

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter firstly introduces the research topic. Secondly, it explains why the topic has been undertaken for research and what unanswered questions are addressed in the study. Thirdly, it represents general and specific objectives of the study. Fourthly, it describes the relevance of the research in the present context and justifies the study. Finally, it explains how this study has been organized in different chapters.

1.1 Background of the Study

Society is the web of human relationship which is manifested in different level, form and dimensions. Human Societies are not uniform. They differ from one another in several respects. Sociologist throw light on the types of societies for they very often make comparison between societies.

Social world consists of thousands of human societies. For the sake of comparison and analysis, it is necessary to classify them on the basis. These diverse societies which are existing at present can be classified into the limited number of basic type depending upon the technologies or the subsistence strategies that they use to exploit the natural environment (Lenski and Lenski). It is a collection of individuals united by certain relations or mode of behavior which mark them off from others who do not enter into these relations or who differ from them in behavior (Morris and Ginsberg). A society progressed in a gradual pace. It took a long time for the society to develop into its present form. For this it had to come across several stages as hunting and gathering, agriculture and industrial /age of science. It is believed that the oldest and the simplest type of society is the Hunting and Gathering society. Such a society is characterized by a small and sparse population, a nomadic way of life and a very primitive technology. They have the most primitive tools such as stone axes, spears and knives. They have relatively little division of labor; work distribution is based on gender and on physical capabilities (Gerhard Lenski “Human Societies” (1970).

The difficulties in hunting and gathering gradually developed horticulture and herding. “The herding or the pastoral society is the one which relies on the domestication of animals into herds as a major means of support. Eventually, true

agriculture developed because of changes in the environment and invention of technology. Invention of plow made agriculture in same place easier and people were no longer compelled to move from one place to another place. The production of surplus food enabled societies to exist on a larger scale and in one location. Town and small cities became possible. Inequality or economic stratification was seen on the basis of various factors like education, economy, socio-culture, opportunity and gender. Women were limited to household work and men were involved in those works out from home. Slowly, men had more access to resources and entered to horticultural society (Regmi, 2003).

“A horticultural society is a social system based on horticulture, a mode of production in which digging sticks are used to cultivate small garden and such societies are denoted by the domestication of the plants, application of Slash and Burn technology, relatively more complex division of labor, creation of Relatively Elaborate Cultural Artifacts (Allan G. Johnson)”.

After horticultural form, society developed as Agrarian society, the further developed stage of society, which is characterized as the society focuses on its mode of production primarily on agriculture and the cultivation of large fields. The mode of production of the agrarian society, that is, cultivation distinguishes it from the hunter-gather society which produces none of its food, and the horticultural society which produces food in a small garden rather than big fields.”

Increment in the production of surplus increased the needs of people, to fulfill these needs; various types of machines were invented to produce a variety of products. These inventions grew out of technology the application of scientific knowledge to practical deeds. This society was termed as Industrial society which was began in 18th century. In the word of Allan G. Johnson “for the simplest sense, an industrial society is a social system whose mode of production focuses primarily on finished goods manufactured with the aid of machinery. This society was able to produce surplus which increased dramatically. The specialized division of labor was seen in this society (Regmi, 2003).

Society and human life is the integration of different components like economy, politics, religion and philosophy. The pragmatic and driving factor of the society is absolutely economy. Economic systems are the means by which scarce resources are produced and allocated within and between societies. The changes in different levels of economic development, including hunting and gathering economies, agricultural economies, industrial economies and post- industrial economies have had tremendous impact on the world. Among all those economies, industrial economic system so dramatically transformed society that refers to its development as the industrial revolution (Regmi, 2003).

Marx's historical development of society shows that society develops systematically from one stage to another on the basis of mode of production. He divided the development process of society as primitive, slavery, feudal, capitalistic, socialistic and scientific communism. Primitive mode of production prevails in the hunting and gathering economies where as slavery and feudal mode of production in agricultural economies. Capitalistic mode of production emerged in industrial economies in which most of the productive capacity is privately owned (Paudel, 2063). Likewise social anthropologist LH Morgan also divided the process of society development in three distinct stages Savagery, Barbarism and Civilized so each stage characterized by distinct features in simple to complex form.

While correlating the process of society development with environment and natural resources it is necessary to explain about Phase Theory. According to this theory the relation of society development and environment(natural environment; specially forest, because the timber and non-timber forest product play vital role for each phase) can be well analyzed by dividing whole process in three different phases namely biological, social and individual. In biological phase, human thought was concentrated only about how to survive and prevalent in hunting and gathering society. Likewise, in social phase human attains towards organization and food surplus with the help of technological development and practiced throughout the pastoral and agricultural society and the rate of environment degradation was slightly increased. In individual phase men concentrate towards how to increase GDP, GNP, per capita income through the exploitation of natural environment.

Most of the rural people in Nepal traditionally depend on farming and livestock rearing for their livelihood. Forest is the major component of farming system and plays a vital role in the rural economy by providing fuel, construction materials, and animal feed. In Nepal, this traditional practice has been legitimized through the implementation of community forest program. Since the last twenty-five years, this program has been implemented with the objective of forest restoration and the participation of locals in the management of forest and allows them to derive forest resources for their benefits with equal focus on optimum conservation of vegetation.

Nepal's community forestry has become an example of progressive legislation and policies in the decentralization of forest management. It has attracted inter-national attention because in Nepal, decentralization is linked with emerging issues – sustainable forest management, forest governance, policy advocacy, equity, gender, poverty and the role of civil society in community forestry. In particular, the role of the forest user group network in legal advocacy, capacity building and the establishment of democratic governance on a wider scale shows the unique strength of the community forestry approach in Nepal. Since the enactment of the Forest Act in 1993, the government of Nepal has gradually been handing over parcels of national forest, particularly in the mid-hills, to local communities based on an agreed forest management plan between the District Forest Office and local forest user groups. As of December 2005, some 1,185,565ha of forest had been handed over to 14,227 forest user groups for them to protect, manage and utilize (Department of Forests, 2005).

Till the end of 2060 B.S., the total number of forest user groups (FUGs) formed is 12,562 and the area of national forest handed over as community forest (CF) is 9,97,137 hectares. Total number of households benefited is 14, 01,467. The maximum and minimum number of members in a forest user group committee (FUC) is 39 and 4 respectively and that of women members in a committee is 29 and 0 respectively. (National Forest User Group Database of Community Forestry Division of the Department of Forest)

The main causes making the CF program successful are: use of indigenous knowledge, community oriented legislation, changing attitudes of field staffs, government's support, decentralized decision making processes, training programs

and study tours, regular publication of guidelines, incentives to field staff, flexible support of the donors, coordination among donors and the government. However, the main reasons for the success are that users are now truly the owners of the forest resources and the resources are potentially very productive to uplift their living standard. For this achievement decision making process play a vital role in community forestry. So we need to grasp the knowledge about role, decision making role and process in community forestry.

Community forest can provide multiple goods and service comprising physical forest products and environmental services. Timber, fuel-wood, fodder, grass, leaf litter are collected by local people to satisfy their daily needs. Besides, forest also provides many other non-timber forest product of high economic value including medicinal and aromatic products. They also contribute to conserving soil and water resources and sequestering carbon. Thus, timber and non-timber products, recreation, climate regulation, carbon sequestration, option and existence values are the major benefits of forests. The forest services are of locally, nationally or even globally important (CFDP 1995).

In the last forty years, this program 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, new problems had been faced and are got solved simultaneously. One should not forget that CF is designed to suit the Nepali local conditions, and may need appropriate modifications to apply in other parts of the world. Other countries could learn a substantial lesson from it. It is because when the communities are empowered, the resources can be well protected, managed and utilized.

Management and mobilization of community forest based on the participation of local people .Different types of role played by men and women are equally significant to manage community forestry. However, the role played by women in CF management is most important because they are planner, primary user and protector of natural resources. Women can play significant role only after assuring their participation in CF activities. Participation is the combination of organization, empowerment and

contribution. After having participation, their contribution can be evaluated in different CF activities that denote their role.

Role is the dynamic or the behavioral aspect of status. A role is what an individual does in the status he occupies. A social role is the expected behavior associated with a social position. Decision making is the process of deciding about something important, especially in a group of people or in an organization.

One of the most important dimensions of inequality in modern societies is gender which is created in a different ways so that it does not have common way to solve it. Gender refers to a set of culturally conditioned traits associated with maleness or femaleness. Gender roles are the set of behavior considered appropriate for individuals of a particular society. Hunting and gathering societies sent men out to hunt while women for cared for the home, in early agrarian societies there were a less rigid division of labor. In early horticultural societies women had than they did in hunting and gathering societies or in later feudal societies. Since hunting and gathering to agrarian production, the division of labor by sex becomes more varied, although women tend to specialize in household tasks and men in tasks that take them outside the home. (Cornblum, 1997).Industrial development has changed the status of women in the world. Their role has been domesticated by the industries. The study of Ann Oakley signifies that the most important and enduring consequences of industrialization for women has been the emergence of the modern role of housewife as “the dominant mature feminine role”.

There are different theoretical and developmental models that deal about the relation of women and development in different social dimension. These models focus on women participation in different level and form of developmental activities that also correlates with community forestry for evaluating their role.

The first theoretical path to assess the need and justification of women’s involvement in every development endeavor was Women in Development (WID) concept. WID engrossed five policy approaches of development i.e. Welfare, Equity, Anti-poverty, Efficiency and Empowerment.

After then Women and Development (WAD) concept emerged by clicking the drawbacks of WID which is supposed to be the thought making women beneficiaries only and focusing empowerment and participation simultaneously. Later one Gender and Development (GAD) concept was developed with criticizing the thought of WID and WAD. Maithree Wikramasinghe states –while WID is a tunnel visual that is limited to women alone, the gender approach widens out to encompass men’s and women’s roles and relation in both private and public domains”. GAD is centered on gender difference between men and women, identification of the roles of the sexes, equity and equality, women’s subordination and mainstreaming. So this study also follows the principles of GAD for analyzing the decision making role of women in community forestry.

Decision making process is a complex one as it works like a bridge between thought and action. The process consists of various steps requiring great deal of exercises in every step.

While talking about the decision making process at community forestry the constitution (bidhan) and operational plan of FUG is prepared on the basis of user’s need and resource availability. In fact, the rules and regulations are discussed in the assembly and finalized with the consensus of all or majority of the users. This study has tried to evaluate the role of women while making the decision in the following areas: UC formation, Planning, Activities Finalization, harvesting 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. Since the assembly makes the decisions, the authority is given to FUC for its implementation, this study has also focused on the role of women in assembly level and FUC level because in community forestry decisions are made at two levels i.e., assembly level and FUC level.

Under this circumstances and context this study has been conducted. This study has tried to reveal the participation of women in CF activities, their access on decision making process. Most of the studies on CF activities and decision making process have been concentrated in CFUG members in rural areas.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Forest is a crucial component of the rural people for their livelihoods. It provides basic needs of fuel-wood, fodder, timber and green manure to the farmer and equally important in providing minor forest products which help to generate income to the local people. Forest is the integral part of farming system in the inner-terai of Nepal. Forest resources are essential to the survival of farming people such as water for drinking and irrigation, fuel-wood for cooking and heating, fodder for livestock feeding, wood for shelter and enriching soils for growing crops. Since a long time back, farmers have been involved in forest management to sustain farming system.

In the context of forest management, women have been contributing for protection and management of the forest resources from time immemorial. However, their involvement in different aspects of natural resource management has been mostly in the form of nominal participation (Ostrum, 1992). Their role is subsided by the existing patriarchal cultural practices, religious beliefs and value system, even though they are the prime managers of the natural resources (Njoroge, 1999).

Women constitute more than 50% of total population in Nepal (CBS, 2001). It is therefore becomes inevitable to look at their socio-economic status and their important role in the social, economic as well as political development. Despite of this fact that the women have an important role to play, status of women has not been found good enough in Nepal.

The Gender Gap Index which quantifies the gap between men and women in four fundamental categories is the best such indicator. It looks at the differences in males and females with respect to economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment for 115 nations. These 115 nations comprise 90% of the world population. In this index Nepal ranks 111 which mean women in Nepal are discriminated against, and men are far ahead (The Global Gender Gap Report, 2006). All these facts signify that women in Nepal are backward from the mainstreaming process of development which ultimately affects the participation of women at decision making process at individual, household and community level so as in community forestry.

Only involvement of local communities in government programs will not be successful. Since household economy is inherently linked with women's participation in forestry, they should be empowered and supported. Government should formulate procedures to implement programs that depend upon indigenous knowledge, socio-political situation and ecological conditions of the region with legal protection specially ensuring security to local women. Women are the primary managers, sources of information and consumers in the use of natural resources. Women around the world have triple responsibilities i.e., for production, for reproduction at the household level, and for management of a range of activities at the community level. Various projects have been launched to assess the role of women in natural resources management for a number of years. It is observed that there are many problems in the effective role of women in Community Forestry such as lack of awareness, low literacy rate which ultimately affects the decision making role of women in Community Forestry. In this light, the current study addresses the following areas which may add the stake on its further way to develop the CF in Nepal.

In this regards it intends to address the role played by women in CF program with the magnitude of their contribution and man's role to enhance the role of women in forest resource utilization. Moreover it also explains the constraint and potentialities of women's role in Community Forest.

Since women are the real users and responsible for protection, management and utilization of forest products. Fundamentally, this research tried to assesses women's participation in community forestry management from various dimensions based on their existing socio-economic and cultural background. More specifically, this study had focused to seek answers of the following questions:

- What are the socio-cultural and economic features of the women users of Rani Community Forest?
- What are the roles played by women in the field of UC formation, Planning, Activities Finalization, harvesting 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.

