped and inspired me to accomplish this Herculean task.

Pradip Prasad Panday

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RECOMMENDATION LETTER	i
APPROVAL LETTER	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv-vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
ACRONYMS	ix-x
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Rationale of the Study	6
1.4 Objectives of the Study	8
1.5 Limitations of the Study	8
1.6 Organization of the Study	9
CHAPTER II	
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	
2.1 Empirical Review in International Level	10
2.2 Empirical Review in National Level	16
2.2.1 Historical Background of CF in Nepal	16
2.2.2. C.F. As a Means of Promoting Rural Livelihood in Nepal	18
2.3 Research Gap	24
CHAPTER III	
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research Design	25
3.2 Nature and Sources of Data	25

3.2.1. Primary Data Collection	25
3.2.2. Secondary Data Collection	27
3.3 Data Analysis	28
3.4 Study Area and Sampling	28
3.5 Techniques of Data Collection	29
3.5.1 Questionnaire	29
3.5.2 Interview	30
3.5.3 Observation	30
3.5.4 Selection of Key Informants	30
3.6 Methods of Data Analysis	31

CHAPTER IV

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction to the Study Area	32
4.1.1 Gorkha District	32
4.1.2 Status of Community Forest in Gorkha District	33
4.1.3 Saraswati Community Forest Users' Group	33
4.1.4 Thaneswori Community Forest Users' Group	34
4.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents	35
4.2.1 Family Member of Respondent Distribution by Age and Sex	35
4.2.2. Distribution of Respondents by the Caste /Ethnicity	36
4.2.3. Education	37
4.2.4 Occupation	39
4. 2.5 Cooking and Lightening	40
4.2.6 Livestock Composition of the Sampled Household	41
4.2.7 Landholding Pattern of the Household	42
4.2.8 Food Sufficiency of Respondents	44
4.3 Fund Mobilization Pattern of CFUGs	45
4.3.1 Saraswati CF Users' Group Fund Mobilization Pattern	45
4.3.1.1 CFUG Fund Generation	45

4.3.1.2 Status of Saraswati CFUG Fund Distribution Pattern	46
4.3.2 Thaneswori Community Forest Users' Group Fund Mobilization Pattern	48
4.3.2.1 CFUG Fund Generation	48
4.3.2.2 Status of Thaneswori CFUG Fund Distribution Pattern	50
4.3.3 Fund Generation of both Community Forest Users' Group	52
4.3.4 Fund Distribution of both Community Forest Users' Group	53
4.4 Women Participation in Community Forest Management	54
4.4.1 Women Participation in Community Forest	54
4.4.2 General Member in Community Forest	55
4.4.3 Participation in Executive Committee	56
4.4.4 Participation in EC Meeting	57
4.4.5 Factors Affecting the Women Participation in CF Management	59
4.4.5.1 Traditional Role of Women and Social Norms	60
4.4.5.2 Education	60
4.4.5.3 Composition of CFUGs	61

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary	62
5.2 Major Findings of the Study	63
5.3 Conclusion	65
5.4 Recommendations	66

REFERENCES

Appendix I

Appendix II

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
3.1	Sampling Frame Showing the Selected of the Respondents	29
4.1	Family Member of Respondent Distribution by Age and Sex	35
4.2	Distribution of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity	36
4.3	Educational Status of Respondents	38
4.4	Occupational Status of Respondents	39
4.5	Cooking Materials currently used by the Respondents	40
4.6	Livestock Composition of the Sampled Household	42
4.7	Landholding Pattern of the Household	43
4.8	Food Sufficiency in Respondents	44
4.9	Year wise Income Pattern of SCFUGs	48
4.10	Status of SCFUGs Fund Distribution Pattern	48
4.11	Year wise Income Pattern of TCFUGs	49
4.12	Status of TCFUGs Fund Distribution Pattern	51
4.13	Summary Table of Fund Generation of both Community Forest users' Group	52
4.14	Summary Table of Fund Distribution of both Community Forest Users' Group	53
4.15	General Member in Community Forest	55
4.16	Participation in Executive Committee	56
4.17	Participation in Different Level of EC Meeting	58

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
4.1	Family Member of Respondent Distribution by Age and Caste	34
4.2	Distribution of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity	35
4.3	Educational Status of Respondents	38
4.4	Occupational Status of Respondents	40
4.5	Cooking Materials Currently Used by the Respondents	41
4.6	Landholding Pattern of the Household	43
4.7	Participation in Executive Committee	57

ACRONYMS

CDA	-	Community Development Activity
CF	-	Community Forest
CFDP	-	Community Forestry Development Program
CFMG	-	Community Forest Management Group
CFP	-	Community Forestry Program
CFUG	-	Community Forest Users' Group
CFWs	-	Community Forest Works
DDC	-	District Development Committee
DFO	-	District Forest Office
FECOFUN	-	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal
FMC	-	Forest Management Committee
FUG	-	Forest Users' Group
GON	-	Government of Nepal
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
INGOs	-	International Non-Governmental Organizations
LDA	-	Local Development Activity
LFP	-	Livelihood Forest Programme
LGA	-	Local Government Association
MPFS	-	Master Plan for Forest Sector
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
NRs	-	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	-	Non-Timber Forest Product

PFMP	-	Participatory Forest Management Project
SCFUG	-	Saraswati Community Forest Users' Group
SFD	-	Social Forestry Division
TCFUG	-	Thaneswori Community Forest Users' Group
TK	-	Taka (Currency of Bangladesh)
VDC	-	Village Development Committee