

CHAPTER- ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Community forest programs are prioritized in the Nepal government forestry sector. This program was started in Nepal during the late 1970s. The main objective of this program is to ensure local people's participation for better forest management. Prior to the 1970s deforestation was very high due to the government nationalization act of local forests. The government had restricted local people's access to forests. As a result, people were aggressively opposed to the government's actions, and deforestation became a serious problem in rural Nepal. The government realized this as a fact and started a participatory approach in different government programs to mitigate the situation. Nepal is a nation with Hindu majority where, most social, cultural and economical practices have male domination. Women are responsible for household chores like; making food, taking care of the babies, collecting firewood, fodder, and green grass and tending to livestock. Women are closely related with forest activities. They have wide knowledge about forests, forests product and management of forests. Their active participation from problem identification to decision making and benefit sharing stages play a vital role for sustainable resource management. In practice, women participation is very low in community forestry program. There are several factors affecting women's participation such as, socio-cultural norms and values, poor education, poor economic conditions, gender bias, cast domination etc.

A woman participation in community forestry is a concerning matters of good forest governance. Periodic assessing and understanding of gender and equity, women's participation, politics, education, empowerment and other public sphere in the process of managing common property resource through collective action is essential the success of community forest management. In these circumstances, the study tries to look at the situation of women participation in the implementation of community forest management activities, decision making and benefit sharing and perception of women regarding the motivating factors and hindering factors that influences their role to involve in CF management.

People's participation means involvement of all concerning people in a project/program from the stage of planning to benefit sharing. For research, the definition of women's participation in the context of community forest management is, "the process of inclusion and involvement of women for the management of forest resources aiming at increasing forest productivity in a sustainable, equitable and inclusive way". The management activities which are included for the study are preparation of constitution and operational plan (planning) and its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, decision making in regular meeting and general assembly and benefit sharing. Participation implies the active engagement/involvement of women's users in the processes of community forest management so that their voice and choice are heard and addressed.

Forest is one of the most important natural resources of Nepal for socio-economic development and people's livelihood. The concept of community forestry was initially defined in the late 70s when the FAO released its landmark publication as "any situation which intimately involves local people in a forest activity" (FAO, 1993). The community forestry departed from previous conceptions and centered on the idea of people participation getting local population to plan and execute their own project on a self-help basis. It embraces a spectrum of situation ranging from woodless areas which are short of wood and other forest products for local needs, through the growing of trees at farm level and the processing of forest product at the household artisan or small industrial level to generate income to the activities of forest dwelling communities. Thus community's forestry was planned as encompassing activities by individual levels of community, household, men and women farmers, and other people as well as those involving a community as a whole (FAO, 1993).

Male and female are the two wheels of the same cart; though in our society female's role is ignored. Every society has its own rules and regulations. The role of the person is mainly affected by the society. Norms and beliefs of a society are being reformed and restricted. This has increased the awareness level of people. The women are also broadening their perception towards the society. They are trying to ensure their meaningful presence in the society. Consequently, the society is also loosening the restrictions promote women. According to the (HMG/N MPFS, 1998) The major objectives are firstly, to meet people's basic needs of fuel wood, fodder, timber and others forest product and secondly, to contribute of food production

increment through appropriate. Conserving and managing Nepal's forest resources where people consider being.

(Acharya,2001) focusing the importance of forest is that for directly fulfills forest related substitutions need of women, poor and backward people. Forest has been providing inputs for agriculture, livestock and it supplies medicinal herbs, timber and non timber forest products. It also conserves watersheds, improves the conditions of the soil, and provides recreation for tourists through forest based eco-tourism, and national parks and wild life reserves. Similarly, it is providing a habitat for flora and fauna. Furthermore, it has been providing raw materials for forest related industries.

Similarly, (Bajrachaya 1993) says, "Green forest is the wealth of Nepal" (Hariyo Ban Nepal ko Dhan) was a popular slogan in Nepal before 2063 B.S because forests, the renewable natural endowments of Nepal were and still are important for the country, state and the people. He further explained that till 1950, the commercial exploitation of hard wood from the Terai forest was a major source of revenue for the state. The revenue collected from the sale of forest products was estimated to have amounted to about 40 percent of the national income during the nineteenth century.

However, Community forestry program is people oriented program and its success depends on the active people's participation, there is need for more research on social, cultural and political aspects. These aspects include forest user group and their culture, social norms, interest, religion, need etc. Both aspects should be considered equally because they impact each other and consequently reflect the success of community forestry. In this regard study of people's participation in community forestry. Which is considers the institutional and decision making processes. It is also affecting factors of participation of users as well. This study is the Bukine Dada Community forest in Maranthana VDC of Pyuthan District.

1.2 Statement of the problem

According to the Tenth Plan of Nepal, Male and female are the two wheels of any development model. In the context of Nepal female occupies more than 52 percent of population

and even they are excluded in the participation in development activities. Similarly, this problem also exists in community forest, many case studies and literatures reveal that the participation of female in community forest is negligible and without participation of Nepal, development activities become top down. The researcher recognize the importance equal participation of male and female in community forest management in Nepal , more than 81 percent of total population is involved in agriculture in which more than half are women. As forest and agriculture are closely interrelated, more than half of the populations female are involved in agriculture. Thus participation of women in community forest is unavoidable (HMG/NPC, 2002).

(Siddiqi 1989) writes, women have been considered peripheral to development for a long time in the most developing countries. The international women's year and the UN women Deceleration focused global attention on a situation of women developing programs became interested in the subject only after they realized that, by excluding women they were losing half of their potential collaborate. In Nepal regular programs very few could, however develop an appropriate strategy to improve the participation of women in their activities.

Women are the real users and responsible for protection, management and utilization of forest products. Fundamentally, this research tarried to access women's participation in community forestry management and socio-economic condition of women in community forest members. In our male dominate society, it is very difficult to face the problem of women, because most of the male want to show the failure/unsuccesful of the plans led by the females. They think that, if women got successes their plan males don't get the opportunity to lead the community forest uses groups and other social institutions. So they didn't want to help the women for their work.

However, the vast majority of CFUG in Nepal practice only 'passive' management, (for examples see Edmonds, 2002; Larsen et al., 2000; Malla et al., 2003) focused on developing forest-based industries or manipulating forest conditions to improve the availability of useful or valuable products. Thus, many community forests are likely producing under their potential such that meeting subsistence needs through community forestry is less a supply problem than a management problem.(Thoms and Geofoeum 39,2008; PP-1462).

The participation of women in community forestry is a relatively recent thrust in community based forest management. In the context on women's participation in CF management only since few years back women uses face several difficulties, particularly lack of faith in their own activities, effective penalty, enforcement and delay in effective forest management works, similarly in sufficient resource can't meet the demand of women. In male dominant society females are always dominated by male for their participation in community forest. A micro level analysis of women's participatory approach in development efforts must be placed emphasis. By promoting self-dependence of the people and mobilizing active participation of woman in managing forest resource is vital. In this context examine the women's role in community forest management and development including their constraints and management are the major problems of the study.

The role of women is important in every aspects of society development. To fulfill the gap of human resource management, the women must be involved, participate and included in the management pattern of forest. The committee of forest group decides most of the things of forest management. The executive body of any organization is the driver of the organization. So, to ensure the right of women in decision-making, they must be included in the executive committee. To include some women in executive committee is not the actual representation of the women but to make each woman interested to be the executive member by themselves is most important things. If not so the women must have clear support and oppose of any activity of the community forest uses groups. This study has focused on finding the answer of following research questions;

1. What is the socio-economic condition of the users of Bukine Dada Community forest?
2. What is the role of women in the management of Bukine Dada community forest?
3. What are the affecting factors of women participation in forest management?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to analyze the women's participation in forest management and their role in managing forest resource. However, the specific objectives of the study are;

- To find out socio- economic characteristics of the community forest user's group (CFUG) Bukine Dada Community forest.
- To examine women's role in forest management, decision making and benefit sharing process. (such as -attaining meeting, formulating operation plan, decision making process and forest harvesting)
- To identify the factors affecting in the participation of women in community forest management.