- What are the rules and regulations the user have made for the management activities to their forest?
- Are women users involving equally in decision making, monitoring and evaluation and benefit sharing activities of the community forest?
- What are the motivating factors of women's involvement in community forest management?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to assess decision making role of women in community forestry. The specific objectives of the study are:

- To elaborate the socio-economic status of the respondents in CF
- To evaluate the characteristics of CFUG which influences the decision making role of women in CF
- To assess challenges and opportunities in decision making role of women in CF.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is required for the partial fulfillment for the Master degree in Sociology. The study is based on the scientific research methodology, procedure and logic which are its own rational. This study is a sociological study which tries to assess the decision making role of women through the identification of the roles of both sexes, equity and equality for men and women, women's subordination and mainstreaming at different level (men, women, community and household) which is more relevant to analyze role of women in decision making process in community forestry The use of theoretical perspective of sociology is one of the rational of the study.

This study has tried to explore the real situation of women's participation in CF activities and their role in decision making process o the basis of logical conclusion. The study could be helpful for raising women's participation in CF activities and decision making process. The findings of the study may also be useful to the planners, policy makers, researcher, students etc of this field equally in planning and implementation of the program.

As decision making process and women's role therein is important, unavoidable aspect and dynamic process along with community forestry development, the result were useful in social as well as forestry institution, FUGs and other stakeholders

The study also increases the knowledge about the importance of women's role in community forestry because they are

- Widely acknowledged as primary users of forest
- Heavily involved in household activities including collection of firewood from the forest (about 93% women), contributing about 66% of their time in collecting firewood energy, more engaged in day to day household activities.

1.5 Organization of the Study

The thesis is organized in five chapters. First chapter gives details on the introduction of the study. The chapter is divided into six sub-chapters: Background of the study, Statement of the problem, Objectives of the study, Rational of the study and organization and Conceptual framework. Second chapter is about the literature of review. This chapter is divided into theoretical and empirical review. Third chapter has described in details about Research Methods. It has explained about the research design, rational of the selection of the study area, unit of the study, the Universe and Sample, Nature and sources of data, Data collection tools and techniques, Data processing and analysis, Ethical consideration, Limitations of the study. Fourth chapter gives details about socio-demographic features of the study area and respondents at one hand and the details of findings of the study in another; fifth chapter is about the Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation. References are cited in last.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

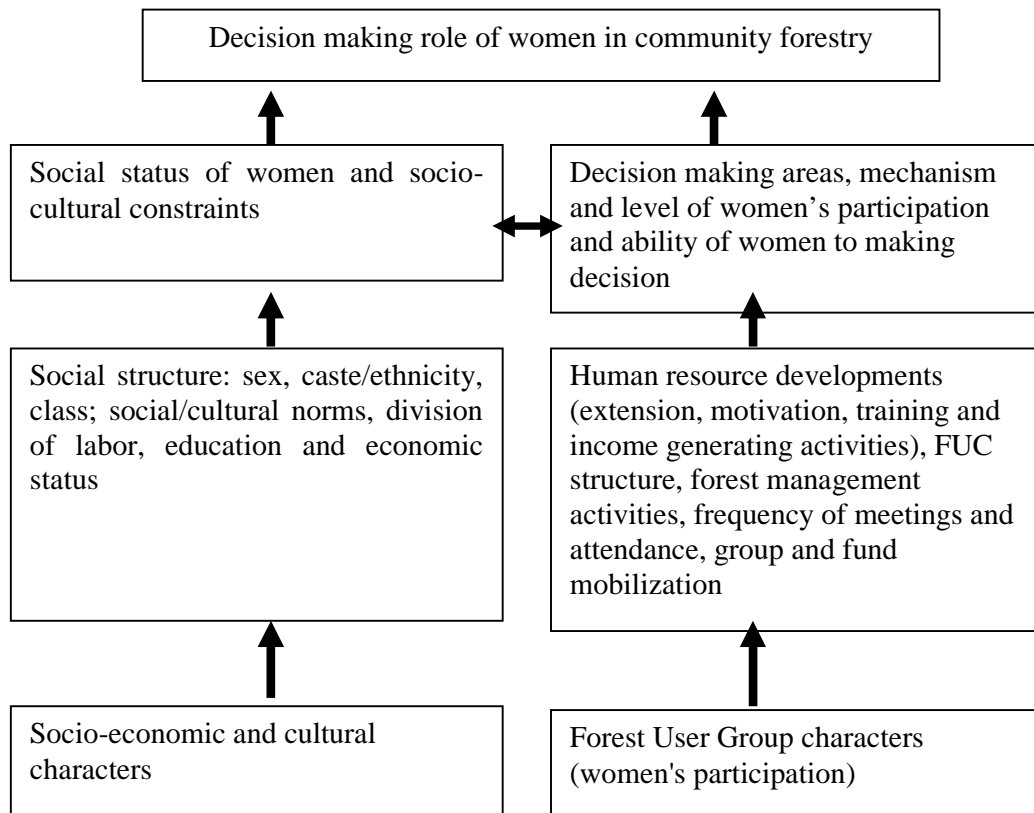
In this study, the decision making role of women in community forestry, the dependent variable heavily depend on two independent variable; Socio-economic and cultural characters of respondent and forest user group characteristics. Socio-economic and cultural characters of the respondents are well explained in terms of social structure like as sex, caste/ethnicity class, division of labor, education and economic status, socio-cultural norms and values that affects the women's

participation at CF activities at one hand and the socio-economic and educational status of women and socio-cultural constraints are also independent variable that affects decision making role of women in community forestry in another hand.

Another independent variable of the study is the characteristics of forest user group upon which decision making role of women depend on. Human resource developments (extension, motivation, training and income generating activities), FUC structure, forest management activities, frequency of meetings and attendance, group and fund mobilization are the factors of the variable at one hand and decision making areas, mechanism and level of women’s participation and ability of women to making decision are other factors of the variable which are not only being affected by the status of women and socio-economic constraints that but also affect the decision making role of women, the dependent variable.

So the study has tried to focus on the relationship of these two dependent and independent variable.

The following figure depicts the conceptual framework of decision making role of women in community forestry.



CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURES

In a research process, the review of literature begins with a search for a suitable topic and continues throughout the duration of the research project. Since a research aims to contribute new knowledge on a specific topic, it is essential to know what is already known on the related topic. In doing so, one can identify the research gaps which need to be bridged by new research efforts. It also helps to acknowledge the works previously done by the scholars. The fundamental assumption of the review in research is that no work is completely original. Keeping this view in mind, an attempt has been made to review the various relevant literatures on women's issues as well as empirical studies available on women's participation and management of community forestry. It then presents the conceptual framework of the present study developed based on the review of literatures and empirical studies.

2.1 Theoretical Review

This part of the study provides the insight on theoretical position of women's/gender studies. In this section, literature related to women's development in world arena is reviewed as well as the literature related to WID and GAD approach especially used for the study. Issues of social relations have been able to provide some space for use of these theoretical tools. Theoretical approach in the study helps to provide clear understanding of the issues in the sociological context.

2.1.1 Historical development of Women Concerns

Women's concerns began to be addressed to some extent with the formation of certain global institutions. The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1946 under the auspices of the United Nations as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. This commission's role was to create guidelines and to formulate actions to improve the situation of women in the economic, social, political, cultural and educational fields. In the early 1950s, the UN called on governments to stop discrimination against women on the basis of race, caste, sex, religion and language. The underlying emphasis of these concerns can be interpreted as being protective

towards the women. During the 1960s, there were feminists movement in North America and Western Europe, which was concerned with women's reproductive rights, violence against women, sex discrimination and freedom from sexual domination, etc. (Bhadra, 2001)

The protective concerns for the women of the 1960s began to be criticized in the 1970s. The seminal work done by Ester Boserup(1970), explored women's role in the productive sphere. In her *Women's role in Economic Development*, she examined the division of labor in African, Asian, Latin American countries- in the process of examining the works done by the women in these societies. She shows that women are involved in productive spheres and that they contribute to the national economy. She argues that these facts been largely ignored by development agencies. Boserup's study illustrated the negative effects of development interventions on women (Boserup, 1970).

The UN declared the decade from 1975 to 1985 as the Women's Decade. This period led to the birth of "Women in Development" (WID) approach. The term "Women in Development" was coined by the Women's Committee of the Chapter of the Society for International Development at Washington D.C. With the WID approach the focus shifted from the reproductive roles of women to the productive roles. The main argument of this approach was that development interventions, by focusing on men only, have resulted in the marginalizing women from the development arena. To overcome this, the WID approach argued for the need to target women. It is also emphasized women's access to services and technology. The policies and programs of WID were targeted towards solving the practical needs of the women and improving their conditions (Boserup, 1970).

The concept of WID came under the attack by feminists who argued that the problem of women was more of equity in development rather than integration with development. Subsequently, the term Women and Development (WAD) replaced the WID concept. With the WAD advocacy, policies were formulated based upon equity; emphasis was given to women's equal participation in development and improving the conditions of women (Bhadra, C.2001).

Since the late 1980s the acronym Gender and Development (GAD) has been gaining ground. One of the reasons for its popularity vis-à-vis the earlier acronyms are that it perceives the problem more historically and the policy recommendations that follow seek to address concerns that relate not only to women, but to men as well. Gender is a socio-cultural construct that has variation within culture and over time. GAD focuses on the roles of men and women because it is by analyzing the differences between the roles/relationships of men and women that discrepancy of men and women can be understood. Needless to say, the GAD approach focuses both on the productive and reproductive roles of women and tries to integrate men and women within the development process. GAD, it is argued tries to fulfill the strategic needs of women by empowering them and improving their position in society.

2.1.2 GAD and Community Forestry

Women in development (WID) approach are based on assumption that development proceeds much better if women were fully incorporated into development action. However, gender and development emphasize that to focus on women in isolation is inadequate 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 interventions that empower to improve their position relation to men are which will benefit and transform society as a whole. So, the approach adopted by the programme was a powerful tool for motivation tool to work for equity and respect potential contribution from all community members.

In Nepal, the global concerns of women have been reflected in different policies and programs of the government as well as of the NGOs and INGOs .The WID policy was mentioned in the Fifth Development Plan (1975-1980). The WID approach helped rural Nepali women to satisfy their practical needs to some extent. The WAD approach helped women to be economically independent by providing credit, and skill. The Ninth Five-Year Plan stipulated many GAD policies and programs by mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in different sectors (Pokhrel and Mishra, 2001). Community Forestry has been one of the key sectors where concrete steps taken have been taken for towards strengthening the role of women. 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.

Gender issue involving access to and control of resources is a social, not simply an economic process. Given a strong linkage between gender, literacy rate, poverty, and ecological decline, it is imperative to recognize the role of women in conservation and development activities. Nowhere is this more important than in the area of community organization and natural resource management. Community training and capacity building, primarily focused in women, are necessary prerequisites to local biodiversity conservation program.

The CF programme will focus on developing a field network of change agents (local activists) to organize the participation of women in forest management activities. The change agents are envisioned as local leaders (women and men) who were respected for their age, intelligence, skills and other personal qualities. Such agents were trained by programme and will act as local agents for promoting developments. They would support themselves by providing services to the local community in return for a small fee. Thus local activists are to be development facilitators who could lead, demonstrate and communicate innovations to improve the conditions of life and work in their settlements through the process of community mobilization.

Since gender issue aims at analyzing the position of women and men in society in order to identify their specific potentials and needs, women's empowerment in isolation of their male counterpart is not possible. So the gender analysis method was applied in planning, monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure the participation of men and women in accordance with their specific potentials and needs. Participation of women in natural resource management were promoted through sensitizing men to the role of women in CF (prepare sensitizing materials focusing on changing the attitude of elite and men toward women)

- Sensitizing men about women's drudgery and workload so that they can plan community interventions to coincide with less busy periods, supporting informal education such as adult literacy classes for males and females

- Identifying training needs for women and providing skill development training
- Safeguarding women's interest by supporting existing women's groups or forming new groups, which could facilitate the participation of women in CF activities
- Encouraging women's groups to save and provide credit to their members
- Extend message about the benefits of CF through support organizations and women's organizations.

Women's involvement in natural resource management was evaluated through the following indicators.

- Women's participation in resource management in terms of decision making, meetings, extension, motivation and local organization
- Women trainees and employment
- Change in literacy rate of women
- Change in women's income, expenditure & saving
- Change in time spent by women in firewood collection, domestic and farm activities.

2.2 Empirical Review

Empirical review refers to the review of precious literature. This part of the study helps to visualize the overall situation of women in Nepal as well as the status of the women in decision making process. It gives the scenario of women in Nepal and their status, level of participation. This section helps more to clarify the statement of the problem concerned with the study.

2.2.1 Natural Resources and Forestry in General

Forestry is the science, art, and business of sustainable managing our forests for all of the multiple uses and values required by society for its social, biophysical, and economic well-being (Lakehead 2008). Moreover, it is the science, art and practice of understanding, managing and using wisely the natural resources associated with, and derived from forest lands. These resources include timber, water, fish, wildlife, soil, plants, and recreation. The utilization of all of these resources is part of the cultural

heritage and modern resources management embraces these values. Forestry starts with trees—knowing how they grow and what part they play in the world as a whole. Forests affect how we live and provide many things we use, so it is important to take care of them, understand what they give us, and use them wisely.

