

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Forest is the main source of firewood, timber, litters and animals fodder and plays a vital role in the rural livelihood. A vast majority of the population about 90% of total is directly involved in managing forest as part of their every day life. Especially, the hill farmers of Nepal are mostly dependent on the forest for fire wood, timber, fodder and leaf litter for daily household use (Shyam thapa). Nepal's forests are decreasing approximately by 35-29% out of the total land area (about 147484 sq.km) in both quantity and quality over the last two decades. Considering the rapid declination of forest, Government of Nepal implemented many forest programs since 1978 to date now. The Community Forestry and Afforestation Division (CFACD) was initiated in 1979. Now days the community program is received higher priority in the forestry sector in Nepal.(Shila Maharjan)

To keep with the sustainable supply of forests products and to conserve environment, afforestation with a suitable management pattern is necessary the Government of Nepal has categorized natural forests lease hold forest and private forests. Taking the purpose of promoting people's participation in forestry resources developed management and conservation. Government of Nepal has adopted. The approach of handling over the use of and right to state forests land of local people. The forest is called "Community Forest" and is handed over officially to a Forest User's Group (FUG) comprising the traditional users of the forest. These user groups are helped by the forest department to develop constitution and a forest operational plan (Master Plan 1988).

Users of all outcomes of development activities are not only the male members of society but equally important are the females. Therefore, to sustain any developmental programs, role of woman is equally important as of their male partners. Integration of all development programmes in real sense can be possible only through an active participation of woman. Woman in development programmes should be involved from the decision making to the implementation and monitoring. By realizing the vital role of women in the sustainability of development, recently many of the donor agencies have placed woman and marginalized people in top priority in all development projects. (Netherlands: Development Organization 1992).

Nepalese economy is based on agriculture and livestock. Farming is greatly depended on the forest supplying firewood, fodder, timber and compost manure. Forest provides 81% of the fuel consumption and more than 50% of the fodder for livestock (WECS; 1997). Forest plays an important role in soil conservation and environmental balance. Forest has not been only used for cultural purpose but also for raw materials of different kinds of industries.

The government paid no attention to developing the forest and allowed forest use to continue at higher rate. Forest rehabilitation was similarly ignored and deforestation was created rapidly. To solve this problem the government nationalized all forest to prevent the destruction of National wealth to nationalize private forest for their adequate protection. (Regmi ,1987)

The forest was obviously depleting in steady pace. During 1978/79 to 1990/91 forest area has decreased at an annual rate of 1.3% in Terai plains. In the hilly areas, forest area has decreased at an annual rate of 2.3% from 1978/79 to 1994. Whereas, forest and shrub together

decreased at an annual rate of 0.2% in the whole country. From 1978/79 to 1994 forest area has decreased at an annual rate of 1.7%. (DFRs 1999)

Since last few decades the country has been suffering from the consequences of deforestation in the recent years. It has become one of the major environmental crisis in Nepal. Deforestation leads to soil erosion, flooding, landslides, water scarcity, drought and loss of life. The loss of trees and ground covers affect the productivity of cultivated lands. Therefore, agricultural and forest products are both declining rapidly as a result of deforestation.

After the emergence of the concept of community forestry, it is realized that women's participation is necessary for sustainable development in management of forest resources. That is why the government of Nepal and the various INGOs involved in Community Forest area making women an integral part of this CF managerial aspect as executive member and socio cultural aspect of CF management. As a result 4.83% forest user groups (FUGs) are being handled by all women groups (DOF/CDF)

The success of every phase of community forestry depends upon the denotation and participation of its women users as they are most frequent forest users. They therefore, can play a strong role in forest development and management activities. However, this is not always easy due to the various existing social barriers in our country. (Dhungana 1995)

This study aims to assess whether women themselves considered them as co-manager of local forest resources particularly the community forest management or they are encouraged to become the manager. Likewise, with this observation in the background this research intends to study perception of women regarding the motivation factors and hindering factors that influence to involve in CF management to women along with

various hidden factors that affect women participation in community forestry management.

Finally, this study aims to analyze the involvement of woman in various dimensions of community. Such type of study is beneficial for developing practical planner particularly in the middle hill area.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The forest resources of Nepal which provide not only fuel wood, fodder, timber, herbs, grazing lands for livestock and revenue for the state but also help to protect the natural calamities.

Most of the development agencies recognize the importance of women in forest management. However, their heavy involvement on households chores, illiteracy and various socio-economic and cultural factors, restrict their participation in forest management activities. To exacerbate the problem they lack basic information about new and recent activities and management to know how many extra information that they receive is more after then not filtered though their father, brothers, husband and sons (New era 1983). Nepalese women are not limiting themselves only on their daily work as collecting wood and fodder, fetching water, farming and growing. They are equally participating in outdoor activities as men doing. As women are the main users of forest resources can supervise and manage the proper utilization and conservation of forest resources like their male counterparts can do.

Although it is the government's policy to empower and encourage women to participate in community forestry programme. By only making laws and policies cannot achieve the goal, it should be implemented.

Based upon the above mentioned general problems this study has attempted to answer the following socio-economic feature of Deurali Community Forest users group.

- i. What are the rules and Regulation, the user have made for the penalties and forest management activities to manage their forest?
- ii. What are the rural women's work in their daily life?
- iii. What is the condition of forest after the involvement of women?
- iv. What are the factors that affect the women's role in the community forest development and management?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to focus on the women's participation in the management of Deurali Forest User Group.

1. To analyze the socio-economic situation of the FUG.
2. To examine knowledge, attitude and level of women's participation in community forestry.
3. To identify the factors that affect women's participation in the management of community forestry.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In the forestry sector, it is said that the word "Manager" and "Protector" are used for women, but not in practical sense, the managing responsibilities of forest have not been given in the hand of woman due to lack of education, economic dependency and heavy load of household activities though. Women in rural area are directly depending on forestry related resources. Many forestry projects are designed without any recognition of the impact the proposed activity will have them. In Nepalese context, rural woman are the most frequent users of the forest resources. Therefore, their involvement and contribution in the CF management process need to be identified and incorporated in the CF management policies and strategies.

For sustainable development, women's participation is the most essential part. But there are very limited studies on women's participation and role in natural resources management and sectors affecting them to enhance and hinder to participation in the activities.

This study basically studies the socio-economic status of the study areas. Under this circumstances; caste, religion, demography, literacy, land holding size, livestock raising, occupation, income, expenditure and food sufficiently etc are discussed in detail. Likewise, it explains community forestry related studies with women, that belongs to people's perception, women's knowledge and attitude on CF.

It also explains the different dimensions of women's participation in CF management. Within this, it only focused women's participation in CF management, collection activities, monitoring and evaluation process so that this study will help concerned authorities, development planner hence, the outcomes of this study include:

- # provide information to planners and policy makes to design appropriate plan formulates realistic policies for the development of CF in coming year.
- # provide insight to concerned institutions and individuals interested in filed of people's participation in community development.
- # helps to other researcher who want to conduct research in this field.
- # provide Important knowledge about women and development which will be clear input to gender based development programs.

It is also hoped that from this study, the fostering and hindering factors to participate women in development would be documented and this would help to solve and improve the affecting factors.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The present study has certain limitations upon which the analysis, interpretation and validity of the data is based. They are as follows.

The study is based mostly on primary data and this might differ or may not match the data at the national level. Therefore, any inconsistency or discrepancy on the part of the data of the study should not be given much importance.

1.6 Organization of Study

This study has been divided into eight chapters. This first chapters deals with the background of the study, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the research and organization of the study.

The second chapter presents with literature review consist of the literature reviewed regarding factors that affect women's participation in CF management and the level of their participation in CF management. It also includes a conceptual framework and operational definition of variables used in the research.

The third chapter contains the various research methodology used in the study. It includes research study design, selection of study, location, nature and source of data collection, techniques, key information, data analysis and limitation of the research.

The fourth chapter deals with description study area and VDC, forest area characteristics of the user group and committee. Likewise, this chapter consists of result's interpretation and discussions.

The fifth chapter contains the summary and conclusion obtained from the study and the recommendations that are made on the basis of the study.

The whole range of the study is concentrated around the “Deurali Community Forest User, study is strictly limited to this particular community forestry group. it was not possible to conduct a survey of all the families involved in the Deurali CFUG and families were chosen at random, the whole analysis will be based on the data provided by them.

Due to time and financial constraints only one CFUG was selected in this study and hence the study may not be conclusive for other areas where people of different socio-economic and ethnic group live. Rural women are major respondents of the study most of them are not educated. So chosen person only have taken to carry out the required information.

This research was conducted only for the partial fulfillment of Master of Art’s Degree in Rural Development.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing literatures and studies on social forestry and women's participation in forestry as well other development activities provide some prospective for this study. For these purpose various books, magazine, reports plans working papers, thesis, websites etc were consulted. From these materials, the issues on forest resource as well as people's participation were reviewed.

2.1 Review of Relevant Literature

One the world map 29.6% of land has been covered with forest which 0.15% area lies on Nepal. This is 29% of total area of Nepal. (Bishnu Giri 2061).

Nepal's population is 50.1% female and 49.9% male. More than 90% of the population lives on rural areas. 90.5% of the women are engaged in agricultural as against 74.4% of man. Women have extensive work burden with duel responsibility for farm and households production. Women play an active role in livestock production and forest resource use and their work is getting harder and more time consuming due to ecological degradation.

Based on the result of the 1964 survey, the total area of the forest (excluding the high Himalayan area) was estimated to be 6.4 million hactor. these were , 1.8 million ha. in the Terai and 4.6 million ha. in the hills.