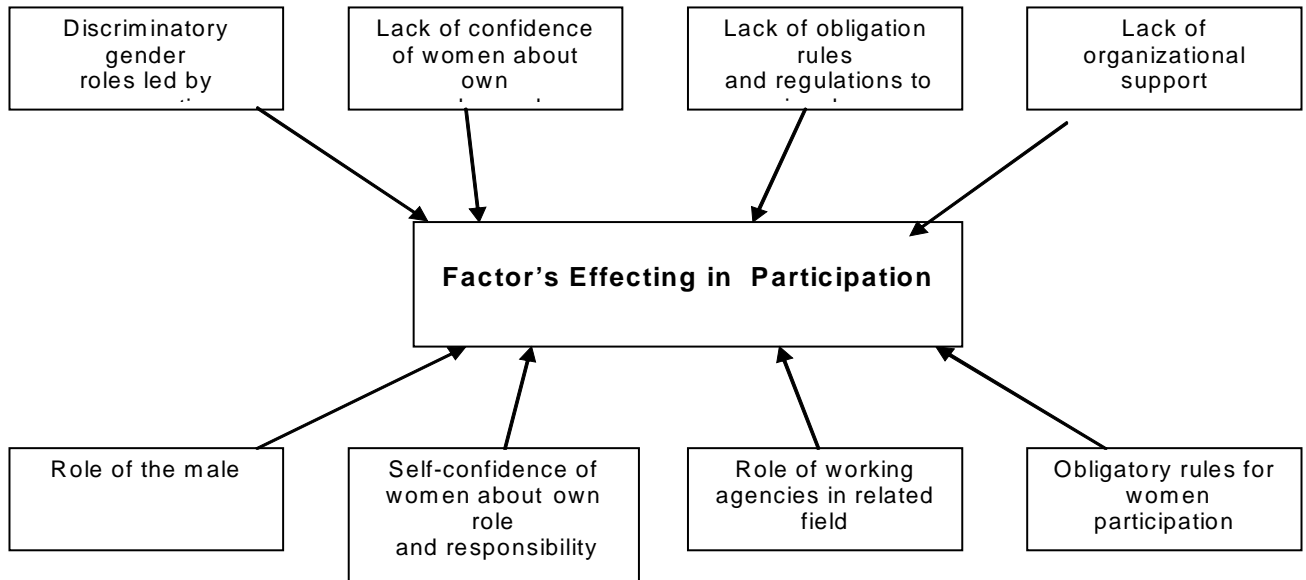
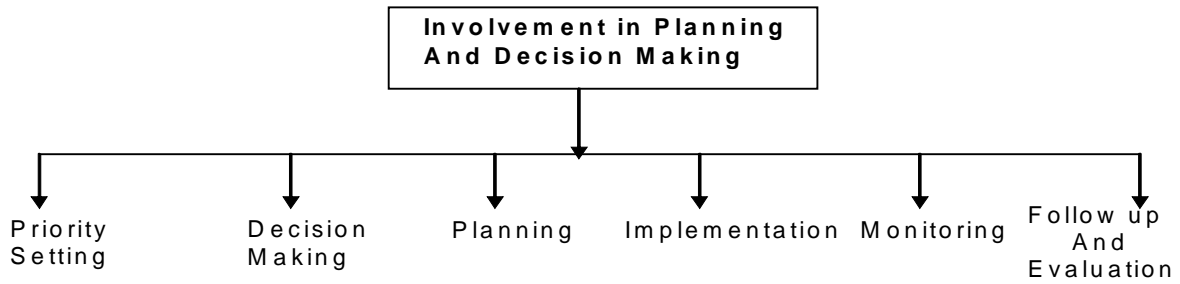
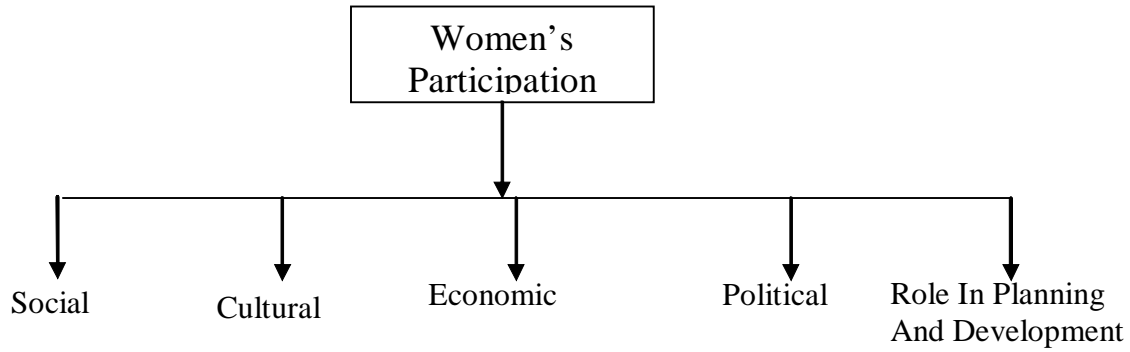
1.4 Significance of the study

This study on the women's participation in community forest management system has its own importance. It examines the participation of in forest committee and factor affecting their participation. To fill this gap, this study wills effort to document the activities of women involvement in forest resource management. They were compelled to do household chores only but now they are very actively participated the preservation of the forest by the positive impact of other community forest led by women.

This study is conducted to access and analyze the women's opportunity and constraints to be participated in the management of the forest resources in Bukine Dada Community forestry, the findings of the study would be helpful to the planners, policy makers and development cadres to understand the condition of women and to develop meaningful and inclusive programs and policies. It would also be useful for the researcher to conduct further research. It would be helpful to dig out the condition of women in the study area by the local people and women themselves.

This study shows that how the community forest management system in Bukeni Dada Community Forestry, Maranathana ward no. 7 in the Pyuthan District works and it also shows how the women are sensitive to the need of managing forest from which they get their forest supply. And it is hoped this study would help to make policy for forest user in forest development activities, for extension and successful way, for similar field workers and agencies (NGOs / INGOs/Gos) who want to work in forestry sector.

Conceptual Framework:



Effecting Factors

The community forest user group (CFUG) is a group formed by the concerned households of particular community forest in which in both men and women are considered as users. The community forest user committee (CFUC) is formed by the members either by consensus or by election. This conceptual frame work says that if women's participation is in community forestry mainly in preparation of operational plan and constitution, in CFUG assembly, CFUC meeting, planning and decision process, CF management activities and benefit sharing mechanism, the community forest will be sustainable and productive; group will be inclusive and democratic and finally contribute to have equitable society.

The degree of participation of women is influenced by various factors. Driving forces here imply for motivating factors, assuming that it accelerates the process of women participation in community forestry and hindering factors or barriers mean retarding forces for women participation. These both factors are governed by various socio-economic settings (traditions, culture, belief and social norms and values), personal traits, knowledge and skill of respondents, interest and needs of individuals, perception towards women, work load to women, institutional arrangement of community forestry.

During the processes of CF management there may have many socio-cultural, economic and technical, political and institutional forces that boost up or suppress the participation of women. Because of the social constraints women always hesitate to speak in front of a mass, and so they cannot actively participate in decision making processes of FUG/FUC assembly and meeting.

In common sense, people's participation means involvement of all concerning people in a project/program from the stage of planning to benefit sharing. For research, the definition of women's participation in the context of community forest management is, "the process of inclusion and involvement of women for the management of forest resources aiming at increasing forest productivity in a sustainable, equitable and inclusive way". The management activities which are included for the study are preparation of constitution and operational plan (planning) and its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, decision making in regular meeting and general assembly and benefit sharing. Participation implies the active engagement/involvement of women's users in the processes of community forest management so that their voice and choice are heard and addressed.

CHAPTER – TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is generally focuses on the literature review of this study. Literature review helps the researcher to clarify the concepts and formulation of new ideas and better way of looking at the study topic. This is chapter reviews of available literatures such as from books, journals, research papers and articles, published by various scholars from different perspectives, particularly, focusing in the field of community forest. Women chapter half of the population of the world, so there is no doubt about the necessity to balance the role of both sexes; male and female in order to succeed in any development program. Although there are some provisions to include women in development activities in Nepal but it is not working in real life.

2.1 Forest in Nepal

According to forest Rules (1995), Government forests are being handed over to the forest user group as community forests with the constitution and operational plan. Forest Department has produced operational Guidelines for the implementation of community forestry. The Guidelines allow field staff to work closely with the local community in identifying forest users and support to prepare constitution, preparing operational plan , handing over the responsibility of managing community forests, implementing the plan and review.