Forestry is the science, art, and practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs, and values (SAF 2008). In simpler terms, the forestry profession focuses on caring for trees, soils, water, wildlife, and other forest benefits, both for now and for future generations. Forestry includes such diverse specialties as forest, wildlife and fisheries, pest, disease, and fire management; research and teaching; forest recreation, wilderness, and watershed management; agro- and urban forestry; policy and economics; communications; technology applications; genetics; and environmental degradation.

2.2.2 Social and Community Forestry

The term “social forestry” was first used by the Indian government in 1976 to describe forestry on village not forest reserve land. This reflects the widespread debate at the time over issues such as what the real objectives of social forestry activities were (or should have been) and what the outcomes were both in terms of stated objectives and unexpected results (ODI 2008).

Social forestry scheme can be categorized into groups: farm forestry, community forestry, extension forestry and agro-forestry (Edugreen, 2008).

Social forestry also aims at raising plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for timber, fuel wood, fodder, etc, thereby reducing the pressure on the traditional forest area. This concept of village forests to meet the needs of the rural people is not new. It has existed through the centuries all over the country but it was now given a new character.

With the introduction of this scheme the government formally recognized the local communities’ rights to forest resources, and is now encouraging rural participation in the management of natural resources. Through the social forestry scheme, the government has involved community participation, as part of a drive towards afforestation, and rehabilitating the degraded forest and common lands.

The "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" (Martel & Whyte 1992).

"Successful community forestry requires... genuine popular participation in decision-making... Experience has proven time and again that participation is more than a development cliché; 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" (Eckholm et al 1984).

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" (J. Evington 1992).

Community forestry, social forestry and rural development forestry are more or less equivalent and reflect Abraham Lincoln's view of democracy - government of the people, by the people, for the people"(J. Burley 2008).

The terms "social forestry", "community forestry" and "farm forestry" are frequently encountered and used interchangeably. Kirchhofer and mercer (1984), for example, define community forestry (social forestry at village level) and farm forestry (social forestry at household level) as subsystems of forestry at the regional and national levels.

Similarly, both "social forestry" and "community forestry" can be used interchangeably if it refers to a social oriented forestry practice or project at the village level. In this regard, Palit (1996: 12) defined social forestry as:

‘Any activity (such as the purposive growing of trees, certain techniques in crop production soil conservation, improved use of wild forest products) of a social group

which has as its ultimate effect a movement of that group while at the same time lessening the pressure which that population is applying to the resources of the natural forest through a more efficient and more intensive use of land'.

2.3 Community Forestry in Nepal

In 1978, the government, recognizing the rapid depletion and deterioration of the country's forest resources and the Forest Department's limited capacity to handle the problem alone, introduced community forestry policy to seek local communities' cooperation in the sustainable management and use of the country's forest resources. The policy puts control of forests in the hands of the users of the resource, with the role of the Forest Department staff shifting from that of manager and controller of forests (policing) to that of adviser for forest users (HMGN 1989).

Community forestry is most accurately and usefully understood as an umbrella term denoting a wide range of activities which link rural people with forests, trees, and the products and benefits to be derived from them. 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 community forestry 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 community forestry approach used to be defined and interpreted in Nepal up until late 70s, suggests that community forestry implies 'community-resource' relations, commonly known as 'indigenous system of forest management' (Fisher 1989), which was widespread in Nepal's hills. During 80s and beginning of 90s, nevertheless community forestry was further conceptualized and internalized, new policy framework was crafted (HMGN, 1988), legal instruments have been in place (HMGN 1995), various processes, methods and tools have been developed, modified, re-modified and experience gained. During this period, community forestry 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.

In the late 90s, with the changing political and policy context, community forestry is being understood and conceptualized in terms of stakeholders relationship because there has not only been increasing trend of FUGs, tremendous number and types of stakeholders and service providing agencies and organizations, with diverse interests and influence have emerged and grown. The pattern of interactions among these agencies with FUGs and government organizations in fact influence each other's action, their own governance system, gender equity issues, and ultimately to the way how resource is managed and utilized, how the management plans, strategies and programmes are designed and implemented, how negotiation takes place and conflicts are resolved for effective forest management in order to achieve the desired outcomes at people's livelihoods and resource condition level. This is the context within which community forestry in Nepal is growing and always progressing. It is not like as it was in the past and it will not be in the future as it is now, therefore community forestry should be defined, redefined and understood in a dynamic way.

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 Community Forest User Group (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.

In 1978 the Community Forestry Development Program (CFDP) introduced the concepts of Panchayat Forestry (PF) and Panchayat Protected Forestry (PPF) with the purpose of handing back for protection and management of the forest to the people. In the 1980s, decentralization regulations were introduced in the forestry sector to establish and foster local people and local organizations, participation in the management and development of PF and PPF. In 1990 at the end of Nepal's Panchayat System of government brought a change in the status of PF and PPF. Today, the term

community forestry is used to refer to any forest under user group protection and management (Chhetri and Pandey 1992).

Community forestry has received high priority in the forestry sector program to the government as reflected in both the master plan for the forestry sector HMG, 1988 and the eight five year plan (NPC, 1992). The main thrust of the community forestry policy of the government is the phased transfer of management and utilizations of community forest to the actual users based on simple operational plans which are prepared and endorsed jointly by the forest user and the assistant ranger from the district forest office. Assistant rangers are supposed to apply the rules, schedule and other institutional arrangements made for forest production management and utilization (Adhikari 2001).

Before 1957 there were no strict rules and regulation for the protection and use of the forest. The government paid no attention to develop the forest and allowed forest use to continue at higher rate, forest rehabilitation was simply ignored, so rapid deforestation has been seated serious problem e.g. floods, landslides, water security, decreased agriculture and livestock productivity etc. Generally the factors responsible for deforestations increased demand of forest and forest products due to population growth, clearance of the forest to increase the agricultural land and grazing livestock in the forest.

To solve the increasing problem of deforestation, in 1957 the government nationalized all forest to prevent the destruction of national wealth to nationalize private forests for their adequate protection (Regmi 1978). Unfortunately, the government was not prepared to assume the technical and administrative responsibilities of forest ownership. Villagers reacted negatively to nationalization, believing that their traditional rights of access and use had been curtailed. As a result, local responsibility for forest protection disappeared whereas previously these had been communal responsibility for managing the forest, but after nationalization, no one took responsibility of managing the forest. Moreover, because there were no land records, villagers had a strong incentive to destroy the forest, so that the land could be claimed as private property after it was cleared and cultivated, as a result of inadequate government control and adverse local section to nationalization, Nepal's forests effectively became common property (Dankelman 1989).

The forestry Act of 1961 and its subsequent amendment and rules became the basic law governing forest administration in Nepal. Likewise the forestry act and the forestry protection Act 1967 attempted to establish empowering community to protect and manage the forest. Community and till leasehold forestry are at present the most important aspect of forestry development in Nepal.

2.4 Women's Participation in Community Forestry Management

In the Asian countries women (more than men) spend a significant portion of their time in forest related activities such as farming, collection of fuel wood and fodder, grazing animals, fetching water and cooking. Several studies conducted in different parts of country so that this is also case of Nepal and such studies stress the need to involve women in forest management so that the community itself can protect and develop local forest resources successfully (New ERA 1983).

Women's participation will help the forest first & the women second. Women will have to give forestry before forestry gives to them Siddiqi (1989). He writes that it is essential to involve women in developing and implementing workable management plans, there has to be a targeted effort to draw them in. Because of the nature of Nepalese society and positions of men women in it, other strategies may be unworkable, e.g.; the attempt by the Nepal Australia Forestry Project to integrate women into existing organizations rather than organize a separate structure for them, which proved to be unworkable.

Women have worked successfully in both mixed and all female forestry committees in rural Nepal. Men and women and professional foresters now generally agree that women are capable of committee management. She argues that women's membership of forestry committees be promoted, primarily through extension activities (Inserra 1988).

Box 1 The Chipko Movement for Forest Protection

The Chipko movement was against add official forestry policies of government and mainly concerned with local employment. Initially, Chipko workers were both men and women. Later, more women joined the movement when they realized that the recurring floods and landslides from which they were suffering by deforestation. When the forest department announced auction of 2500 trees in the Reni forests was overlooking the Alak Nanda Rivers, which has already flooded disastrously then women started to embrace trees to prevent them being felled from the company that won the auction. They physically prevented the tree, felling and thus forced the Uttar Pradesh Government to investigate. Two years later, the government placed a 10 years ban an all tree felling in the area. After that women prevented felling in many other forests all along the Himalayas. They have also set up cooperatives to guard local forests, and to organized fodder production at rates that will no harm the trees. Within the Chipko movement, women have joined in land rotation schemes for fodder collection, helped replant degraded land and established and run nurseries stocked with species the select (Borg, BVD 1989).

Women's participation in a programme also depends on how they perceive the benefits accruing from it. Castillo puts people's participation depends on how effective a programme is in fulfilling the interest of the people. Generally, speaking the higher the prospect of benefits from a development programme, the greater will be participation in its activities (Cohen and Up Hoff 1977).

Hoskins (1981), argues that the in which programme's benefits are shared out is also a major factor affecting in participation. It proved that, the higher prospect of equitable benefit sharing, the greater the chances of women's participation. Further, he argues that women's expertise in forest related activities in generally unnoticed by the concerned agencies and as a result, programme cannot achieve their commitments.

A study conducted in the mid-western development region of Nepal by Panday (1997) shows that representation of women in the EC was nil in seven FUGs and found to be only marginal in others except all-women group. Similarly Adhikari (2001) concludes in his study that CF is as a successful NRM initiative with the management of CFUGs. Management of forest resources through the involvement of resource users

has been realized increasingly as a better strategy for protection, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in the hills. It is clearly demonstrated that women due to their interaction with the natural resources have developed vast indigenous knowledge, skill and technology regarding the conservation, protection, use and management of those resources. From gender prospective, involvement and participation of women in the planning and decision making forum of CF programme were found to be minimal. CF programme can not be as expected if a present trend of women's low participation continues.

Regarding women's participation, data (HMG/DoF 2003) shows that currently 613(4.85%) FUGs are handling by all women group. Similarly, 33567(21.5%) women are working as EC member in different FUGs. The number of formation of all women CFUGs is higher (97 CFUGs) in FY 053/54 and higher in percentage (9.0%) in FY 058/59. Despite the gradual decreasing in number the percentage of formation of all women FUG is optimistically increasing in recent years. As women's strenuous work carried out in other countries, Nepalese women have shown equal concern on forest resource and environmental management. For example, Women handled CFUGs named Malati of Saptari district showed capability and the won award Ganesh Man Singh Van Samrakchan Puraskar, by conserving the CF efficiently(Gautum,2059). Increasing trend of women member in EC and winning reputed award by all women group indicates women's capability that they can manage any forestry programme they offered.

In rural areas, Indigenous women have much knowledge about forest resources such as fuel wood, fodder and medicinal herbs because women are the main collectors of these products. They have an indigenous knowledge about forest resources and its efficient use. Indigenous Women exploit several different forests and numerous areas within the forests. They travel from low hills to high forests as far as six hours walk above their village. During spring and autumn Indigenous women go to the lower forests, visiting higher forests in the winter, not only to collect firewood, fodder, food and herbs- which are almost solely a women's responsibility, but also to cut nigalo, the bamboo group, for men in the village to work with. Thus, rural indigenous women have the knowledge of identification of species, knew species name, its uses,

geographic location, reasonability and availability and conservation of the natural resources (Shrepa 2004).

The importance of women in the collection of forest produce is borne by data from almost every country in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. For instance, in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan, women and children collect 78 percent of morels (Iqbal 1991). While women and children are the dominant players in collection and drying, men (53 percent) play a much more active role in the sale of morels. Similarly, women and children collect 90 percent of medicinal herbs and do 100 percent of the drying. Sale of medicinal herbs, disaggregated by gender, shows that 71 percent of the selling is done by women and children, and 29 percent by men (Iqbal 1991).

Similarly, in West Bengal, India, tribal women gather *Sal* leaves for six months of the year to supplement household income (Poffenberger 1990, Rajan 1995). In India, collection of *tendu* leaf (used for manufacturing *bidi*) generates part time employment for 7.5 million people and they are predominantly tribal women (Arnold 1995). Women in Uttar Pradesh, India derive a substantial proportion of their income from forests and common lands; poor women derive 45 percent of their income from forest and common land compared to 13 percent for men (FAO 1991).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter describes the research, methods design and procedures used to carry out the present study. It firstly introduces the research design of the study followed by an outlines of its population and the sample. It then describes the data collection methods and procedures. Finally, data analysis procedures are described.

3.1 Site Selection and Its Rational

Community forestry has been very successful in the central Inner Terai among other regions of Nepal. The study related to community forestry was more beneficial for the further considerations of the program in the central Inner Terai. Among 318 CFUG, Rani CFUG from Makawanpur district was selected to the study. Other rationales for the study area selection are as following.

- The district represents, more or less, socio-economic and biophysical condition of the central inner terai.
- It is home district of the researcher so, he better knows about socio-cultural, economic situation of the district. Further the study cost as minimum as the student can sustain.
- The place is accessible so that the researcher can frequently visit the study area as per he needs.
- The place is relevant in the sense that the researcher can select appropriate respondents for his study.
- Such type of study had not been carried out in the district before.

3.2 Research Design

Exploratory and descriptive research designs were both applied in the study. The exploratory research design was applied to explore the issues concerned with the decision making role of women in community forestry management activities. Descriptive research design was used to describe the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of the respondents.

3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedure

Overall 318 community forest user groups existing in the district were taken as the universe for the selection of CFUG. Stratified random sampling was used for the selection of CFUG to meet the purpose of the study. After consultation with District Forest Office (DFO) staff and analysis of CFUG records in DFO, a list of CFUG were prepared with the following consideration of location, heterogeneous users, accessibility of the area.

