CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Community forestry (CF) is a major programme adopted by the Government of Nepal through the department of forest to manage the community forests. CF programme was initiated in Nepal in the late 70's and Nepal has been practicing it most effectively since last three decades after the commencement of Master Plan of Forestry Sector in Nepal 1998. The Community Forest User Group (CFUG) is allowed to develop their own constitution to regulate the group activities in terms of forest management based on approved operational plan. The main objective of CF is conservation and management of forest resources to fulfill the basic forestry needs such as fire-wood, fodder, and timber through community participation especially women and poor. Recently, CF has been taken as a means of reducing rural poverty by creating income generating activities, especially for disadvantaged communities.

About 1.45 million households or 35 percent of the population of Nepal is involved in community forestry management program. To date, **17,685** Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs) have been formed of which nearly 600 are composed of only women committee members. A total of **1,652,654** hectares of National forest have been handed over as community forests and **2,177,858** households have benefited (Department of Forest, Community Forest Division, 2013). CF is also seen as an approach of inclusiveness benefiting to poor households. Forest User Groups (FUGs) have initiated practices of investing up to 35 percent of total incomes for poverty reduction activities. In addition, CF is also contributing to poverty reduction for community development activities.

The CF policy focuses mainly on: handing over accessible forest to the FUGs irrespective of political boundaries. Secondly, FUG has the legal authority to get all income generated from the community forest resources. As the FUG start management, they get forest products from cleaning, pruning, and thinning operations. They are distributed among the users and surplus is sold outside the

FUGs. Finally, orientation of the entire forestry department staff to cater for change of their traditional role as policeman to an extension worker (Joshi, 1993)

Based on the users and resource availability, the Forest constitution (*Bidhan*) and forest operational plan of FUG is prepared. In fact, the rules, regulations and programmes are discussed in the assembly and finalized with the consensus of all or majority of users. Generally, the assembly takes the decision in the following areas: Harvesting or collection time for forest products, mechanism for the products distribution, penalty for violating rules and regulations, protection system, pricing of the forest products, and future activities in the forest and development activities in the community. Once the assembly makes the decisions, the authority is given to forest users committee for its implementation. In CF decisions are made at two levels i.e. assembly level and committee level.

Different people or organizations make decision and participate at the various levels. At the farmer level, individual members of the farm household make key decision. The household is the most important decision making unit in many settings. At the community level, local leaders are important. Individuals and groups make decision after considering many factors such as social, biophysical and economic etc. Decision makers may take a short term or long term view, decision and participation made at one level can affect that level and the lower level. Individual participation and decision makers at one level do not normally affect what happens at higher level.

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 purposes and as an integral part of their farming systems. Since CF constitutes both social and biophysical elements, they both are equally important. The "resource" can be managed effectively with a clear understanding of forest management principles and knowledge of natural system and "social" part can be dealt with a clear understanding of a society and their relationships with the resource and institutions related to it.

The way CF approach used to be defined and interpreted in Nepal up until late 70s, suggests that CF implies 'community-resource' relations, commonly known as

'indigenous system of forest management' (Gilmour & Fisher, 1991) which was widespread in Nepal's hills. During 80s and beginning of 90s, nevertheless CF was further conceptualized and internalized, new policy framework was crafted (MPFS/GoN, 1988), legal instruments have been in place (GoN, 1995), various processes, methods and tools have been developed, modified, re-modified and experience gained. During this period, CF was understood and recognized as government's priority programme, for which the role of forest bureaucracy in the hills changed from policing to facilitating leading to the evolution of community-resource relations towards a triangular interface among community, resource and government bureaucracy.

The present form of Nepal's community forestry is guided by the Forest Act of 1993, Forest Regulations of 1995, and the Operational Guidelines of 1995. These legal instruments have legitimized the concept of CFUG as an independent, autonomous and self-governing institution responsible to protect, manage and use any patch of national forest with a defined forest boundary and user group members. CFUGs are to be formed democratically and registered at the District Forest Office (DFO), with CFUG Constitution, which defines the rights of the users to a particular forest. The forest is handed over to the community once the respective members through a number of consultative meetings and processes prepares the Operational Plan (OP), a forest working plan, and submits it to the District Forest Officer (DFO) for approval. The plan has to be countersigned by the Chairperson of the CFUG. The general assembly of the CFUG is the supreme body to finalize the plan before it is submitted to the DFO for its approval. The plan is generally implemented by an executive committee nominated by the general assembly. The successful implementation of the plan depend more on the awareness level of the community members and their participation in the process of the preparation of group constitution and the Operational plan together with the level of support that various agencies such as DFO, user group federation, NGOs, civil society organizations and local government and concerned stakeholders provide, and the relationship among themselves in supporting CFUGs.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Only involvement of local communities in government programmes will not be successful. The users should get feeling of ownership and benefit. Government should formulate procedures to implement programmes that depend upon indigenous knowledge, socio-political situation and ecological conditions of the region with legal protection, especially ensuring security to local communities. Thus, decentralized decision making processes are essential for management of forest resources.

Women are the primary users, sources of information and teachers in the use of natural resources. Women around the world have triple responsibilities i.e., production, reproduction and management of a range of activities at the community levels. Various projects have been concerned about the role of women in natural resources management for a number of years. It was observed that rural women usually work larger and yet have less access to resources, find difficulties in getting loans or inheriting property, and have lower literacy rate than men (Siddiqi, 1989). Although women are involved in most aspects of forest management and do most harvesting of forest products, women's participation in Forest Users Committee is generally low. On an average, currently only 12 percent of FUG committee members are women (NACFP, 1996). Hence, women who are clearly a major beneficiary of the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, their recent demands of rights to be treated justly in order to maintain the benefits from the adjoining vegetation and to overcome the difficulty they have to face biodiversity degradation, is praiseworthy. There are examples of women organizing themselves and establishing self help groups, with involvement in decision making in biodiversity conservation and forest management programmes. In spite of such few cases, most of the women users are still out of decision making process and are involved in the collection of forest products. Most of them are not involved in the awareness activities of the forestry programme.

FUGs in Nepal are characterized by comparatively high level decisions of women's participation. As a result several forest user groups are predominantly or entirely composed of women. Women in most of the groups are very committed to forest protection and management, although in many cases they have to re-vegetate with severely degraded forest patches (Bhattarai et al, 1997). They should regularly

participate in community meetings and involve themselves in decision making. Most male dominated rural societies in Nepal have now been increasingly convinced that women are capable of making decision regarding forest conservation and the sustainable use of their resources. In many cases, FUG entirely composed of women may be nominal so that decision made by them may be the reflection of their male heads. In general, the poor, illiterate and disadvantaged women are ignorant of FUG activities. This may be the reason that there is poor reflection of their opinion in forest Management. Such women attend the meetings but they do not exchange their opinion. Some factors might be rendered behind such inactive role of women, which is the major aspect of sustainable CF management.

Since women are playing vital role in forest management like collecting fire-wood, fodder, leaf litter, tree planting and controlling grazing their involvement in participatory resource management is prerequisite. But most of the FUG has not provided adequate fodder, fire-wood, and bedding materials. Therefore, women have to go to distance places from where they manage to bring only one *bhari* (Back load) a day. Village women often lack confidence to become involved in CF management activities because of illiteracy. They may have to face numerous difficulties in decision making process. Various studies indicate that many women informants believed they could participate better in forest management. If they were able to read and write, they could maintain minute books or handle correspondence independently.

Having this realization, this study will be attempted to study participation of women in the management of CF. The actual reflection of women will be persuaded in this study and a special emphasis will be given to improving rural women access and control over resources so that they are able to benefit from this study. Although, women are the important stakeholders for any community forest management activities, they are always invisible in the eyes of planners and decision-makers. The researcher hopes that results obtained from this research will assist to practical planning which leads to the recognition of women's roles and responsibilities in the development process. This study addresses the following major research questions:

- What is the situation of participation of women in forest management?
- What is the situation of decision making roles related to the forest management activities?
- How far the decisions made by women have been implemented?

Therefore, the main focus of this study is to explore the women's participation and decision making process in community forest management among Bankhe Damara FUG, the inhabitants of Majhkot Siwalaya VDC in Syangja district.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The overall objective of this study is to find the women's participation and decision making roles in community forest management. However, the specific objectives are as follows:

- To find out the women's participation in community forest management of the study area,
- To explore and analyze the role of women on decision making process of community forest management,

1.4 Rational of the Study

The social theories are established to understand and explain particular social dimensions of community forestry management. In this context, the study has tried to review a theoretical prospect that describes the participation and decision making process of women. However, to fulfill the purpose of this study the theory of gender perspective has been utilized. This perspective has been especially excerpted for this study as there is the very faint understanding of women in CF management in the context of Nepal.

Women are considered as primary users of the forest since they are involved in collecting different products from the forest. As primary users, they know a lot about the uses of forest in terms of burning quality of woods, best fodder species, decomposition and quality of leaf litter, medicinal value of herbs, nutritional value of forest fruits and vegetables etc which men may not know. The role of women in forestry activities is very important because they are: widely acknowledged as primary users of forest, more than half of the total population in each forest user groups; heavily involved in household activities including collection of firewood from the forest (about 93percent women), contributing about 66percent of their time in collecting firewood energy, more engaged in day to day household activities.

Therefore, we should not ignore women to involve in any kind of forestry activities. It has been seen in many cases that the decision made by male only was completely failed in forestry activities. Rural women are usually among the most frequent and important forest users. They are the ones who collect fodder, fuel wood and other forest products, and suffer most due to inadequate source of water and fuel wood in their localities. It is quite known fact that the women in Nepal are considered as weak, fragile and private sphere and one cannot easily accept them in public life. In this situation, the role of women in decision making on CF programme should be assessed by gender perspective. Emphasis should be given to the fact that women are important group of forest users, their involvement is considered essential for the design and implementation of forest management plan at FUG level and more serious effort is required to improve their level of participation.

Women play a significant role in all societies, both as economic and social; they should, therefore be as seen as integral part in all development efforts of forest resource management. In patriarchal society, women are discarded from participation in socio-political and economical areas of forest management. Status must seek to include gender perspectives in the forest national development policies and should implement various FUG related programmes to improve women's self confidence and decision making power.

The theoretical and practical importances of this study are as follows:

- This study is important to explain socio-economic status, participation and decision making power of women especially in CF management.
- It describes the relationship between age, education, occupation status of the forest user households.
- It is useful to understand the participation and decision making process of women for forest management.
- It is helpful to those organizations, which are working in forest management field to identify the situation of role played by women in forest management and implement some capacity building programme to improve their status.
- It is helpful for other researchers to conduct further research in the same issue of women's participation and decision making processes in CF management.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The study is limited to a VDC of Syangja district located in western development region of mid-hills of Nepal, which therefore, may not reflect the participation of women in other physiographic regions. The study is on the basis of information gathered during the field surveys, which needs further verification. The study aims to assess the participation of women in community forestry in the Majhkot VDC which may not represent the mid hill of the whole country. It is a micro study which attempts to explore the participation and decision making role of women in the forest users groups of certain area. So, it cannot comprehend the macro view of the subject matter because women's role is vague in Community Forest and this study reflects few of the variables of Forest Users Groups and socio-economy. The limited time frame is also one the constraints for the study.

1.6 Operational Definition

Participation has always been one of the development goals of decentralized programmes. The CF programme in Nepal also aims to bring forth the participation of disadvantaged communities such as women in forest management. However, even after three decades of CF, women's participation is still hard to achieve.

Empirical studies on women's participation often cite the social context as one of the important factors affecting women's participation. This research aims to investigate the effect of a changing social context due to male outmigration on women's (active) participation in the management of community forests. In particular, different circumstances that can arise due to male outmigration in a social setting will be identified and their relation to women's participation in CF will be analyzed. The goal is to assess which conditions can lead to increasing women's participation in community forestry.

- How can male outmigration affect women's participation in community forestry? Are there any circumstances that arise due to male outmigration that can enhance women's participation and decision making?
- What are women's preferred mode of participation in community forestry?

Some definitions are given below; most stress the importance of participation and benefit-sharing. Perhaps, like sustainable development, CF should be seen as a

process - a process of increasing the involvement and participation of and reward for local people, of seeking balance between outside and community interests and of increasing local responsibility for the management of the forest resource. Also, like sustainable development, CF should be a learning experience for all involved parties. Whether or not it leads to better forest management is an arguable point - but in some places it may well be the last chance for the forests.

"Community forestry is a village-level forestry activity, decided on collectively and implemented on communal land, where local populations participate in the planning, establishing, managing and harvesting of forest crops, and so receive a major proportion of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from the forest" (Roy, 1999).

"Successful community forestry requires- genuine popular participation in decision-making. Experience has proved time and again that participation is more than a development cliche; it is an absolute necessity if goals are to be met. But working with people rather than policing them is a new role for many foresters" (Siddiqui, 1989)

"Community forestry has the following characteristics: the local community controls a clearly and legally defined area of forest; the local community is free from governmental and other outside pressure concerning the utilization of that forest; if the forestry involves commercial sale of timber or other products, then the community is free from economic exploitation of markets or other pressure from outside forces; the community has long-term security of tenure over the forest and sees its future as being tied to the forest" (Mannion J. and E. Brehomy, 1990).

1.7 Organization of the study

This research has been organized in six different chapters. The first chapter deals the introduction. It includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, justification of the study, conceptual framework and operational definition of the study. Second chapter is related about theoretical/empirical literature review for the study. Third chapter deals about overall research methodological procedure which was applied for the study.