The Master plan for forestry sectors (1988) described in regard of deforestation causes in Nepal that increasing numbers of people and their corresponding needs of fuel wood, fodder, food, timber are prime factors of deforestation.

Study on work burden points out that “The time allocation study reveals that women’s daily work burdens is 10.18 hours as compared to 7.51 hours of men, However when domestic work such as cooking, cleaning and child care is included women’s overall burdens of 10.81 hour a day seen to be 44 percent higher than the men.

Women have to extremely involve in domestic activities which also affect the participation in agricultural development programme the study shows that “women are responsible for 86% of the time input into domestic activities”. Even after bearing all domestic tasks, women are actively contributing in household income which is revealed by the different research findings. When both home production and outside earnings are considered. Women are seen to contribute 50 percent of the total household income as compared to 44 percent and 6 percent for men and children respectively”. From this scenario; women’s work load seems higher, their physical participation in household economy is greater but decision making role is limited. “It is clear enough from the time allocation data (67%) that women labour input is essential to the process of agricultural production in rural Nepal (Pradhan and Bennet; 1989).

Most development specialists of the developing countries recognize that forest plays a significant role in rural women’s life and rural woman play a vital role in forest resource management. However early stage of emergency of community forestry, woman’s participation on these sector as well as other development sector was neglected in this context Hoskins (1982) says, “though women in rural areas are directly dependent on forestry related resources. Many forestry projects are designed without any recognition of the impact the proposed activity will have on them.

Thirty nine percent of country's area is under forest cover while that under auricular is about 20 percent. Eleven percent of the forest land is in a degraded state, while another 26 percent has less than 40 percent crown cover from 6.4 million hectors in 1964. The total forest area is estimated to have declined to 5.5 million hectors by 1985. About 2 million hectors of the Tarai and Siwaliks forests were cleared through planned settlement and illegal felling between the 1980s and 1985.(Dhungana 1990).

The people need the fuel-wood for cooking and heating poles fencing and timber for house construction etc. In the same way, they also need to clear forests land for producing food gains as rice, millet, and maize, fodder for livestock and Shru for roofing.

The demand of such forest products excesses the supply capacity of the forest due to the diminishing regeneration process of the forest due to heavy pressure of population over it.

The knowledge of women regarding forest can be gauged when forest department staff were initially quite surprised to find that men were ill informed as to the exalt amount of fuel and order required by village households and its local availability in the surrounding forest. "Ask my wife" was a common reply to such questions, where were usually directed by a male extension worker to the male head of the household.(Augusta,1987)

In rural village the deforestation exacts it is exaction in the time and food, villagers who once spent one or two hours a day collecting and carrying firewood most now devote the whole day to this arduous task. The estimates suggest on average of about 77 days per household per day year in fuel wood collection and the average time required for collecting 25-30 kilogram of fuel wood in the hills is about 5 hours which is twice the amount of time spent ten years ago.

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

Not only low presentation of women in the FUG. There is also very low representation in the professional work force in the nature resource management, family pressure safely considerations and unwillingness of male bosses to allow to work in the field are special factors that inhibit the performance of women working in biodiversity related sectors. Woman are often the most active members of user groups, particularly in thinning, pruning and silvicultural practices, and 25-30% of all CFUG members actively joining in and speaking out in public meetingcommunity forest programme has to date concentrated mostly in the middle hills of Nepal where the Protected Area (PA) system is underrepresented. Given the fact that most of the forests in the middle hills would be handed over to communities, the options of conserving biodiversity in such ecological zones need to be explored and realized. Community forest program's main objectives are to meet the basis needs of the hill farmers for forest products as well as to ensure conservation of the forces resources by seeking people participation.(ibid)

Despite the emphasis of policy guidelines the involvement and participation of women in the community forestry programmes during the planning and decision making process is very low. Although the overall participation of women in the FUG is low and disproportionate to men there are many more active and successful female headed or dominated user group.

The question then is why are women headed FUGs more successful than the FUG headed by men. Some of the reasons for this are as follows.

(Adhikari J.R.2001)

-) Women have more to gain, socially, legally and economically from formation of user groups than men.
-) Women are better skilled in managing internal conflict with in their user groups.
-) Woman's are generally found more hones and prudent in handling money and goods that belong to the user group.
-) Men are seasonally absent: Women are often left behind to take care of family and form and seek insurance and mutual support through group membership.
-) The particular attention the project has been given to enhance the capacity building of women user groups through training.

Encouraging women's' participation story' published in 1987 recommends that the present level of women's participation in community Forestry management activities can be increased by.
(molnar,1987)

-) analyzing women's needs and roles, ideally at the design stage, and then as the program is implemented, in order to ensure that women can be benefit.
-) targeting extension information to women and
-) directly involving women as project staff, village workers and decision markers.

On the study of NUKCFP (1998) concluded that although the number of women in the user group committee and the general assembly is increasing, there is still a gap in the flow of information regarding community forestry management. This is because, the women the poor and the discriminated occupational caste people are considered to be more of listeners and workers whereas the rich, the men and people of higher caste are regarded as instructor, supervisors and leaders. This conception is a factor that has hindered women's participation in community forestry management.(ibid)

While Nepalese society is not as restrictive as in some part of south Asia, women traditionally are not active in public or political affairs (although participation varies greatly among Nepal's numerous ethnic group). In general women don't attend village meeting and their movement in the village are confined to those required by domestic and agricultural duties and to visiting female friends and relatives. They don't spend much time in public places, such as the ubiquitous teashops, where men typically hold many informal discussions. When women go to market towns and areas on shopping excursions they do not converse with strange men except for business purposes nor do they stay in the market longer than required. This is particularly true for younger women, both married and unmarried.

However, women are involved, if not more involved, in the use of the forest than men and that women's active participation was necessary in many activities, such as planting. When degraded forests are replanted, they must be closed to animal and human intervention for the first few years while the seedlings become established. Since woman generally graze the animals, they must be committed to and involved in protection of these plantations. If they do not understand or accept the replanting, they may feel that it has taken away irreplaceable grazing land and will oppose the closure. Also since closure of local forest area requires women

to change their livestock feeding practise from grazing to stall, feeding, which requires than to spend hours each day cutting grass, they may allow their animals to enter the closed areas. Therefore, the project has devoted considerable time to extension work with woment to gain their support (ibld).

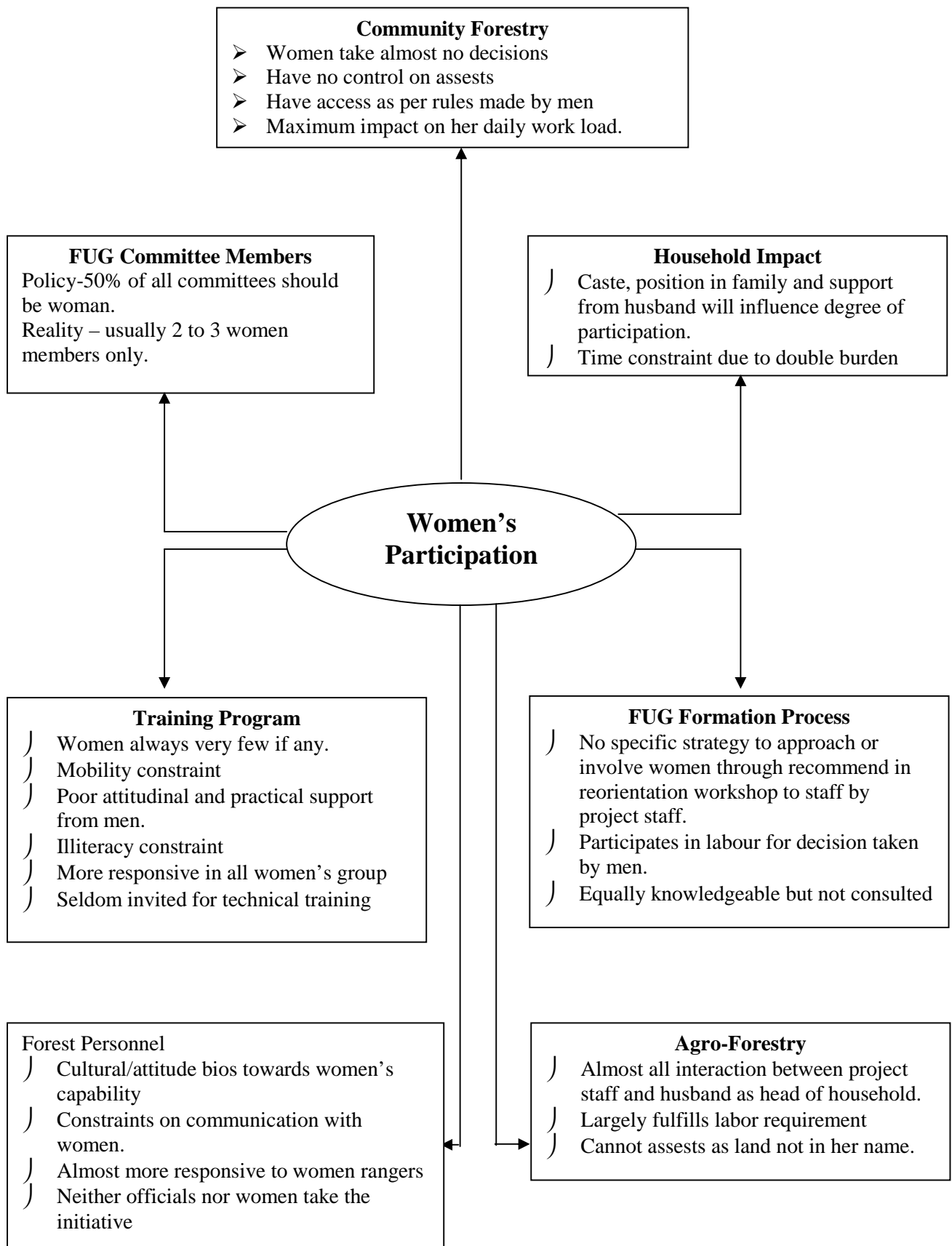
Various programs and projects have identified numerous problems that have proven to be a hindrance in the involvement of woman in forestry management and development activities.