Then the Rani Community Forest was selected randomly for the study. Among 708 Households (Universe), fifteen percent (15%) respondents numerically 105 households were taken as sample for the study again by using simple random sampling as subject matter from total household of selected FUG.

The unit of the study in this research is the individual household of the selected FUG. Information related to women's role in decision making process and participation was collected from the sampled units of the FUG. Both male and female respondents were taken as unit in the study.

3.4 Nature and Sources of the Data

In this study, both the primary and secondary sources of data were used. The primary data were collected from interview schedule, observation, case study, key-informant interview. Similarly secondary data were collected from reports, books, magazine, published-unpublished documents, thesis etc. Both primary and secondary data are qualitative and quantitative in its nature.

3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

In order to carry out any research and draw reliable and meaningful conclusion, it is very much essential that the methods and techniques of data collection must be precise and accurate. Different techniques such as questionnaire and interview are used for the collection of necessary information. A mixed questionnaire is used for gathering socio-economic characteristic of data. Interview and informal interaction was the best technique to assess the unseen facts of the respondents easily. These specific techniques were used as per the convenience of the researcher for collecting different types of data.

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

The Interview technique is a verbal method of securing data especially in the social field of research. It is the direct method of inquiry (data collection). The respondent is requested to provide information in the form of facts, attitude and opinion about the concerned matter. Interview is taken with well structured questions. The questions were developed in both forms i.e. open- ended and close-ended to gather all the expected and unexpected information related to the topic. The interview is taken from the selected respondents of every level of job so as to analyze their situation properly. This technique is suitable to generate the fact data from the respondent directly.

3.5.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a list of questions prepared and distributed to secure response to certain questions. It is a device for securing answers to questions by using a form, which the respondent fills by herself. The data is collected using the structured mixed form of questions so that it can be easily quantified for the study. A questionnaire technique is suitable in doing the survey when the respondents are educated. The most of the respondents are literate so this method is applied in this study. This technique is better to generate the fact which respondent hesitate to give on direct interview.

3.6 Reliability and Validity of the Data

Since data are the fundamentals of a research, a great attention were given to the reliability and validity of the collected data. To test the reliability and validity of the data methods, literature, process, presentation, and verification were checked by Cross Analysis, test-retest method, alternative or parallel form method, triangulation, concurrent validity and logical validation method.

3.7 Operational Definition and Measurements of Selected Concepts/Variables

Community forestry

Community forestry is the activity, which is managed through the direct popular participation of local people in various activities related to forest.

Community Forest

Part of the national forest which, the District Forest Officer hands over to the user group 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 benefit and welfare.

Forest User Group

Forest user group embodies of an organized or clearly defined group of users for a particular piece of forest who uses forest resources and who are regarded as having legitimate right to do so by other users.

Operational Plan

A plan prepared by the FUG with the help of forestry technician that consists of detailed activities to be carried out in the CF for certain periods usually five years or more.

Women Community Forest User Group

The community forest user group that has its entire executive committee composed of women members.

Decision making process

A logical and psychological process determining the best course of action from among the alternatives.

Participation

People's participation requires organizing community, empowering them for contributing collective actions to achieve a common goal.

3.8 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

A huge mass of data were collected during the study. To handle it conveniently collected raw data were first processed in a computer by means of coding, sorting, grouping, frequency distribution and tabulation After verification and explanation both qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed with appropriate statistical tools

accordingly and presented. The statistical tools that were used to analyze the data include classification, ranking, percentage, central tendency, diagrams and correlation. The valuable points, issues, statements were picked up from the qualitative data to supplement and complement other data sources to draw conclusions and recommendations.

3.9 Limitation of the Study

The study was limited to the single group of district of central inner Terai of Nepal, which therefore, may not reflect the decision making role of women in other physiographic regions. The study was based on the information gathered during the field survey, which needs further verification. This study aims at assessing the decision making role of women in community forestry in Makawanpur district. However, it has been supposed to represent the central inner Terai of the country. It was a micro study which attempts to explore the decision making role of women in the FUGs of certain area. So, it cannot comprehend the macro view of the subject matter because women's role is vague in CF and this study reflects some of the variables of FUG and socio economy. The study has methodological limitations in selecting research design, data collection tools/techniques, sampling and statistical tools. Limited variables, time bound, error in sampling are remarkable limitation of the study.

3.10 Ethical Consideration:

In this study some ethical norms and values are used which guide for unbiasedness during the study period. Such as:

1. In this study there is not mentioned any respondents personal/private relation and secrete thing which affects their lives.
2. Respondents or key informants were explained the purpose and objectives of the study-clearly and in an understandable ways. This study didn't try to raise any expectation and false information assurance.
3. The person refusing to participate were respected and better tried to motivate them to participate and never try to pressure.
4. No any data/information were exploited or manipulated during study period. Data and information were used in a scientific way.

CHAPTER FOUR

DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Women's decision making role in Community forestry has been noticed through three activities such as development, protection and management of the Community Forestry. In this study area women are found actively playing roles in the above mentioned activities which are further elaborated below.

4.1 CONTOURS OF THE STUDY AREA

Location, Boundaries, and Physiography of the Rani CFUG

The Rani CF is situated under Hetauda Municipality Ward No.6 of Makawanpur district. It is located about 6 km east from Hetauda city and occupies an area of 151.87 ha. The forest lies in the southern aspect of a small hill. The boundaries are Chuchhekhola CF in the East, Neureni CF in the West, Makranchuli (Gadhi VDC 6 and 8) in the North, Registered private lands of Chaughada Bazzar in the South.

Physiographically, the area lies in the foothills of Mahabharat range, which have generally easy gradients. It is characterized by its situation between Hetauda dun valley in the south with Churiya and Mahabharat range in the north. The CF occupies the Siwalik terrain range extending from east to west.

Table 1: Main Characteristics of the Rani CFUG

Main Characteristics	Rani CFUG
Location	Hetauda Municipality-6
CFUG Committee member	11
Male in FUGC	8
Female in FUGC	3
CF Handover (year) by	B.S.2050
CF area (ha)	151.87 ha
No of Blocks	7
Forest Type	Natural mixed sal stand
Dominant Spp.	Shorea robusta
Main associate Spp	Saj, Chilaune, Harro, Barro Sandan etc
Forest Stage	Pole stage ,Mature
Forest protection to be adopted	By whole FUG, HH ,Watcher
Silviculture operation to be conducted	Thinning, Pruning, singling, Climber cutting etc
Regd No	02, 2050/09/22
FUG Registered	2045/04/06
Households	708
Total Population	4025
Male Population	2132
Female Population	1893
Dalit, Janajati	1537
Goat Sheep Khasi Boka	1151
Cow Buffalo ox	746
Code	Mak/27/HE/02
Committee Chairperson	Balaram Adhikari

(Source: CFUG records of Rani CFUG and Piplepokhara CFUG)

Table 1 has outlined the basic information about the studied FUGs such as location and area of the community forests, number of beneficiary households, date of handed over and duration, forest types and major species, number of committee members

collected with the commencement of the study. The ratio of forest area to the household numbers is heterogeneous and varies greatly from each other.

4.2 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Acquired primary and secondary data have assisted in the preparation of this section of the report. The socio-economic characteristics of individuals have found to have influences on the dependency over forest resources, attitude and level of participation towards conservation and the activities of the FUG. Therefore, this section deals with the socio-economic details of the respondents.

4.2.1 Age

Age, a biological factor contributes to social differentiation. It distributes privileges and responsibilities, rights and duties, in terms of separate status (Rao, 2005). Age structure is crucial demographic data in examining population characteristics. These demographic variables have direct implications for several issues related socio-economic aspects of population such as trend of population increase, labor force and female population in the reproductive age. Therefore, any socio-economic development planning should consider the age structure of the population. The following table shows the age structure of the respondents:

Table: 2 Distributions of Respondents by Age-Sex Ratio

S. No	Age Groups	Male	Male (%)	Female	Female (%)	Total Respondents (Male + Female)	Percentage
1	20-40	26	45.6	25	52	51	48
2	40-60	23	39.5	20	42	43	41
3	Above 60	8	15	3	6	11	11
Total		57	100	48	100	105	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The given table showed that the ages of the respondents were divided into 3 categories. Age group 20-40 is found to be highest that is in total 48%. Similarly, 41% respondents lied in the age group of 40-60 years and 11% were of above 60 years age.

The majority of the respondents were from economically active age group. People in this age group vital role in his/her life as well as the country's development.

The age of the respondents included in the sample ranged from 24 to 71 yrs. The majority of the respondents belonged to the age group 20-40. This shows that the respondents are matured and can have influential role in conservation and activities initiated by the CFUG.

4.2.2 Religion

“Religion is the beliefs in the supernatural forces have some influences or control upon world.....the supernatural” (Haralambos, 2004). Malinowski's has argued that religion promotes social solidarity by dealing with the situation of emotional stress, which threaten the stability of society (Haralambos, 2004)

“Religion refers to the existence of supernatural beings which have a governing effect on life” (Rao, 2005) Religion regulates the activities of people in own way. It is major component of demography as it has strong effect on people's lives of the country. Religion is one of the important factors / elements of any society – which maintain law and order in society. It also regulates behavior, thinking and working. The following table shows the religious structure of the respondents.

Table: 3 Distributions of Respondents by Religion

S.N	Religion	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Hindu	86	82
2	Buddhist	18	17
3	Islam	1	1
Total		105	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that the most of the respondents are Hindus up to 82% of the respondents are Hindu religion. 17% are Buddhist and 1% is Muslim. The respondents following islam is minority.

Nepal is a multi-religious country. The majority of population according to CBS 2001 is Hindus i.e. 80.62% in Nepal. Religion plays a vital role in people's daily lives as well as perception towards public relation too. There is an influence of Hinduism in

Nepalese politico-socio-economic system. The Hindu philosophy also seems to hindering the participation of women in decision making process and CF activities.

4.2.3 Ethnicity /Caste

Caste/Ethnicity is the identification of a person. This makes one group distinct from other. Most of the social codes are established according to culture of caste/ethnic group. Caste represents any of the hereditary Hindu social classes.

The Caste is mainly based on the social system under rigid distinction birth, rank, wealth etc. Ethnic group is group that is socially differentiated has developed its own sub culture and has ‘a shared feeling of people hood’. Caste/Ethnicity is the identification of a person in society. This makes one group distinct from other. Most of the social codes are established according to culture of caste/ethnic group.

Table: 4 Distribution of the Respondents by Caste/Ethnic Groups

S.N	Caste/Ethnicity	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Brahmin	41	39
2	Chhetri	32	30
3	Ethnic Group	24	23
4	Dalits	8	8
Total		105	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Above table shows that, 41 respondents (39%) respondents are Brahmins, Chhetri and Ethnic group (Newar, Tamang, Magar etc) are 30% and 23% respectively. After Brahmin, Chhetris are in majority followed by Ethnic groups and only 8% are categorized as Dalits (Kami, Damai etc) who are less in number.

The Caste system is the main characteristics of Hindu society. Nepal is a country dominated by Hindu society. Stratification by caste is very common in our country. Brahmin ranks gigher position in the Hindu society. Brahmin/Chhetris have control over most of the sectors of the nation. The table shows that dominants group is Brahmin in decision making process. This also signifies that the Brahmin Philosophy affects the decision making process of community forestry and women’s participation in CF activities.

The caste and ethnic groups have been represented in the executive committees of FUG proportionately. There is no weakness left by the FUG to represent its ethnic groups and area (Bhek) in the executive committees. Similarly females represent all the FUCs so far and it may be a formality because they were found to have inactive participation due to minority. There were majority of the respondents belonged to non-dalits and non ethnic groups and minority of the dalits.

4.2.4 Gender of the Respondents

The household survey for the study was conducted as per the predetermined research design, which revealed the male/female ratio of the respondents as 54.3% and 45.7%. In women FUGs, all respondents were females for formal interview but other females and males were included in informal discussions, group discussions and as key informants.

The sampling units in Rani CFUG included almost equal percentage of male and female to reflect the perception and level of participation of the both gender towards different activities and decision making process.

4.2.5 Marital Status

Marriage is a legal sanction given by a particular society to the individual man and woman to have sexual relation and produce children for the continuation of future generation (Luitel, 2008). The following table shows the marital status of the respondents:

Table: 5 Distributions of the Respondents by Marital Status

S.N	Marital Status	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Unmarried	40	38
2	Married	58	53
3	Widow	5	5
4	Divorce/ Separated	2	4
Total		105	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The table shows that 38% of the respondents are unmarried, 53% of the respondents are married, 5 of the respondents (5%) are widow and 2 of them (4%) are separated.

Marriage in a patriarchal value system has provided women a subordinate position. After marriage woman loses her identity by birth and becomes fully dependent to her husband and in-laws. With marriage and subsequent transfer to her husband's lineage, a woman's formal status undergoes an abrupt decline. The daughter-in-law supposed to do all the domestic works perfectly and is most obedient to all (Bennet, 1983). Thus marriage in Hindu society has given 'Triple Burden' to the women. The unmarried girls have more freedom than married, widow or divorce women.

4.2.6 Family Structure

Family is the key institution in society, consisting of one more women living with one more men and their children. The family in some form is part of the social organization in all societies. It is sometimes called the most basic of all social institutions. The family is considered so important to individual and society because it responds to some of the most fundamental human needs, both individual and collective. Ideally, the family offers warmth loyalty, concern, willingness to sacrifice for the good of others and unconditional love.