The fourth chapter related with main part of the study and basic socio-economic characteristics of the sampled household respondents. Similarly, the chapter five deals with the women participation and decision making process of community forestry in the study area. Finally, the sixth chapter is related with the summary, findings and conclusion of the whole study.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many scholars and researchers who have devoted their time to study forestry issues of Nepal. Their efforts to find out the forestry problems and solutions are considered valuable contributions. However, here only some literatures of scholars and researchers have been reviewed in order to know about the existing status of community forestry in Nepal, women's participation and their role in decision making process.

2.1 Concept of the Study

The principle of community forestry is more relevant in the case of uplands. Emphasizing the need of people's participation in upland conservation, Brooks (1993) observed that, local people must become convinced about the programme that it is in their best interest, otherwise programmes cannot be successful, not matter how much time and money is spent on donor sponsored projects and government programmes. Stressing the need of involving key stakeholder to ensure effective implementations, a World Bank Report states, "Participatory approach will be more realistic and will have embedded within it a broader base of knowledge, understanding and commitments from the groups involved". The major objectives of Community Forestry Programme is to increase self sufficiency and to improve the quality of life for rural communities, particularly the disadvantages, weak and the resources poor (Ray, 1999).

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

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

Rao (1983) has mentioned that community forestry is a conceptual transformation from traditional rural forestry to a new from with a strong focus on popular participation. Modern community forestry is based on forestry as a resource industry in which local people fully participate. It plays a key role in mitigating the interrelationship among economic, ecological and social factors in rural community development, helping the poor, increasing their income, lessening their burden, protecting forest resources, improving the quality of environment, providing employment opportunities for the people and therefore facilitating harmony between man and nature. As a result, poor farmers who participate in it are both enthusiastic and active. The innovative use of participatory approaches in community forestry is a new way of thinking, which through the process of participation helps farmers recover certain that’s belong to them. Community forestry will only succeed if the local people are convinced and their needs are fulfilled.

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

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

2.2 Theoretical Overview

2.2.1 Gender and Development (GAD): A Gender Approach

One of the early definitions of the term 'gender' dates back to 1978 and was put forward by Whitehead:

> No study of women and development can start from the viewpoint that the problem is women, but rather men and women, and more specifically the relations between them.
>
> The relations between men and women are socially constituted and not derived from biology. Therefore the term gender relations should distinguish such social relations between men and women from those characteristics, which can be derived from biological differences. In this connection sex is the province of biology, i.e. fixed and unchangeable qualities, while gender is the province of social science, i.e. qualities which are shaped through the history of social relations and interactions (Whitehead, 1992).

In other words, 'gender' is a social and cultural construct which refers to the "relative position of men and women" (Razavi and Miller, 1995) within the family as well as society. Due to its social and cultural characteristics gender differs within and between cultures, and has a dynamic character which makes it subject to change under the influence of a wide-range of socio-economic factors. 'Sex' on the contrary is universal, biologically determined and permanent (CEDPA, 1996).

The GAD concept emerged in the 1980s out of the criticisms of the earlier WID concept, and has its roots in socialist feminism:

> Socialist feminists have identified the social construction of production and reproduction as the basis of women's oppression and have focused attention on the social relations of gender, questioning the validity of roles that have been ascribed to both women and men in different societies (Rathgeber, 1990).

The GAD concept and the WID concept differ above all in their focuses. In contrast to the WID concept which mainly focuses on 'women', the GAD concept approaches the matter in terms of the 'social relations of gender'. According to Young (1997), relations between women and men are shaped in a variety of settings. Some relations are shaped through a person's position in a network of kinship and affinity 24

("ascribed relations"), i.e. relations by birth or marriage. And, some are shaped through a person's involvement in socio-economic and political life ("achieved relations"). Both ascribed and achieved relations interact in a complex matrix under the influence of a variety of factors such as class, race, religion, etc.

The GAD concept begins from this 'holistic' perspective and approaches gender relations in the totality of the complex environment of socio-economic and political structures. Whitehead (1992) points out that gender relations are "not necessarily nor obviously harmonious and non-conflicting", and they often take the form of "male dominance and female subordination." Gender relations closely correlate with the socio-economic and political distribution of power as well as the distribution of resources, wealth, and work. In contrast to the WID concept, the GAD concept recognizes this fact, and questions the underlying assumptions of current socio-economic and political structures:

> A gender-and-development perspective does not lead only to the design of intervention and affirmative action strategies to ensure that women are better integrated into ongoing development efforts. It leads, inevitably, to a fundamental reexamination of social structures and institutions and, ultimately, to the loss of power of entrenched elites, which will effect some women as well as men. It demands a degree of commitment to structural change and power shifts (Rathgeber, 1990).

The GAD concept sees women as agents of change rather than as passive recipients of development efforts. And, unlike the WID concept, it puts a strong emphasis on women's emancipation. The WID concept assumes that any betterment in women's economic situation will automatically lead to advancement in other spheres of their lives. The GAD concept, however, is not that optimistic about this assumption. Women's weakness in socio-economic and political structures as well as their limited bargaining power puts them in a very disadvantageous position. One of the strategies suggested by the GAD approach is the self-organization of women at the local, regional and national levels.

The GAD concept suggests that the state can play an important role with respect to women's emancipation. Young (1997) points out to the role the state can assume in its dual role as major employer and allocator of social capital. This demand, however,

seems to be contradictory due to women's poor representation and lack of decision-making power in the state apparatus. This is true, in particular, for developing countries and for higher levels of policy making. Moreover, since the early 1980s the above mentioned roles of the state in developing countries has been fading away as a result of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), privatization, economic crisis, etc. A very important strategy and instrument of the GAD concept is the so-called 'gender mainstreaming' (also referred to as 'gender awareness'), which aims at increasing gender awareness in all areas and all levels of public life. The following definition of gender mainstreaming was developed by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations:

> Mainstreaming as a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for men and women of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in all areas and levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, 1997).

The above mentioned definition of gender mainstreaming raises the question of institutionalizing the gender perspective, in other words the question of "gender sensitive institutional change" (Goetz, 1997). The relevant institutions include,
above all, the family as the primary institution, and then all respective institutions of the state, the market, and the community. This is however an extremely demanding task which makes the GAD concept difficult to implement.

As mentioned earlier, the GAD concept shifted the discussions in women and development discourse from 'women' to 'gender'. This new gender focus put an emphasis on power relations between women and men, and their relative positions in socio-economic and political structures. The GAD concept urged an institutional change within socio-economic and political structures in order to eliminate the gender inequalities, and to strengthen the position of women. In order to realize this structural change, the GAD concept introduced the instrument of gender mainstreaming. The

GAD concept inspired new debates in women and development discourse and had important implications both for theory and practice.

2.2.2 People Centered Concept: A Participation Approach

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

As an alternative model of development, at the end of 1980s new theoretical approach was developed i.e. called 'people or community based approach' (Bhattachan, 2000). It strongly supports "bottom up approach" with the participation of the targeted people as the alternative approach of "trickle down approach" for the development of any society. The concept of people centered development leads us to the profound realization the development must be an indigenous process. The concept of indigenous development per se envisages a perspective in which people living in a specific social, cultural, economic and ecological setting define their own concept of development definition of relevance and correspond indigenous circumstances (Berreman, 1994). Above all, it should be indigenously inspired, selected, guided and evaluated. This means development policies and practices must identify, nurture and

sustain indigenous potential, means and resources to express diversity and plurality of social values, culture institutions and identities of each nation and community (ibid). Accordingly, for the purpose of this study people centered development is primarily defined as a culture relative, location specific, ecologically conditioned and social setting ingrained concept.

Throughout Nepal, across ethnic and caste groups, women are heavily involved in the collection of forest products need to maintain the farm economy (Wickramasinghe, 1993). Furthermore, depending on the geographic and socio-economic conditions, women contribute 50 to 80 percent of total agricultural labour (Bajracharya, 1994). The role of women is crucial for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Therefore, their role shouldn't be confined to the passive beneficiaries alone. Instead, they should be empowered to play role of equal partner in planning and management of biodiversity. In order to utilize to gender development as it is crosscutting theme in the development (Bajracharya, 1994).

According to Regmi (1992), the major factors facilitating women's participation in committee work are the clear prospects of benefit sharing, family support; the small size of the committee and the compact area in which they worked; local people's support. On the other hand, Lama (1999) found that heavy workloads, timing and duration of meeting, men's resistance, and equity in benefit sharing are the factors affecting women's participation.

A study conducted by Siddiqi (1989) reveals that women's participation will help the forest first and the women second; women still will have to give forestry before forestry gives to them. The need of people participation is required collectively when there is a mutual interest to achieve the same objective and which requires more than individual contribution.

Studies have shown that there are various factors, which makes differences on participation. Fields (1995) on his review of literature highlighted that Mannion and Brehony's (1990) study in Tanzania found leadership qualities, age, sex, marital status, literacy and wealth affect individual participation. Similarly, the study carried out by Lama (1999) reveals that class; castes do make differences in participation.

Baral (1993) states that ethnic composition, political ideology and culture within the community could create problem at user group level.

Gautam (2001) concluded in his research to make community forest successful, Women's participation in community must be high, involvement of lower caste and poor people as users as well in committee. He further recommended that women should be encouraged to participate in decision-making bodies with opportunities. In addition, access to forests and Non-Timber Forests Products (NTFP) collection is dominated by higher castes, as in confessional timber collection. And lower castes are the first to be dispossessed during eviction drives (Tandon, 2002).

Laughhead et al (1994) stated that the people belonging to higher socio-economic status are always influential in local decision-making and their decision may not necessarily reflect the problem of poor and DAG.

Springate-Baginski et al (2001) in their study found some occupational caste people (e.g.- potter, Blacksmith, alcohol distillers etc.) who traditionally depend mostly on firewood for their livelihood have often been discriminated under community forest. United Nations conference on Environment and development's (UNCED) agenda 21 calls for women to be fully involved in decision making and in the implementation of sustainable development activities. Information on the contribution on women in various household and economic activities in different parts of the country is scanty. In order to determine the share of women in various household and economic activities, Gurung (1995) however, conducted a study on the socio-economic status of women in two remote villages i.e., Benigaon and Ranagaon at Gorkha District.

Village women headed by Srimati Gaura Devi in Chamoli district, Garwal, India initiated the now world famous " Chipko Movement " in the 1970’s which played a unique role in local environment matters, to save the regions forest from unsustainable exploitation. The Chipko movement is often quoted as a successful example of women resisting the government's tree harvesting policy. And shows that the level of awareness and participation in the conservation of forest.

Women development approach is based on assumption that development proceeds much better if women were fully incorporated into development action. However, gender in development emphasize that to focus on women in isolation is adequate and

ignores the real problems which are associated with roles and responsibilities of male and female within society. Therefore, gender analysis focuses on both women and men and best intervention that empowers to improve their position relation to men's which will benefit the transform society as a whole. So, the approach adopted by the programme will be powerful tool for motivation tool to work for equity and respect potential contribution from all community members.

The CF programme will focus on developing a field network of change agents to organize the participation of women in forest management activities. The change agents are envisioned as local leaders who were respected for their age, intelligence, skills and other personal qualities. Such agents will be trained by programme and will act as local agents for promoting developments. They would support themselves by providing services to the local community return for a small fee. Participation of women in natural resources management will be promoted through sensitizing men to the role of women in CF.

Pretty et al, 1995 (as cited by Pokhrel, 1997) has pointed out the following typology of participation. Information giving Participation by consultation Functional participation Interactive participation and Self mobilization

2.2.3 Common Property Regime

Common pool resources managed under common-property resources management regimes, share two important characteristics. First, exclusion of resource users to these resources is difficult. Secondly, the use of resources by one person subtracts from the welfare of other users. Natural products like trees, water, wildlife, are subtractable, and in most cases, exclusion will be problematic and costly. If one individual uses more, less remains for another. These resources are therefore potentially subject to depletion or degradation. i.e. use which is pushed beyond the limits of sustainable yields (Varughese, 1998). Berkes and Farrer (1989) define common-property resources as ‘a class of resources for which exclusion is difficult and joint use involves subtractability. Hence, they share the first attribute with pure public goods; the second attribute, with pure private goods. Feeny et al. (1998) defines common property resource as the resource held by an identifiable community of interdependent users in which these users exclude outsiders while regulating use by members of the local community. Within the community, rights to the resources are

unlikely to be either exclusive or transferable; they are often rights of equal access and use (Feeny et al, 1998). The rights of the group may be legally recognised or in some cases it may be *de facto* rights. Evidence suggests that successful exclusion under communal property is the rule rather than the exception. Many misunderstandings found in the literature may be traced to the assumption that common property is the same as open access. Hardin's prediction of the inevitability of over-exploitation follows from this assumption (Feeny et al., 1998).

Bromley (1991) argues that a common property regime represents private property for the group of co-owners (since all others are excluded from use and decision making) and individuals have rights (and duties) with respect to the resource in question. Common property is said to be similar to private property in a sense that there is exclusion of non-owners. The property-owning group may vary in nature, size, and internal structure across a broad spectrum, but it is a social unit with definite membership and boundaries, with certain common interests, with at least some interaction among members, with some common cultural norms, and often their own endogenous authority system (Bromley 1991). The management group (the "owners") have the right to exclude non-members, and non-members have a duty to abide by exclusion. Individual members of the management group (the "co-owners") have both rights and duties with respect to use rates and maintenance of the property owned (Bromley 1991). The fundamental difference between open access and common property is that in an open access situation, every potential user has a privilege with respect to use of the resource since no one else has the legal ability to keep the person out. Therefore an open access situation is one of mutual privilege and no rights. In contrast, a common property regime is one in which there are rules defining who is in the resource management group and who is not (Bromley 1991).

