

**INCLUSION OF DALITS IN COMMUNITY FOREST**  
*(A Sociological Study of Aahale Mashwara Community Forest, PutaliBazar-11, Syangja)*



**A Thesis**

**Submitted to**

The faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Sociology/ Anthropology  
Prithwi Narayan Campus in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the  
Master Degree in **Sociology**



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**March 2012**



TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

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## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that **Medika Shrestha** has completed the dissertation entitled **“INCLUSION OF DALITS IN COMMUNITY FOREST (A Sociological study of Aahle Mashwara Community Forest, PutaliBazar-11, Syangja)”** under my supervision and guidance. So, I therefore, recommend this thesis for the final approval and acceptance by the research evaluation committee.

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**March 2012**

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**PRIHWI NARAYAN CAMPUS**  
**Department of Sociology/ Anthropology**

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Bhimkali Patan, Pokhara, Nepal

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**LETTER OF APPROVAL**

This Thesis entitled "**INCLUSION OF DALITS IN COMMUNITY FOREST** (A Sociological study of Aahle Mashwara Community Forest, PutaliBazar-II, Syangja)" submitted to Department of Sociology/ Anthropology; Prithwi Narayan Campus by **Medika Shrestha** in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the **Degree of Masters of Arts in Sociology** has been approved by the undersigned member of the dissertation evaluation committee. Therefore, we accept this dissertation as a part of the mentioned degree.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my warm and sincere gratitude to my research supervisor Mr. Sarad Kumar Paudel, the Teaching Assistant of Sociology/Anthropology for his tireless guidance, constructive comments, gracious suggestions and encouragement with invaluable ideas in preparing this work into this final output.

Similarly, I am ideally indebted to my respected department head Mrs Shanti Bhushal who initially helped me to choose the topic. It is a matter of great pride for me to express my sincere gratitude to the research committee, department of Sociology/Anthropology, T.U., PNC, Pokhara, Nepal for providing me an opportunity to present a dissertation on this topic.

*Inclusion of Dalits in Community forest (A Sociological study of Aahle Mashwara Community Forest, PutaliBazar-11, Syangja)*, is a thesis prepared in accordance with the mandatory rule of Tribhuvan University as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the master of arts in Sociology. It is an attempt to investigate the condition of the inclusive policy of government for the Dalits in the community forest.

Likewise, I am again sincerely indebted to Mr. Deb Bahadur Chetry, a student researcher for managing my scattered data in analytical form through the help of computer program SPSS 16 for windows. I must thank him for his continued assistance and encouragement through the work of this dissertation and as well as for the secretarial work for this dissertation.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of those respondents, who helped me for collecting data. Similarly, I express my thanks to the people who participated especially in the FGD session, who welcomed my endless questions with a wonderful curiosity and patience. Without their cooperation this dissertation would not have been possible. Likewise, I owe special thanks

to Mr. Pritam Raj Pun Magar and Rajan Raj Subedi my classmate student researcher for their kind assistances during the field work.

Likewise, I am again sincerely indebted to my entire respected lecturers of Department of Sociology/Anthropology Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara for their direct and indirect assistance and encouragement by providing the documents or by any other means.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my family for their untiring support throughout my research study period and support by providing related material while preparing this dissertation without which the present research work would not have been materialized.

**March 2012**

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**Medika Shrestha**

**" INCLUSION OF DALITS IN COMMUNITY FOREST**  
*(A Sociological Study of Aahale Mashwara Community Forest, PutaliBazar-11,  
Syangja)*

**ABSTRACT**

By:- **Medika  
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Nepal's rural setting is a complex structure of social system consisting of hierarchical social structure that includes different economic and social classes, oppressive caste system and gender discrimination, which is developed from feudal, bureaucratic and caste and gender biased interests. The difference between rich and poor people, upper and lower caste, men and women create situation for social conflicts and discrimination to have access and control over the resources. The main objective of this study is to describe the socio-economic condition of users in the area, find the status of inclusion of poor, women and *Dalits* in participation of decision-making forums, membership in CF and access to information and opportunities, explore the condition of inclusion of poor, women and *Dalits* in benefit sharing and fund mobilization mechanism among CFUG members, and assess the existing situation of inclusion of poor, women and *Dalits* in decision making. Despite a variety of government interventions, the ethnic minorities continue to be marginalized. There is hardly any awareness, understanding and planning activities by the government and extension and research agencies in terms of social and gender discrimination (Baral, 1993: Pp 34-35).