Analysis of Family structure of the respondents is important as it is the basic social institution of human being that provides the first identify to the individual in the society and it influences all aspects of one's life. It is the most elementary form of the society. The following table shows the family structure of the respondents:

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by Family Size and Structure

Family Size	Frequency	Percentage
Small (up to 4 members)	16	15
Medium (5-8 members)	63	60
Large (9-12 members)	18	17
Very Large (above 12 members)	8	8
Total	105	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The family size less than 4 members regarded as small sized family where as more than 12 as very large sized. In the CFUG, the majority of the respondents (60%) had a medium size family (5-8) members followed by large sized family (17.14%) as shown

in (Table 6). In the CFUG most ethnic and Dalits respondents had a larger family size where as Brahmin and Chhetri respondents had a small family size.

Increment of nuclear family in urban areas is very common now a day and even rural societies are not far from this trend. Women in nuclear family are more autonomous. They enjoy the freedom in family affairs. Similarly women in joint family have to accept dominance of her husband and in-laws. They enjoy less freedom in family affairs and have less chance of development. Moreover, the family size plays a vital role in the level of participation in CF activities and decision making process as well as demand over the available resources.

4.2.7 Household Composition

The study was successfully carried out among 105 households leaded by medium sized family and male domination was observed. The study signified that the family size that primarily affects the ability of women to participate in off household activities has hereby indicated two controversial situations. First, even small family sometimes lessens the participation of a woman in FUG activities because of unavailability of helper to assist her daily basic household works. In contrast, an interested woman of a large family could have got ample opportunities to participate as she has many helpers to carryout the household works in her absence. Here it can be said against proponent of small family that the differences of women's participation and motivation in CF activities among the FUGs is not merely due to large family size.

4.2.8 Education:

Knowledge-including information, attitude and skills- is one the fundamental capabilities a person need to make sense of one-self and of the world one lives in. It helps one to re-learn, re-assesses, re-act, and to change oneself and one's world. Knowledge is analogously fundamental to the functioning of the society. One of the important social objectives of education is to equalize the opportunity, enabling the backward or underprivileged classes and individuals to use education as a lever for the improvement of their condition. In addition; education plays a vital role in socio-economic development and empowerment. It is an important component of human

resource development and plays a vital role in transformation of society .The following table shows the Educational Status of the respondents.

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status

Educational Status	No of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	36	34
Literate	51	49
Above SLC	18	17
Total	105	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that most of the respondents of the study are literate. 49% of the respondents are literate. Here literate refers to the all those who have the education below SLC as well as those who haven't got the formal education and just to read and write. 17% of respondents have passed SLC and doubled of it 34% of them are noted that they illiterate

One of the key determinants in empowering women is education. Empowerment basically means a process through which people acquire more influence over factors that shape their lives and their participation on community activities and decision making process (Date, 2004). Women have less influence over factors that is because of low literacy rate as well as lack of technical education to women.

Educational status of the members in Rani FUG is not so poor but much of the women respondent are illiterate but able to sign only after because of adult literacy program run by various agencies like Women Development Office, District Educational Office, and Nepal Red Cross Society. Though illiterate, some experienced women are more forward to discuss and convince others but virtually it was found that literate women rather hesitate to speak than illiterate and experienced age-old women do. Further younger women seemed to be very shy and withdrawal.

Again, unmarried women or girls used to represent rarely in FUC and other ad hoc committees or in frontline position in many activities. However the overall figure of

educational status of FUG members has showed (Table: 7) as 34.29% illiterate, 48.57% literate and 17.14% educated.

4.2.9 Occupation:

Occupation is the job where human are engaged. The word occupation is used mostly to refer to the specialized and established kind of work. It refers to some kind of work with which an individual becomes completely engaged. It denotes the habitual employment, profession, craft or trade of an individual. It takes up his much of time and attention. In modern connotations it means an instrument of livelihood. It is usually associated with one or the other kind of organization; agriculture, industry, governmental organization, etc. People pursue one occupation or other in order to eke out their livelihood. It has become an essential factor of modern economic life. The following table shows the occupational status of the respondents.

Table 8: Occupational Status of the Respondents

Occupational status	Rani CFUG	
	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	53	50.48
Job Holder	18	17.14
Business	29	27.62
Others	5	4.76
Total	105	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table displays the occupational status of the respondents. It showed that 50.48 % of the respondents were found to be engaged in agriculture followed by business 27.62%, job holder 17.14% and 4.76 % are categorized as others.

Occupation of respondents in Rani CFUG is primarily agriculture, which is basically associated with more or less crop production, cattle raising or animal husbandry. Livelihood of the people is largely covered by agriculture. Due to availability of the market and professional mind, fertile land for agricultural crop production, people are found to be motivated toward professional agriculture. . In this

FUG, both agriculture and cattle raising are common among the users though some others are engaged in other professions like shop keeping. The shopkeepers have been served as key contact persons and informants for both the FUG and outsiders. Users could not clearly state about their earnings, they also hesitated to describe annual savings or credit/debt, however almost all have been maintaining their annual account balanced and few have balanced that bi- or tri-annually .

4.2.10 Monthly Household Income

Income is the means for the achievement and functioning of human capability (Human Development Report, 1998). In addition to women’s income, other members of their family also earn money which helps to run their family life smoothly. Total income can be considered as a short term component of household wealth. The total income variable was defined directly from the survey data as the sum of income from all the members of the family. The following table shows the monthly income of the respondents.

Table 12: Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Household Income

Description	Percentage
<10000	28
10000-15000	35
15000-20000	17
20000-25000	10
>25000	10
Total	100.00

Source: Field Visit, 2068

The above table shows the monthly income of the respondents. It shows that the household incomes of the respondents were ranged from less than 10,000 to over 25,000 per month. However, the income of the majority (35%) of household lied between. Rs 10,000-15,000 whereas 28%, 17%, 10% of respondents reported of earning below Rs 10,000; Rs.15,000 to Rs. 20,000; Rs 20,000- Rs 25,000 and above Rs 25,000 respectively.

There is average expenditure of Rs. 5000-8000 per month for a family of six members studying 2 to 3 children in school. But when there are children studying above school level, the amount exceeds much. For sources of income, all the FUG members are involved in agriculture solely or partly and since agriculture is directly connected with animal husbandry, more or less cattle rising, poultry and fish farming is common among users. Despite, some women are engaged in teaching and small-scale shop keeping whereas males are either in domestic job or in foreign services. Few age-old ex-armies were found to be active in community forestry in Rani CFUG where a lot of individuals are concerned with armed service as the FUG has vast majority of Brahman and chhetri caste.

Household income is also the major factor to determine the life standard of the people and women's involvement in Community Forestry activities. Monthly household income determines the situation of the women's economic status. It is also seen that the women from higher monthly income found to be involved in decision making process and CF activities more than lower income.

4.2.11 Land holding:

Land as an economic means consists of ordering and organization of human relations and human effort in order to procure as many of the necessities of day to day life as possible with the expenditure of minimum effort. Land provides maximum satisfaction possible through adapting limited means to unlimited ends (needs) in an organized manner.

The occupational pattern indicates that majority of the respondents are depended on agriculture. Therefore, the size of farming land and land ownership are the main indicators of economic status. The possession of land is greatly valued, among the Users of Rani CFUG. It is valued not simply as a factor of production but as continuous source of income and security. On the other hand it is an index of social status and prestige. The following table indicates the land holding structure of the respondents.

Table 10: Distribution of the Respondents by Land Holding Characteristics

S.No	Land (katha)	Number of Household	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	0-5	35	33.33
2	6-10	29	27.62
3	11-15	24	22.86
4	16-20	11	10.48
5	>20	6	5.71
Total		105	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table depicts that the majority of the respondents (33.33%) owned up to 5 *katha* land followed by 27.62% respondents had 6 to 10 *katha* land and minority of the respondents owned more than 20 *katha* land. In this way, there is no satisfactory size of land holdings in Rani CFUG. It illustrates that majority of the respondents were small size land holding farmer.

4.2.12 Food Sufficiency in Study Area:

Food is essential factor for all living being Man work for getting food through different works but unfortunately all human being couldn't get food sufficiently accordance with their labor and investment and possessed variation in sufficiency The level of food production and consumption determines the poverty of people and nation. During the study period, it was tried to find out whether the annual production of food grains was sufficient to meet daily requirement for one year. The farming lands are dividing and going in small pieces where as the population is growing rapidly. In this section it is tried to show the level of food sufficiency from own agricultural production.

Table 11: Distribution of the Respondents by Food Sufficiency Characteristics

S.No	Food Sufficiency (In Months)	Number of Household	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Up to 4 Months	11	10.48
2	4 to 8 Months	33	31.43
3	More than 8 Months	61	58.10
	Total	105	100

Source: Field Visit, 2068

The mention table explains that in Rani CFUG, the majority of the respondents (58.10%) had food sufficiency more than 8 months followed by 31.43% respondents for 4-8 months and minority of the respondents (10.48%) for up to 4 months. It was also observed the food deficient households compensating their needs by earning from wage labor, agro labor, borrowing and credit purchased. Whatever they produce in the field can just support their food problem. Therefore, agriculture has no direct economic value except for subsistence.

The level of food sufficiency also affects the level of women's participation in community forestry development activities. The women belonged to food deficient group had to spend their more time for acquiring food grain just to meet their daily needs and also found that such women had to involve in production and reproduction activities rather than community work. So, such women are always backing in decision making process. So there is relation between food and decision making process.

4.3 Women Participation in Community Forestry

4.3.1 Women's Participation in Community Forest Management

Women's participation in many activities of Community Forest as during the formation of forest user's group committee, selection of leader and Community Forest sites, planting seedlings and protection is very important. However, nature of women's participation in Community Forest management is given in the following table.

Table 12: Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management

Sex	Participation		Total (Percentage)
	Community FUG Committee	General Membership	
Female (Percentage)	30	33	37
Male (Percentage)	70	57	63
Total Members	11	113	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that a total of 37% women participate in two categories of Community Forest related activities, such as involvement in executive committee member and general membership. Within the composition of the committee, 30% of women’s consensus is honored. Information is communicated and shared among women as they are encouraging other women to join various meetings. Although the ideas of forming Forest User’s Group Committee came from DFO, the decision to join Forest User’s Group Committee came by themselves. Likewise local knowledge and experience of handling agro-forestry help to plan when and where to plant seedling. However the technical assistance is taken from DFO.

4.3.2 Frequency of Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management

Due to the heavy work pressure of rural women they get a little off time to participate in the village level development activities. In the study area, women’s participation in Community Forest is found limited. Few women have a time to attend user group assemblies and meetings. Major decisions are made among committee members during the regular meetings and the annual assemblies. However, women are still confined to agreeing the decisions taken by the members at FUG meeting and assemblies. Women’s participation pattern in FUG meeting is shown in the following table below.

Table 13: Frequency of Women’s Participation

Community FUG Meeting	Sex				Total No.	Percentage
	No. of Female	Percentage	No. of Male	Percentage		
Regularly	10	21	29	50	39	35
Frequently	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occasionally	7	14	4	8	11	12
Once a year	17	36	14	25	31	30
Never attended	14	29	10	17	24	23
Total	48	100	57	100	115	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The meeting includes Community Forest User’s Group’s regular meeting and general assembly. The above table shows that, 21% of women are attending Community Forest user’s group committee meeting, regularly. 29% of total women have never attended Community Forest related meeting. 36% of women have been attending annual assembly regularly.

4.3.3 Women’s Roles in Community Forest and Decision-Making Process

As table 12 previously mentioned that, 40% of women are participating in Community Forest executive committee; they are involving in some kinds of decision making process. During the seedling protection, they forced others members to fence with barded. The committee members contributed all necessary materials for fencing where as DFO/NUKCFP supported rest of the activities. However, the willingness of meeting female participants is reflected in following table below.

Table 14: Women’s Participation in the Focus Group Discussion

Sex	No of participants	Percentage
Male	51	43
Female	67	57
Total	118	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that 57% of total participants are women during the study period. According to table 12, 65% of women are supporting to take care of forest, and they decide who should make the forest- visit for guarding purposes. They must be prepared for forth coming event during the course of caring the forest. 40% of women decide about selecting planting, seedling at the beginning, which is taken as an exercise of decision- making roles.

4.3.4 Types of Women’s Participation in Decision Making Process

Self management and protection are fully impossible without the participation of women. Although, women’s representation is very low but women are the key agents in the management of Community Forest. They are the primary users and protectors of forest or the forest products as already mentioned above. However, the rationale of participation in Community Forest management by respondents is given in the following table.

Table 15: Rational of Participating CF Management

Reason for Participation	Sex				Total	Percentage
	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage		
Moral Support	7	14	19	33	26	23
Giving Suggestions	10	21	14	25	24	23
Discussion	27	57	10	17	37	38
Decision Making	4	8	14	25	18	16
Total	48	100	57	100	115	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that 57% of women are participating for group discussions and 21% of women giving suggestions. 8% of women say they are participating for making decisions in the process of group. Thus, the percentage of responding for decision making purpose is found very low.

4.3.5 Participation in Meetings

While discussion in the meetings, it is generally assumed that all members raise their views either on personal issues or common issues or on both and take part actively in discussion. However, the following table has shown a figure about the involvement of members in discussion in the meetings.

Table 16: Participation of the Members in the Meetings

Category of the Meetings	No of respondents selected for study	Putting views on the subject matter	No views expressed due to			
			Opportunity was not given	Opportunity was given but views were not put because of		
				Hesitation	Unknown to Subject matter	Other reasons*
FUG assembly	44	25	–	3	7	6
FUC Meeting	29	14	–	3	5	2
FUG & FUC combine	32	22	–	4	7	7
Total	105	61		10	19	15

(Source: Field Survey 2068)

* 'Same issues raised by others', 'dissatisfaction', or 'no reason'

The adjoin table shows that more than 58% users were found to have expressed their views in FUG forums and rest 42% were those not putting the views therein. For those 42%, the cases of not getting opportunity are none as the FUGs' forums provides their members opportunities to express the views but they used to miss that opportunities because of hesitation, being unknown to subject matter and other reasons.