The master plan for the forestry sector, 1998 primarily aims to supply forestry related basic needs, firewood, timber and fodder and to conserve environment and genetic resources. The plan set up the physical targets of the community and private forestry program includes firewood timber and fodder production by establishing community and private forests through public participation and distribution of improved stoves.

Until the 1970s, it was gradually recognized that it was impossible for the forest department to protect the forest effectively. As local people continued to depend on forest product for their livelihood, they had no other option than to use forests to create a legal environment. Which was to enable local populations to manage forests themselves, one of the outcomes was the decentralization act of 1983 (GDI, 1997).

The new forest policy (1993): Nepal's forest sector policy was first declared in the sixth plan (1981 which emphasized community participation in the management, conservation and utilization of forest resources. The government prepared a Master plan for forestry sector in 1987. This placed greater emphasize on community forestry program. Based on this policy and precious PF and PPF policies, a new community forestry policy was derived after democracy in Nepal in 1990. the main principal of that policy was to meet the basic forest product needs of local through community forestry and private planting by phased handing over of all accessible hill forestry to the local communities to the extent that they are willing and able to manage them (Hobley,1996). The emphasis on users group rather than Panchayat of Village Development Committee emerged from the experiences gained from the implementation of community forestry between mid 1980s and 1990 s. the user groups as an organizing concept was formalized in 1990s in legislation and policy statement.

Similarly, Sibdi writes, the forest act 1993 provides a legal basis for all three types of property rights-state property, private property and common property. Community forestry provides a framework for the establishment private property, the provision of private and leasehold forestry established private property, the provision of government managed forest define state property.

2.2 Community Forestry

According to (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991) the term community forestry has become buzz word these days. It is the combination of two words: community and forestry. The term community has its broad sense; refer to any group of persons united by a community of interest in certain geographical area. In this sense a community may be refer a professional group, a residential units, or a club or a voluntary association prevailing in a geographical location. On the other hand, forest is a biological community dominated by trees and other wood vegetation. Thus, when we use these two words together, community forestry means something like “people forestry the acknowledgment that community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and “the people” should have a major and vital role in decision making. At this level, that is, as a statement about the philosophy behind community forestry, there is nothing wrong with the term. According to Gilmour and Fisher, community forestry or village forestry is seen as the control, management, and use of forest resources by villagers. It seeks to

increase the level of awareness of local people and actively to involve them in all aspect of forestry activities.

The concept of community forestry was introduced by FAO publication “forestry for local community development” in 1978. FAO has define community forestry as any situation which intimately involves local people in forestry activities excluding large scale industrial forestry that contributes to community development throughout employment and wages but includes forest service’s which encourage and assist forestry activity at the community level. The legitimating of the concept was also boosted by the adaptation of “forestry for people” as them for the eight world forestry congress in Jakarta in 1978. By the 1980 the concept of community forestry has became major program within the forestry policy of many developing countries;

(Gautam 2001) says, community forestry is defined as ‘small scale, village level forestry practices where decisions and actions are made on a collective basis. The rural people participate in planning, establishment, management, and harvesting of forest resources and receive a major proportion of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from the forestry product’. After the implementation of community forestry, these products are equally distributed to all the CFUG members. In addition to it, people have started getting different training opportunities as well as they come in contact with different NGOs and INGOs. This contact helps them in planning the community forestry for poverty alleviation through income generation

In the process of protecting and maintaining such village and community forests, people employ a “Banpale’ or ‘Katuwale (village message announcer) who is paid in food, grains by all household at harvest times. In most cases the katuwale is a man belonging to a traditional law, caste and more importantly, supposed to be physically very strong and active. Indeed, he abuses, which is in fact under the local traditional norms. The weapon deployed most effectively against anyone violating the public rules or causing to others belonging.

Community forestry is the control and management of forest resource by the people who use for their domestic purpose and as an internal part of subsistence and peasant farming system (Gilmor and Fisher, 1991)

2.3 Community forestry in Nepal

The community forestry concept in Nepal is a courageous, innovative and future oriented approach towards participatory forestry management by local people. Community forestry is widely celebrated as one of the most progressive policy examples of developing control over forest resources to community based user groups, which has established a viable procedure for handing over the forest to actual group of users with a legal status as autonomous and corporate institutions with perpetual succession.

According to (C.A Thomas 2008), community forestry in Nepal is often touted as a successful model for participatory, community- based forest management in developing countries (Mahapatra, 2000; Springate-Baginski et al; 1999; Timsina, 2003). There is considerable evidence that community forestry is improving forest protection and regeneration (Gautam et al., 2004,2002; Springate Bagnski et al; yadav et al; 2003 logically, improved forest resource availability should increase the flow of those resources to local household and there by fulfill subsistence needs for forest products that is, if community forestry improves forests conditions in Nepal, then it should improve the livelihoods of those who are most dependent on forest resources

(Kanel 2006) says, in addition community forestry approach puts the community at the centre rather than the forest. Therefore it is called people centered forestry. The community forestry program, thus became one of the major forestry components aimed at managing rural forest for equitable sharing of benefit sharing among stakeholders and sustainable management of forest resources

Similarly, (Joshi 1999) says, evaluation of development paradigm influence of the forest policy of Nepal in 1957, under the forest nationalization act of 2013 B.S government of Nepal nationalized all the private forest. From 1957 to 1977; subsequent amendment was made in rules and act.

According to (Fishe, 2002) the legislation provides to be completely because the act controlled utilization of forest products and only gave importance on controlling the users to enter the forest. The development of forest was in capable of maintaining effective control over thousands of small patches of forests throughout the hills.

2.4 People's participation

According to (FAO, 1982) People's participation is essentially to do with economic and political relationship within the wider society. It is not just a matter of involvement in project activities but rather the process by which the rural people are able to organize themselves and through their own organization is able to identify their own needs, share in decision, implement and evaluate participatory action.

According to (Chhetri, 1999) most of the users involved in plantation in return for wages. This involvement is given name of full participation. All seedlings were pulled out in the same evening of plantation work. When researcher asked the users during his field visit about such behavior; it was known that they were thinking that plantation of government seedlings means losing their convenient grazing land. From this researcher it was concluded that the type of people involved in decision making were elite while some other people were not fully informed and the need of general people was not recognized.

Participation means their active not passive involvement and it should be transformative. People's participation is often narrowly defined as the voluntary condition of labor and or cash by the local people. However, conceptually people's participation includes their participation in identifying needs, decision making, implied benefit sharing, and evaluation. Community participation is the means of involving people outside of the government in the planning process. (Siddiqi, 1989)

It is realized that people's participation is the best way to achieve the objective on effective protection and management of forest resources. It is suggested for popular participation that existing local practices, institution, organizational structure, and local user group should be recognize. People should be convinced that they are not only the protector but the immediate beneficiaries as well. Effective participation can be further increased if people are well informed about the program and sense of belonging is created through motivation and awareness (Kayastha, 1991).

2.5 Women's participation in community forestry.

Women do participate in general meetings, where participation of any household member is mandatory and where a fine often must be paid for being absent from such meetings. Primarily, women are active in the field of the collection of forest products, cultural operations and forest protection and management activities. These activities consume significant time and energy, take women away from the home, and limit their participation in CFUG activities, particularly if that participation does not lead to decisions that positively affect them. The participation of women without involving them in productive and community management roles increases their workload and ultimately contributes towards widening gender disparity in natural resource management (Gentle 2003).

The issue of gender has been considered important within development circles at least since the mid-1980s (UN Decade of Women 1980s). Studies all over the Himalayas have shown the harvesting of forest resources for daily needs—firewood, fodder, and leaf litter—is done primarily by women (Agarwal 1997). Within the gender and development literature, gender has most often been equated with women and women's issues. Yet gender is defined as the socially constructed differences between biological males and females. In other words, what it means to be a woman and what it means to be a man varies across cultures, places, along with the passing of times. Thus, to take gender seriously within community forestry requires a focus on how differences between men and women are locally defined and what implications this has for participation in the community forestry process.