The particular nature of Nepalese society, where women have a minimum role in decision making. In the most prominent, most rural women of Nepalese illiterate and have a localized view of life. The society is the male dominated and they are unwilling to share their power and authority without which approaching rural women is impossible. Due to these constraints it is felt that it will take a long time before one can expect any major can expect any major involvement of women in forestry. Now a days due to various factors like increase in educational level of both male and female, the inability to sustain the family on the sole income of the male members and the diminishing return from the agriculture. The post Nepalese women are moving out of the confinements of their homes and participating equally income generating out door activities . (Kharel 1987)

2.2 Factors hindering woman participation.

A gender analysis study conducted by DFCFDP, 1995 in Dolakha and Ramechhap Districts of community forestry are clearly showed that women's participation in overall CF management activities is hindered by various gender biased roles government household and community level. Which is shown in next page.

Factors Hindering Women's Participation



F.2.1. Women's Participation in Project Activities

Source:(DFCFDP,1995)

2.3 Conceptual Framework

By being the patriarchal socio-cultural structure of the society, the position and status is still sub-ordinate. Social, economical and cultural characteristics of societies like last system, martial status, economic condition level of education, access to information etc. are limiting factors to rise or restrict the status of women in society with reference to this socio-economic variables a conceptual frame work has been designed to study the effect of these variables in the participation of women in community forestry management in the study area.

Dependent and Independent variables are used to study the women's participation in community forestry management. The first set consists social factors and in second set consist the level of women's participation will be studies. The dependent variables independent variables are shown in the following figure.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

DEPENDENT VARIABLES

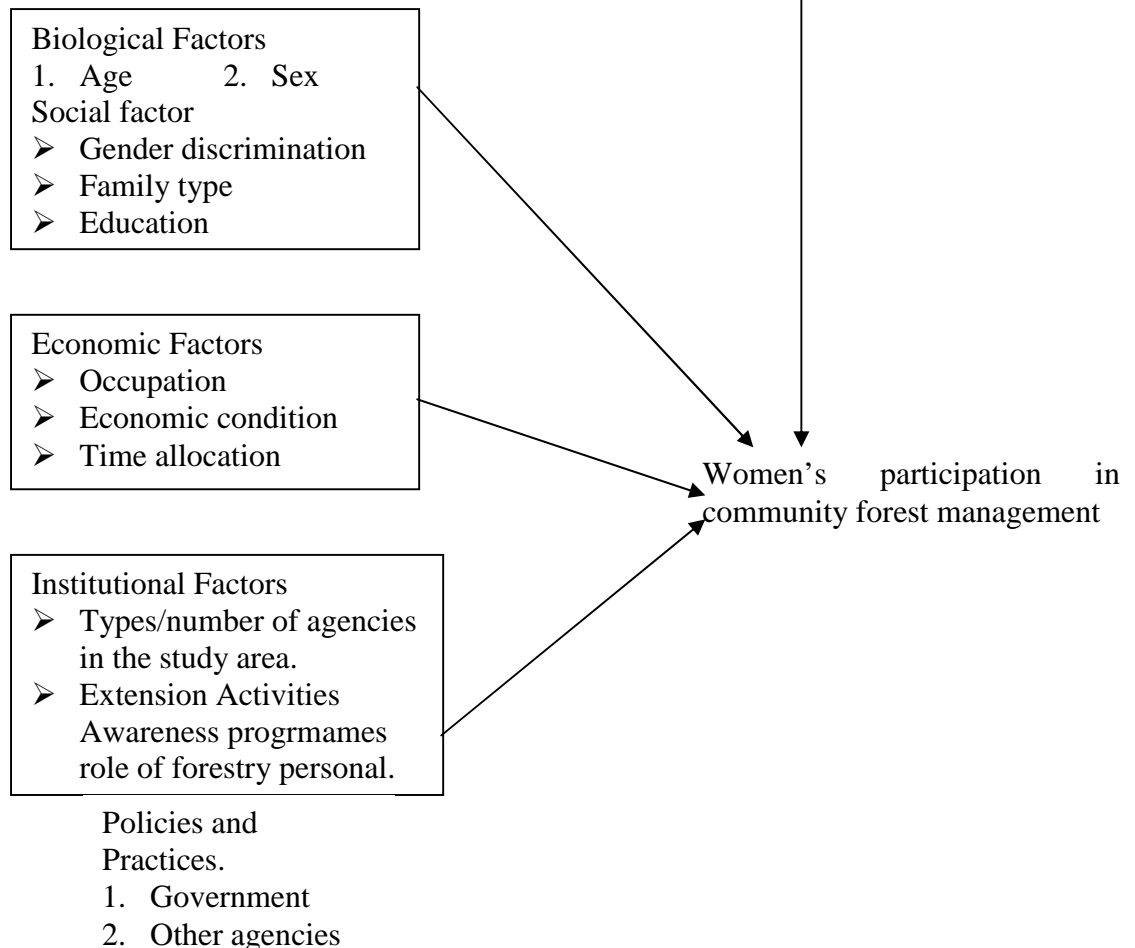


Fig 2.2: Various variables affecting women's participation in Community forest. Source: (Dhungana,2004)

A part of National Forest is legally handed over to user group for development, conservation and utilization for the collective interest. In other words, community forestry is that which forest management decisions are led by FUGs. There is participatory environment where everyone gets involved in forestry activities for their own interests and benefits. The FUG constitutes all users-rich and poor men and women, those from higher castes and lower castes united in a sense community feeling and operating community forestry activities based on their agreed rules. The community forestry programme is based on participatory

philosophy where users are involved in decision making. Implementation and benefit sharing according to their specific agreements.

In Nepal there are various social factors that directly affect the level of women's participation in community forestry management activities. Caste, position in the family and support from the husband are some factors that determine the level of women's participation. In rural area where caste and class demarcation has an important impact on the daily social life, it is very difficult to get people from the lower and upper castes to work together as equals.(Dhungana ,2004)

Government policies and programmes directly influence the level of women's participation in the community forestry. Although, government and non-government policies emphasizes the need for women's participation for the success of community forestry, no strategy has been made to increase the level of women's participation in FUGCS. In this respect although the FECOFUN has made it a policy to have equal male-female membership in the FUGCS, in actuality on the average there are usually 2-3 women member per CFUG.

Although various agencies working in the field of community forestry tries to involve women in community forestry activities, the greater their numbers in a community forestry the greater the chances of increasing the level of women participation. As rural women have a daily association with forest the greater importance it has for them than for the men who views forest only for its commercial viability. However less trainings and extensive activities targeted at the women have impeded their ability to manage their forest more effectively. There are also cultural and traditional bias among the male forest personnel regarding the capability of women in CF management. Due to the social fabric of our society the women are more respectful towards female personnel. Unfortunately whose members are still little. (ibid)

Therefore, the level of women's participation in community forestry activities is directly dependent on various independent variables like the social, economic and institutional factors.

2.4 Operational Definition of Variables

To identify the socio-economic factors that affect the women's role in community forestry development various variable are used. The variables and their definition and operational measure are elucidated in the table No. 1 on the following page.

TABLE NO. 2.1

The Variable, Their Definition and Operational Measure

S.N	Variables	Operational Definitions	Operational measure
1	Family type	Composition of family of the respondent	Nuclear family, Joint family
2	Education	Education level of the respondent	Illiterate, literate, primary education, secondary education, higher education.
3	Gender Disparity	Unfair or prejudiced behaviour towards women by the men.	Immense, medium little, none
4	Caste/Ethnic composition	The major caste/ethnic groups of the study area	Bahun, Kshetri, Newar, Tamang, Mager, Rai others.
5	Occupation	Major work on which respondent depends on for their livelihood	Agriculture, Business, Service, labour etc.
6	Economic status	Total amount of property of the household.	Poor, medium, rich
7	Income	Total earning of household	Amount in rupees
8	Time allocation	Total time spent on community forestry activities	Hourly, daily, once a week, twice a week etc.
9	Policy and practice	Policies and practice of the government and other agencies involved in the study area.	Satisfactory, mediocre unsatisfactory.
10	Agencies involved	Agencies working in study area. (GO, NGO, INGO, Local Agencies)	Numbers

At last it is hoped that to fulfill the paucity of literatures regarding the forest group dynamics especially women's participation described through the perspectives of ethnic composition and gender roles this study is put forwarded through some contribution. Therefore, this study persuaded to describe some of the factors, which directly affect to enhancing and constraints in community forest management.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the technical aspect of the research. This section discusses description of the study area, research design, and nature of data. Sampling, procedure, data collection instruments mode of data analysis and interpretation limitation of the study. Only one method is not enough together all kinds of information related to the study are used. To make study more reliable, different data collection techniques were used further it also gives information regarding location of study area, types of research design data, sources of data, techniques, universe and sample, data collection techniques, universe and data analysis.