The remarkable point is that hesitation of female members is as low as that of males. Not only the females but males also were 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% were unable to indicate while 25% point out few general issues of forest management like cleaning, plantation and thinning/pruning. In this FUG, all respondents claim that their issues have been listened and discussed in the forum. Thus, the women's involvement can be seen more democratic and participatory in decision making processes. The FUG has been holding their meetings in democratic

ways because opportunities to the interested participants are given to speak and discuss therein.

4.3.6 Role of Women in Implementing Community Forestry Activities

Women users have main role in implementing CF activities. The participation of women for the use of forest and platform created by Community Forest activities are more than that of men doing. The statute of Rani CF has mentioned that at least one-third women members in the Community Forest Users Group must mandatorily be included. Participation of female members in decision-making process is rather low even among the active groups of forest users. However the activity taken by FUG executive committee is given in the following table.

Table 17: Activities (Initiatives) Taken by Community FUG Committee

Community FUGC Initiatives	Sex	
	Female (Percentage)	Male (Percentage)
Reforestation	18	12
Afforestation	20	18
Seedlings Distribution	11	14
Promote Agro-Forestry	20	16
Fencing	2	17
Fine for Illegal Rule and Regulation	12	13
Formation of Improved Store	0	0
Seeking External Financial, Technical Assistance	0	3
Provision of Training of Forest Efficient Management	0	7

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that 27% of women say that initiatives taken by executive committee are setting and charging fines and punishment for illegal users of the Community Forest. 20% of the female respondents only could involve the afforestation activities launched by the committee, at the beginning. 20% of women advocate the promotion of the agro-forestry as well.

4.3.7 Women's Participation in Community Forest Activities

Family comprises of father, mother, son, daughter, and daughter in law, grand daughter and so on. These members of the family have different role holding the family smoothly. Both the working patterns in household activities and CF related activities of the family members in CFUGS area are shown in the following table.

Table 18: Working Pattern of the Family

Works	Family Members (Percentage)				
	Mother	Father	Daughter	Son	Daughter in Law
1.Agriculture	39	78	44	39	69
2.Business					
• Selling milk	0	55	0	25	0
• Selling Vegetable	19	42	16	39	28
3.Kitchen	22	0	33	0	55
4.Animal Grazing	25	33	25	39	28
5.Collection of Firewood and Fodder	33	14	61	39	69
6.Service and Labor Job	8	31	0	25	28
7.School	0	0	62	61	0
8.Gatherings and Meetings	14	28	5	11	0

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table presents the working patterns of the family in the study area. The detail explanation is given below:

i) Agriculture

Subsistence agriculture is the main occupation of the study area. There is limited wet land for paddy production. Majority of people depends on dry land (*Bari*) with commonly two crops in a year. The cropping system of the study area is traditional, which required the involvement of most of the family members. Traditionally identified roles of children, women and man in the farming system are observed in the study area. However, the above table 17 shows that 78% of fathers are engaged in farming where as 39% of mothers and sons are also engaged in the same activities.

ii) Business: Selling Milk

The same table 17 shows that 55% of fathers and 25% of sons are involved in selling milk. This shows the strong relationship between milk selling and male member of the family. There is no milk collection center in the study area. Most of the household sales milk to Chaughada Bazaar. The amount of milk production is 10 liters per day in a family for selling. Most of milk brought in small pot separately for the purpose of easy distribution and measurement. Generally the milk selling business occurs early in the morning before 6:00 am. Other female members of the family were not seen engaging in this purpose.

iii) Business: Selling Vegetables

The same table shows that 42% of fathers and 39% of sons are engaged in vegetable selling. Other female members of the family are also engaged in vegetable selling. But the nature of vegetable selling is different. Most of the family members of the family take vegetable to Chaughada and Hetauda Bazaar for selling where as 16% of daughters and 19% of mothers sell vegetable from their own land, sometimes buyers visit their home for stock purchase. 28% of daughter in laws carry vegetable and go to Hetauda Bazaar.

iv) Kitchen

The same table shows that 55% of daughter-in-laws are engaged in Kitchen. This includes preparation of food, cooking, washing clothes and feeding cattle. Daughters and mothers have slightly less involvement i.e. daughter 33% and mother 22% for the same purpose. The table shows that father and son have nothing to do with this specific task.

v) Animal Grazing

Due to the protected Community Forest they have to spend time on animal grazing on their own private lands. The same table shows that 39% of sons and 31% of daughters are engaged in animal grazing near by the forest with care. All the members of the family are involved in this works in rotation basic.

vi) Collecting Firewood

The same table no.17 shows that 69% of daughter-in-laws, 33% of daughters and 61% of mothers are engaged in collecting firewood and fodder. This indicates those maximum hours of time a female member of the family is engaged in this job. This indicates that most important time of the women is spent on collecting firewood and fodder. This shows that there is strong relationship between firewood and fodder collection and female members of the family. In compare to female members of the family, son and father are less engaged in collecting firewood and fodder. 39% of the sons are engaged in the above mentioned activities as well as 14% fathers are engaged in the same activity. This shows that there is an incomparable involvement of women in these aspects than the male members.

vii) Services, Labor Job

The same table shows 28% of daughter-in-laws are engaged in labor job to solve daily hand to mouth problem, 31% of father, 25% of sons and 8% of mothers are engaged in both day labor and service. Daughters are not doing labor job or service.

viii) School

The same table shows that 61% of daughters and sons are attending schools in the study area. Besides this no daughter-in-laws or other members of the family are found to attending in the school.

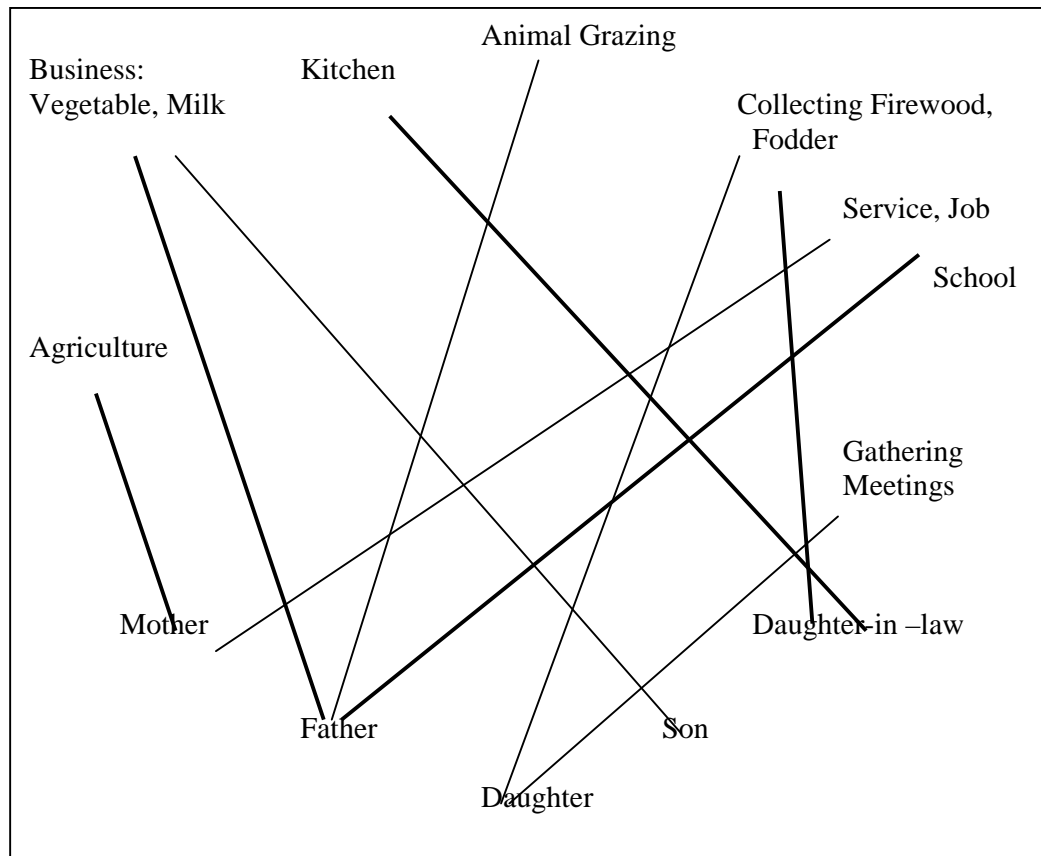
ix) Gatherings and Meetings

The same table shows that 28% of fathers and 14% of mothers are attending meetings and community gatherings. Only 11% of sons and 5% of daughters are also occasionally attending the same. But no daughter-in-laws are attending the meeting and gathering, which indicates there is strong male domination in family representation.

After the above analysis we have concluded that most of the household jobs of the family like cattle caring, collecting fodder etc are done by women. In other words, indoor and supportive activities are done by female members of the family unlike the outdoor activities done by the males. Thus, the female members are naturally closer to

the forestry work. Figure 7 further illustrates that there is strong relationship between male members and business activities which indicates the dominant role of male in handling family income and female and the forestry as well as indoor house hold activities.

Figure 1: Gender and Their Role in the Family



Legend: Relationship **—** = Strong **—** = Mean

The above figure shows the unjustifiable relationship between man and women, where women are seen particularly domesticated and confined to the household works. It clearly shows that women are congested in households activities, such as in kitchen, sanitation; child caring, animal husbandry etc. But men on the other hand are involved in social service, outer job and decision making activities. It foregrounds that women are generally taken as powerless being in decision making process who are limited to their household activities.

4.3.8 Protection and Management of Community Forest Area

Women members participated themselves in the management process of the Community Forestry. They started encouraging other women to do so. They follow the scheduled forest activities particularly involvement in pruning and thinning.

The forest is protected from cattle grazing, illicit felling of trees and collection of forest products through a strict system of forest watching overseen by the forest user's group. Every day two households are required to patrol the forest on a rotation basis. Failure to take one's turn at patrolling leads to a fine equals to Rs. 50 equivalent to a day's wage.

Grazing is also one of the important methods of animal husbandry in the study area. The livestock are moved freely in search of green twigs and ground grass in most of the months in a year. Usually they take the livestock in the government forests for the grazing purpose and also agricultural land after crops are harvested. However, the place where the respondents take their livestock for grazing purpose can be summarized as shown in the following table.

Table 19: Grazing Place for Livestock

Grazing Place	Respondents (Percentage)
Common Grazing Land (fellow government land)	31
Near by Forest with Care	46
Own Agricultural Land	8
Private Grazing Land	0
Never Taking to Grazing	15
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table no. 18 shows that the profile of grazing places where the respondents took their livestock for grazing purpose. 46% respondents are taking their livestock in near by government forest of grazing purpose and 5% respondents are taking in their agricultural land after harvested the crops. 31% take their livestock to common grazing land. 15% of respondents reported that they never took animals for grazing.

4.4 Role of Male to Encourage the Women's Decision Making Role in Community Forestry

Community forestry development program guideline 2001 has made it mandatory to include one male and one female from each HHs in the CF program; as a result the participation of women is rising which FECOFUN has also emphasized the equal participation of women. These efforts have cumulatively encouraged the participation of women in CF. Besides this our patriarchal society always dominate the women. So, it is fruitful when the role of a male is encouraging for the participation of the females in CF.

4.4.1 Role of Males

The most of the female respondents say that they have been supported by their counterparts for the participation. But few of them have insisted that their husbands object them to participate in CF. There is low participation of women even if male's supportive role in Rani CF due to males' support only in words but not in actions. It is said that male does not send his wife, but while interviewing individual females, everyone opposed the statement and said that her husband has helped her. This indicates that female still hesitates to speak against her husband. The aspects in which the necessity of men's cooperation is felt include hard works like logging, punishing offender, coordination with other agencies, accounting, helping them in household activities and encouraging to participating in meetings and other activities were found to some extent good in the study area.

4.4.2 Role Evaluation among Users

Users of the Rani CF have unanimously envisioned that both males and females should play important role in the success of CF activities though reality is different. Generally males are considered to work in out sphere but there are large numbers of Community Forest users accepting women backed up by men could better work in CF activities. The table 15 shows the views of users on whose role between men and women is more important in participation of women in CF.

Table 20: Role Evaluation in CF Activities

FUG	No. of Respondents	Women's Role	Men's Role	Women supported by Men	Don't know	Total
Rani CF	115	25	23	50	7	115

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Approximately half of the users have considered that women supported by men could play vital role in Community forest, as females are directly related to the domestic and household works such as management of fuel wood, grass and water which has made them love forest and protect the forest first. In women FUG, women have been trying so far but facing lack of quick decision making and dilemma in many cases. The support needed from males includes hard works like logging, punish offenders, extension, coordination with other agencies, accounting, and help them in household activities, and encourage participating in meetings and other activities. All female respondents accept that males are quick but females have no more ideas and they should be requested to be a committee member not because of male's non cooperation but being unaware themselves. They say that they have got cooperation from their family and no objection of their male heads. One female during interview said that she could take leadership if males help in outside activities. Out of the rest half, role of females and males alone has been considered important by 25% and 20% respectively while 5% do not know whose role is very important. Not only the males but some females also have considered the men's role important as usual.