Community forestry involves local people, especially women in the management of forest resources, which are at least partly intended for their use. It is based on the notion that appropriate involvement by local women in forest management enhances the sustainable use of forest resources. The basic objective of community forestry programs is to increase community involvement in the management and ownership of forest resources. The underlying principle of community forestry program is that the program is of the people, carried out by the people themselves, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is, therefore, essential to achieve sustainable development (Principle 20, Rio

Declaration,1992). The exclusion of women in the resource management process has serious negative consequences not just for gender equity, but also for the efficient functioning and long term sustainability of these initiatives, and for women's empowerment (Agarwal 1997, Inserra, 1989).

Involvement of the women is crucial for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of forest product such as firewood, fodder and fruits, grass, etc. they have done most of domestic works. Therefore, it is they who suffer the social and economic consequences of deforestation, most directly having to spend more and more time and walk longer distances to in search of these essential forest products that has affected both health and time of rural women. However, they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected. Most of the cases are not single women participated in the forest user's group program through self-interest and motivation. Most women were simply nominated, and they had no idea that they were participating as members of an executive committee. Some women member said that they were there because their husbands of fathers had forced them to participate (Dahal, 1994).

According to (Gurung, 1997), the local socio-cultural practices and men dominant society marginalized their input on the community forest management role. The 'heavy work burden of village women that they get very little spare time to participate in community and village level development activities on a regular basis. In general, their participation is limited it labor such as carrying seedlings, pitting, planting, weeding and forest clean-up activities; few women have the time to attend user group assemblies and meeting during the day time. Although, major decisions among are made not by the FUG committee alone but by the assembly of users, in many places women are still marginalized in decisions at FUG meeting and assemblies where decisions are made.

Women have more household chores than man; while men have more occupational duties than women. Thus, the traditional belief that women's activities are almost exclusively confined to the home is today still continuous. Therefore, it can be the level of women's participation in a program of the forestry. Cultural and social norms also determine women's participation. Although more women might be enticed to leave home to participate in outside economic and social activities, social norms which dictates that the women's place is the home and it is the

husband's duty to support the family. Other norms stress that men are naturally superior to women (Regmi, 1989).

Women's effective participation in CFG decision-making would require that they not only become members of the group, but also attend and speak up at meetings, and can (at least some of the time) ensure that decisions are in their favour. In other words, they would need to move from being absent or just nominal members to interactive (empowered) participants. Where are they placed currently? (Agrawal).

Some of the important features of community forestry policy are as follows

All the forests can be handed over to users (no area limit) the forest user groups (FUGs) have to manage the forest as per the approved constitution and operational plan. Any national forests suitable to be converted into community forest (CF) will not be assigned to other such as leasehold forest. District forest officer can hand over forest to FUG. The FUG can use surplus fund in any kinds of community development work and fix the price of forestry products irrespective of government's royalty. The FUG can plant long term cash crops without the main forestry crops. FUG can transport any forest products simply by informing the DFO. They can establish forest based industries. The punish misuses who offend against the rule of operational plan (Joshi, 1997).

(Gentle, 2005) in his lecture note reported that "According to UN statistics, women do 67% of the world's work, yet their earning for it amount to only 10% of the total world's income." Women do most of the work in gathering and using forest products. They have significant knowledge of the forest and local use of the forest. However, lots of women are still unaware of their rights and responsibilities in CF. He also suggested that empowerment of women is the best option to uplift women in the society.

On the end of literature review the several studies and research worked has been carried out the community forestry. But there is still lack of sufficient studies on women participation and role in community forestry in the Pyuthan District. Thus, there is a need for conduction separate studies on women participation/role in community forestry which would be very useful for the development of the women participation in the forest management.

Women capture half of the population of the world so there is no doubt about the necessity to balance the role of both sexes i.e. male and female in order to succeed in any development program. Although there are some provisions to include women in development activities in Nepal but it is not working in practical life.

The community forestry programs launched by government and its success and failure depend upon people's participation for the present study, it should be noted that people's participation needs to be understood within the context of local culture, norms and values as well as people's knowledge and perception about their ecosystem. The reason for the failure of any program could be the negligence of planner about people's interest and their religious attitudes. It should be noted that people's participation means to promote people's involvement in a program mentally, physically and economically for their common welfare.

Community forestry, one of the successful and people centric program started thirty seven years ago have been gaining momentum for sustainable forest resource management at community level. During this period many scholars have carried out many researches related to women in community forestry. They found that women are principal users/collector of the forest products like firewood, fodder and fruits, grass, leaf etc. and they have much more contribution in forest management too. They also found that women's participation in decision making and benefit sharing was low. Research is essential to know the current situation i.e. whether it has progressed or worsened. In this context, the research provides the information about participation of women in various community forest management activities. This research also helps find out the factors that have been motivating and hindering women's involvement/participation in Community Forest Management.

CHAPTER- THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Rationale of the selection of the study area

Pyuthan district is one of the hill districts of Rapti zone. Khalanga is the headquarters of pyuthan district. For the study "Bukeni Dada Community Forest" was selected. It is Situated in ward no 7 of Maranathana VDC nearly the khalanga Bazzar. Bukeni Dada Community Forest Program has been lunched since 2052. This VDC is composed different ethnic groups such as Dalit, Chhitri, Brahamin and Magar. Furthermore, it is easy to collect data, more women involved in CF and carry out the study because it is easily accessible and familiar place to this area and it is accessible to the researcher to collect data. Another reason, the proportion of users group member are mix types i.e. different gender, cast and ethnicity So, this area is selected.

3.2 Research Design

This study has been adopted descriptive research design. Descriptive research is used to describe and mention historical practices and related former, studies. It is helpful to describe the phenomena of this study. Explorative research design is used to find new information about specific problem of the study.

This study also tries to explore new information about the affecting factor in women participation in the study universe. So exploratory research design is useful in this study, collected data has been analyzed to reach the conclusion.

3.3 Natures and Sources of data

Both primary and secondary data have been used for the study, primary data have been collected form the field survey with the help of questionnaire, observation, group discussion form key informants. District Development Committee (DDC), District Forest Office (DFO), Village Development Committee Office, CFUG Committee, TU Central Libery books, Other Related thesis topics, Media and District profile of Pyuthan district were the major sources of secondary data for this study. The secondary data helped to understand overall status of women's

in Nepal. Theoretical perspective to look at women's position, participation and decision making of women's in CF management activities.

3.4 Universe and the Sample

The Bukeni Dada Community forest was previously selected for the study area. To expose the contribution of women and their empowerment through Community Forest activities, the researcher give emphasis to women member in studies. Though, the male member also selected for sampling to make this exclusive and participatory. Purposive sampling design was use in this study to collation quantitative and qualitative data. This is the methods of selecting samples, in which the choice of selection of sampling units depends entirely on the discretion or judgment of the sampler. For the selection of household for interview prior noticed was served informing the respondents of the household interview. There are 150 household as members of the forest user groups. Among them only 50 houses were taken households were chosen for the sample by applying simple random sampling method. Out of 50 household members, 20 male and 30 female members were taken. Then the researcher searched for key persons who have an idea about the concerned community. The main reason to take female more is that this study is concentrate on female participation. So it is necessary to know females view, the reason to take male is that only female s view is not sufficient to make a research in unbiased way

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

The study is based on key informant interview, field Observation various data collection technique are used to collect the primary data. The following tools were used.

- **Field Observation:**

Participation observation was the main sources for obtaining primary data. In observation, qualitative as well as qualitative data were collected to analyze the meaningful participation in community forest management and benefit sharing. The researcher analyzed women's participation on community forest management activities such as general assembly including decision making, monitoring and evaluating activities and operational plan. These activities enhanced the socio-economic condition of women was observed in this study. So the observation was proved more fruitful to find the reality in this study. Interview is the kind of

information collection way in a short time. The information was gathered from target population such as members of CFUGs key informants and local people. Interview information regarding the women participation in CF, the history of forest women's involvement in forest management, women's perception in CF and hindering and motivating factors of women participation in CFM were collected from the key informants and the knowledgeable person of the community. It was used for collection of data to fulfill the objective of the study.