For almost two decades after Hardin's article, common pool resources managed under communal property and open access regimes were frequently viewed as synonymous. It was thought that common property was inherently unstable and pressures from free riders were inevitable, leading natural resources to be degraded in the 'tragedy of the commons'. However, in many cases this is not true. More careful analysis of the foundation of common property regimes, combined with closer investigation of the management of collective goods in the developing world, suggests that common

property regimes are not only viable, but in some circumstances are essential (Gibbs and Bromley, 1989). Even the common grazing lands in Hardin's classic 'Tragedies of the Commons' were well looked after for many centuries, before they declined for reasons unrelated to any inherent flaw in the commons system (Cox, 1985). The tragedy tends to be related to the breakdown of existing commons systems due to disruptions that have originated externally to the community (Berkes, 1989). Hardin's tragedy of the commons often results, not from any inherent failure of common property, but from institutional failure to control access to resources, and to make and enforce internal decisions for collective use. Institutional failure could be due to internal reasons, such as the inability of the users to manage themselves, or it could be due to external reasons, for example an incursion of outsiders (Dove, 1993; Berkes and Folke, 1998). Pressure on the resource because of human population growth, technological change, or economic change, including new market opportunities, may contribute to the breakdown of communal-property mechanisms for exclusion (Feeny et al., 1998). The social and political characteristics of the users of the resource and how they relate to the larger political system affects the ability of local groups to organize and manage communal property (Ostrom, 1987).

Stevenson (1991) noted seven different characteristics of common property resources, which he regards as a set of necessary and sufficient conditions for a successfully managed common property. The conditions are individually necessary because a resource managed under common property must meet all seven of them and the conditions are jointly sufficient for common property because all other resource use regimes (in particular, various forms of open access and private property) fail to meet at least one of the conditions (Stevenson, 1991). Based on the analysis of Ciriacy-Wantrup (1971) and Ciriacy-Wantrup and Bishop (1975) on the distinction between open access and common property resources, Stevenson (1991) described the following characteristics of resource ownership for common property regimes.

1. The resource unit has bounds that are well defined by physical, biological, and social parameters.
2. There is a well-delineated group of users, who are distinct from persons excluded from resource use.
3. Multiple included users participate in resource extraction

4. Explicit or implicit well-understood rules exist among users regarding their rights and their duties to one another about resource extraction
5. Users share joint, nonexclusive entitlement to the *in situ* or fugitive resource prior to its capture or use.
6. Users compete for the resource, and thereby impose negative externalities on one another.
7. A well-delineated group of rights holders exists, which may or may not coincide with the group of users.

The first point indicates that resources under common property regimes must be defined biologically, physically, or by social convention or a combination of these. Common property refers to a social institution, which differs from physical objects. The resource is the physical or intangible asset that a group can own and manage as common property. Demarcation of the resource, however, must be included in the definition of the social institution of common property since the institution cannot exist without the resource it controls (Stevenson, 1991). The second point specifies that there are two groups associated with the resource: included users and excluded persons. The first group consists of an identifiable, countable number of users the second of a set of persons who do not have the right to use (Stevenson, 1991). This is in contrast to open access where every one is a potential user. Third, common property resources are utilized by more than two people unlike in private property where a single person is considered to be the legitimate user. Fourth, the existence of rules regarding resource extraction to guide the groups of resource users is the main characteristic, which helps distinguish common property from an open access situation. This includes how rights are transferred, what financial obligation a user has to the group, what contribution he or she has, and how the rules themselves are changed. The rules may be formal and explicit or they may be informal and implicitly accepted (Stevenson, 1991).

The fifth point provides an essential difference between common and private property and the relationship of common property to a public good. Unlike common property, in private property the *in situ* resource belongs to a particular owner. Under a common property regime, the user may have a secure expectation of getting particular units of physical product, but not about possessing particular physical units. The joint,

non-exclusive entitlement condition means that participants in common property arrangements have simultaneous, *ex ante* claims on any particular unit of the resource (Stevenson, 1991). It can be argued that an essential step in the use of common property resources (except for resources which have pure public good character) is that they be "reduced" to sole ownership by capture. Point five also provides some basis to distinguish between common property and public goods. First, some common property resources have public good characteristics like national parks, reserves, and so on which do not exhibit rivalry at a low and moderate level of use. Reducing the resource to sole ownership through capture does not apply to these resources as it does to resources that exhibit rivalry in extraction. Second, these resources exhibit joint, nonexclusive entitlement, because all participants who use the resource have an *ex ante* claim to benefits from the resource. For these reasons, reduction to sole ownership through capture is not a necessary condition for common property, but joint, nonexclusive entitlement is (Stevenson, 1991).

Point six indicates that, under common property multiple users compete for the resource in such a way as to make mutual capital investments assist each other in resource management and utilization. As in open access conditions, extraction by one user of the resource in a common property regime may generate negative externalities for other users. However, the difference lies in the extent to which externalities are generated. Point 7 recognizes that the resource users and resource owners are not always coincident in a common property regime. A common property rights holder may rent their resource use rights to the actual users subject to the condition that the right holders be a group of people who fulfil the institutional criteria of common property (Stevenson, 1991). This is not meant to preclude the situation in which a government entity coordinates or imposes rules regarding resource extraction on users and rights holders. In conclusion, common property is a form of resource management in which a well-delineated group of competing users participates in extraction or use of a jointly held, fugitive resource according to explicitly or implicitly understood rules about who may take how much of the resource (Stevenson, 1991). Indeed, the confusion in the conventional literature over the tragedy of the commons arises from a failure to understand the concept of property, and therefore to fail to understand common property regimes (Bromley, 1991).

2.2.4 Tragedy of the Commons

The term ‘the tragedy of the commons’ was first introduced by Garrett Hardin (1968) in an important article in Science. Hardin asked to envision a pasture ‘open to all’ in which each herder received large benefits from selling his or her own animals while facing only small costs of overgrazing. When the number of animals exceeds the capacity of the pasture, each herder is still motivated to add more animals since the herder receives all of the proceeds from the sale of animals and only a partial share of the cost of overgrazing. Hardin (1968) concluded:

> Therein is the tragedy. Each man is locked into a system that compels him to increase his herd without limit – in a world that is limited. Ruin is the destination toward which all men rush, each pursuing his own best interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons. Freedom in a commons brings ruin to all.

Hardin's article deals in general with a broad class of resources that are referred to in the more technical literature as ‘common-pool resources’. Common-pool resources yield finite flows of benefits (such as firewood, fish and water) where it is difficult and costly to exclude potential users (Ostrom, Gardner and Walker, 1994). Each person's use of a resource system subtracts resource units from the quantity of units available to others, as Hardin so dramatically described. The initial theoretical studies of common-pool resources tended to analyze simple systems. It has frequently been assumed that the resource generates a predictable, finite supply of one type of resource unit (for example, cubic feet of water or tons of fish) in each time period. Users are assumed to be short-term, profit-maximizing actors who have complete information and are homogeneous in terms of their assets, skills, discount rates and cultural views. In this theory, anyone can enter a resource and take resource units.

Hardin thought of users as being trapped in this situation – largely because he did not envision that users could self-organize and devise institutions to extract themselves from tragic overuse. In the conventional textbook theory (Clark, 1976), scholars have tended to agree with Hardin that the users could not extract themselves from this situation. Organizing so as to create rules that specify who is an authorized user and the rights and duties of authorized users creates a public good for those involved. All users benefit from this public good, whether they contribute or not (Olson, 1965). Thus, getting ‘out of the trap’ is itself a second-level dilemma. Since much of the

initial problem exists because the individuals are in a dilemma whereby they impose negative externalities on one another, it is not consistent with the conventional theory that individuals can solve a second-level dilemma when they are already predicted to be unable to solve the initial social dilemma. Thus, extensive free-riding is predicted in most efforts to self-organize and govern a resource as a community of users.

Because of these predictions and because many open-access resources have indeed resulted in tragic levels of overuse and sometimes destruction, many scholars and public officials have relied upon the conventional analysis to justify the need for centralized control of all common-pool resources. National legislation has been passed in many countries, and administrative responsibilities for managing natural resources have been turned over to centralized agencies. Unfortunately, the results of many of these efforts have been the opposite of what was hoped. Evidence has now been amassed that central regulation has frequently accelerated resource deterioration, complicated by several problems of corruption and inefficiency. In-depth case analyses have documented the accelerated overharvesting of forests that occurred after national governments declared themselves to be the owners of forested land (National Research Council, 1986; Ascher, 1995). Similar problems have occurred with inshore fisheries when national agencies presumed that they had exclusive jurisdiction over all coastal waters (Finlayson and McCay, 1998).

Policy analysts tend to look for certainty and want to know whether the tragedy of the commons theory is either right or wrong. A more productive approach is to ask under what conditions it is correct and when it makes the wrong predictions. In settings where there is a large group, no one communicates, and where no rights to the resource exist, Hardin's theory is supported by considerable evidence. There are many settings in the world where the tragedy of the commons has occurred and continues to occur – ocean fisheries and the atmosphere being the most obvious.

Contrary to the conventional theory, however, multiple studies have demonstrated that users have overcome social dilemmas to craft institutions to govern their own resources (National Research Council, 1986; 2002; McCay and Acheson, 1987; Ostrom, 1990; 2005). The possibility, however, that the users would find ways to organize themselves was not mentioned in basic economic textbooks on environmental problems until recently. The design principles that characterize robust,

long-lasting, institutional arrangements for the governance of common-pool resources have been identified (Ostrom, 1990) and supported by further testing (Guillet, 1992; Morrow and Hull, 1996; Weinstein, 2000).

A National Research Council (2002) report provides an excellent overview of the substantial research showing that many common-pool resources are governed successfully by non-state provision units and that some government and private arrangements also succeed. No simple governance system has been shown to be successful in all settings (Dietz, Ostrom and Stern, 2003). Many of the robust resource governance systems documented in the above-cited research do not resemble the textbook versions of either a government or a strictly private for-profit firm, especially
when participants have constituted self-governing units. Scholars who draw on traditional conceptions of 'the market' and 'the state' have not recognized these self-organized systems as potentially viable forms of organization and have either called for their removal or ignored their existence. It is paradoxical that many vibrant, self-governed institutions have been wrongly classified or ignored in an era that many observers consider to be one of ever greater democratization.

Careful laboratory experiments have also shown that when a group of individuals are given unrestricted access to harvest from a common-pool resource, they substantially overuse it. What is rather striking is that in the laboratory using exactly the same parameters, but changing only one variable, namely, the capacity to communicate with one another, individuals can come to agreements and keep them to harvest very close to an optimal level (Ostrom, Gardner and Walker, 1994). This result has been replicated many times.

Thus, Hardin opened a discourse on a fascinating and difficult puzzle of why individuals in some settings can overcome the threat to long-term sustainable use of a resource whereas other resources are so threatened. Scholars from multiple disciplines have wrestled with this question for several decades, including the creation of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP), the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), considerable research in the field and in the experimental laboratory, and the development of sophisticated agent-based models of human-environmental relationships (Janssen, 2003).

In the decades since Hardin's article appeared, we have learned that the type of resource must be analyzed separately from the type of property arrangement. Common-pool resources exist wherever natural resources or human-made facilities exist and where excluding users is costly and consumption by some subtracts from the benefits available to others. Many types of property arrangements exist in relationship to these kinds of resources, including government ownership, private property and common property. Hardin incorrectly presumed that most common-pool resources were open-access resources where property rights had not been well-defined.

It is now known that the users of a common-pool resource will:

- expend considerable time and energy devising workable institutions for governing
  and managing common-pool resources;
- follow costly rules so long as they believe that others also follow these rules;
- monitor each other's conformity with these rules; and
- impose sanctions on each other at a cost to themselves.

The likelihood that resource users themselves will develop effective institutions for regulating the use of common-pool resources is increased by the following factors:

- low discount rates (most resource users have secure tenure, and plan on using the resource for a long time into the future);
- homogeneous interests (most resource users share similar technologies, skills, and cultural views of the resource);
- the cost of communication among individuals is low; and
- the cost of reaching binding and enforceable agreements is relatively low.

Thus, in field settings where there are relatively small- to moderate-sized groups, and where there is autonomy to make their own agreements and authority to do so, many user groups have self-organized to extract themselves from the tragedy.

Large groups have more difficulty governing common-pool resources, but usually because size is negatively associated with the factors listed above. In relatively homogeneous groups in which mechanisms exist for reaching binding agreements on methods of government and management resource use, even quite large groups are able to arrive at effective rules to limit the use of their resource. Further, when large groups are composed of smaller groups that focus on specific parts of a larger problem, such as how to regulate water distribution on a branch of an irrigation canal,

smaller groups can be clustered into ever larger aggregations that may be able to address problems that affect all participants.