4.4.3 Level of Decision-Making role of Women in Community Forestry

There are only three women members in the executive committee of Rani CF. They are from two different ethnic groups. The involvement of women in every meeting shows that better level of women participation in decision-making is not so good.

Women don't play the strong role in the decision-making role because of the male's domination, only for fulfilling the formality of committee member. In fact, males are not the voice of females, as the higher ethnics groups are not the voice of lower ethnic group because Nepal is based on the patriarchal and conservative society. Women are getting rights only in speech in the public area. In public area as well as outer door,

male are giving the rights as well as opportunity to female in speech but in practice they don't do anything for their women members. In Rani CF also the same activities have been practicing for a long time. Besides this women of this area are back warded due to the illiteracy.

Table 21: Level of Women Participation in Decision-Making Process

Women Participation	Response from Respondent	Percentage
Active	6	23
Fair	13	50
Not good	7	27
Total	26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

From the above table, we can have the idea that most of the women's participation from their house is fair i.e., neither they are actively participating nor are they neglected. From the field survey it is found that they are mostly influenced by their husbands and they don't express the domination of their husbands.

4.4.4 Motivating Factors for Women's Participation in Community Forestry

There are different factors which are responsible to motivate the women to participate in Community Forestry activities. About 40% women are motivated by self interest. Causes of the self interest are experience in the gradual decline of forest and their desire for better management for the future. Some women were participating in the absence of men in their household. It is also a kind of motivating factor. Often men do not like women to participate in development work. However, the males in 27% have played some roles in motivating women to take part in different activities. There are 13% women who participate in Community Forestry activities by villager's request.

Table 22: Motivating Factors for Women's Participation in CF

S. N.	Motivating factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Self Interest	19	40
2	Husband advice	13	27
3	Official request	10	20
4	Villager's request	6	13
Total		48	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The table shows that 40% of the women say that their participation is due to their own self interest likewise, 27% of them say that their participation is because of their husband's advice which clearly shows that there is strong need of encouraging support from the males for the women in the participation in CF.

4.5 Constraints and Potentialities of Decision Making Role of Women in Mobilization of Community Forest

The Role played by women in CF is socially in built involvement from the beginning. The farming roles of women in the farming system of the Nepal's hill and mountain areas have necessitated their involvement in the whole cycle of crop production from seed selection to consumption and collection and use of various plants and animal from forest and pasture lands. Their responsibility for caring for the household members, livestock and croplands have provided them with extensive knowledge of the uses and usefulness of plants and therefore made them key actors in the management of bio-diversity of the forest and agriculture plant resources. However, some of the possibilities and constraints factors for women's roles in CF are found in committee level factors, physical and social factors, structural factors and political factors.

4.5.1 Committee Level Factors

User group's performance of many CF's has been found uneven. The formation Rani CF user group dates back to 1994 A.D. Some of the respondents said that sufficient attention has been paid to identifying user and informing them of their rights and responsibility. Elites' dominants on decision-making issues are seriously taken into consideration. In other instances, the situation within user groups is more alike to "Committee Forestry" rather than Community Forestry. Furthermore, the marginal groups such as women, scheduled caste and the poor are incorporated. We have already said that 1 out of 3 women is from *lower* caste in the executive committee. The user groups' exchanges (trainings, meetings, networks or assemblies) are helping to raise the awareness to the rural people which ultimately help increase the women's role in CF more effectively. The table no. 13 has already shown that 40% of the women are involved in the executive committee. This indicates that the dominance of the male members is still a national phenomenon besides several efforts have been introduced.

Under the committee level factors, the issue of women's participation depends upon the degree of familiarization between villagers (women and man) and the activities of CFUGC i.e. how the beneficiaries involved and participated in the initiation and operation of CF program. Do they really know the values and usefulness of CF? As women are highly busy involving household chores and household level forestry activities. They hardly get time to share in these meeting and gathering even though they are the primary user and manager of the forest product. But it was obvious that women are highly busy involving in planting trees, thinning, collecting firewood and fodder and grazing animals.

Majorities of women are participated in the group interviews and discussion. Table 15 shows that the 57% of total participants are women and 43% are men. Focus group discussion, daily activities, seasonal calendar and time-line are the main participatory activities during the study period.

The participation fluctuates as per the requirement of Community Forest management. Respondent participated because of their willingness to work in the CF User's group committee as executive member. It was a self-value and maintaining status among the community people. Another concrete point was being a FUGC member; they do not have to provide any substantial input such as: land, capital. According the close observation, the present executive women members is ready to pay time and labor to CFUG. All the women members are middle income group. Therefore, they can even contribute nominal cash also. FUGC required lots of time for Community Forest operation and management on the volunteer basis. From this it could be status that, lower the contribution of cash from villagers, higher would be the women's participation.

The degree of participation depends on what the clear prospect of benefit after joining FUGC. Generally, there is high participation at the beginning. Because they thought that they would be able to fulfill their several needs, such as: spent less time for collecting fire wood, fodder, and grazing animals, continual drinking water supply from forest, enough rainfall for crops. Interests on participation decreased gradually, later on. More attraction could be seen when there are opportunities to attend training and workshop. Thus, uncertain of benefits lowers the women's participation in CF.

Pull factors to involve in the committee are determined by degree of attraction to the benefit; such as support from DFO. The other factor for participation is the opportunity to make linkage with NG officials and exposure and opportunity to receive development roles. Opportunity to attend workshop, meeting, seminar, training outside of village and receiving outside visitors are also the factors affecting to women's participation. Form this description we can conclude that higher the chances of support for other activities from committee, higher would be the women's participation in CF. However, the pattern of women's participation in CF related and other meeting is less effective than men as shown in the following table.

Table 23: Women’s Participation in Community FUG Meeting

Community FUG Meeting	Female (Percentage)	Male (Percentage)
Weekly, Monthly	0	0
Yearly	57	68
Does not Know	43	32
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that 57% of female respondents are informed about yearly meeting of executive committee and 43% of women are unaware of the CFUGC meeting. The demonstrated system of sharing benefit among the present executive members also plays a vital role on women’s participation. The example of equal sharing of benefit could be taken from the distribution pattern of firewood per household level. The environment of Community Forest as a common property among the group also plays a vital role for increasing women’s participation. Thus, it is found that, lower the conflict between members, higher would be the women’s participation in CF.

4.5.2 Physical and Social Factors

The location of the CFUGC committee, size of the Community Forest area, issues of gender equality and participatory orientation plays a vital role in the nature of the women’s participation in CF. Most of the members are unable to attend regular meetings. It takes 30-45 minutes from chuchhekhola on foot to attend regular CF meeting venue at Chaughada Bazaar. Thus, it is concluded that, closer the place for committee meeting higher would be the women’s participation.

Local cultural understanding between *dalits* and *non-dalits* also pays a vital role. Majorities of women are involved in pre-defined social role. It is very difficult to work out and get spare time to attend new developmental activities as well as attending CF meeting. The clear picture of minority; role due to social system and social structures is shown in participatory in the following table 23, which is self explanatory.

Table 24: Daily Activities of the Women Members of the Family

Morning (Between 4-10 am)	Day (10am-2pm)	Evening (Between 2-8pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get up early, • Sweep the house, • Fetching water, • Cutting grass, • Cooking lunch for the family members, • Feeding children, • Eating (<i>Bhat Bhansa</i>), • Fetching firewood, • Talking livestock for grazing, • Feed the hens • Take milk to the bazaar, • Sell firewood in the bazaar, • Buy few essential in the bazaar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send children to school, • Go to cut fodder grass, • Water the animals, • Feed animals grass, • Look after small children, • Go to Hetauda bazaar to go to hospital (sometimes to Bharatpur), • Work in the crop fields (e.g. picking millet). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up the house, • Food preparation for family members-cook rice, • Look after the children, • Make the children study-asking them to read and their homework, • Feed the pigs again, • Shut the goats and chicken in their sheds, • Tie up the cow, • Eat and make the beds, • Prepare the grains for the next morning meal • And, sleep.

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table is self –explanatory, which represents the majority of women of the rural Nepal in general, and the women of the of the study area in particular.

Relationship between frequency of women’s participation in CF and size of the CF area also affect the women’s participation in Community Forestry. The Rani CF is on top of Chaughada. It has access to ward no 6. It is extended in some how large area. Therefore, it could be summarized that smaller the sizes of Community Forest easier to appropriately mange and create ownership. Thus, smaller the size of Community Forest, higher would be the women’s participation in CF.

When a rural woman became the member of FUGC, than her new developmental role will start. The general situation of the study area is non-of the women member could have jointed or done anything in the Community Forest, if their husbands or fathers opposed their involvement in the community. The support given to the women by male counterpart within their household level helped to determine the active participation of women in CF. Thus, the greater would be the chances of active participation of women in CF.

The formation of FUG plays important roles on the degree of women's participation. No one was forced to join the group. NUKCFP spent time through Chuliban range post during pre-group formation. Thus, more participatory orientation from the beginning, especially during the period of establishment, the greater the level of participation among intended beneficiaries have been noticed.

4.5.3 Structural Factors

The structural factor has equally played important role in determining women's participation in CF activities. This includes the size of the committee, composition of committee, rights and authority of the committee and decision making and implementation of the decision. Table 12 indicates that there are 30% of users taking part in decision-making roles and 70% users are listed as general users. There are 708 households in Rani FUG area. They formed CFUGC out of 11 members, which is smaller in size. The smaller the size of the executive committee, the easier to notify and meet each other. Quick communication could happen within the time limit. Smaller size is considered as the best and there would be less conflict between members. Thus, smaller size of CF executive team, greater would be the chances of mobilizing the women's participation in CF.

The degree of women's of participation in CF depends upon the composition of committee also. This includes the marital status and age. Generally, an adult committee member participates actively. The main reason found by the study is that most of the women members are married above 20 years of age and women are the stable parts of the committee. Usually, married women do not leave the village, as there are high chances of young women leaving the village after they get married. Married women take many responsibilities within the household as well as collecting firewood, fodder, fetching water, grazing animals cooking for all of the family members and caring animals. They seem more willing than men to accept the responsibility do.

Education is necessary factor for completing important paper work, making contacts with concerned officials and building up strong relationship with local people.

Moreover, it empowers, builds understanding and creates awareness. Thus, the higher the educational status of the women, the higher the chances of participation.

Women's participation in CF depended on the process how the selections of women for the committee are performed. In this study area, some people say that there is open communication among the FUG members, but the number of the women's participation is low i.e. 40% in FUG committee and 32% in general list of users group. The selection of the women members of the FUG has done by general consensus of the ward people among the representatives from different localities of the ward. It is assured that the committee is the real representation of community. According to the committee they have given full support and authority to carry out the activities.

The present FUGC member said that they have selected those who are interested to join FUGC and those who are not going to create any problems for the group. But some people in the community argued this statement as they feel the present fug committee is no longer representing the community.

Groups meet to discuss Community Forestry rights and responsibilities. The participation depends upon how many villagers understood the rights and authority of the FUGC members. Preparation of the role, rights and authority to both FUGC and villagers are considered important factors. The levels of understanding FUG rule depend upon the process of its development. Thus, the clearer the rights and authorities of group the greater will be the chances of mobilizing women's role in CF.

Another factor for enhancing the women's role depends upon how the decisions are made and implemented. This could be the case deciding fines and punishment for illegal users. How far villagers are happy with the decision made by FUGC, some situations like who take decision-making roles and who lead the group are the vital. On the other hand, rules and regulations describe in Operational Plan (OP) hardly read by all members. The frequency of meeting, assembly and people participation also affects the women participation. From above description, we can summarize that more programs are incorporated in the ideas village women and men; there would be the greater chance of women participation in CF.

4.5.4 Political Factors

Political factor plays a significant role for women's role in CF. this includes, social norms, local politics and government support and resource availability. Women's depends on traditional norms, powers in decision-making process and benefit sharing. There is strong feeling that women should not be involved in development activities such as: attending meeting, interacting with outsiders and outgoing, which have been traditionally domains of males. Following such traditional thinking these men like to see women members always should be involved in cooking, washing, caring children and animals. Traditionally women were not given chance to practice to face outsiders; they cannot express their ideas properly to the outsiders. There is a fear of losing development support from outside when women deal the situation. This again lacks the confidence of women. Poor attitude towards women made the situation worse. It can be summarized that the lesser the imposition of traditional gender norms the higher will be the chance if active roles in CF.

The degree of women's role in CF also depends on local politics. Villagers keep close watching on who participate and why. They are always keen to know what decisions are taken and how the decisions are taken for whom.

CHAPTER-FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study is an attempt to highlight the decision making role of women in community forestry. To make it more specific, decision making is only taken. It is taken as a part of the M.A. dissertation in Sociology /Anthropology. Lots of literature were reviewed in context of community forestry and decision making role of women. Women's participation in decision making process is the burning issues in the context of Nepal as well as worldwide. Women are backward in every aspect of life. So, the government and various organizations are working together to raise the women's status through women's empowerment program in the field of community forestry. One of the important aspects of empowerment is participation in decision making process and which can be significantly studied in the field of Community Forestry. Beijing Platform of Action, 1995, UNCED, Agenda 21 calls for women to be fully involved in decision making and in the implementation of sustainable developmental activities.