- **Key Informant Interview:**

The researcher visited research areas with her research assistant and representatives from the concerned members of CFUGs . Then the researcher searched for key persons who have an idea about the concerned community and CFUG and CF activities. Individual members of the present FUC, Ex FUC members, teachers, ward chairperson, elderly men and women and other knowledgeable persons were considered as key persons. Through the key informant interview, information regarding the women participation in community forest, the history of forest, women's involvement in forest and problems of women's participation in CF management, activities, and implementation were collected. Among them 3 were elder people of CF (Former Ranger 1, Teacher 1, and Leader 1) and 2 executive committee members (Former EC female member 1 and chairperson EC 1). Several probing questions were asked depending upon the level and the capacity of the informants.

Focus Group Discussion:

Focus group discussions were carried out to explore the knowledge and participation of women in CF. It was supposed to find out the real reasons for the change and also helped to triangulate the information collected from key informants. Four focused group discussions were mainly conducted with CF women members, executive members of the FUG, and other stake holders. A time and venue for the discussion was decided upon and the selected participants were informed in advance. The concerned members arrived at the venue at the appointed time and discussion was started by introducing the participants, then the objectives of the discussion were expressed and the discussion proceeded based on the objectives of the research. To guide the discussion a check list was used by the researcher informally. The group discussion was fruitful to find the women's perception about themselves and male's role for women's

participation in community forest. Emphasis was given to the women's participation on managing the forest.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

The data were collected through primary and secondary sources. Collected data were analyzed to make them meaningful and to meet the objectives of the present study. qualitative data's were gathered from field survey and informal interviews (participatory assessment) as it is felt that freedom of respondents to discuss their beliefs would lead to greater understanding by the subject to studied; quantitative data's were gathered mainly from primary and secondary sources. Table was created grouping the data into various categories to support the set objectives.

3.7 Limitation of the study

Nepal is a multi- cultural, multi- linguistic nation. It is really different to cover the multi-cultural, multi-linguistics population in the research for a student researcher. Due to the socio-economic problem, the solution may be different. This study has some limitation. This research is done by the student researcher, for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of Masters in Arts Degree in Sociology. So that the researcher have limitation in economic source, limited in time and limited manpower for the extensive study. Some selective social science research tools are used in the research work which is also the limitation of the study.

The study of Maranathana VDC may not be enough to generalize all over the nation. But it would be useful for the same ecological, socio- economic, and socio- biological area of the nation.

CHAPTER FOUR

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

This chapter deals with the study area and respondents. It includes description of the study area i.e. Pyuthan district, Bukeni Dada community forest and users' demographic characteristics. Forest and human life have close relationship and without forest human life couldn't be predicted. Bukeni Dada Community Forest User Group (CFUG) and it's purely women managed forest group. CFUG is situated in Maranathana V.D.C ward no.7. It is about 5 km north from Khalanga Bazaar.

4.1 General Overview of the Study Area

4.1.1 Physical Setting

Maranathana is one of the VDC among of 49 VDCs of pyuthan District. Toward north side of east west highway and 5 km far from east side of the district headquarter (khalanga). It is bounded by Bijuwar, Khalanga, Dharampani, Chuja, Torbang and Dharmawati VDC is respectively east, west, north and south. According to the census 2068 BS total population was 709 (only ward no 7) among male are 358 and female are 351. Literacy rate of Maranathana VDC is 66.9 %. The study area is situated in Pyuthan district Maranathana V.D.C. which is located in the Mid Western Development Region of Nepal.

Pyuthan district Maranathana V.D.C lies between $28^{\circ} 5'$ and $28^{\circ} 36'$ N latitude and $82^{\circ} 54'$ to $83^{\circ} 12'$ E. It is bounded in the north by Dharampani and Chuja V.D.C., in the east by Torbang V.D.C., in the west by Khalanga and Khaira V.D.C., and in the south by Bijuwar and Dharmawati V.D.C. The part of the Maranathana V.D.C has a sub-tropical climate; The average annual rainfall is 2000 mm, which is the recorded in VDC,s profile. The maximum yearly temperature is 33° C in April-May and minimum temperature is $7-11^{\circ}$ C during December-January.

The population distribution to the different ethnic and cast groups. Different castes and ethnic groups have been divided into four main divisions. (Chhetri, Magar, Dalit Janajati).

Table 1: General Overview of Bukeni Dada C.F.

S.N	Bukeni Dada Community Forestry	
	Condition	Activities
	Forest area	89.93 ha
	Date of Established	2052 B.S
	Forest Type	Natural and Plantation
	Users	Ward 7
	Total Household	150
	Total Population	709
	Ethnic Composition	Brahmin/Chhetri, Janajati, Dalit and Magar
	Major Occupation of the Users	Agriculture / Business
	Benefit Sharing	By the Users

4.2 Establishment of BDCFUG

Bukeni Dada Community Forest user Group was established in 2052/1/12 and the forest was resisted to the user group on 2053/6/12. Populations of Maranathana VDC- 7 the user of CF. Among the total area of ward no. 7 89.93 ha is covered by community forest area. CF is rich in bio-diversity. Variability among living organisms from all sources is called biodiversity. In Simple from, flora and fauna are biodiversity categories. In the study community forest. The major flora includes Sal, Saj, Sisau, Khayar, Chiuri, Chilauni and Simal as a major timber plants. The medical plants included Harro, Barro, Kurilo, Amala and Nimpatta etc. Similarly, major fauna included Tiger, Rabbits, Jackal, Monkey, Leopards, Forest Goats etc. Likewise, among birds, Kalize, Majur, Crow, Parrot, Eagles etc are found in the forest

4.3 Socio- Economic Characteristics of the Respondents:

The socio- economic characteristics of forest user group have both direct and indirect effect one community forestry management. This chapter deals about the socio-economic condition of the Bukeni Dada Community forest user Group.

4.4 Objectives of the BDCFUG

- a) Conservation of forest resources (development, management and utilization of the forest).
- b) Supply of timber, fodder, firewood and other forest resources to the users.
- c) Revenue generation by selling of surplus forest resources.
- d) Conduct forest development activities for sustainability of forest resources.
- e) Keep balance on supplying forest resources on the basis of equity.
- f) To conserve water resources.
- g) To control soil erosion.
- h) Conduct socio-economic activities for poor and excluded users (35% fund should be used).

4.4.1 Cast and Ethnicity of Respondent

The table below presents about the distribution of population according to the ethnic and cast groups. Different castes and ethnic groups have been divided into three main divisions. (Chhetri, Magar, Dalit).

Table 2: Caste and Ethnicity of Respondents

Caste/Ethnicity	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Brahmin/Chhetri	5	41.66	7	58.33	12	24
Magar	7	35	13	65	20	40
Others (Dalit)	8	44.44	10	55.55	18	36
Total	20	40	30	60	50	100

Source: - Field Survey, 2013.

The above table shows that out of the 50 respondents of the study is upper caste whose number is 13 and the lowest number is of the lowest caste only 7. In fact, so many house owners of lower caste are there in the study are but they are poorly included in community forest users Groups (Field Survey, 2013). So we can say if the lowest caste was educated or they were aware about the community forestry they could easily come under this forest user group. So due

to lack of awareness and education regarding the forest use, very few of the lower caste people have been included in the forest user group.

4.4.2 Age

Age structure is main component for showing the social condition of each phenomenon. Generally, young people are economically more active than the older ones. But they sometimes they loose their emotional intelligence while taking decision for common property resources management.

Table 3: Age Structure of the Sampled Population

Age(Year)	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Adult(20-34)	5	62.5	3	37.5	8	16
Middle (35-39)	10	33.33	20	66.66	30	60
Old(60 and Above)	5	41.66	7	58.33	12	24
Total	20	40	30	60	50	100

Source:-Field Survey, 2013.

According to age table, the age of the respondent is divided into 3 categories. They re adult (Respondents belonging 20-34 Years old), middle age (Respondents belonging 35-59 Years old), and Old age (Respondents belonging 60 and above). Among the Respondents, majority falls in middle age whose number is 30 and has played vital role to manage the community forest. The numbers of adult respondents are only the study does not find female respondent under the age of 20-34 years because they were far away the home for their study and service (field Survey, 2013). The number of old age respondents are only who are belonging in 60 and above 60 Years old is highly experienced and worked as advisor although some of them are working in forest user committee. Among them male respondents mainly 20-34 age category show very much interest on forest management as well as female respondents mainly 35-49 age category show very much interest on forest management. And those can play a vital role for protection and distribution of forest resources to the users.