One of the key findings of empirical field research on collective action and common-pool resources is the multiplicity of specific rules-in-use found in successful common-pool resource regimes around the world. One of the most important types of rules is boundary rules, which determine who has rights and responsibilities and what territory is covered by a particular governance unit. Many different boundary rules are used successfully to control common-pool resources around the world, but an important aspect of these rules is the match between the organization of users and the resource rather than the specific rule used. The 35th anniversary of the publication of Hardin's original article was celebrated with a special issue of Science (Dietz, Ostrom and Stern, 2003), demonstrating that all forms of ownership could succeed or fail and that more critical than the form of ownership was the establishment of legitimate and agreed-upon boundaries that were effectively enforced.

Some governance units face considerable biophysical constraints in dealing with a natural common-pool resource such as a groundwater basin, a river or an air shed. Such resources have their own geographic boundaries, and creating a match between the boundary of those who are authorized users and the resource itself is a challenge. On the other hand, the biophysical world does not have as strong an impact on the efficacy of using diverse boundaries for governing and managing forest resources. More important is the agreement of those involved about who is to be included and the appropriate physical boundaries. Rules specifying duties as well as rules for sharing benefits are also crucial. No resource system functions well over time if all that users do is harvest from it with no investment to increase the productivity of the resource itself. Once basic rules – defining who is a legitimate beneficiary, who must contribute to the maintenance of the resource, and the actions that must or may be taken or are forbidden – have been accepted as legitimate by the users, many users will follow rules so long as they believe others are doing so.

Another lesson learned is that any effort to develop new rules for governing and managing complex resources is likely to generate unexpected results and be subject to initial errors. Thus, all technological and institutional interventions need to be approached as an adaptive process that helps generate information about errors so that

those involved and others can learn from errors rather than continue to make them. No panaceas exist. Wholesale solutions imposed on many different resources in a large terrain are more likely to be ineffective than efforts that enhance the institutional environment that encourages responsible self-governance, self-monitoring, and self-enforcement.

Thus, a modified theory of the commons is slowly evolving that has identified the factors that are repeatedly mentioned in empirical studies of diverse common-pool resources.

2.3 Empirical Studies

Nepal's forest are essential for the well being of rural community who depend on them for supplies of fire-wood, fodder, poles, timber and many other products. They also provide essential raw materials for national development and help to maintain a sound environment.

Poverty is a serious challenge of Nepal. The majority of the population lives in the villages and the big segment of them is poor. Poverty cannot be alleviated from external efforts of programmes imposed from above. Participation of the poor themselves is very important in every programme, with aims, at poverty alleviation. As such the poor need to be made capable, empowered and then mobilization. For this it is very necessary to ensure maximum access of the poor to social, economic and natural resources and services. It is also equally essential to create opportunities for the poor and enable them to participate in decision-making policy and programmes formulation and implementation of development programme (Roy, 1999).

Most of the poor users household do not have any knowledge about community forestry programme, forest related laws and bylaws and its importance, etc. So, they are blind support about CF development programme made by higher class and educated people (Sapkota, 2008). However, CF related training programme is effective tools for awareness of user members. It helps to change the user skills for livelihoods and income generation. User group believe that CF training has brought changes on awareness building of FUG members and forest management activities. CF training brings awareness in FUG member such as capacity building; women access to information; Tole level FUG interaction; and forest meetings, etc (Gurung, 2005).

Community forestry programme can change the socio-economic status of the people. Kayastha (1991) argued that forests create ample job opportunities for employment and income. A good number of village people are employed in logging timber, forest industries and afforestation activities. A lot of people in the villages become self employed by making bullock carts, agricultural implements, tools and furniture from timber. Some people even specialize in manufacturing wooden handicrafts and earn good income by selling them. Similarly, a lot of poor families in the village collect fuel - wood from the forests and sell them in the nearby markets and towns. It brings significant income for them in the village (Kayastha, 1991).

Community forestry involves local people in the management of forest resources, which are at least partly intended for their use. It is based on the notion that appropriate involvement by local people in forest management enhances the likelihood of sustainable use of forest resources (Fisher, 1989). The basic aim of community forestry programme is to increase community involvement in the management and ownership of forest resources.

Some of the main objectives of Nepal's Community Forestry Programme, as stated in the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (1988) are as follows:

I. To meet the basic needs of the people for fuel wood, fodder, timber and other forest products, and to contribute to food production through an effective interaction between forestry and arming practices.
II. To protect the land against degradation by soil erosion, floods, landslides, desertification and other effects of ecological imbalances.
III. To support the decentralization and promote people participation in the forest resources development, management and observation.

With the enforcement of Forest Act (1993), the objectives of community forestry to fulfill only basic needs for the forest products has been changed. The Forest User Group has been recognized as legal and independent entity and can collect, sell and distribute forest products available.

The government key policies related to the community forest, as mentioned in the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (1988), can be summarized as follows:

a) Promotion of community forestry, entrusting protection and management of forest to actual users.

b) Community forestry will get priority in the allocation of resources.
c) Forest User Groups shall manage and protect their forests.
d) All accessible forests are to be handed over to the communities, to the extent that they are able and willing to manage them.
e) Forest User Group shall get all products and income from the forest.
f) Retraining of forestry staff for their new roles as advisers and extension workers.
g) Formulation of simple management agreement with the forest user groups as likely as possible.

To facilitate the implementation of the Master Plan, Forest Act (1993) and Forest Law (1995) are in place (FAO, 1997). Some of the main features of the act related to the community forestry are as follows:

1) The forest user groups can now directly take over a forest from the District Forest Office.
2) User Groups are now empowered to price independently and sell forest from their community forest and transport them anywhere in the country.

This study is motivated by the fact that minimal research has been devoted to exploring gender differences within community-based institutions established for natural resources management. However, women are largely responsible for the collection and use of firewood and other forest products within a household. Despite being important stakeholders in forest management, they are often neglected in the decision-making process that sets out the rules to access and collect forest products within a Community Forest (CF). The recognition of the essential role that women play within community level forest institutions can make a difference in terms of forest conservation and equity in the distribution of benefits.

Why should an increased presence of women in the ECs of CFUGs make such a difference? We expect female participation to affect the outcome for one main reason. Women have different and complementary interests relative to men within a CFUG which stem from the differences in concerns and nature of dependence on forest that women have relative to men (Agarwal, 2000, 2010b). They are the main users of forests, at least of those products which are essential to household daily life. Women have better knowledge than men of certain forest products, on how these products

should be extracted and which species should be planted. Given the specific interests of women in certain forest products and particularly in firewood, they thus have the incentive to ensure the availability of these products and ultimately to protect the forests. Women may also have different preferences than men (Chattopadhyay and Duo, 2004). This links to the growing literature on women in leadership positions. They tend to favour redistribution and to support child-related expenditures and outcomes. Women would then have a stronger preference than men to ensure that household's firewood needs are satisfied both in the short and long run.

Therefore, a higher representation of women may increase the effectiveness of FUGs in terms of forest management and protection.

Eventually seems that some of the research works and studies have been carried out in the field of community forestry. Several reports and papers related to community forestry were published. I/NGOs, Government agencies and scholars have done some studies related to Natural Resource Management as well as women's participation. Marinella Leone (2013) conducted a research on “Women as Decision Makers in Community Forest Management in Nepal”. She has emphasized to increase in the average village level participation of women in Executive Committees of Forest User Groups so that the collection of firewood at household level will be decreased and support the conservation of forest. Chhetri, Gokarna (2011) conducted a study on people’s participation in community forest of Arthar Dandakharka VDC, Parbat to complete his Master’s degree dissertation. Lamichhane, D. (2004) has tried to reveal some facts about decision making role of women in community forest of Syangja district through his Master’s Degree Dissertation.

However, the studies which have been carried out so far on the participation of rural women for the management of Community Forestry and their level of access to decision making role and situation of the awareness towards community forestry management are not sufficient and enough. Moreover, in the case of Bankhe Damara Community Forest and its user group, no any such type of studies and researches have been done by any of the individuals or organizations. Thinking that my first attempt will reveal different aspect of studies of the forest and the people in this area for the scholars in coming days and this tiny research work can be one of the references for them. That is why, this research has been carried out.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

For the study of the participation and decision making role of the women in community forest, it has been conceptualized to analyze the associated variables grouping them in two aspects; participation aspect and decision making aspect. The following figure depicts the conceptual framework of the study.

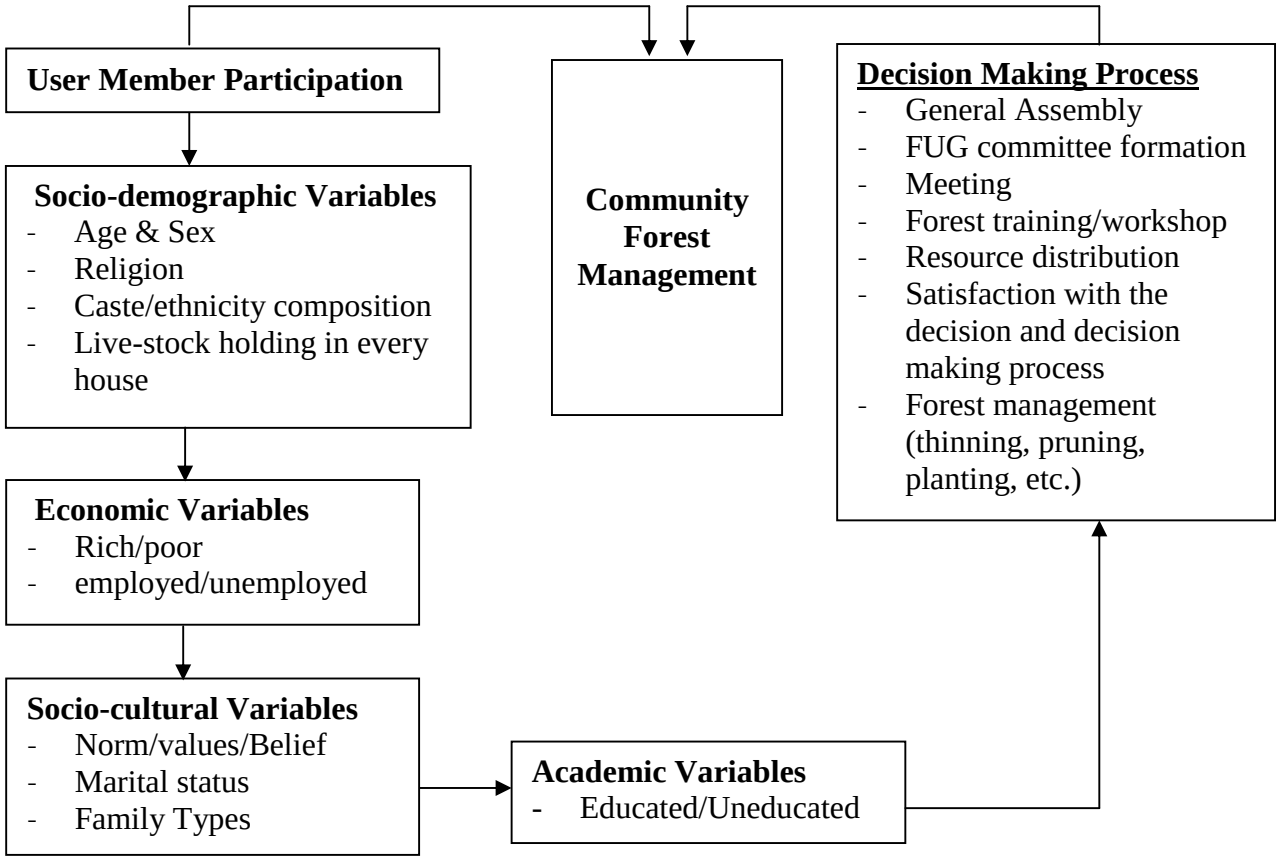

Fig 2.1: Conceptual Framework

The study has aimed to explore two aspects of Community Forest Management; Participation and Decision making role of women. The variables for participation and decision making processes were determined separately. Under the participation, the variables were categorized into four types. They are;

- Socio-demographic variables
- Economic variables
- Socio-cultural variables
- Academic variables,

The study has included age & sex, religion, caste/ethnicity composition, live-stock holding in every house etc. under socio-demographic variables whereas economic

condition based on livelihood and subsistence (rich or poor) and employment situation (occupation) of the respondents were studied under economic variables. Marital status, family types of forest users, people's social and cultural norms, values and beliefs as socio-cultural variables and academic qualification or literacy condition as educational variables were analyzed in the study. The factors which were studied under different variables were considered as the major factors which would directly affect in participation of both men and women in the community forest management activities.

Likewise, importance of general assembly and user group executive committee meeting, formation of committees, freedom in putting one's opinions, satisfaction with the decision, implementation of the decisions made by the meeting, opportunities given to men and women to participate in the training or workshops, resources distribution, benefit sharing, fixing cost of the forest products etc. factors were assumed as the responsible variables for decision making process. The data were collected on these variables and analyzed.

CHAPTER-III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides the details of the procedure adapted for the present research study. It includes the rational or selection of study area, universe and sampling procedures, source of data, techniques of data collection, and data analysis have been analyzed.

3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the study Area

Bankhe Damara community forest in Majhkot Siwalaya has been successful and community focused programme in Syangja district of Nepal. After the implementation of community forestry programme in Syangja, natural resources mainly forest is managed and conserved properly which plays the vital role to fulfill the community needs as well as improve the condition of forest. CF programme has been successful in hilly areas of Nepal. The study area was selected the Bankhe Damara Community Forest User Group in Majhkot Siwalaya VDC of Syangja district which is the mid-hills of Nepal. The region is full of natural resources, biodiversity, social, religious, historical and cultural importance. It gives the scenic views of the Terai/Himalayan range. The other rational of the selection of the study area are as follows:

- It has represented the mid-hills of Nepal
- Bankhe Damara CF was handed over 5 years ago to the Bankhe Damara users group in this VDC and such type of studies in this area was not be carried out in this community forest,
- This CF is in the lap of Syangja which is managed by one of the major ethnic groups like Gurung.