3.1. Introduction of Phidim VDC

There are 41 VDCs in the Panchthar district out of which Phidim is one. This VDC is situated in the north-west side of Panchthar district. Phidim is the headquarters of Panchthar district. Deurali community forest lies in ward no. 4 and 5 of Phidim VDC. The Deurali community forest extends between approximately 100 ft to 3200 ft. above the sea level.

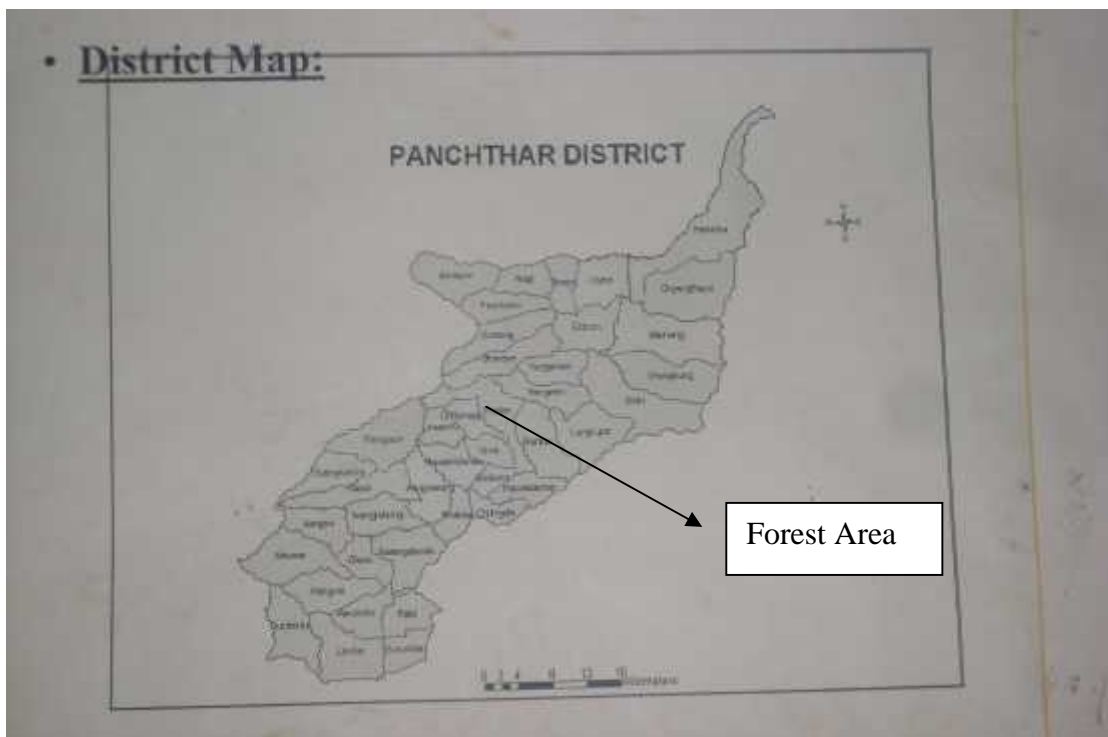
In this forest naturally grown trees exceed the number of trees planted by the users. The majority of tree species of the natural forest are Saal, Salla, Chelaune, in other places mangoes, herro, Barro, bamboo can be found as plantation forest. Wild animal, like Rabbit, monkey, deer, squirrel, jackel, porcupine and tigers are found different kinds of birds like peacock, crow, sparrow, dove, nightingale, parrots can be seen intermittently in natural forest.

According to CFUG office , Deurali community forest is spreadin 76.71 hectors.122 households have been registered with CFU member.The total population is 752,where as male are 538 and female are 394.

Geographically Panchthar District lies between 26°28' to 26°59' north latitude and 80°02' to 80°30' east longitude. Panchthar district has total area of 19716155 m². The Phidmi VDC has different types of climate because it is situated on the bank of Tamor river to high altitude hill area in Pauwa Bhanjang. (1800m). The monsoon begins in Asad and ends in Asoj. The temperature range from a maximum of 20-35°c in summer and up to 0° in winter season.

The main languge spoken by the people of the VDC is Nepali. However, other language Tamang and Limbu languages are also spoken with same caste. Although the majority of the people are Hindu, Buddhist and Christians and Kirat can be found to some extent.

Location of Deurali Community Forest in Panchthar District



3.1.1 Boundaries of Phidim VDC are as follows

East: Ranitar and Nangin VDC

West: Raigaun and

North: Bharapa VDC

South: Chok magu VDC

3.2 Research Design

Research design refers to planned sequence of the process involved in the search study. This research has adopted a descriptive, explorative and field study research design. The main purpose of the study is to determine the women's participation in community forestry activities.

A descriptive research design used to describe and help to fact finding inquires on the selected topic that is the women's participation in community forest management. As per nature of the research, data related socio-economic phenomena, dimensions of participation, knowledge and attitude, involvement of women in CF management and hindering factors etc. were collected based on existing situation. The particular aspect of his study is to find out what kind of management of women's community forestry is and what the consequence measures followed for forest development of study area. This is intended so that people can understand the importance of forests and as well as the present intensity and role of women's participation along with the actors that hinders or assist them their participation in community forests.

The field research design, as it is explorative in nature, is used to find to the specific objectives of the research.

3.3 Natures and Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. The data are both qualitative and quantitative in nature. The basic source of data for

the research is primary data, which was collected through field visits, household survey, focus group discussion key informants, interview and field observation and discussion with CF related persons. Primary data having quantitative and qualitative nature are used to meet specific objectives of the study. Whereas, secondary data were also collected from various agencies involved in community forestry like CFUG, MOF, VDC, DDC, FRO, RP other INGO's web sites, books report journals and observations, secondary data having quantitative and qualitative nature are used to verify, backup and reinforce the study.

3.4The Universe and Sample

There are more than 8000 community forests all over Nepal. However the scope of our study is limited to the Deurali community forest situated at ward no. 4 and 5 of Phidim VDC. There are 122 households that are members of the Deurali Community forest, which is considered as the universe of the study. For the purpose of the study a list of the entire households. According to DCFUG the total Users households are 122. From these 50 households, 40% were selected using purposive sampling method and required information were taken from them.

3.5Data Collection Techniques

During the research to obtain required informatons, various method and techniques were used for collection of data.

Interview schedules and semi structured questionnaire were used to gather information from the respondents. Similarly participant observation focus group discussion, key informant's interview, FUG household survey were also used during the course of the study.

3.5.1 FUG Household Survey

In order to collect primary data regarding to socio economic condition of user households, women's participation in CF management, hindering factors responsible for women's involvement in CF management, the household survey was conducted. For the study, an interrelated questionnaire was developed to gain more details for the study.

3.5.2 Observation

During the study period, both formal and informal observations were conducted. Only those data have collected, which can only be observed. For this research, observations were done on EC meeting observation, walk through forest. Community visit to know the living standard of the people, health, sanitation, gender behavior, forest product collection, men and women's working hours, structures of house etc. Information received from the observation was used to analyze with the information received from other resources.

3.5.3 Interview

This technique was conducted to collect primary data. Key informants are most reliable in giving information on particular subjects. The key informants of the research were teachers, social worker, local leader, FUG member and officials, government officials working in the community forestry sector in the research area.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

A focus group discussion for women group was conducted at community level during focus group discussion. A focus group discussion represents some qualitative data on different points of view of women on their role in CF, capabilities and knowledge of community user groups' role of EC and forestry technicians in CF management motivating and hindering factors of women's to involve in CF were collected. This

method was adopted to verify the information obtained from the key informants and women respondents. By this method the information regarding people's perception on the co-operation and co-ordination, Among the DFUG members in the participation of forest management activities as well as people's perception on women's role in the management were taken.

3.5.5 Participant/Direct Observation

This researcher himself observed the study area personally to understand its physical and cultural setting of the study area. Accidental interviews were also taken for the purposes of depth information; direct field observation and simple measurement of the tree in the study area were also taken.

3.5.6 Data Analysis and Presentation

After collecting data, they were analyzed and interpreted in order to fulfill the objectives . Basically qualitative data were collected by using various methods were categorized and presented as per need of study. In order to analyze the data, simple statistical tools such as tabulation, percentage ,and average were used. Interpretation were made on the basis of result, which were assisted by information available both from primary and secondary sources.

CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This is the section that deals the woman and community forest and their corresponding results that included woman's knowledge and attitude on CF. Local people perception about woman's role in CF and condition of forest after women's involvement. The results are totally based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources woman and community forests are discussed as background of this section.

4. Demographic Structure of VDC

The total population of Phidim VDC is 13552 of the total population where 6854 are males and 6698 are females. The resident of this VDC are of different caste and ethnic group. The majority of population belong to that of the Limbu caste by followed by Bramin,Chettri ,Tamang, Newar, and other different cast. Table below depicts the caste/ethnic composition of the VDC.

Table no. 4.1

Distribution of sample households by ethnic Group

	Caste/Ethnic	Sample Households	Total Percentage
1	Bramin	20	40
2	Tamang	10	20
3	Newar	10	20
4	Limbu	5	10
5	Dalit	2	4
6	Other	3	6
	Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey2006

4.1.1 Religious

Nepal is the country of multi language, multi caste and multi religious. There fore the followers of religion i.e. Hindu, Buddhist and Christian all live in peace and harmony with one another. Religious harmony is the forte of Nepali people.

The people of this area are not only worshippers of the Hindu religion but also follow other religious. The religion pursuance by the people of the VDC is shown in the given table below.

Table No.4.2

Religious Distribution of the Sampled Households

	Religious	Sample Households	Total Percentage
1	Hindu	12	60
2	Buddhist	6	30
3	Christian	2	10
	Total	20	100%

Source: Field survey, 2065.