4.4.3 Education

Education is the guideline of a society it helps to increase the knowledge power and leading capacity. Education is the one of the most important factors to changing structure of the society.

Table 4: Respondents Educational Status

Level of Education	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Illiterate	-	-	15	100	15	30
Under SLC	10	55.55	8	44.44	18	36
S.L.C	6	54.54	5	45.45	11	22
Over S.L.C	4	66.66	2	33.33	6	12
Total	20	40	30	60	50	100

Source:-Field Survey, 2013.

The above table tried to show the educational status of the respondents. Here, the level of education has been divided into 4 categories like illiterate (Those who could not read at time of interview) under SLC (Those respondents who have passed the SLC) over S.L.C (Those respondents who have passed I.A and more).

The educational status of the respondents is not so bad. Among the 20 male respondents 10 have passed the S.L.C and more none of male respondents are illiterate. Among the 30 female respondents 7 have passed S.L.C. level 15 respondents of female are illiterate. Education plays crucial role to determine the capability of individuals for carrying out different activities. Generally it is perceived that a person with higher educational status has known the importance of women's participation in community forest.

4.4.4 Occupational

The majority of the respondents of Bukeni Dada Community Forestry were found depends on farming, however, other occupations like services and business sector were also their sources of livelihoods.

Table 5: Respondents Occupational Status

Occupational	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Agriculture	8	40	12	60	20	40
Agriculture & Service	-	-	1	100	1	2
Agriculture & Business	3	25	9	75	12	24
Business	2	33.33	4	66.67	6	12
Service	2	50	2	50	4	8
Remittance	5	71.43	2	28.57	7	14
Total	20	40	30	60	50	100

Source; - field survey, 2013.

The above table tried to show the educational status of the respondents of the study area. It is divided into 5 main parts like agriculture, agriculture with Service, Agriculture with Business, Business and Service. At least there is no doubt that the main occupation of the respondents is Agriculture and the Economy of the respondents is dominated by Agriculture. Most of the respondents expressed that they have done another profession, although agriculture is the most important one. Out of 50 respondents 40 % are engaged in agriculture and among them 60% are female respondents. Out of 20 males respondents 25% are engaged in agriculture and business. By this way, we can conclude that majority of the respondents are doing agro profession although they are literate and educated. Nepalese people adopted many occupations for their livelihoods. Most of the people have been involved in agricultural activities including livestock farming.

4.4.5 Income

Income is one of the mirrors to show the economic status as well as social status of people. It is easy to conduct the life style when there is more income in comparison to expenditure. It also helpful to uplift the status of people in the society

Table 6: Respondents of status by Income

Income(Rs.000 per year)	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
High (above 50)	5	41.66	7	58.33	12	24
Middle (20-50)	9	37.5	15	62.5	24	48
Low (Below 20)	6	42.85	8	57.14	14	28
Total	20	40	30	60	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The study has divided the household income into three main parts which are high income (Those respondents who have more than Rs.50,00 income pre year), Middle house hold income (Those respondents who have Rs.20-50 thousand incomes per year). Out of 30 female Respondents, the majority fall under middle household income Rs.20-50 thousand) whose number is 20. So that we can say Annual income of the respondents is one of the important factors that also help in determining the economic condition of the respondents. Due to the lack of enough food most of the villagers were involved in other activities such as small business and private sector employment, foreign employment to fulfill their daily needs.

4.4.6 Household Food Security Status

Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. However, they cannot produce sufficient food due to the small piece of land and lack of irrigation facility. Food security is one of the major challenges for the world including Nepal as growing population require more food but the production process is threatened by limited agriculture land and low productivity of soil.

The main crops grown on their land includes Rice, Maize, Millet, potato and so on. The following table shows the food sufficiency situation of respondents in Bukeni Dada Community.

Table 7: Household food security status of the Respondents

Food Sufficient	Households	Percentages
Less than 3 Month	3	6
4-6 Month	15	30
7-9 Month	14	28
10-12 Month	15	30
12+ above	3	6
Total	50	100

Source:-Field Survey, 2013.

About 62% of the farmers do not produce sufficient grains to meet their annual food requirements whereas very few households (38%) produce enough food grains throughout the year. Due to the lack of enough food most of the villagers were found involved in other activities such as small business and private sector employment to fulfill their daily needs. Food is an essential thing for life. Without sufficient food we don't live a healthy and prosperous life. But the above table shows that most of the people of this area haven't get sufficient food from their agriculture. If we haven't enough food to eat what can we do? Other things are not possible despite the food they couldn't provide qualitative education to their children because their main concentration goes on food and they couldn't uplift their life status. Fulfillment of the basic need is essential to get progress on the society and live a happy and prosperous life.

4.4.7 Livestock

Animal husbandry is another major source of income of people in my study area. In Bukeni Dada Community almost all people raise cattle, such as cows, oxen, buffaloes, goats and pigs. The following table shows numbers of cattle and their types they raised in the study area.

Table 8: Distribution of livestock among the respondents

Name of Animal	Number
Buffalo	30
Cow	25
Oxen	24
Goat	50
Pig	15
Hen	40

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The main purpose of rearing these animals is to getting farm yard manure, milk, meat, and draft power to plough land other income generating activities. Above table shows that people of study area gave more priority to the goats and hens; than the other cattle. It was also informed that goats and hens were staple source of cash income. Similarly, it was also found that goats, hens, and pigs were also a main source of meat and manure for Bukeni dada Community's people. Similarly, the respondents also informed that less fodder was require for goat as compared to cow and buffalo. Although all respondents are farmers, some of them do not rear the livestock's due to their own family case like low number of family members, grazing are far from home, unavailability of health related service etc.

Most of the Brahmins and Chhetris kept buffalos, cows, oxen, and goats to fulfill their needs. For example: buffalos and cows for milk and oxen for plough the field. But they didn't keep pigs and hens because of the different blind faiths traditions of Hindu religion. In Hindu religion the upper caste shouldn't have keep those animals as pet. Dalit and Magar only keep poultry farm and pigs as professional. But they didn't get more benefits from this occupation because of the lack of professional knowledge, lack of investment and lack of proper market also. From these reasons it can be said that the animal husbandry is not also well enlarged in this society

CHAPTER FIVE

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This chapter deals with the FM practices and women’s participation in the both CF. this is the main section of the study. Basically, it concerns with the specific objectives and their corresponding result. The result is totally based on the data collection from primary and secondary sources. Four dimensions of participation such as women’s involvement in decision making and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and benefit sharing are discussed as their participation in CFM.

5.1 Women Participation in Community Forest Management Activities

Women are primary users of the forest so that women participation should be increased in community forestry to preserve and conservation the forest resources. There are different role of women involvement in management activities, monitoring and evaluation process and benefit sharing in community forestry

Table 9: Women Participation in Forest Management Activities

S.N	Description	No of Respondent	Percentages
1	Plantation	12	40
2	Weeding	3	10
3	Thinning / Pruning	2	6.66
4	Bush Clearing	4	13.33
5	Collection of forest Products	9	30
Total		30	100.00

Source: - Field Survey, 2013.

Table show that most of women are participation in plantation, and collection of forest products and bush cleaning conducted in the community forest where as in thinning and pruning and weeding a few numbers of women were participated because they are engaged in household

works and cattle rearing also. They don't have more time and they are taken as power less people in such type of activities, so the males are participated in those activities. In other official works and policy / plan making process because of the lack of knowledge and extra interruptions from the males. It was reported that plantation activities were done five times at this community forest after its handing over to the CFUG; first in 2053 and last in 2070. It was done in the barren land of the forest. The major species planted were Amala, Khayar, Sisau, Harro, Simal, Jamuin, Bel etc. In the study area, community forest plantation was usually done in june and july. They informed that it was normally done by both sexes. However, male were engaged to prepare the bed foe planting the seedling and bringing if from the nursery to plantation are whereas women were found to be highly to be involved in plantation activities. According to field survey, it was found that 60 percent of women were found participated.

In the study area, the bush clearing, thinning and pruning activities are normally done in October to December. It was held every year for the well growth and betterment of the seedling. All the user members of community forest participate. After thinning and pruning, the removing parts of the tree were collected in certain place. After that, each of the participants gets those parts in equal bases. The user members who did not participate in thinning and pruning activities had no access to those resources. Male were engaged in supervision of thinning and pruning activities whereas females were found involved in removing the useless parts of the tree. It was relatively found higher in this activity because they couldn't get firewood during this time which was the main duty of women within a household.