3.2 Research Design

The descriptive cum explorative research design were applied to analyze the present situation of the study area about the issue of participation and decision making role of women in the management of community forestry. The descriptive research was helps

to describe the present socio-economic condition of the concerned community forest users groups. The explorative research design also help to explore the new problems and some problems related to community forest.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

The data and information were qualitative and quantitative in nature which collected through primary and secondary resources. The main part of the study depends on primary data but relevant secondary data was also applied as required.

The source of primary data has been obtained from fieldwork through interview schedules. The secondary data were collected as progress, monitoring and evaluation report of District Forest Office, Syangja, District profile, and published and unpublished books, reports, journal, thesis etc.

3.4 Population and Sampling

Bankhe Damara Community Forest Users Group of Majhkot Siwalaya VDC was taken as universe of the study. The total user households were taken as population of study. Though the study has mainly focused on the women's involvement in community forest management, it cannot be complete by ignoring men's role. The comparative study provides the real situation of women. Therefore, both male and female household heads have been selected as respondents in sample households. All user household heads were listed from FUG committee. Simple random sampling method was carried out to select the respondents. But it was considered that the numbers of respondents are proportional to the wards as the universe covers five wards in the VDC. According to FUG committee, 187 user household members have been existed in this FUG. Among them, 65 household heads (*ghar muli*) were selected as respondents.

3.5 Primary Data Collection Tools and Techniques

The data collection tools and techniques were based on the following research tools and techniques;

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

A set of structured interview schedule has been designed and applied to meet the study purpose. The structured interview schedule deals with the purpose of getting

information about on socio-economic status, demographic status of the user household members and participation and decision making knowledge on forest management. Similarly structured question related with their aspiration on user committee and awareness building. The data were collected through the interviews schedule to support the description of the data in the relevant place in the text.

3.5.2 Household Survey

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

3.5.3 Key Informant Interview

KII method is one of the important methods of obtaining information from respondents. For this study, there was direct contact between user group informants which is more interactive in nature. This method also aims to collect information about qualitative facts such as ideas, feelings, views, behaviors which will be very helpful to find out the truth of women's participation and decision making roles in forest management. This method also helps to find out the reaction of user members and provides opportunity to observe things from very close. Informal discussions were done with the related stakeholders (VDC secretary, CF user committee, district forest personnels, range post personnels, school teachers, social workers etc).

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected raw data were processed in a computer by means of sorting, grouping, frequency distribution and tabulation. Both qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed with appropriate statistical tools accordingly. The statistical tools were used to analyze the data include classification, ranking, percentage, central tendency and diagram. Quantitative data were coded, managed and entered in computer programme on Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and some qualitative data were managed manually.

CHAPTER-IV

THE STUDY AREA AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This chapter deals with the whole data analysis of the study area and socio-economic characteristics of the forest user household respondents. First of all, this chapter provides a brief introduction of the Bankhe Damara Community Forest of the study area. Secondly, it provides the basic socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the sampled household respondents.

4.1 The Study Area

The main study area of this study is Bankhe Damara Community Forest and its users' households.

4.1.1 The Bankhe Damara Community Forest

This Bankhe Damara Community Forest lies on the east-north of Syangja district. This is the famous CFUG in Syangja district, which was handed over to the local people in year 2063/12/01 (B.S.). The community forestry is located on Majhkot Siwalaya VDC of the Syangja district. The Bankhe Damara community Forestry has covered ward nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Majhkot VDC. The user group was also formed by these wards. The VDC or user group lies in the midhills of Nepal which was situated upto 2,517 meters above the sea level. The Bankhe Damare Community Forestry is surrounded by the *Bichare Dada, Mirdi Khola* and *Duware Danda Ko Kulo Ko Muhan* in the east, *Bed Garha, Terso Bato* and *Dhan Bahadur Gurung Ko Sandh* in west, *Chepte Dunga* in north and *Aahan Khola, Chiuriko Rukh, Jogipani Pandhera* and *Terso Bato* in South. The forest area has covered 30.5 hectores of land and lies under Biruwa Archale Range Post of Syangja district. The total user households of this CFUG are 187 with 181 households of Gurung and 6 *Kaami* community.

In this forest area, *Chilaune, Katus, Mauwa, Tiju* etc. are in major important trees or plants. Similarly, *Kaliz, Titra, Dove, Monkey, Tiger, deer, Jackle, Rabbit, Dumsi*, etc. are in major fauna species.

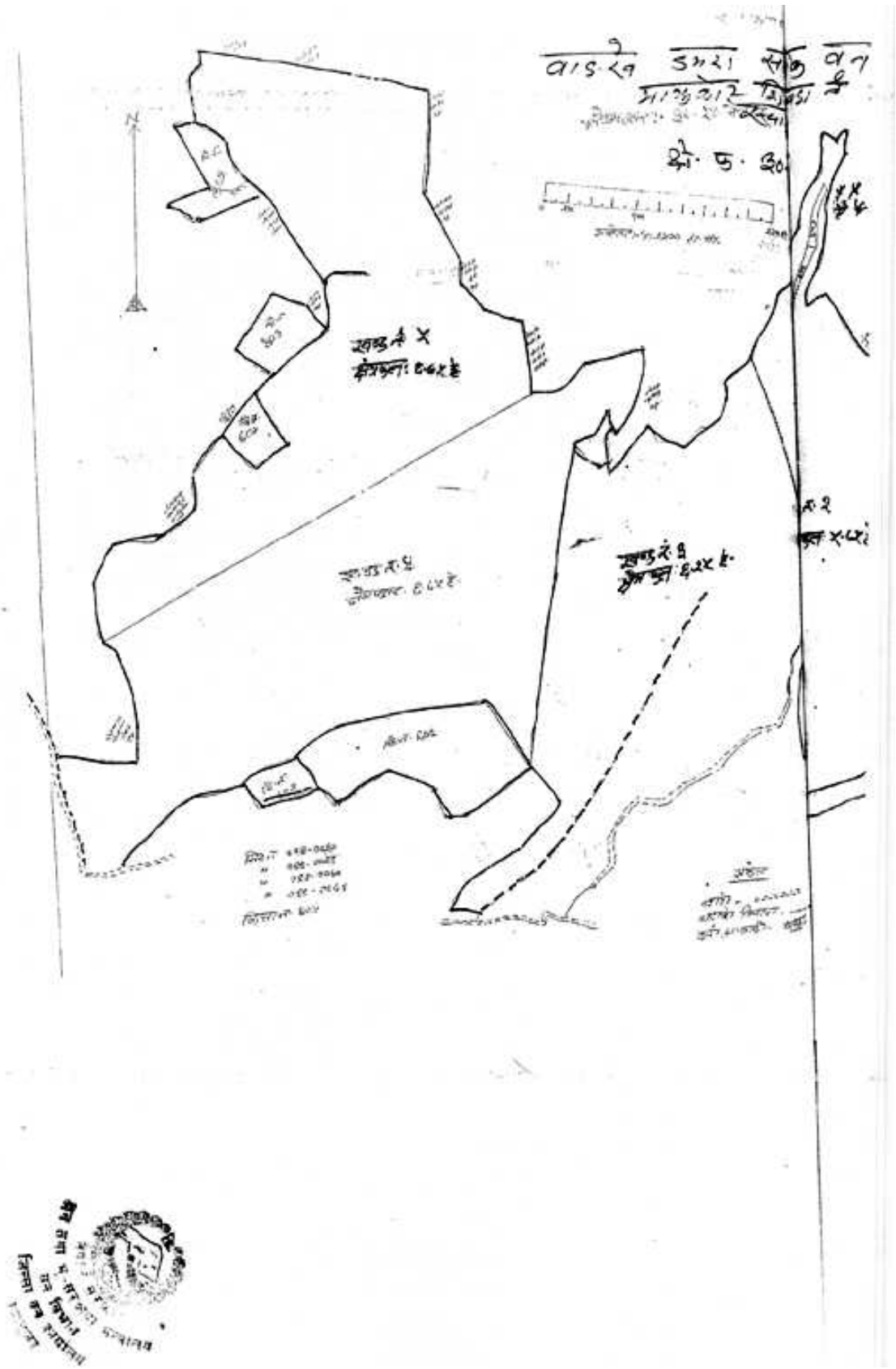

Fig. 4.1: Map of Bankhe Damara Community Forest

4.1.2 Natural Resources

The natural resources including land resources, forest resource and settlements patterns etc. were analyzed of the study area only.

4.1.2.1 Land Resources

Land is one of the most exploitative natural resources. Agriculture and livestock are the main features of the peoples of Banke Damara forest user household members. The total area of the VDC is 1047.17 hactore. The land use pattern of the VDC is *khet*-16.8percent, *Pakho Bari*-28.2percent, Forest-37.2percent, grazing and open land-17.7percent (VDC Profile, 2067). The community has natural resources like forests, stone mines, water sources. The main sources of drinking water are small water springs for irrigation and drinking purposes.

4.1.2.2 Forest

Forest is one of the major sources of fuel, fodder and wood. 30.5 hectores of forest land were handed over to the Majhkot Siwalya community people by district forest office. They get most of the forest products from the community forest and private forest. All households of the VDC were not involved in the community forestry users committee. Some of them have private forest where they use for firewood, fodder, leaf litter and wood.

4.1.2.3 Settlement Pattern

The community is semi scattered where the people of various caste and ethnic groups are living there. The structure of houses is made up of mud, stone and wood roofed with stone. Most of the household has cow, ox, buffalo and goat shed to keep their live-stocks. The main places of the community are Bankhe, Bardanda, Raniswara, Ramche and Budhakot. The dominant caste groups of the community are Gurung and a few of *Kaami*. All the homogeneous caste groups like Gurung of the community have reciprocal relationship among them for the common goal of the community interest.

4.2 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

In this section, socio-economic backgrounds of the sampled household respondents were analyzed of the study area. There are 187 user households. Out of them 65 household respondent was analyzed by the selection of sample household respondent for this study.

4.2.1 Age and Sex Structure of the Respondent

Age and sex are important demographic characteristics. In view of this, age and sex composition of the population of the households have been taken into consideration. The population of the sample household respondent was classified into six age groups. The classification was based on the role expectations in general active population. The youths and adults of the age group of 20-59 years were taken as the economically active population. And, the old people above 60 years of age were considered as the economically inactive, at least in the formal sectors. The details of the distribution of the sampled household population are presented in Table 4.1. The Community Forest Users Groups have constituted mostly its members from household heads in Forest Users Groups.

Table 4.1: Distribution of the Respondent by Age and Sex

Age	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
17-27	3	3	6 (9.2)
28-37	6	6	12 (18.4)
38-47	9	11	20 (30.7)
48-57	7	8	15 (23.0)
58-67	4	6	10 (15.3)
68-77	1	1	2 (3.0)
Total	**30**	**35**	**65 (100.0)**

Source: Field Survey 2013

The household survey for the study was conducted as per the predetermined research design, which revealed the male and female ratio 50/50 but in reality, the percent of Female and Male were as 35 (53.8 percent) and 30 (46.1percent). The main respondents were the age of between 38-47 (30.7 percent) years followed by the age range of 48-57 (23.0 percent) in second position (Table 4.1).

4.2.2 Caste /Ethnic Composition of the Respondent

Every caste and ethnic groups has been represented in the household survey. The participation of community forest management seems inclusive in the caste and ethnicity, also in the Forest Users Committee as well.

Table 4.2: Distribution of the Respondent by Caste/Ethnicity

Caste/ethnicity	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Gurung	62	95.3
Kaami	3	4.6
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

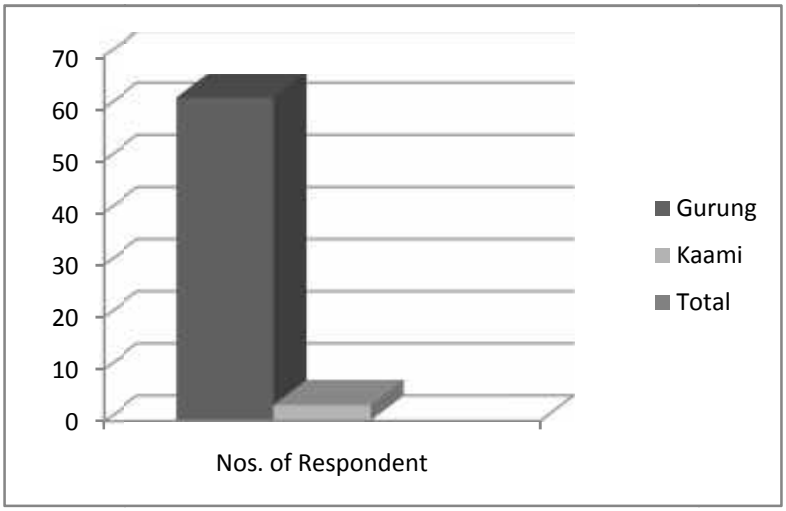

Fig. 4.2: Caste/Ethnicity Composition in a Bar Diagram

The table 4.2 and the fig. 4.1 show that majority of the respondents were Gurung (95.3 percent) which are one the ethnic group and 4.6 percent of the respondents were *Kaami* from *dalit* community.