From above table we can see that people from same village have different religious beliefs. During the research, on survey of 20 household it was found that 60% Hindu, 30% and 2% Christian live in village.

4.1.2 Educational Status

Education plays a major role in the development of any society and the country as a whole and it is a development factor of human life. To know the socio-economic condition of any society, education is used as a key measurement factors.

The following table shows the educational status of the people of study area. It is divided into two different categories literate and illiterate.

Table No. 4.3

Educational status of the respondent households

Category		Male		Female		Total
		Number	percentage	Number	percentage	
Illiterate		20	12.5	50	33.33	70
Literate	School	65	40	40	26	105
	College	15	9.37	10	6.66	25
	Other	60	37.5	50	33.33	110
		160	100	150	100	310

Source: Field Survey 2066

The total literacy persons of sampled households are 310 where as illiterate persons are 70. Nowadays also above table shows that illiterate women are more than men.

Although 50 female are illiterate, i.e. they cannot read and write, however they have good knowledge regarding household chores, agricultural field and forestry related activities. During the field visit, while talking with women observing their activities. Women's knowledge regarding above mentioned activities was found to be true.

One major reason for the number of female's to be high in the illiterate category is that village girls get married at an early age and after marriage they get immersed into various household chores, agricultural activities and forest related activities that they have no time to pursue their education. In this way they lose their right to education.

4.1.3 Family Size of the Sample Households

We can see different structures of family size in our country Nepal. These days due to various economical reasons the family structure in Nepal is shifting from a joint family structure to a nuclear one.

According to the respondent's family members, family size has been categorized into three different sizes for convenience. The family consisting of 1-4 people is considered as small family. 5-7 are medium and families with more than 8 members are considered as large family or joint family for these research.

Table No. 4.4

Families size of the respondent according to family members

Family Size	No. of family members	Sample total	Percentage
Small family	1-4	20	40%
Medium family	5-7	25	50%
Large family	More than 8	5	10%
Total		50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2066

It is clear from the table, that of the households chosen for the study 0% fall under small family, under the medium 50% and 10% in the large family category.

According to the field observation and interview with the respondent, the researcher found different thoughts regarding size and separation of the family. The researcher has concluded that it has been difficult for a whole family to sustain of the income of a single person's income. Therefore the concept of joint family has been destroyed due to poverty, labour

division. However some of the older members of the family believe that if all members family live together and help each other, it will increase the prestige of the family and no other family or caste can dominate any family member, it will help to increase family unity.

4.1.4 Professional Status

The main profession of this FUG committee is agriculture. However, it was found that agricultural production isn't sufficient to provide for the throughout the year. Therefore the populace of this VGC has to undertake another job to supplement their income. This is done in the form of wage labour, business, service, part time available job and service outside country. The percentage of respondent involved in various occupations is shown by given table below.

Table No. 4.5

Respondent's Percentage Involved in various occupation

Activities	No. of respondent	Percentage
Farming	30	60%
Business	10	20%
Service	5	10%
Student	5	10%
	50	100%

Source: Field Survey 2009

The above mentioned table shows that most of total sampled population have been involved in agriculture. In which in which 60% are in agriculture where as 20% in business . In the service 10% and same percent in education.

4.2 Economic Characteristics

This section deals about the occupation, landownership, food production condition income and expenditure of respondent the sample household.

4.2.1 Introduction

People can only improve their standard of life and make progress based on economic activities. The economy is the main resource not only for the basic needs of human being like food, shelter and cloth but is also used to fulfill other necessities of people like health care, education safety, entertainment and transportation. Economy plays an important role in every movements of life. To know, how much progress and material comfort there is in any society the primary evaluation is done on the economic health of the society, whether it is in the social, cultural, educational, industrial and scientific scopes, the indisputable importance to economy is conspicuous. The structure of land, topography environment weather and available natural resources has played major influence in the economic condition of any societies and communities.

4.2.2 Use Land and Land Ownership

The users of Deurali community forest group of the Phidim VDC depend upon agriculture as a main alternative source for their livelihood. Therefore, the importance of land in the life of this UG is evident. 60% of the total sampled population is involved in agriculture. However, the land available to the users group members is insufficient to sustain them for the whole year.

The FUGC have mainly two types of land. They are classified as Khet and Bari. Here, Khet represents irrigated land where as Bari represents un-irrigated land. Farmers grow wheat and paddy in Khet and maize, millet in Bari.

Most of the respondents have some land in the form of front yard and backyard (kitchen garden) of their house. In these yards, farmers raises seasonal vegetables and fruits and trees some of which are used as fodder for the cattle and some as fuel wood and timber.

Table No. 4.6

Distribution of Land Ownership of Forest user's Group

Land Holding (Ropani)	Number of People	Percent
2-4	17	13.93%
5-7	13	10.65%
8-15	50	40.98%
16-25	42	34.42%
Total	122	100%

Source: Field Survey 2009

From the above table most of the uses have there is land 13.93% of total sampled house holds up to 4 ropani of land. Only 34.42% total households have more than 17 ropani land.

4.2.3 Livestock Ownership

Due to the scarcity of grazing land, fodder and bedding materials people have not undertaken animal husbandry for commercial purpose. According to the field survey the following table shows the livestock ownership of the sampled households of the FUG.

Table No. 4.7

Livestock ownership of the sample household

Animal type	Numbers	Percentage
She buffalo	20	7.00%
He buffalo	1	0.03%
Calf of buffalo	6	2.12%
Oxen	15	5.13%
Cow	30	10.63%
Cow/oxen calf	10	3.54%
Goats	200	70.92%
Sheep	0	0%
	282	100%

Source: Field Survey 2009

According to the above mentioned table, the FUG has not considered animal husbandry to be a source of income generation. Every sampled household has some form of animals. According to the distribution of animal 7.09 of total animal consists of she buffalo, 0.03%. He buffalo percentage 10.92%, consist of cows. No sheep was found.

The researcher has concluded that the animal raised by people of the FUG is not for commercial purpose but for their own domestic use. Cow milk, which is the second highest percentage of animal produce is all used for domestic consumption. Sometime they sell goats when buyer comes to buy on their home. These entire animals are feed by the stall feeding method with grass, fodder, hey and kudo. The FUG members from their own private land and community forests obtained grass, fodder and hay.

In comparison to other animal, the number of the buffalo and calf buffalo are less. The farmers have said that it is very difficult to rear (tame) buffalo because they need to be fed more grass and fodder. The animal do not eat the forest product like leaf litter. Therefore they are used as bedding material for the animals. During cultivation, seeding materials and cow dung is used as compost fertilizer in the agricultural field.

4.2.4 Condition of Food Production

Everybody needs food to alive. Some of the food crops grown by the sampled household are maize, millet and paddy.

Table No. 4.8

Sampled Households Description of Food Production

S.N	Food Production	No. of HHs	Percentage
1	1-5 muri	10	20%
2	6-10	20	40
3	11-20	10	20
4	More than 21	10	20
	Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From above mentioned table, all crops maize, millet, wheat and paddy to be produce by people have been mentioned in Muri of the total sampled households, 20% of produce between 1-5 muri of crops 40% produce 6-10 and 11-20 and more than 21 both by 20% household produce.

Although the highest population have been involved in agriculture, however, it is necessary to know the condition of food production and the number of months. These productions are sufficient for the villagers.

We infer is that the agricultural productions are insufficient for most of the sampled populace of this VDC for whole year. Therefore some villagers still have hand to mouth problem.

Therefore to supplement the food requirement of the family many people of the FUG are compelled to undertake another job like business, wage labour and so on.

4.2.5 Income Form other Various Occupation

More than 60% population of sampled households are involved in agriculture, however, due to lack of land insufficiency of cultivated crops, villagers are compelled to undertake other occupations too of the sampled respondents. Some people run teashop whereas other works as carpenter, mason. Some people are involved in teaching. It seemed that the income from these occupations and wage labour has directly help to improve the economic condition of the member of FUG. The table given below shows the income from the agriculture as well as other occupations.

Table No 4.9

Sampled household's monthly income from various occupation

Occupation	Income	Family size	Percentage
Wage labour	0-3000	15	30%
Agriculture	3000-5000	25	50%
Service	Above 8000	10	20%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From the above mentioned table we can infer that 30% of the total sampled household have a monthly income of Rs. 3000. wage labour are only available on the basis of season. Except agriculture, on the other wage labour is done to generate income. 50% household of total sampled households earn between Rs. 3000-5000 from the agriculture occupation like selling goats and hens, planting paddy, cutting paddy crops etc. people who have some form of job earn more lucratively than people who have other occupations.

Many families have to rely on as seasonal wage labours. There is a lack of price determination of wage labour. The most important impact of this lack of development infrastructures is that seed, manure and irrigation which are of vital importance to increase the production of agricultural crops are also not easily available. The loan provide by the Agricultural Development Bank is not distributed at a feasible loan rate one way to improve the economic condition of people of the FUG would be to provide training and employment opportunities to woman regarding cottage industry.

4.2.6 Monthly Income and Expenditure of Sampled Household

People of the FUG do not have enough money. Due to the lack of sufficient cash in hand they do not make any budgetary planning of their income and expenses for the months. They spend money when they need. However when the researcher asked them about their income and expenditure and money requirements for a month they were very hesitant to provide a definite answer. Most of the family income is not sufficient to meet the financial necessities of running the household. When it was asked how they manage to run the household they replied they borrowed money whenever the necessity arose. They also started it was very difficult for them to repay the loans taken to meet the household expenses. The monthly income and expenditure of sampled households has been shown below.