5.1.1 Motivational Factors for Women Participation

During that time, Women had to walk nearly 2-3 hours for fire-wood, fodder and leaf-litter collection. After formation of the CF, the local people took interest to manage the forest. Then the forest condition was gradually improving and became better. Consequently, the quantity of the fodder and leaf litter were also increased in the CF. Women did not need to walk to other forest to collect the forest products. And then they also gradually started to participate in forest management activity by involving in executive committee of the CFUG.

Table 10: Motivational Factors for women Participation in Community Forest Managements activities

S.N	Motivational Factors	No of respondent	Percent
1	Self Interest	11	36.36
2	Villager's Request	8	26.66
3	Husband Advise	6	20
4	Mixed	5	16.66
	Total	30	100

Source: - Field survey, 2013.

The table shows that most of the respondents 36.66 percent were motivated by self interest and 26.66 percent were motivated by villager's request and 20 percent were motivated by Husband Advise like their Government policies, access to resources. About 16.66 percent were motivated by mixed factors.

From the study it is found that majority of the women of the study area were involved in forest management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of the forest products like leaf-litter, fire wood, fodder and other non-timber products. Their involvement is only because of others' involvement. The data shows they were influenced by Self Interest. They were found inspired by some success stories carried out in neighboring villages and other parts of the country, in which women's role was substantial. The finding is primarily in line with the theory of motivation of Maslow as every human being is mainly derived due to fulfilling his or her needs and interests.

In our male dominated society women are taken as weak aspects of the society and they don't have given any risky work, intellectual works, and so on. They compelled to live inside the house. They didn't get chances to complete the works social responsibilities such types of activities are still practiced in this society. But now some of the women were encouraged by their husbands and some of them form the villagers. Different types of trainings, public awareness program and women empowerment program conducted by the different NGOs/ INGOs and government sector playing the vital role to motivate the women in different social activities.

5.2 Women's Presentation in FUG Executive Committee

Inclusion of women secures rights, resources and opportunities of them in community forest management. CFDP guidelines and forest sector policy have made mandatory provisions for women's participation. In general, the executive committee members used to select through the consensus of the members at the general assembly. The user committee members are nominated by the users groups themselves. The executive committee members were selected through the consensus/ elections of the members at the general assembly. The involvement of women and in the executive committee of CF from the first formation to present tenure is presented in the table below.

Table: 11 Participation in Executive Committee (2053-2070)

Year	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total
2053	9	100	-	0	9
2057	10	90.09	1	09.91	11
2060	11	84.61	2	15.39	13
2064	10	66.67	5	33.33	15
2066	9	56.25	7	43.75	16
2069	8	47.05	9	52.95	17

Source:-Field survey, 2013.

Table shows the inclusion of women and men in the executive committee of CF in different time period. It shows that women participation in CF executive committee was relatively low. The highest women's participation is obtained in year 2069 B.s.(52.95 %) and the lowest is in 2066 B.S. (43.75%) The average participation of women for last six years is 24.5%. Though the participation is increasing trend, it is not substantial. The table shows that women participation in CF executive committee was relatively increasing as guided by the CF policy. The amended policy clearly mentioned that 33 percent women must be present in CF executive committee but now 52.95 % of is obtained here. The EC members are dominated by the users groups themselves. The present working committee is lead by women and among 17 members of

working committee 9 were females. The members of the users group said in group discussion in past" we were less educated than the male and we don't have time to go official work due to the household chores" but now most of the women were educated and they can actively participated in the community forest and other official works.

5.2 : Attending meeting by the women members in CF EC

Participation of women from planning to benefit sharing is equally important for the success of community forest. Involving only implementation of plan rather sharing benefits ultimately mistrusts among users. Active and decisive role of women help hearing their voice and choices.

Table 12: Attending meeting by the women members in CF EC

Women member	Total	Percentage
More frequently	15	50
Less frequently	10	33.33
Occasionally	5	16.67
Total	30	100

Source: - field survey, 2013.

The table shows that women participation in EC is satisfactory. Shows the participation of Attending meeting by the women members in CF EC Among 15 women forest users who participated in assembly meeting either regularly or more frequently, the majority (50 %) attended meeting like less frequently, i.e., they just participated in the meeting without any preparation and agenda. Likewise, 33.33 percent women attended meeting only 16.67% women took part meeting in occasionally. But all the women members of EC were not present in regular meeting due to their household chores and other problems. Some of them were regularly present and actively participate in decision making. Form which decisions made by the CF Executive Committee were in the favor of women. The low participation of women an executive committee meeting was also characterized by their low level of educational status. The women members seem more dependent on male members due to lower level of confidence and knowledge about subject matter. Hence women's decision-making in CFM is highly influenced by their educational status. Women EC member's participation was passive in the vital

discussion and in decision taking. Respondents perceived that women users are relatively less aware about the process and procedures of community forest than men. They were neither empowered nor encouraged to put their views in decision making process.

5.3 Women's participation in forest management training

Training is the most important factor of community Forest Management. If there no training Forest Management is not well manageable. Participation of women training to benefit sharing is equally important for the success of community forest management. Involving only implementation of training rather sharing benefits ultimately mistrusts among users.

Table 13: Women's Participation in Forest Management Training

S.N	No of Respondents	Percent
1	10	33.33
2	20	66.67
Total	30	100

Source: - Field Survey, 2013.

From the table 13 shows that 20 women were participated on forest manage training undertaken by CFUG. And 10 women were not participated on training due to the lack of time, awareness. Respondents were asked whether they got opportunities to participate various trainings and workshops organized by different agencies. Of total respondents only 66.67% got such opportunities and 33.33% of the respondents did not. Respondents further explained that due to negligence of CFUG and elite dominance they did not provide opportunities to involve. Respondents perceived that more than 90% of training and visit opportunities had been captured by the members of executive committee and elite.

5.4 Women Participation in Decision Making

In Bukeni Dada Community forestry the FUG makes decision through committee meetings and group assemblies, meeting of group or committee relied on the issue to be decided. Committee members decide minor issue whereas group decides major issue. Women's

involvement in decision making process in CF development and management is considered in term of their involvement in committee regular meeting and general assembly constitution preparation meeting, name registration in CFUG involvement in operational plan preparation, using voting right for executive committee members selection and involvement in conflict management.

5.5 Women's participation on constitution and formulation Operational Plan

It was found that the people of the study area depended upon the forest resources for their livelihood. They had made rules and regulations to manage forest which is know as constitutional and operational plan. In beginning, CF constitution and operational plan was formulated in the presence of local people with the help of district forest office. According respondent at that time most of the users involved in this process were male they made on operational plan for forest management, plantation, thinning, and pruning, collection of fodders, leaf litter, and firewood; within the field visit it was found that all the users had followed the rules and regulations strictly. In anybody went against the rules and regulation, he/ she will be punished.

UNIT SIX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the study, draw conclusion above the role of community forest in women empowerment and provides recommendations to make women more active in CFM and their development. Summary mainly focus on the objectives, methods of the study. Similarly, the recommendation part consists of some fundamental recommendations to the immediate stakeholders of the CFUG.

SUMMARY

The study "Participation of women in CF management" was conducted in BDCF of Maranathana VDC of pyuthan district aiming to access the status of CF in the participation of women empowerment. This research related that women participation is less than men in general assembly, constitution and operational plan development and their roles are less effective in decision making process due to the work burden in household and illiteracy also. Therefore, to bring the women in the mainstream of decision making process these obstacles should be gradually changed or removed. Including chairperson other key options (such as vice-chairperson, secretary and treasures) should be assigned to women. Such type of practice helps to boost up knowledge, morale and feeling of responsibility among women that ultimately will increase women's participation. Among that total 150 households 50 households were surveyed.

In community forest plantation activities were done five times at this community forest after its handing over to the CFUG; first in 2053 and last in 2070. It was done in the barren land of the forest. The major species planted were Amala, Khayar, Sisau, Harro, Simal, Jamuin, Bel etc. In the study area, community forest plantation was usually done in june and july. They informed that it was normally done by both sexes. However, male were engaged to prepare the bed foe planting the seedling and bringing if from the nursery to plantation are whereas women were found to be highly to be involved in plantation activities. According to field survey, it was found that 60 percent of women were found participated.