4.2.4 Family Types of the Respondents

Every person lives with their families. Families are either joint or nuclear. For this study, joint family includes husband-wife, their children, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law. Nuclear family includes husband-wife and their children only.

Table 4.3: Distribution of the Respondent Family Types

Types	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Nuclear	30	46.1
Joint	35	53.8
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table 4.3 shows that the majority of the family structure of the respondents was joint (53.8percent) and minority were Nuclear (46.1percent). The data shows that the Joint family system is still in existence and has the dominance over nuclear family system in the rural area of Nepal.

4.2.5 Religion

Religious composition is the important social characteristics of respondent. Religion also plays a vital role to unite a society and keep solidarity among respondents. It is also a factor that determines the role and responsibilities of men and woman; because different religious groups have their own traditional values and systems which govern people beliefs.

Table 4.4: Distribution of the Respondent by Religion

Religion	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Buddhism	62	95.3
Hinduism	3	4.6
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

The religious situation of the respondents shows that the 95.3percent of the respondents were Buddhism and 4.6percent were Hindu (Table 4.4). It shows that majority of the forest user household respondents' religion is Budhism. According to the chairman of the Forest User Committee, “the data seems to be merely a theoretical because most of the Buddhist people were found to be influenced by the Hindu culture or system in their every cultural and religious functions though they have reported their religion to be Buddhism. As most of the respondents in the study area are Gurungs, who belong to Mongolian race and one of the ethnic groups in Nepal raising the voice of “Caste Identity”, their ethnic organizations had circularized to write all Gururng’s religion as Buddhism in the National Census 2011, so percentage of Buddhist people has been found extremely higher than Hindus”.

4.2.6 Marital Status of the Respondent

Marital status is one of the important for socio-economic characteristics. It is also universal demographic component. It can play a vital role to determine the social status, educational status, household decision making power, public affair and so on. Therefore, the marital status of the forest user household respondent is given Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Distribution of the Respondent by their Marital Status

Marital Status	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Married	62	95.4
Widow/Widower	3	4.6
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

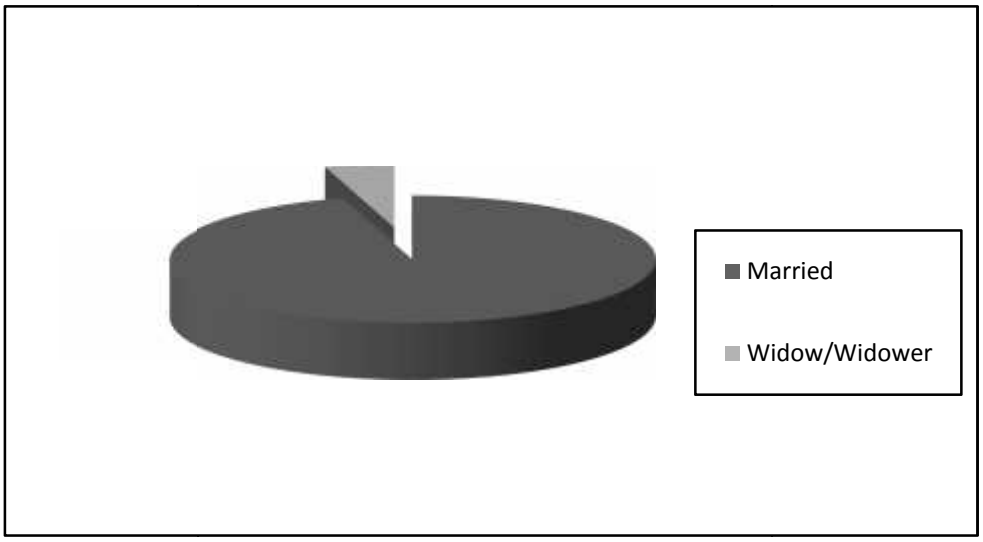

Fig. 4.3: Marital Status of respondents in Pie Chart

Table 4.5 shows the marital status of the respondents. As most of the community forests in Nepal are managed by the married people, the national scenario has been revealed in this community forest as well. The study has found the highest of 95.4 percentage respondents were married whereas only 4.6 percent respondents were matured by age but unfortunately lost their husband or wife.

4.2.7 Educational Status of the Respondents

Level of education helps in creating awareness about forest management as well as better performance. Education is also related to economic status and class structure of society. Education plays a crucial role in all sectors of the society. If all persons of households are educated, then their participation for any development activities are more effective. It can be said that if all persons of households are educated then the society is more conscious about the problem of the community, needs of the community and become able to provide more appropriate solution. In this study, the data for educational status has been classified into illiterate, literate (either formal or informal education), and primary, secondary, higher secondary and above categories.

Illiterate are those who cannot read and write. Literates represent those persons who can read or write either from formal or informal education. Primary education means the academic education up to S.L.C. Higher Secondary education is that the academic education up to intermediate level. And above education is that the academic education above intermediate level. Educational status of the respondents even in sex-wise category has been presented in table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Educational Status of the Respondents by their Sex

Educational level	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Illiterate	2	6	8 (12.3)
Literate	8	14	22 (33.8)
Primary Level passed	10	9	19 (29.2)
Secondary or SLC passed	6	4	10 (15.3)
Higher Secondary level passed	4	2	6 (9.2)
Total	30	35	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

According to table 4.6, out of 65, educational status of the user respondents is that maximum are literate with 87.6percent, and 12.3percent were illiterate. Some of the respondents can sign after the literacy class conducted by Village Development Committee and by other community development organizations. Some of the women who are illiterate can express their views effectively towards community forest management. Educated but younger respondents were hesitating in the time of interview. Table 4.6 also shows that the primary level (33.8percent) was higher than secondary or SLC level (15.3percent). Likewise higher secondary level passed percentage of the respondent (9.2percent) seems to be the lowest of them.

4.2.8 Occupational Status of the Respondents

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people living in Majhkot Siwalaya VDC so as in Bankhe Damara community forestry user group. Although agriculture is the main occupation of people of FUG, they adopt different occupations. The table 4.7 shows the occupational composition of sampled forest user household respondents.

Table 4.7: Distribution of the Respondent by their Occupation

Occupation	Nos. of Respondent		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Agriculture	11	25	36 (55.4)
Housewife	-	9	9 (13.9)
Foreign employment	4	-	4 (6.1)
Retired/pensioner	8	-	8 (12.3)
Service	1	1	2 (3.1)
Other	6	-	6 (9.2)
Total	30	35	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Occupation of the forest users is primarily agriculture. The table 4.7 shows that 55.4 percent respondents are involved in agriculture. And next, 13.9 percent were housewives who are generally engaged on household works, 12.3 percent user household respondents are ex-army or retired pensioner. Livelihood of the people is hard because they have fully depended on agriculture where almost they have no irrigated land (*Khet*). Also there is no regular supply of tap water. So, the women have been much engaged to fetch water. Another serious matter is that, 9.2 percent male respondents replied that they are jobless.

The table 4.7 also shows that the occupation of respondents, mostly the females were involved in the agriculture and household works but male were also involved in the service and pensioner. Only the both (3.0percent) in each male and female were engaged in service like school teacher in the study area.

4.2.9 Livestock Holding in Households

Livestock is also a means of liquid assets which can be easily converted into cash during crisis. Crop production is supplemented by livestock by providing manure and using by products. Livestock holding also is directly related to forest product requirements such as pasture, grass and fodder besides timber products for the construction of sheds. So, the sample respondents are asked to provide the number of different animals they held. The table 4.8 shows the number of livestock holding of sampled households in the CFUG.

Table 4.8: Distribution of Livestock Holding Size of the Respondents

Types of animals	Nos. of HH's Livestock	Percentage
Cow/Ox	112	9.6
Buffalo	50	4.3
Goat (he/she)	315	27.2
Sheep (he/she)	217	18.7
Chicken	411	35.4
Duck	46	3.9
Pig	7	0.6
Total	1158	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table 4.8 shows that out of all livestock, the highest number of livestock raised is chicken, where the percentage of chicken is 35.4 percent. After it, the second highest percentage of livestock is goat which 27.2 percent is. After then the percentage of sheep, cow/ox, buffalo, duck and pig are followed respectively.

4.2.10 Source of Energy

In the study area, though some people have started using *gobar* (dung) gas, LP gas and kerosene etc., most of the households were found using fire-wood as source of energy,. LP gas and *gobar* gas were used by rich people only for cooking food etc. but they were using firewood in other purposes. The main source of energy of poor households is only fire wood in the study area.

Table 4.9.1: Types of Fuel Energy Primarily Used by Respondent Households

Types of energy	No. of Households	Percentage
Fire-wood	54	83.1
Gobar Gas	3	4.7
LP Gas	6	9.2
Kerosene	2	3.0
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among 65 sampled households, only 3.0 percent respondent households were found to use kerosene as source of energy for cooking etc. whereas 4.7 percent have used

gobar gas and 9.2 percent have used LP gas. The big mass of respondents' households i.e. 83.1 percent was found to use fire wood from the forests as main source of energy.

Though the respondents' households were directly or indirectly dependent on forest for fire-wood, the data of sources of fire-wood and its quantity were collected from the sample households. The Forest User Group Committee manages to open the forest for collection of firewood in certain interval of time in a year. Therefore, the quantity of firewood (in bharies) collected by the respondent households in a year has been mentioned in the table 4.9.2.

Table 4.9.2: Sources and Quantity of Collection of Fuel-wood by Respondent Households

Source	Fire-wood Collected per year (in Bharies)	Firewood per HH per year (in Bharies)	Percentage
Community forest	3,444	53	90.6
Private land	356	5.5	9.4
Total	3,800	-	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013 (Note: 1 Bhari = 25 kg)

From the table, it is clear that 90.6 percent user households collect firewood from community forest and the rest of only 9.4 percent from their private forest in the whole years.

4.2.11 Source of Fodder for Livestock

Bankhe Damara CF is being opened for the collection of fodder in all the time. The need of fodder is not met from CF only. Private forest fodders are also used for fulfilling such needs in the study area.

Table 4.10: Source and Quantity of Fodder Collected by Respondent Households

Source	Fodder (in Bharies) Collected by each Household in a year	Percentage
Community forest	1,897	55.5
Private land	1,520	44.5
Total	3,417	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013 [Note: 1 Bhari = 20 kg]

The table 4.10 clearly states that the majority of 55.5 percentage fodder for the livestock was collected from Bankhe Damara community forest by all the respondents' household in a year based on the number of livestock they tame and the remaining from their private land and forest and also manage to feed alternatively with other grass, straw etc.

During Chaitra to Jestha, 30.7 percent sample household respondents depend completely on community forest for fodder for their live-stocks and collect four to five *Bharies* per week by each household. And during winter season (Kartik to Falgun) they depend on community forest as well as their private forest land for fodder to feed their live-stocks. During that period they collect two to three *Bharies* per households from community forest for fodder every week. But this cannot meet the total demand during that period. In this time they depend on their private forest land and straw.

CHAPTER-V

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND DECISION MAKING ROLE IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

An attempt has been made in this chapter to find out the women participation and decision making of respondent of Bankhe Damara CFUG. Decision making is supposed to go with women roles in CF management, but however, when it comes to division of authority, it tends to get influenced more by tradition. Thus, this chapter deals with the statistical analysis of the respondents' participation in the community forestry management areas.

5.1 Women Participation in Bankhe Damara Community Forestry

People's participant is considered essential for sustainable development and improved management of local resources in rural areas. Community forestry is seen as a control, management and use of forest resources by villagers. It seems to increase the level of awareness of local people and their active involvement in all aspects of forestry activities. In this segment the participation of respondent in community forestry was presented of the study area.

5.1.1 Participation in Community Forestry Activities

In the initial period of Community forestry handover there was practice of forest protection by watchman, now, there users decided to protect the forest by self discipline.

Table 5.1: Respondent's Participation in CF Activities

Involvement	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
More than other	9	7	16 (24.6)
Equal	20	20	40 (61.5)
Less than other	1	8	9 (13.8)
Total	30	35	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The respondents were felt that the community forestry is the community property. The table 5.1 shows that majority of the respondents (61.5 percent) were said that involvement of community forestry activities of male and female is equal in the forest activities like as forest management-thinning, pruning, weeding, plantation, protection. And also shows that the participation of men and women are the same level of participation.

5.1.2 Factors Affecting to Participate in Community Forestry

In the contest of Nepal community forestry were made by the community users for the sustainable use of the forest resources. They would like to fulfill their need of forest products.

Table 5.2: Respondent's View on Participating in CF

Affecting factor	Nos. of Respondent	Cases
To need based motivation	53	81.5percent
For women's welfare	8	12.3percent
To maintain social status	4	6.1percent
For social change	14	21.5percent
To preserve environment	12	18.4percent
Total	65	100.0 percent

Source: Field Survey 2013 [Multiple responses based on 65 cases]

The table 5.2 shows that the majority of the respondents (81.5 percent) were motivated for the proper use of forest products mainly firewood, wood and fodder. They also like to preserve or conserve the environment as well as the community forestry is also the change agent and it also help to women's welfare.

5.1.3 Access in User Committee

As per the legislation of the community forestry 33.0 percent of the women should include in the community forestry users committee.