Table No. 4.10.

Monthly Income and Expenditure of Sampled Household

Income level expenditure	No. of Respondent	Percentage	Expenditure by the respondent	Percentage	Saving by the respondent	Percent
1000-3000	15	30	15	30	0	0
3000-5000	25	50	25	50	0	0
Above8000	10	20	6	12	5	10
Don't know			4	8	0	0
Total	50	100	50			

Source: Field Survey, 2009

30% households of total sampled household has expense from 1000 to Rs 3000, similarly 50% households expenses were between Rs. 3000-5000 and 12% of the sampled household had expenses above Rs. 8000 and 10% did not know what their level of expenditure was.

Some of the people whose income level was above 8000 said that they were able to save money. Since 5 people of sampled respondents fell into this category it has been concluded that only 10% household of its total sampled household had sufficient earning and were able to save.

Therefore, it can be said that there is no difference between income level and expenditure level. Income and expenditure levels are the same in most cases. Therefore, few people only able to save little money.

4.3. Women and Community Forest

4.3.1. Women's Knowledge and Attitude on CF

When the women were asked about their knowledge of community forestry it was observed that they could be categorized in to 3 different group.

The first group comprised of those woman who are members of the CFUG committee. Since they are educated and knowledgeable they participated actively in the CF activities. It was also found that these women informed other women of the villages of the activities of the committee.

The second category is made up of those women who never take part in any community forestry meeting and do not participate in the assembly. Although they are unaware of various aspects related to their community forestry like committee formation process, group formation process, date when the community forest was handed over, number of committee members forest area or even the name of the head of C.F, they know that the committee has been involved in protecting the community forest, since lost few years.

These woman said these was no point in their attending to meetings of the community forest because they were given information about the various forestry related activities, like the date when they had to go to collect forest products and from when the various forest management activities like weeding, pruning were beginning by their husband other male family members and the committee members. These women think that their only responsibility is to go and collect forest products. Although the husband of some of these women were members of the committee but when asked about the CF, they simply replied 'ask my husband' they supported whatever their husband and other male members of the households had to say about CF activities.

4.3.2 Present Condition of the Forest

About 50% of the main area is covered with natural large tree species like saal, sallo, chelaune and others. In addition another five hundred plant of different species like khote sallo, katus, mosala have

been planted in the bare land. The user group committee member and the users guard the forest everyday by performing the role of the forest watchers.

During the field visit, this researcher noticed from the interview with the respondents and other key informant that the present forest management system has been very popular notion with the village people the following table shows the peoples view about Deurali community forest at present.

TABLE NO. 4.11

Local Peoples perception on the condition of the forest after the implementation of the community forest management system

Conditions of FF	Respondent	
Getting better	40	80%
Getting worse	0	
As it is	5	10%
Can't say	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2009

This table shows that approximately 80% of total sampled household's view that the condition of forest is getting better. Only 10% of total sampled household said that the condition of forest is "as it is". They can't say 10% respondent is the one who never goes to the forest and does not know about its post and present situation.

During the field visit, interviews were conducted not only with the respondents but also with the key informants and focus group to determine the cause of the improvement of the condition of the forest. Most of the interviewed felt that the reason for the improvement is due to

the elimination of activities like poaching, encroachment and over grazing. Various other management activities like poaching weeding, cleaning, shrub improvement pruning with the villagers have done voluntarily is also an important factor in the improvement of the forest condition. However the most important factor is that a feeling of ownership regarding the forest has developed in everybody's mind.

4.3.3 The Condition of Community Forestry after the Involvement of Women

- After the involvement of women in the activities of the community forest. The entire male and female respondent express that the condition of CF has improve. The women said that after the involvement with their community forest, they have under taken various forest improvement activities like plantation, cutting, pruning etc. Creating awareness among women is the main task by explaining the importance of community forest then women could do various activities more effectively.

Initially the women faced a lot of difficulty while participating in CF activities. In a society where the place of women was considered to be inside of the house, the sight of women participating in CF activities and that too in interaction with me outside of the family was not received very well by many of the male flocks of the community. When researcher wanted to know about the label of women participation, he received different views from the men and women respondent. While the men felt that the number of women participating in CFUG was not nominal, the women felt that their participation in CFUG activities was very little.

When the women asked they replied it may be due to the unavailability of time because of their extensive involvement in household activities and in agriculture. They said that as many women were illiterate they felt that they were ignorant about CFUG activities and hesitated to participate.

In the opinion of the female member of the CFUG, this low participation was due to the lack of awareness among them the women themselves. She said that to overcome this problem the participation of woman in the CFUG should be increased. The greater the number of women participation would mean more ideas would be generated leading to more discussion of the way to improve management of CF. The female member of CFUGC said that as there were only 4 female members in the committee, was difficult for them to perform various tasks like getting women to come to participate in meetings, looking after the forests, making the aware of the decision made by the committee.

In a society both the men and women have own work and responsibilities. AS the men are the earning members in the Nepali family they spent lot of day time is in various work and profession.

4.3.4 Users Group Committee

It is found that the committee members formulates and finalize the draft of the operational guidelines. The committee also reviews that operational guideline. The committee also reviews the operational plan every year. If they feel the plan needs to be changed, they will call a general assembly meeting for making necessary amendments. In the general assembly meetings the users put forth their views and ideas regarding the management of the forest, the user group committee makes a working plan. It is also the responsibility of the committee to convey the out comes of the monthly meeting to the users.

4.3.5 Composition of user Group committee

Table No. 4.12

Committee's composition

Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%
10	5	15	66.6	33.3

Field survey 2065

The forest user group committee of Durali community forest is made of different cost and ethnic group. The total committee members 15 where as 10 male and 5 female percentage wise this is 66.33 males and 33.3 females in the FUGC. This can be shown in pie chart

4.4 General Rules for Distribution and Collection of Forest Product From CF

4.4.1 Fuelwood

The time for the collecting fuelwood was fixed by the decision of the FUG committee in that time dead, dying diseased tress are taken out from the forest. A person from each household participated in the cutting as fuel wood and the member of the committee supervised their work during the time of collection. FUG can get 40 Bhari without charge in a year. The committee has also made a special rule regarding the use of fuel wood for the forest users. They can take fuel wood from the dead dying and fallen tress in case of events like death wedding and other religious ceremony. However this must be done with the approval and in the presence of the committee members.

4.4.2 Grass

The users were granted permission to collect grass. They can take grass home from forest with out charge. But in planting area they can cut grass on only Bhadra month. They fulfill this need for their cattle from their own land and also form other community forests. During the winter season they feed their cattle hay, wheat stalk in stall feeding.

4.4.3 Leaf litter

The interested households can collect leaf litter without charge. The leaf litter is used for animal bedding and to compose fertilizer.

4.4.4 Timber

User group can use timber from the forest. The committee has made provision for the use of wood from dead, dying and fallen trees. Members can take 15 cubic feet at the rate of Rs. 100 per cubic feet. But if he needs more than 15. He must pay Rs. 150 per cubic feet up to 50 Cf. More than 50 Cf. is not allowed to take timber.

4.5 Punishment and Penalties

According to the operational Guideline, FUG can give penalties to those users who violate the rule. If any members do not to guard the forest in his/her turn. He/she have to pay Rs.100 in committee, If any body breaks the rule of forest committee. According to committee decision they would be published.

4.6 Management of Funds

There is provision of treasure in the committee to keep of balance of income and expenditure. The main responsibility of the treasures is to establish a fund from different sources of income and conduct it properly. The treasure collects the money from annual registration, selling wood,

cutting timber, seeding khet and grant from district forest office etc. The collected money is saved in Nepal Bank.

In addition to this the fund has also helped in social activities as:

- i. Help of dalit and less income family of UG
- ii. Existence to school, drinking was and construct road
- iii. Provided scholarship for poor and Dalit

The study found that the management and use of funds has been done in a transparent manner and with out discrepancy.

4.7 Life of Rural Women

Rural women are the busiest member of the society. They work morning to night. They usually take rest only after 8 p.m. the village women's work can be divided in to four main categories. These categories are related with farm, forest, family and other. The farming consists of different work like digging of field. Pitting, weeding, planting or seeding excavting of manure from the pit, putting manure in the fields, harvesting etc. the forestry related works consists of collecting of fuel wood fodder and leaf litter, grazing animals, teaching water and cooking foods. The family related works include rearing of children, caring of old member of family, washing cloths and dishes, preparing children for school and other work like marketing running a teashop, going to mill to grind grains as well as looking after the animals in the house. The table given below shows the time spends by the women of Deurali community forest in household activities.

Table No4.13

Daily Time allocation on major activities for village women

Morning	Day	Evening
(4-10 AM)	(10 am-2 pm)	(2-8 pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Get up early) Sweep the house) Grinding with quern and dhiki) Fetching water) Cutting grass) Cooking lunch for the farming members) Feeding children) Eating) Take livestock for grazing) Take milk to bazaar) Feed the cows and goat) Sell fire wood in the bazaar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Send children to school) Go to cut fodder grass) Water the animals) Feed animal grass) Look after small children) Work in the crop field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Clean up the house) Food preparation for family members – cook rice) Carrying drinking) Look after the children study) Feed cows and goats chickens in their sheds) Tie up the cow) Prepare bad and eat meal) Grinding grain for tomorrow) Sleep

Women’s tasks of raising buffalo require a great deal of daily care of the year around. An improved buffalo eats about tow heads loads of fodder per day besides prepared feed. Women spend about fourth of household time in rearing livestock. The girl child also shares the responsibility for herding goats. Lastly women spend one forth time in fetching water.