This is an attempt to find out the various aspects of women's participation in decision making process. The main purpose of the study is to find out:

- To elaborate the socio-economic status of women in CFUG
- To trace out the influencing factors of decision making process of women in CF
- To assess challenges and opportunities in decision making process in CF

These indicators are determined to assess the women's role in decision making process in individual and household level. To find out these facts few FUG members were selected from Rani CFUG. The descriptive as well as explorative research design is used to find out the facts. The different techniques like interview, key informant survey and informal interaction were used to collect the primary data with unstructured and semi-structured (interview-schedule) questionnaire. Using all those techniques, the major findings are summarized below:

- The Rani Community Forestry is established in 2050 BS having 151.87 ha area, 7 blocks, 708 households, 4025 total population (male-2132 female-1893)

and predominately covered by Sal forest managed by 11 Members CFC headed by Balaram Adhikari

- 49% of the respondents are mainly in between the age group of 20-40 who are said to be youths
- 54% male participants and 46 % female participants were taken as sample of the study 62% of the respondents are belongs to Non Dalits (dominated by Brahman and Chhetri) and remaining 33 % are relates with Ethnic groups and 5% are Dalits in term of caste.
- 53% of the respondents in this sector are married. The participation of unmarried and separated participants also notable.
- 60% of the respondents have medium size family having 5-8members consequently followed by small and large family.
- 66% of the respondents are literate. They have got formal school level education but haven't completed their studies. Respondents employed at administrative and other higher posts have completed their and 34% are illiterate.
- Majority of the respondents are from Hindu community and depending on agriculture however 33.33% of respondents deserve less than 5 Katha land and 6% have more than 20 katha .
- 58% of the respondents have food sufficiency more than 8 months followed by 31 % for 8 months and remaining have less than 4 months. Respondents from this category seem to adopt other way for fulfilling their appetitie.
- 28 % of the respondents have the monthly household income up to Rs 10000 and 35% have up to 15000 which seem to be less to run the family smoothly as the number of family members of those respondents seems to be high.
- The study shows that there is only the source of energy is firewood which is obtained from CF itself.
- It is found that out of total members, only 30% of the women are involved in executive committee and 32.03% women participate in general membership.
- Similarly, it is found that only 21% of women are attending Community Forest user's group committee meeting regularly. Whereas, 29% of total

women have never attended community forest related meeting and 36% of women have been attending annual assembly regularly.

- Through the study, it is found that 65% of women are participating in forest management activities but among them, only 8% of them are participated in decisions making process. Thus, it is concluded that the percentage of participation in decisions making process is found very low.
- Out of total female respondents only, 50% of them say that women supported by men could play vital role in CF.
- In the study area, some of the possibilities and constraints factors for women's roles in CF are found. These are committee level factors, physical and social factors, structural factors and political factors.
- Under the committee level factors, the issue of women's participation depends upon the degree of familiarization between villagers (women and man) and the activities of CFUGC.
- The location of the CFUG committee, size of the Community Forest area, issues of gender equality and participatory orientation plays a vital role in the nature of the women's participation in CF.
- It is found that the smaller size of CF executive team, the greater is the chances of mobilizing the women's participation in CF.

5.2 Conclusion

The concept of Community Forestry is a vital one for preserving and devolving natural resources in general and forest resource in particular in Nepal. Forest is one of the major resources of rural livelihood. It is the source of food, firewood, timber, fodder, leaves, and litters etc. The rapidly increasing population growth and its subsequent effects on natural resource, particularly in the forest resource have been noticed since the long time. For the better management and the enhancement of the forest resource, the concept of CF was emerged during 1970s in Nepal. As the women are the ultimate managers and users of the forest resources, their role is increasing in their society. They can play a significant role in Community Forest development,

protection and management. Hence, success of the CFUGs largely depends upon degree of women's participation in its management from the very beginning.

On the basis of this study, and through various researches and analysis carried out during its period, it can be said that women have very important role to play for the protection and better management of Community Forest. Due to the several socio-historical constructions, men in this respect can be seen as an important as well as vital factor in deciding and determining the position of women.

Although there are several potentialities for women's participation in CF, But women participation in CF is greatly determined by various factors like bio-physical situation of CF, socio-economic and cultural practices, institutional structure of the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organizations, perception and attitude towards CF and allied issues, as well as the status of women in the family and society. As women are highly busy and confined to the HHs chores and HHs affairs, women participation in decision making process is still very low.

Along with the other factors, the equity in decision making process is more complex due to the unsupportive role of male who are usually considered to be the superior and determiner of women's role in different socio-economic aspects. Through this study, it is evidenced that due to the various confinements set by the socio-economic and structural parameters women are still deprived to proceed in the executive body and decision making process.

In all, the participation of women in Community Forestry helps to enhance the living standard as well as the socio-economic status of women. It can be regarded as one of the major agents for developing the female participation and the inclusive involvement of female in all the bodies of socio-economic sphere. As the female are primary users, managers, protector as well as administrators of the local resources, their active participation in CF and in managerial body helps to promote the status of the level of CF. So the female participation in CF is an essential pre-requisite for the enhancement of the forest as well as female themselves

5.3 Recommendations

This section of dissertation draws some recommendations being based on the major outcomes of the study. However, this study was carried out to fulfill very specific objective of fulfilling the partial requirement of Masters Degree in sociology and the recommendations made here would be more general than specific. It is still hoped that the recommendations provided here are useful for the governmental and non-governmental organization working for women researchers and academicians who wish to carry further studies on women's role in decision making process Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations have been postulated for the further consideration of those who are concerned so far:

On the basis of this study, following recommendations can be provided to the present executive committee of Rani CF, policy makers, decision-making development agencies, various NGOs/INGOs and other stakeholders. Some of the recommendations are as follows:

- Even large and natural forests should be handed over to such women headed FUGs so that they can experience diversified management activities and can broaden their knowledge in that field. Similarly, there should be active forest management.
- While forming a women committee, it should be formed from the mass of females of the FUG.
- They should be involved more in outdoor activities like trainings, workshops and meetings, and for this, both males and females should be made aware by organizing awareness programs simultaneously.
- Extension workers should approach to women, as they want to listen direct from first persons. For this, field visit of the forestry staffs should be increased and they should approach to women also.
- Women often miss the HRD programs requiring outside staying so package programs in clusters should be provided. Short periodic but frequent programs are useful to them as they need frequent refresh because of busy in household activities.

- The FUGs should carry out touching programs for highly forest dependent groups of it.
- The degraded forest needing much protection can be handed over to spontaneously formed women-FUGs.

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APPENDICES

Decision Making Role of Women in Community Forestry

(A Sociological Study on the Women of Rani Community Forest User Group of
Makawanpur District)

APPENDIX I: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Identification

Name of Municipality:

FUG Name:

Tole /Village:

1.1 General Information of the Respondents

Name:

Sex:

Occupation:

Education:

1.2 Family size

Male

Female

[]

[]

1.3 Types of House

a. *Pakki* []

b. *Semi Pakki* []

c. *Kachhi* []

1.4 Land own by household

Khet in ropani []

Bari in ropani []

1.5 Live stock own by household

a. Buffalo []

b. Cow []

c. Ox []

d. Goat []

e. Sheep []

f. Other []

1.6 Main Secondary Sources of Income (occupation)

Occupation	Male	Female
Agriculture		
Service		
Overseas work		
Other		

2. Questionnaire for Respondents

- 2.1 What is the vision of your to look CF?
a. Positive [] b. Negative [] c. Neutral []
- 2.2 What is the role of women in forest management?
a. Good [] . Better [] c. Worse [] d. Nothing []
- 2.3 Why do you join FUG? Specify
a. Religious reason [] b. Under social pressure []
- 2.4 For what purpose do you utilize the forest?
a. Firewood [] b. Fodder []
c. Tree lives and litters [] d. Raw material []
e. Others []
- 2.5 Do you involve in forest products distribution?
Yes [] No []
- 2.6 How many times did you attend CF monthly meeting in a year?
.....
- 2.7 Are regular in attending meeting?
Yes [] No []
- 2.8 Have attained seminar on CF? How many times?
Yes []..... No [].....
- 2.9 Do you think programme like tanning, workshop, meeting will enhance the role of women?
.....
- 2.10 Is the role played by women in CF satisfactory?
Yes [] No []

3. Questionnaire for Respondents and UGC

- 3.1 Are the women equally benefited from community developmental activities?
Yes how?
No why?
- 3.2 Do the women participate the committee's activity? If they don't participate, what are the main factors?
a. Individual Problem.....
b. Problem related to family members.....
c. Social Problem.....
d. Legal Problem.....
e. Others.....
- 3.3 Have you get family support to involve CF management actives?
If yes, how?
.....
If no, why?
.....
- 3.4 Are there any obstacles to increase the women participation? If they are, what are they?
.....
.....
.....

Decision Making Role of Women in Community Forestry
(A Sociological Study on the Women of Rani Community Forest User Group of
Makawanpur District)

APPENDIX II: CHECKLIST FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are the major benefit that you receiving from this CF?
2. Does the operational plan (OP) of the CF address the problem of women?
3. How has been women's participation influenced the decision making process of the CFUG member?
4. What types of problems faced by this CF?
5. Are the activities of CF address to the very-poor and women?
6. What are the major programe of this CF sanctioned for women?
7. What are the principle reasons of women participation for being not effective in forest resource utilization?
8. What measures should be adopted to make the women's participation in CF's effective mobilization?
9. Are you satisfied with this current FUGC?
10. Do you know the community development social activities conducted by CFUG?

Appendix III

THE SURFACE CONTOUR OF THE STUDY AREA

Geographical Information

Makawanpur District lies in Narayani zone of Central Development Region with an area of 2426 sq.km and its headquarter is at Hetauda. The political boundary of the district is Lalitpur, Kavre and Sindhuli districts in the east, Chitwan in the west, Dhading Kathmandu in the north and Bara, Parsa, Rautahat districts in the south. It lies between 27° 21' to 27° 40' N latitude to 84° 41' to 85° 31' E longitude. Its elevation ranges from 166m (Hathindhunga, Raigaun) to 2584m (Simbhanjyang). Makawanpur District consists of two major type of physiography, viz. a Mahabharat hill that is in the Northern side with steep slopes and Churiya hills, which is rugged in all aspects in the south. The Siwaliks are dissected by many shallow rivers and streams, which change course from time to time. Main rivers are Rapti and Bagmati and others are Lothar, Manahari, Chauda, Karra, Bakaiya etc. It has a artificial lake or pond i.e., Indrasarobar at Kulekhani.

Land Utility of Makawanpur District

Table 25: Land Utility of Makawanpur District

SN	Types	Area(Ha)	Percentage (%)
1	Forest Lands	144558	59.13
2	Agricultural Lands	61489	25.15
3	River, Lake	16711	6.84
4	National Parks	15125	6.18
5	Industrial Area	1607	0.66
6	Pasture Lands	4968	2.03
	Total	244458	100

Source: D.F.O., Makawanpur, (2067).

From table 24, it is cleared that the forest area of the district is maximum 59.13% of total land. Similarly Agricultural land is 25.15%, River is 6.84%, National Park is 6.18%, Industrial area is 0.66% and Pasture land is 2.03%. It shows that vegetation

coverage is more with huge biodiversity due to more altitudinal variations and high potentiality for the study of Community Forestry.

Socio-economic Information of the District

It is known that the Makawanpur district is situated in central region of Nepal. Politically the district is divided into 4 election constituencies, 13 illakas, 43 VDCs and 1 Municipality (more than 3 VDCs are going to be municipality) It has 1.7% population of Nepal, 392604 Out of which, 199144(50.72%) are male and 193460(49.28%) are female. Most of the people are living in rural area about 81.56% are rural habitant but only 17.44% are urban habitant .Similarly large population are dependent on agriculture that is 53% but 47% are dependent on non agricultural occupation. Most of the people are under the Tamang caste. It is about 47.34%.Similarly 14.98% are Brahman, 10.56% are Kshetri, 6.81% are Newar, 4.56% are Magar, 3.915% are Chepang/Praja and 11.84% are other caste. Incase of education status, 63.2% are literate among them 72.4% are male and 53.7% are female. The major languages spoken in the district are Tamnag (45.2%) and Nepali (42.4%). Religiously, Hindus (49.4%) and Buddhists (47.6%) are more in number. (CBS, 2001)

The economically active population of this district is 51.5% of which 51.5% are involved in agriculture and 52.9% in non-agricultural sector. In this population group, women composed 38% and men composed 64.6%. The more number of people in this district are involved in agriculture and forest which contributes 53.2% of total employed person and second sector is industrial production which constitute 12.1% (CBS, 2001)

The literacy rate of this district is 72.6% and female is 53.9%. This district rank 13th position among all the districts of Nepal in literacy. The literacy rate of Hetauda Municipality (74%) is the highest and Bharta VDC (15%) is the lowest in this district. (CBS, 2001)

Status of CF in the District

Table 26: Community Forestry in Makawanpur District

S.N.	Particulars	Information
1	District Land Area	244488 Ha
2	District Forest Area	144588 Ha
3	Total No of Community Forests	303*
4	Handed Over CF Area	50796.74 Ha(42.43%)
5	Involved Households in CF	52444 Households
6	Potential CF Area to handover	119726.53 Ha
7	CF area per user group	167.65 Ha
8	CF area per household	0.97 Ha
9	Households per user group	173 Household
10	Largest CF	Karunabhumi (988 Ha) Daman
11	Smallest CF	Shankardeep(0.65 Ha), Palung
12	Largest CFUG	Piplepokhara CFUG
13	No of Women Managed CF	9
14	Start of CF Handover	2047/048
15	First CF in the district	Chuchekhola (Hetauda)

Source: CFUG Monitoring and Evaluation Report, 2066/2067, DFO, Makawanpur

*** Out of 303 CFUGs, 20 are within the buffer zone of Parsa WLR**

The table clearly depicts the general scenario of community forest in Makawanpur district by which anyone can grasp the good information about the community forestry. There are still lots of potential lands that can be managed by community. The study predicts that women can solely manage the forest if they are legally secured and supported from large male community.