Table 5.3: Respondent's Access on User Committee

Access	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
More female	4 (13.3)	-	4 (6.1)
More male	20 (66.6)	30 (85.7)	50 (87.9)
Both equal	5 (16.6)	2 (5.7)	7 (10.7)
Don't know	1 (3.3)	3 (8.5)	4 (6.1)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

In the household survey asked about the access in the user committee of male and female, they answered that 85.7 percent of male respondent and 66.6 percent of the female respondent have the majority (Table 5.3).

5.1.4 Position Holding in Community Forestry

According to the Community forestry rules**,** minimum 33 percent of the women should be holding the position of the committee of community forestry. So, the time of formation of the community forestry, women's participation being only follows the rules. However, the leading and vital position was hold by the men in most of the community forestry.

Table 5.4: Position Holding Status of the Bankhe Damara CF

Position	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Chairperson	1	-	1
Vice chairperson	-	1	1
Secretary	1	-	1
Co-secretary	1	-	1
Treasurer	1	-	1
Member	4	4	8
Total	8	5	13

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.4 shows that the position occupied by the female was more than one third of the total executive members of the study area. The table also shows that the all most vital and leading position being hold by the male. Community forestry is

important and maximum involvement of the female has conservation and management of the community forestry but they are less prioritizing in the committee and vital position.

Table 5.5: Major Causes of Respondent's for not holding the Position

Major Cause	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Aged	2	3.7
Not involved by users	3	5.6
Other members of family	4	7.4
Left	2	3.7
Nothing	8	14.8
Have no time	19	35.2
Unknown	9	16.7
Illiterate	7	12.9
Total	54	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

According to the respondents, among 65 only 54 respond the cause of that they did not hold the position. 35.2 percent have no time, 16.7 percent were unknown and others have different causes like as: aged, not involved by the users, illiterate others family members in committee (Table 5.5).

5.1.5 Participation in the User Group's Regular Assembly

As a general principle of community forestry, both the FUG assembly and FUC meetings should be held separate and regular. Evidently, the frequency of FUC meetings should be regular. FUG assembly is huge and legislative forum and assembly decided the effective implementation of operational plan and other programmes. So, all most all of them (80.0 percent) were participated in the assembly (Table 5.6). The regular meeting was organized in morning time mostly and general assembly of the forest users group in the day time.

Table 5.6: Participation of the Respondent in the Assembly and Mass Meeting

Assembly	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Yes	30	22	52 (80.0)
No	-	13	13 (20.0)
Total	30	35	65 (100.0)
Mass meeting			
Regular	13	7	20 (30.7)
Sometimes	15	14	29 (44.6)
Not present	2	14	16 (24.6)
Total	30	35	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

Mass meeting is the main forum for making the decision for men and women in community forest activities. As per the respondent view, 30.7 percent of the respondents involved regular in mass meeting and 44.6 percent sometimes and 24.6 percent are not present in the mass meeting of the community forestry (Table 5.6). On the other hand both men and women participation level is no differences between each others.

5.1.5.1 Significance of the CFUG/CFUC Meetings

The users of the community forest are aware about the assembly and meeting. They felt that the assembly and meeting are also the sharing places about the community forestry activities and new decision of the community forestry programme. Meeting and assembly are focused for the decision related to the community forestry activities like as forest management (weeding, pruning, singling, thinning, collection of fuel wood, forage, fodder), price of the forest product and entry fee, plantation. In the context of the study area female participation were dominated by male in most of the field of community forest development. Due to the work load of their house, caring their children, agricultural works, they have less participation.

Table 5.7: Significant of the CFUG/CFUC Meetings

Knowledge	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Yes	30 (100.0)	19 (54.2)	49 (75.3)
No	-	11 (31.4)	11 (16.9)
Don't know	-	5 (14.2)	5 (7.6)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.7 shows that the 75.3 percent of the both male and female respondents felt significance to participate in the community forestry user's group meetings and assembly. Only 16.9percent have put no significant of CFUG meeting or assembly and 7.6 percent are unknown. The table 5.7 also shows that the feeling of significant in the CFUG/CFUC meetings by female (54.2 percent) is less than the male (100.0 percent) which is related to the workload.

5.1.5.2 Opinions on the Meetings/Assemblies

More than 53.8 percent respondents were found to have expressed their views in FUG forums and rest 38.4 percent were those not putting the views there in (Table 5.8). 7.6 percent of the users don't know. For those 38.4 percent the cases not getting opportunity are none as the FUGs forum provides their members opportunities to express their views but they miss that opportunities because of hesitation, being unknown about the subject matter and other reasons. The remarkable point is that hesitation of female members is low as male members. Not only the females but males were also found hesitated and hence hesitation has low influence in decision making process. The respondents who put their views in meetings and assemblies were asked to remember some important issues raised by them but 75.0 percent were unable to indicate but 25.0 percent point out few general issues of forest management activities as cleaning, thinning, pruning, weeding and plantation.

Table 5.8: Respondent's Opinions in Meeting/Assembly

Putting Opinion	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Yes	20 (66.6)	15 (42.8)	35 (53.8)
No	10 (33.3)	15 (42.8)	25 (38.4)
Don't know	-	5 (14.2)	5 (7.6)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.8 shows that majority (66.6 percent) of the male respondent can express their views, suggestions, feedback in the general assembly and meetings of community forestry users group. But female respondents only 42.8 percent can express and 14.2 percent of female respondents don't know about the meetings and assembly.

5.1.6 Participation in Training and Exposure

The participation of women in public forum like community forestry is affected not only by the socioeconomic factors but also by the FUG itself. The FUG should understand the fact that without adequate awareness, motivation of its members, especially women who are considered as primary users of the forest, the FUG cannot work smoothly. Then the FUG itself should try to get its members aware and motivated either by organizing various awareness programmes or by providing equal opportunities to such programmes available. The main institution providing trainings, awareness, workshops programme, exposures, etc. to the users in the district is the concerned District Forest Office. Such programmes includes mainly awareness and extension activities based on community forestry, of which portion has focused on women awareness. And other programmes include field based forest management trainings, interaction and networking workshop, income generating activities, accounting and record keeping. District forest office and some NGOs also provide the income generating activities, skill development, capacity enhancement and community forestry activities.

Table 5.9: Distribution of Respondent by Participation in Training

Training Participation	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Yes	11 (36.6)	4 (11.4)	15 (23.0)
No	19 (63.3)	31 (88.5)	50 (76.9)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.9 shows that the one third (36.6 percent) of the male respondents were participated in any kind of the training and exposure but only 11.4 percent of the female were participated in the training programmes. Majority (88.5 percent) of the female respondents didn't get any kind of training and exposure where 63.3 percent of male which shows that the women's participation in capacity development is also below.

5.2 Decision Making Role of Women in Community Forestry

This segment includes assess of decision making roles of women participation in community forestry programme.

5.2.1 Role Play in the Meeting/assembly

The meeting and assembly is the main forum of the discussion of community Forestry activities.

Table 5.10: Role Play in the Meeting /Assembly of the Respondent

Role play	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Active participation	18 (60.0)	11 (31.4)	29 (44.6)
Mostly	2 (6.6)	1 (2.8)	3 (4.6)
Sometimes only	2 (6.6)	6 (17.1)	8 (12.3)
Speak sometime if I don't like the decision	5 (16.6)	8 (22.8)	13 (20.0)
Listen to other's idea only	3 (10.0)	9 (25.7)	12 (18.4)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.10 reveals that 44.6 percent of the respondents play the role of active participation, 20.0 percent speak sometime if don't like the decision, 18.4 percent

listen to others idea only, 12.3 percent sometimes only and 4.6 percent mostly. The table 5.10 also shows that the 60.0 percent of the male respondents participate actively but only 31.4 percent female can participate. 25.7 percent of the female participants listen to others idea only where 10.0 percent of the male respondents listen to other's idea only.

5.2.2 Decision That Has Been Made by Committee

The agreement and dis-agreement of the users with the decision made by User Group Committee affect the implementation of the decision. Though the decision in the committee is based on the majority of members, they may not represent the majority of the whole users.

Table 5.11: Decision That Has Been Made by Committee

Role play	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Very good	3 (10.0)	1 (2.8)	4 (6.1)
Good	21 (70.0)	30 (85.7)	51 (78.4)
Not bad or good	6 (20.0)	4 (11.4)	10 (15.3)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.11 shows that the 78.4 percent of the respondents are thinking that that decision made by the committee is good, 15.3 percent are feeling average (not good or bad) and 6.1percent is feeling very good. That situation shows that the users of the community forestry are satisfied with the working procedure and decision made by the Bankhe Damara Community Forestry User Committee is in favor of users and development of community forestry.

5.2.3 Freedom in Decision Making

The effective implementation of operational plan and the other programmes of the forest users groups mainly depend on the rational decision by them. As decision making process is considered as a bridge between thought and action, right decision in right time in participatory manner have shown the best results in many cases.. The general decision made by the FUGs is listed as follows: weeding in the plantation site, collection of fund for forest product collection, opening time period for forest product collection, fill up the vacant position in the committee, plantation of open land of Bankhe Damara community forestry, etc.

Table 5.12: Respondent's View on Freedom in Decision-Making

Category	Sex		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Yes	30 (100.0)	30 (85.7)	60 (92.3)
No	-	2 (5.7)	2 (3.0)
Don't know	-	3 (8.5)	3 (4.6)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table shows that the 100 percent of the male respondents feel freedom in decision making but 85.7 percent of the female respondents feel freedom in decision making. Table 5.12 shows the 92.3 percent of the respondents said that the decision of the community forestry have freedom in the users assembly. 4.6 percent of the respondents are said to have their pressure by politically and from the elite group.

5.2.4 Distribution Pattern of Forest Products

The entire community forest users group has equal rights for the forest product. In the time of opening community forest, mostly they collected the firewood. They distributed the collected materials as the basis of lottery. Majority of the respondents (83.0 percent) said that the distribution pattern of the forest products is equal and transparent. The table 5.13 shows that there is not partiality for the Female head home and *dalit* community.

Table 5.13: Patterns of Forest Products and Fee

Distribution	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Equity	4	6.1
Fair and transparent	7	10.7
Equal and transparent	54	83.0
Total	65	100.0
Pattern of fee		
With fee	61	93.8
Without fee	4	6.1
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

The community forestry of the study area that they charge some amount of for the smoothly run the users group. Majority of the respondents (93.8) were aware about the fee of the community forestry and 6.1percent of the respondents were said they did not paid (Table 5.13).

5.2.5 Decision on Fixing the Price of Forest Product

The fix of the price of the community forestry is very important. General trend of the price fixing in community forestry is discussed first in the meeting of users committee and finally table 5.14 in the general assembly. Like this, Most of the respondents (87.6 percent) said that the price is fixed by the general assembly.

Table 5.14: Decision on Fixing the Price of Forest Products

Duration	Taking Decision		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Mass meeting	27 (90.0)	30 (85.7)	57 (87.6)
Committee	1 (3.3)	-	1 (1.5)
Both (Mass meeting/committee)	2 (6.6)	5 (14.2)	7 (10.7)
Total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

As the survey shown that the 90.0 percent of the male respondent was taken decision that the price of the forest products being fixed by the mass meetings of the community forest users group (Table 5.14). It shows that the awareness level of the male and female seems equal. So, in this area women are also sincere about the community forestry activities.

5.2.6 Satisfaction with CFUG/CFUC

Community is the main component of community development. Most of the users are involved in the community forest users committee. They fulfill their basic needs related to forest being fulfilled by the community forestry. They also started different income generating programme through revolving fund in their own land as well as their community forest. The below table 5.15 shows that the almost respondents were satisfied and happy with the users group and committee. The decision made by them is not partiality.

Table 5.15: Satisfaction with CFUG/CFUC/CF

Satisfaction	Sex of the respondents		Total (percent)
	Male	Female	
Fully satisfied	6 (20.0)	4 (11.4)	10 (15.3)
Satisfied	24 (80.0)	31 (88.5)	55 (84.6)
total	30 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	65 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey 2013

Vast majority of the respondents (84.6 percent) were satisfied with their community forestry and remaining 15.3 percent were fully satisfied. These show that cent percent respondents were satisfied with community forestry. The table shows that the people of Bankhe Dhamara are being aware of the community forestry.

Community forestry is the main sources of forest products like fodder, firewood, leaf litter, wood. Women are the primary agent of using forest product. They are directly related to the forest. After the handover of the community forest, they were happy and feel easy that can be sustainable use.

5.2.7 Decision towards Committee, VDC and DFO

Community forest users committee is the representative of all community forest users. CM is important for the development of community forestry as well as the fulfillment of forest based needs to the users. The committee should play the role to provide equal opportunities to all users.

Table 5.16: Decision Attitudes towards User Committee and VDC/DFO

Decision	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
With Committee		
Fully satisfied	4	6.1
Satisfied	53	81.5
Little satisfied	8	12.3
Total	65	100.0
With VDC		
Satisfied	55	84.6
Little satisfied	10	15.3
Total	65	100.0
With DFO/Range Post		
Fully satisfied	5	7.6
Satisfied	30	46.1
Little satisfied	25	38.4
Don't know	5	7.6
Total	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table 5.16 shows that the 81.5 percent of the respondents were satisfied, 12.3 percent little satisfied and 6.1 percent fully satisfied with the committee. It shows that the committee played important role and provide equal opportunity to the all participants.