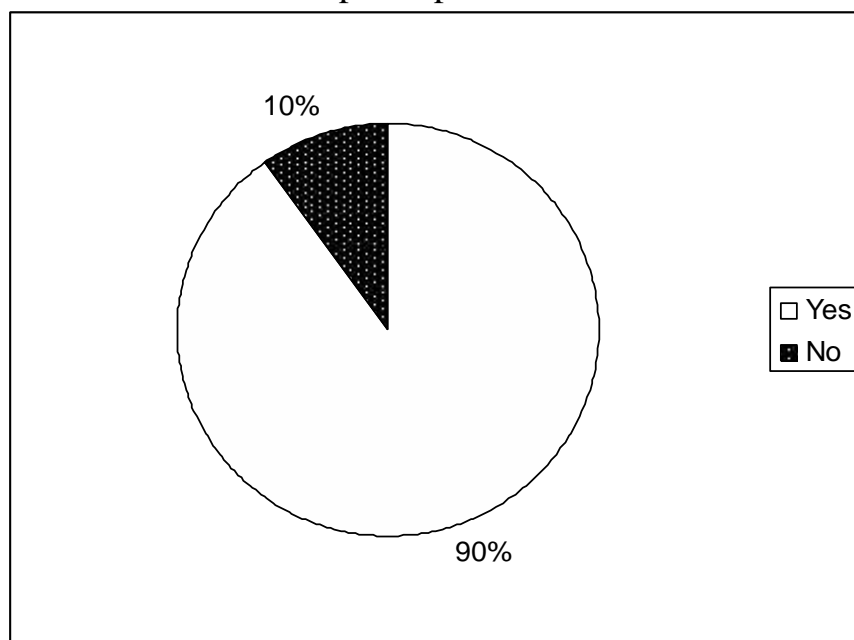
Besides these constraint women’s participation in FUG assembles is shown in following table.

Table No.4.13.1
Women Participation in FUG Assembles

S.N.	Answer of Women	Percentage
1	Yes	90
2	No	10
	Total	100

Source: Field Survey 2009

Figure 4.1
Level of women’s participation in FUG Assembles



Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above figure has shown that about 90% of sampled household participate in the UG assemblies and 10% do not who does not participate in the assemblies says that she does not participant in than because she does not have any knowledge of community forest so she hesitates to take part.

The researcher had observed about the manner of the participant. They take part actively or not .This can be seen in following table.

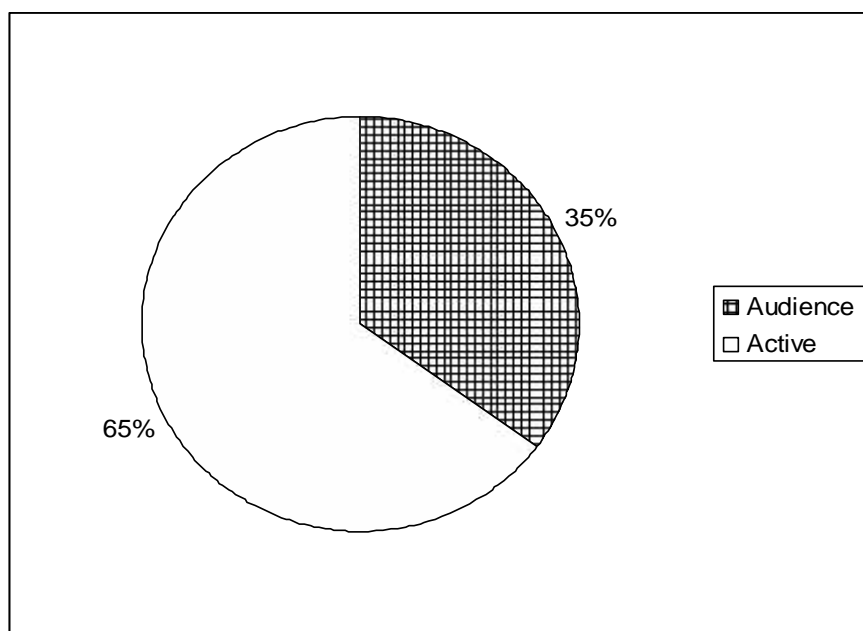
Table.No.4.13.2

Types of women’s participation

S.N	Types of participant	Percentage
1	Actively	65
2	Inactively	35
	Total	100

Figure: 4.2

Women’s Manner in CFG Assembles



Source: Field Survey, 2009.

From this observation it was found that although there is an increasing number of women in the committee and general assembly due to lack of self confidence of the women’s user they generally do not express their views in the forum of the meeting, unless they are insisted to speak.

Women, poor and people of lower and discriminated caste groups are usually the listeners whereas committee members rich and men usually take on the role of instructors, supervisors and leaders.

The research has concluded on the basis of review of minute book and interview with the respondent that the general assemblies is an institutional festival of the FUG, which is arranged twice in a year for the review, of before activities. According to FGD informants expression was that EC communicates earlier about the date of general assembly to be organized and encourage to all people to take part in it.

4.8 Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Community Forest Management

There are some constraints hindrances for the participation in community forest to women. Although many of these are location and individual specific some common constraints of this FUG are time, economy, education and social customs.

4.8.1 Time Allocation

CF meetings and assemblies usually held the morning and in day time. In this time women become busy in their house responsibilities. As a result mostly male members go to meeting and in assemblies. Therefore, women generally lack the information that was discussed in the meeting and assemblies. Time is the most important reason for the inability of the women of participate to the maximum in the assemblies.

4.8.2 Cause of Economic Weakness

CF members can not provide full time in the work of CF because they have to be involved in other supplementary income generating activities, to improve their economic condition. Some times people leave their houses and go out other places for business. As the economic condition of these people is poor, in addition to agriculture they have to undertake other tasks like conduction various small business, raising and seeding domestic animals like goat, cow and buffaloes and even resorting to manual labour, to supplement their economy.

So economic factor also restricts and women to participate in the CF activities some women saying was that they are compelled to start small business and do labour work in the market to solve their existing had not mouth problem. They said that if they had to be involved in CF activities, they would have to stop their work. This effects the household economy negatively. How ever some courageously and aware women say that they have postponed or even stopped their work to participating in the CF activities.

4.8.3 Customs and Tradition

In the most parts of the Nepali society, the women's mobility has been fettered by customs and traditions, which defines the women's domain to be within the confines of the house. It is still considered a taboo for women to talk to me folk outside of the household, it is no surprise that women need the permission of the household to go out of their house for non household related activities. Therefore many families disapprove of their women going away form home to participate in CF activities, training and work.

4.8.4 Secondary Status in the Society

Like in all societies the women of Nepal have always been relegated ot a secondary status. They have to look up their men folk for approval in every activity that they want to undertake. This secondary status is due to centuries of male domination in society although now days many families are allowing their females to take up roles outside of the house. Many families are still not very receptive to this idea and hence this has also become a hindrance to women's participation in CF activities. This has to led to women being less informed about the activities that take place in the meeting and assemblies.

4.8.5 Insufficient Support by the Government and Development Agencies

There are not enough donor agencies as a result the extension awareness programme as into having reached sufficiently in the study area. The government and other development agencies have not made any strike obligatory rules to get women in the CFUG committee except for implementing the mandatory quota requirement for women. However, in reality women's participation is not effective enough because there is no institutional mechanism to involve women and lack of women's organization. Also as there is lack of gender knowledge among the professional and forestry technicians, they have not been able to address the gender issues properly during the planning and decision making phases in the CF activities.

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

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The study women's participation in community forest management conducted in Deurali community forest situated at Phidim VDC ward no. 4 and 5 of Panchthar District aiming to assess the level of women's participation on community forest management at the study area. The study was carried out in the different steps of research methodology such as defining research problem, reviewing literature, designing research, collecting, analyzing and interpreting data and reporting. For study various research problems were identified to reach the goal of the research. The research problems questions includes various situations of field giving the focus on the socio-economic feature of CFUG, the rules the regulation, women's knowledge and attitude on community forest management, condition of forest after the involvement of women and hindering women's participation in CF management. Likewise research study address the following objectives,

-) to explain the socio-economic situation of the FUG
-) to determine the present level of women's participations in community forest.
-) to identify the factors that affects women's
-) participation in the management of community forestry.

Major findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

-) Deurali forest was under government before 2049 B.S.
-) This CF consisting of 76.71 hectare of forest area was handed to user group in 2049 BS. Ever since, the community forest has been protected by the users.

-) 122 households consisting of the total population 752 people have been registered in the user group. Bhramins are more than other ethnic group where as, Janajati area 21 household and Dalit are 3 households.
-) There are 752 people where as female are 358 and male are 394.
-) The people that fall under the age group under 14 years as considered as school children. These school girls and college girl are highly involved in forest product collection.
-) The majority of Deurali community forest users are fuel wood users.
-) Every women spends a great deal of her time with many responsibilities relating to household chores. Due to unavailability of time they have been unable to participate in CF activities.
-) Majority of people's family size fall under the medium size.
-) 60% of sampled household population's main profession is agriculture. Due to the lack of land agricultural production is not sufficient to provided food for whole year.
-) Some village women spend the whole day conducting small business like tea shop and grocery stores. 20% of the women have been involved in this business. On the other hand, most of the CF activities are time demanding, if these women are to be involved in CF activities they will have to stop their work.
-) Many women think that as they are uneducated, their presence in the community meeting and assembly is useless. This hesitation has also contribute in making participation low.