On the basis of the study, some major findings of the study can be concluded with different data. There are various castes and cultural groups who are the users of CF. BDCF user group is a multi ethnic group where Brahmin, Chhettri, Magar, Gurung and Dalit. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the study area. But they haven't enough land for produce agriculture production for their livelihood. So, people of the area are involved themselves in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well as business, wage, labor livestock etc. Access of the ordinary women in sub-dimensions of decisions making level found lower. The women members seem more dependent on male members due to lower confidence and little knowledge on subject matter. Both women and men found involved in forest products collection and transportation. However, the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the actual field. There is lack of special program targeted to women. Skill development activities and income generating activities support them to become self-reliant. Majority of the respondents of the study area were involved in forest resources management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of forest products. The findings reveal that education is the major influencing factors in decision making and leading the group in user committee. Most of women are found untrained and unaware of the activities lunched by the GOs / NGOs / INGOs.

The concept of community forestry programs a vital one for preserving and developing natural resources in particular in Nepal. Forest is one of major resources of rural livelihood. The rapidly increasing population growth and its subsequent effects on natural resources particularly forest resources has been noticing since long.

The main objectives of this research was to access women's participation in community forest management and to find out the problem faced by the women in management activities, decision process and implementation. Thus study also tried to analysis some socio-economic characteristics of the users of Bukeni Dada Community Forest. Women are primary users of forest resource and their role increasing in community forestry management. Thus, the ultimate manager's and users of the forest are women.

Bukani Dada CF is used mainly for fire-wood, grass, leaf litters, poles and timber, the forest products are collected for the domestic purposes. Women collect firewood during the scheduled community distribution time. They fulfilled their additional requirement of fire wood from agricultural residues. It took average of 3 hours for collecting a Bhari of firewood in the

past. These days firewood collection from CF is much more time saving and easier. Timber is used for house construction and household tools. Except very few houses, other houses are made by the timber and forest products. Fodder is the main animal feed for the livestock in this area. Every household (HH) maintain livestock for domestic purposes. Therefore, collection leaves and litters became the main job of the CF members especially women.

During the field observation most of the women were busy the whole day in doing productive as well as reproductive work. Most of women were involved in vegetable farming, animal husbandry, rearing and caring children's and labor work. Due to this women had no / leisure times, while some men were only busy in productive work and they are engaged to playing cards in their leisure time.

In the case of benefit sharing from social and development activities implemented by FUG, access of both sexes was found almost equal in the study area. But there was lacking of women focused development activities. For the better involvement of women in CFM human resource development activities should be launched effectively and sufficiently. Bukeni Dada Community forest user group found weak in conducting number of training. There is lack of special program targeted to women, and income generating activities which support them to become self-reliant.

Women were motivated to participate in CFM due to requirement of forest products, attachment with forest and women involved sources stories carried out in different parts of the country. The most responsible hindering factors are their low economic condition, illiteracy, lack of knowledge. Likewise traditional male dominated culture is also most hindering factors which discourage women involvement in CF activities. Women considered the self inspiration, their villagers, concerned EC, forestry technician's local political leaders and husband (family members) as potential sources of motivation to involve in CFM.

Regular income sources participatory decision making roles and professional development opportunity thrust the degree of women's participation. The system of utilization of local human resources also plays vital role in the pattern of women participation.

Educational system of the people plays a key role for better involvement of women. High educational status of the women, higher would be the participation of women. Similarly, if more

constant support from DFO and other line agencies are provided and professional development opportunities among FUG members are available, greater would be the chances of generating women's participation in community forest management.

About management of CF fund it was found that most of responsible persons are chairperson and treasure: which is collected by entry fee, selling forest products, domination and etc. In EC 17 members including chairperson were strong in executive committee. But they didn't show their dominance in executive committee different workshop and assembly use to held periodically in order to make decision about CF but it was found that there is less participation of female due to the busy in their household activities.

CONCLUSION

Forest is the sources of food, firewood, timber, fodder, leaves and litters etc. It is one of the major sources of rural livelihood in Nepal. The rapidly increasing population growth and it's subsequent effects on natural resources particularly forest resources has been noticing since long. The community forest is the forest handed over the local community on which they have the full authority to use, protect and manage community forest in their own way so that they can fulfill their basic needs for firewood, timber and other forest products in a sustainable manner. Forest is managed and used mainly by women in rural Nepal and their role is increasing in their society.

In practices women are involving in livestock farming and agricultural activities. These activities are heavily dependent upon forest resources. Therefore, women have closest relationship with forest resources. Proper management and utilization of forest resources are the main agenda of development. But interesting issue is that only women CFUGs are well managed as compared to men or mixed.

Bukeni Dada Community Forest lies in ward number 7 of Maranathana VDC of Pyuthan district. 150 households are directly involved at present within this CF whose economic activities are subsistence farming with livestock. This Community forest is used mainly for firewood, fodder, grasses, leaf litter and timber. The forest products are collected for using forest products are outlined in the FUG constitution and forest operational plan. Based on some focus group discussions, women's roles are socially identified for caring family members, livestock, which have provided them. Women's participation is important in almost all aspects and activities of

community forest. The female members of the Bukeni Dada Community forests Executive Committee are actively participating in the meetings and other activities of the CF. They are punctual also than the male. The location of the FUG committee, size of the community forest area, issue of gender equality and participatory orientation play a vital in the nature of women's participation in CF. The process of farming FUG and executive body plays important roles on the degree of women's participation.

When rural women became the member of FUG Committee then her new development role will be started. Groups meet to discuss community forestry rights and responsibilities. Women's participation also depends upon how many villagers understood the rights and authority of the FUG committee members. Traditional norms, powers in decision making process and benefit sharing also affect their participation, thus supports from family educational status of people plays a vital role for better involvement of women. High educational status of the women, higher would be the participation of the women. The outcomes of the study suggested that education has the pivotal role in active participation of women in public activities like CF management.

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Appendix 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you know about the community forest?
 - a) Established by government
 - b) Established by community
2. When was this CFUG established?
3. Who was established this CFUG?
 - a) Government
 - b) VDC
 - c) All users
 - d) don't know
4. How many members are there in the user Community?
5. How long have you doing work in this executive Community?
6. What is the women's role in community forestry management?
 - a) Nursery Preparation
 - b) Seedling Plantation
 - c) Cleaning
 - d) Guarding Forest
7. How was the forest situation before/ after the establishment of community forest?
8. What contribution did you make to establish this CFUG?
 - a) Cash donation
 - b) Labour Contribution
 - c) Formulation of Policy & Plan
 - d) Participation in the meeting
9. How many women are participation in planning and decision making processes in your FUG?
10. How many Participation of women in CFUG and CF Executive Committee?
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
11. What are the factors that affect the active participation of women?
 - a) Education
 - b) Family Support
 - c) Social Support
 - d) Personal Willingness
 - e) Others
12. How often women participate in the meeting?
 - a) More frequently
 - b) Less frequently
 - c) Occasionally
13. Have you taken part in any forest training?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

If Yes, what kinds of training..... Duration
14. If you have not participate in training what is the reason?
 - a) Lack of information
 - b) Lack of time

c) Lack of interest d) Lack of Education

15. Do you have any obstacles to participate in CF management? If Yes, what are the obstacles?

16. How much time do you spend for the forest management?

17. What is your contribution for your CF management?

18. Who collects firewood / fodder/leaf litters from your CF?

a) Male b) Female

19. What do you think about the present forest condition?

a) Increase b) Decreased

c) Neutral d) Don't know

20. Are you satisfy with the FUG Committee of your Community forest?

a) Yes b) No

If no reason of your dissatisfaction Please?

a) Dominance of Elite's b) Monopoly nature of CFUG members

21 What are the source of motivation for involve women in CFM?

a) Local Political Leader b) Family/ Husband

• c) Forest Technician d) Committee

22. Do you know the rules of FUG about Utilization, Conservation and Management? If Yes, specify the rules.....

23. Do you any information about Bukeni Dada Community Forest?

24. If someone destroyed the forest illegally what types of punishment will be given?

25. What do you suggest to do well management of the forest?