Village Development Committee is the lower tier of local government and consists of none wards. The VDC is also an autonomous body with a seal of its own. Local Self Governance Act (1999) entrusts VDCs with the responsibility of village development. VDCs are responsible for making village plan and its implementation. These VDCs have accorded top priority for the construction of rural roads and invested a major portion of their budget on it. It was learned during the survey that VDC played the less role for the community forestry development programme. The above table also shows that the 84.6 percent were satisfied and 15.3 percent being little satisfied.

Similarly, District Forest Office and Range post are the main agency for the implementation of community forestry programme as the approval of Legislation and Operational plan. Different awareness, knowledge development training, forest development Activities, forest management, technical support implemented by office but these are not sufficient for the groups. According to the household survey 46.1 percent of the respondents were satisfied, 38.4 percent were less satisfied and 7.6 percent were don't know about the district forest and Range post (Table 5.16).

5.2.8 Major Problems of Bankhe Dhamara CF

The community forestry programme is the successful programme in the context of Nepal. This programme has not only gained impressive international reputations but also generated some revenues for local community development in addition to the supply of fuel wood, fodder, timber and other daily needs of local communities. Being a new concept of forest management which is not far from the problems related to community forestry an even after handed over the forest to the community, there are some problems shown in table 5.17.

Table 5.17: Major Problems Associated with Community Forests

Major Problems	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Only shrub land	3	6.5
Open grazing	10	21.7
Low awareness	1	2.2
Not follow rules/regulations	8	17.4
Illegal collection of forest products	4	8.6
Open land	6	13.0
Weeding	3	6.5
Hunting/poaching	2	4.3
Not income generating programme	2	4.3
Not conserved	7	15.2
Total	46	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

Mainly in the study area, there is open grazing system in the winter season in forest land as well as in the community land which is the main problem of their community forestry lost the small plants. The community forestry covered the shrub land which has the invaluable species which needs to change. It also has the hunting problems. The users don't implement the income generating programme activities within their community forestry besides the herbs plantation starting from the last 3 years.

Table 5.18: Possibilities of Problem Solutions

Possibilities of Solution	Nos. of Respondent	Percentage
Plantation	6	14.6
Control open grazing	7	17.1
Change selfishness	1	2.4
Control illegal collection	5	12.1
Should be good decision	2	4.9
Wall consumption	5	12.2
Weeding	2	4.9
Control hunting	1	2.4
Income generalizing programme	6	14.6
Forest guard	2	4.9
Follow rules	4	9.8
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2013

For the solution of the genuine problems related to the community forestry, they started to control open grazing in community land as well as private land. So these days being decrease the loss day by day and they started for stall feeding. They also started the plantation in the community forestry with the support of different government as well as non-governmental organization. The mothers group was aware about the community forestry and environmental conservation. They take initiation for the plantation in open land of Banke Damara forest area. They also started the plantation of *Tejpatta* and *Kurilo* as income generating programmemes/ activities. And they also planned to continue the plantation in the open land. They also disagree with the decision of committee towards the conservation of community forestry.

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of this chapter is to summarize the whole study and point out the major findings related to community forestry programme on user household of Bankhe Damara Community FUG of Majhkot Siwalaya VDC in Syangja district. It also includes conclusion of the study.

6.1 Summary

"The study of women's participation and decision making role in the community forestry" is intended to assess the existing decision making process of community forest users group (CFUG) and women's role in it taking cases of Banke Damara community forest users group from Majhkot Siwalaya VDC of Syangja district.

Community forestry, in its thirty years in Nepal has provided many benefits to the people of Nepal; it has made life easier for women especially. It saved them the time they spent in search of fodder, fuel wood and bedding materials for cattle, by providing it from a nearby forest and they could now use the saved time for their family, kitchen garden and own development. The CF further helps the poor by providing opportunity for livelihood by employment in CFUG. All rules and regulations of community forestry encourage women to participate in decision making as well as forest management work but their participation in all areas still an issue of concern. They are in forest users committee but role in decision making is still questionable. Physical presence in Forest user’s group/committee only is not enough for decision making but voicing their ideas in the meetings/ assembly, taking part in discussions and taking a stand on ones decision is important. Similarly, women are going to the forest for the management work but due to different reasons they get negative response. This is also an issue of concern. These are the issues which need to be addressed.

The general objectives of this study were to find out the women's participation towards the decision making role in Bankhe Damara CF of Majhkot Siwaliya VDC in Syangja district. Out of total 187 user household, 65 forest user household respondents (both 30 male and 35 female) were selected by simple random sampling method as respondents. Primary and secondary data were collected by using the questionnaire. Women being primary users of forest, their role in decision making processes of community forestry activities should be addressed and level of participation in community forest activities. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected by using questionnaire and the data coded, managed and entered in computer programme Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and some qualitative data were managed manually.

Major Findings

The findings and results are mentioned below;

- The population of the sample household respondent was classified into six age groups. Majority of the respondents were of age between 38-47 (30.7 percent) years and the age range of 48-57 (23.0 percent) was in second position and third, 28-37 was 18.4 percent only. Similarly, 53.8 percent were female respondent and 46.1percent were male.

- Majority of the respondents were Gurung (95.3 percent) like ethnic status and remaining were *Kaami* (4.6 percent). The family structure of the respondents was joint (53.8percent) and Nuclear (46.1percent) respectively. 95.3 percent of the respondents were Budhist and 4.6 percent adopted Hindu religion. The study found that the community forest has been managed by almost all the married people with 95.4 percent married and 4.6 percent widow or widower respondents.

- According to respondent, 87.6 percent were literate and 12.3 percent were illiterate where primary level (33.8 percent) was higher than secondary or SLC level (15.3 percent). Likewise higher secondary level passed percentage of the respondent (9.2 percent) seems the lowest.

- Majority of the respondent (55.4 percent) were in agricultural occupation, 12.3 percent were ex-army or retired pensioner, and 3.0 percent in male/female were also engaged in service like school teacher in the study area.

- Among 65 sampled households, the big mass of respondents' households i.e. 83.1 percent was found to use completely fire wood from the forests as main source of energy. Out of them, 90.6 percent respondent households were dependent on community forest for fire-wood and rest of them only 9.4 percent depended on their private forest in the whole years.

- During Chaitra to Jeshtha, 30.7 percent depended completely on community forest for fodder to their livestock and collect four to five *Bharies* per week by each household. And during winter season (Kartik to Falgun), they depend on community forest as well as their private forest for fodder to feed their livestocks. Majority (55.5 percent) of the households were depended on Bankhe Damara community forest for fodder due to community forestry programme in the study area.

- It was found that the respondents have felt that the community forestry is the community property. Majority of the respondents (61.5 percent) said male and female participation is equal in the forest activities like as forest thinning, pruning, weeding, plantation, protection, etc.

- The major factor affecting to participate in CF is need based motivation (81.5 percent) mainly for firewood, wood and fodders. 85.7 percent of male respondent and 66.6 percent of the female respondent have the access on user committee in majority. The position held by the female was only in one third position of the study area. Lack of time (35.2 percent) and lack of knowledge (16.7 percent) are in major causes of less participation.

- 80.0 percent of the respondents were participated in the CFUG assembly. Similarly, as per the respondent view, 30.7 percent was involved regularly in mass meeting, 44.6 percent sometimes and 24.6 percent were not present in the mass meeting. On the other hand, both men and women participation level has no difference between each others. 54.2 percent female respondent felt the significance of CFUG/CFUC meetings less than the male (100.0 percent), the reason was related to the workload.

- More than 53.8 percent respondents were found to have expressed their views in FUG forums and rest 38.4 percent were not putting their views. Similarly, 66.6 percent of the male respondent can express their views, suggestions, feedback in the assembly and meetings but only 42.8 percent female respondent can express and 14.2 percent of female respondents don't know about the meetings and assembly.

- Out of total, one third (36.6 percent) of the male respondents were participated in any kind of the training and exposure but only 11.4 percent of the female were participated in the training programmes.

- The meeting and assembly is the main forum of the discussion of community Forestry activities. 60.0 percent of the male respondents participate actively but only 31.4 percent female can actively participate in meetings of CF.

- According to respondents, 78.4 percent decision is good followed by 15.3 percent are average (not good or bad) and 6.1percent is very good. Of the total male and female respondents, 92.3 percent of the respondents said that they have freedom for decision making in the users assembly. However, 100 percent of the male respondents and 85.7 percent of female respondents were found freedom in decision making separately.

- Majority of the respondents (83.0percent) said that the distribution pattern of the forest products is equal and transparent.

- 84.6 percent were satisfied with their CF and remaining 15.3 percent were fully satisfied. 81.5 percent of the respondents were satisfied with user committee decisions followed by 84.6 percent were satisfied with VDC and 38.4 percent were little satisfied with DFO/range post decision.

6.2 Conclusion

It can be concluded that except in few cases, the committee members and young women were participated in community forest management than general members and older women. But all categories of users had little or no familiarity with the legislation and operational plan of their CFUG and community forestry.

In the decision making process, participation of committee members and young members was higher in comparison to the general member. Women's participation in forest protection by consensus is increasing. Similarly women's participation was higher in controlling grazing, illegal collection of forest product, hunting in the study area. Forest product collection and utilization was found according to the rules and regulation of the operational plan. Before the handover of community forestry, they collected firewood whole year but now they get sufficient two times in a year and they also collect by their own private land as called kharbari. They also control the illegal collection of non-timber forest product and started to plant in the leadership of women's group.

In the initial period of Community forest formation, women's voices were not considered in decision making process but now the situation is changing and women are getting more freedom in decision making and involvement in the vital position even in the leading position also being increased than initial period of the CF formation.

6.3 Suggestions

To further increase the women’s participation in community forest management and decision making role, the following programmes need to be conducted regularly which would be more beneficial for the women in the Bankhe Damara Community Forest Users Group;

- Workshops for women empowerment
- Awareness programmemes
- Leadership Development Trainings
- Programmemes for confidence development
- Observation tours to other community forests
- Complete support from the males by delegating power to women
- Full right to the access of forest resources

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ANNEX-I

Interview Schedule for Household Survey of
Bankhe Damara Community FUG, Majhkot Siwalaya VDC in
Syangja District

Personal Information:

Date:

1) Name of Respondent:

	Age:	Sex:	Caste/ethnicity:
	VDC:	Ward No.:	
2) Marital Status:	a) Married	b) Single	c) Others……
3) Religion: ……..			
4) Family Structure:	a) Nuclear	b) Joint	
5) Nos. of family member: Total …… (Male ……Female ……..)			
6) Education:	a) Literate	b) Illiterate	c) Primary
	d) Secondary	e) Higher secondary	f) Bachelor and above
7) Occupation:			
	a) Agriculture	b) Business	c) Service
	d) Labour	e) Others (Specify) …….	
8) Livestock holding:			
	a) Cow… .	b) Buffaloes …	c) Oxen….
	d) Sheep …..	e) Goats…..	f) Chicken……
	g) Duck …..	i) Pig….	J) Others…..

9) What is your source of household energy: ……..

If forest resource, how do you consume in whole year?

In *Bhari* …… (by CF…….. Private forest……)

10) What is your source of live stocks fodder …….

Information about Participation and Decision Making of Users

1, Are you satisfied with your CF?

a) Fully satisfied b) Satisfied c) Do not satisfied

2, Participation status in CF?

a) more than other b) Equal c) less than other

3, What is major affecting factor to participate in CF?

……..

4, Do you discuss about CF with in your family?

……..

5, Distribution pattern of forest products?

a) Equity b) Fair and transparent c) Equal and transparent

6, Do you hold any position in CFUC? If yes, which position?

…….

7, How long you have been in the position?

……

8, If no, why do not hold any position in user committee?

……

9, Do you participate in the UG's regular assembly? If yes, how often?

……..

10, When the meetings are arranged?

a) In morning b) In day time c) Both morning and day time

11, Do you think your role is significant in the CFUG/CFUC meetings?

……

12, Can you put your opinions confidently on the meetings?

……

13, What role would you play in the meeting /assembly?

……..

14, What do you think about decision that has been made by committee?

a) Very good b) Good c) Average

15, Do you have freedom in decision-making? Do the CFUG/CFUC have ever approved your opinions or ideas?

……

16, Are you satisfied with CFUG/CFUC decision?

……..

17, Are you participated in any community forestry level training? If yes, please explain? And, who participate in training?

…….

18, Do you satisfied towards decision of user committee/VDC/DFO/Range post?

Attitudes of	Fully satisfied	Satisfied	Little satisfi	Do not satisfi
User committee				
VDC				
DFO/range post				

19, What are the major problems associated with Community Forests?

……..

20, What are the possible solutions of above problems?

……..

ANNEX-II

Checklist for Key Informants

Name:

Designation:

Occupation:

- Do you think Community Forestry programmeme effective? If yes/ No, then, give reasons?
- What are the major factors and conditions for effective management of the Bankhe Damara CFUG?
- What is your views and observation about women's participation in CF programme?
- What should be the role of women members in the management of CF?
- What sorts of activities are seen to be done by women in CF management?
- What are those factors that govern their participation?
- What is the distribution pattern of forests? Is it equal and equitable and transparent?
- What are the motivating factors that encourage their participation?
- What do you think about the level of awareness, participation and decision making roles of women towards Bankhe Damara CF?
- What is their attitude towards CF?
- Do you think existing policy is suitable or appropriate for women in CF management so as to involve all interest groups?
- If suitable, what changes do you think need to be changed?
- What are the major problems for the implementation of Bankhe Damara CF?