-) 35% of women participate as an audience in the assemblies. Due to lack of self confidence of the women's user. They generally do not express their views in the forum of the meeting.
-) Social and cultural practices, customs and traditions are the greatest factor that restricts women's mobility. Many families disapprove of their women going away from home to participate in CF activities, training and work.
-) Women always been relegated to a secondary status due to centuries of male domination in the society. This has also become a hindrance to women's participation in CF activities.
-) Lack of awareness among the women themselves and insufficient awareness program by the donor's agencies and the government to involved women in CF management has also hindered women's participation in CF activities.
-) Less number of women had forestry related training.
-) The absence of obligatory rules (except for the quota requirement of women in the committee) is also a factor that has not promoted the women's participation in CF activities.

5.2 Conclusion

By the field visits and observation the researcher has concluded with situation in the field of this research study in the following areas.

-) The present forest management system is popular with the village people.
-) In the views of most people the condition of forest is getting better because they think of ownership themselves.

-) Gender has different interest in different products of forest. Women, whether they are school or collage girl have extremely important contribution in forest collection and herding goats.
-) During the field visit and observing their activities, women's indigenous knowledge regarding forestry related activities were found true.
-) The treasurer has kept the balance of income and expenditure to the fund in transparent manner. It was found that the fund has been used effectively and has been audited by an auditor every year.
-) Women's participation as executive committee members and their presence in regular meeting were found satisfactory.
-) If the committee feels the plan need be changed membership to reviewed, they will call a general meeting for making necessary amendments very six month Bhadra and Falgun.
-) The committee had decided in the general assembly meeting to conducted regular monthly meeting on every first Saturday of the month.
-) Women involvement is predominantly based in the executive committee
-) Women's participation in decision making was found passive and poor in monitoring and evaluation process.
-) Women were less benefit sharing process from training opportunities.
-) Women involve in outdoor and out door activities like agriculture forestry related activities, going market, take care of old member. Theses types of work hinder their participation in CF activities.

Likewise, women's involvement in non farm activities due to poor economic condition like wage labours, small business of teashop and grocery are more time consuming and hence a hindrance too.

Women's hesitation due to being uneducated, lack of self-confidence, secondary status due to centuries of male dominated society lack of awareness programme, training also have been hindrances to women's participation in CF activities.

5.3 Recommendations

Community forest is a interrelated with various aspect. It is a complex phenomenon. The policymakers, concerned EC and local governmental organization and non governmental are major stakeholders to boots up women's participation in CF management.

Related with policy makers

-) For the equal or proportional participation of women in CE should be formulate a mandatory provision.
-) Awareness building activities on community forest management from the beginning of the process could be increased.
-) Proper incentives should be provided to women to encourage them to participate in FUGC activities.
-) FUGs should be reviewed, categorized and rewarded based on their performance. All women groups should be reviewed and awarded separately.
-) To know strange and weakness of group, special meeting should be arranged annually.

Related with GO/NGOs

-) Development agencies should conduct program such as women awareness and conservation class. So, that they can be prepared mentally to involve in forest management.
-) Women's forestry skill should increase through skilled oriented training such as thinning, pruning, cleaning weeding, plantation personal development.
-) Community forest where the people have benefited from various activities should be conducted study tour to bring awareness in the mind of women.
-) Suitable and convenient training or assemblies must be conducted.
-) To eliminate male member superiority should be conducted awareness program.
-) To improve the women economic condition should be provided training and employment opportunities in the field of cottage industries.

Related with FUGs

-) There are only 4 women member involved in the forestry group committee. The women's involvement in decision making regarding their forests is limited. Therefore, there should be a women's sub-committee within the executive committee.
-) School and collage girl should be involved in forest management activities training and in study tour.
-) EC member should be active to help others users.
-) Both user and committee members should be responsible to protect natural regeneration and plant sapling according to favorable climatic condition.

-) EC should demand appropriate training from DFO and other development agencies.
-) Every member of the family should be made aware to reduce household workload of women if they are to be involved in development activities.
-) Male member should encourage to their wife to participate in CF activities.
-) Time saving tools should be use in daily work in save time for women.
-) Several studies should be made on this subject with more explanation and emphasis on ethnic perspectives.

Physical Condition of Deurali Community Forest

1. Building - 1
2. Toilet with bathroom - 1-1
3. Cupboard - 1
4. TV - 1 (21' colour)
5. Chair - 73
6. Bench - 6
7. Table - 3
8. Water tank - 1

Field survey 2009

Interview Questionnaire

1. Family Profile:

1.1. Name of the Household :

1.2. Respondent's Name :

1.3. Age :

1.4. Type of Family :

1.5. Marital Status :

1.6. Educational Status :

Illiterate Literate Primary Education
 Lower Secondary Education Secondary Education Higher Education

2. Socio-Economic Features of the CFUG:

2.1. What is the ethnic composition of the CFUG?

Brahimn Chettri Newar
 Magar Others

2.2 How many household consisting of which ethnic/caste are involved in the CFUG?

Ethnic group	No. of Household
Brahmin	
Chhetri	
Newar	
Kami	
Damai	

2.3 What is the number of people form the different caste/ethnic groups that are involved in the Executive Committee of your Community Forestry?

Ethnic group	No. of Household
Brahmin	
Chhetri	
Newar	
Kami	
Others	

2.4 What is the number of male and female involvement in the Executive Committee of your community Forest?

Gender	No. of People
Male	
Female	

2.5 What is the Economic status of your family?

Rich Medium Poor

2.6 What is the main occupation of your family?

Farming Trade/Business Service Labour Others

2.7 What is the monthly income of your family?

1000-3000 3001-5000 5001-8000 8001 and above

2.8 How sufficient is the farm production to meet the food requirement of your family?

0-4 months 5-8 months 9-12 months 12 months and above

3. Present level of women's participation in community forestry management activities:

3.1 Have you ever participated in FUG assemblies?

Yes No

3.2 If yes, how often do you participate of FUG assemblies?

Usually Sometimes Always

3.3 How did you participate?

Actively As an audience

3.4 if no, why have you not participated? Give reasons for your non-participation.

1.

2.

4. Present Role of women in community forestry management activities

4.1 What type of forest management activities do you perform in your CF?

Cleaning Pruning Plantation Guarding

Weeding Thining Others

4.2 How much time do you allocate for these forest management activities?

...hrs per day Once a week Twice a week

Other than those mentioned above

4.3 Who collects forest products and how often?

Activities	Male				Female		Both
	Usually	Sometimes	Always	Usually	Somethings	Always	
Fuel wood							
Fodder							
Timber							
Leaf Litter							
Other							

6 Local peoples perception about women's role in community forestry:

6.1 Is women's involvement necessary in CF management activities?

Yes No

if yes, why? Give reasons.

1.

2.

5.3 If no, why? Give reasons.

1.

2.

6. Factors that affect women's participation in community forest management activities:

6.1 Have you (females) encountered any problems while participating in CF management activities?

Yes No

6.2 If yes, what type of problems do you face?

1.

2.

6.3 From whom do you face these problems?

1.

2.

6.4 Do you think the level of women's representation in CFUG committee is low?

Yes No

6.5 If yes, what are the reasons for the low participation?

1.

2.

6.6 What work do you do since you get up in the morning?

6.7 How many hours do you spend for those activities?

6.8 If you spend so much time in your household and farming activities, how is it possible for you to participate in your CF activities?

6.9 Why are females interested to participate in CF activities? Give reasons.

1.

2.

6.10 Are you an earning member of you family?

6.11 If yes, is it possible for you to participate in CF activities?

6.12 How do you manage your time for this?

6.13 Have you (women) felt any change in men's perception after your involvement in CF activities?

Yes

No

Don't Know

6.14 If yes, what changed did you feel? Mention

1. Family Level:

2. Society Level:

3. Economic Level:

6.15 How do you hope to benefit from your CF?

1.

2.

7. Women's Knowledge and Attitude towards community forestry:

7.1 What is the name of your community forest?

7.2 When was the forest handed over the User Group as a community forest?

7.3 When was the Forest User Committee formed?

7.4 How many members are there in the User Committee?

7.5 Do you know the area of your community forest?

.....Ha/Ropani/Bigha

7.6 Women are involved in the FUG committee of your CF. Do you know the process by which they are selected?

7.7 If yes, what is the process?

7.8 Are you satisfied about the selection? If yes/No give reasons.

1.

2.

7.9 In your opinion is there a need to form a committee with women only?

7.10 Who encouraged you to join the CF?

Self

Male Family Members

Officials

Friends

7.11 What do you think about the present condition of your community forest?

Improving

Deteriorating

Unchaged

Don't

7.12 Do you want to make changes in the existing management system?

Yes

No

7.13 If yes, what type of changes do you desire to make?

8. Miscellaneous:

8.1 Are you involved in any saving activities?

Yes

No

8.2 Is your saving activities related to the CF and if yes how?

8.3 What type of role is the forestry technicians are playing?

Satisfactory

Mediocre

Unsatisfactory

8.4 Have the various NGOs, INGOs, DFO conducted any forestry related awareness progremes in your FUG?

8.5 If yes, what type? State.

1.

2.

8.6 Has anyone from your family received forestry related training?

Yes

No

8.7 If yes, who has?

8.8 If females have not participated in any training, why?

8.9 In your opinion what type of role should be played by these agencies to increase the level of women's participation in CF management activities?

8.10 Do you have any suggestion to promote you CF in future?

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ANNEX I



*Notice Board of Deurali Community Forest management committee
Phidim-5 Panchthar.*



Office of Deurali Forest Community Management Phidim -5 Jorsar



Photo: Interviewing with Users groups members



A scence of Deurali community Forest