**Study Area**

The study area of this study was taken the Dalits Users groups of "*Aahale Mashwara Community Forest*", one of the Community forests of Syangja Municipality. This Community forest belongs to the locals' people of ward no. 11, which is located towards the Northwest of the municipality. The researcher had planned to carry this research mainly focusing to search the answer to these questions;

1. How many Dalits have got the user members?
2. Have they been the member from the initial phase?
3. Are they equally represented in Executive committee?
4. What is their role in decision making?
5. How is the Status before and after the involvement in the forestry?
6. Are they really satisfied with the way they are included in the committee?

**The Main Goal of the Study**

General objective of this study is to find out the condition of inclusion of dalits and the impact of the community forest among the Dalits in their day to day life Putalibazar-11, Syangja. The specific objectives are;

- To examine the condition of inclusion and participation of Dalits in community forestry.
- To study the impact of inclusion among Dalits on their Socio-economic status.

**The Tools used to collect the data**

This study is mainly concentrated on the condition of inclusion of dalits in the community forest management, of the Aahale mashwara community forest of Putilibazar-11 Syangja. This study had utilized descriptive methodology in the form of social survey. At the first, detail of the main elements of the methods to be used is given under. The Dalit users group of the CF was taken as universe for the Census method of study for the small population size of 42 households. For the purpose of the study observation, interview schedule, and Focused Group Discussions were adopted as data collecting technique of sociological research, to collect qualitative and quantitative data the questionnaire was well planned. Thus, the data collected for this study is dominantly primary. When needed, some of the important secondary data have also been incorporated. The above data collecting tools were devising very carefully in order to ensure their validity. For this purpose, the interview schedules prepared carefully with the instruction of supervisor was included and refined the question in the interview schedule. Both structure and unstructured observations were made from time to time while in the field work process. FGD interviews were primary unstructured one had been also conducted. These techniques have yielded qualitative data, while interview schedule has yielded both types of data. The collected data have been analyzed by using computer program SPSS 16 while qualitative data have been arranged manually and analyzed descriptively. Results of quantitative data analysis have been shown by using various tables, charts and diagrams.

### **Major Finding of the Study**

#### **a) Demographic Features**

- While seeing the facts it had been found that 73.8 percent of the respondents were native while 26.2 percent of them were migrated from other areas.
- The respondents were mainly ranges the age group of 25-30 and 30-35 which constitute of 42.9 and 28.6 percent respectively.
- The finding in relation to the religious composition has marked that the Dalits were slowly changing their religion to Christianity.
- Moreover the findings of education level show that, half of the total study population was illiterate and 31percent of the respondents were found to be normal literate.
- The finding for the occupational level shows that 52.4 percent of the respondents were engaged in farming, similarly 28.6 percent of the respondents were engaged in traditional occupation and while 19 percent of the respondents were found to be engaged in daily waged for their earning.
- The report also states that the respondents possess irrigable and non-irrigable lands where they practice agriculture.

#### **b) Inclusion and Participation**

- Community forest provides training to the members but the collected data states that there is different story of access; 64 percent of the respondents had reported that they got chances to take part in the training, while 36 percent had marked that they did not get chances to participate in the trainings.
- In relation to pass the agenda following facts were discovered from the field as 73 percent had reported that it adopted democratic ways by calling the members, similarly 23 percent has marked that only executive member passes the agenda while 2.4 percent had reported that it was passed through influential persons.

- In relation to access of resources, 78.6 percent had marked that they got fair chances, likewise 19 percent had reported that they didn't get the chances of access while 2.4 percent of the respondents had marked that only sometime they get the opportunities.
- 45.2 percent of the respondents had reported that they were given free chances for expression, while 50 percent of the respondents had marked that only sometime they do so, and 4.8 percent of the respondents had reported that they don't get chances.
- In relation to consideration of respondents view in decision making 64.3 percent had reported that their views were considered during the decision making, likewise 31 percent of the respondents had reported that very often their view were considered, and while 4.8 percent of the respondents had reported that they were ignored in making decisions.

c) **Impact of Inclusion**

- CFUGs helps in improving the livelihood condition of the individual. It provides basic support for the entrepreneur for the users' members to developed small programs.
- It helped in raising the social status of the dalits and make free and comfort to sustain their life. They get better platform for the development of leadership qualities.
- The inclusion and participation of dalits over the time has found to have increased. Resulted in gaining self confidence.

**Thank you and hope for valued comments!**



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## **Glossary**

Adhiya	=	Taking the land in a contract to share the production equally for some period of time.
Banpale	=	Person who are appointed to guard the forest
Bipanna	=	Those Respondents Who don't have wealth and faces hard to sustain the life
Dhan	=	Wealth
Katwal	=	Local Messenger to rely the news to the local inhabitants about the local happenings
Daily Wage Labour	=	Labour who works under the daily payment basis.

## ACRONYMS

A.D.	=	Anno Domini.
B.C.	=	Before Christ.
B.S.	=	Bikram Shammatt.
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistic.
CF	=	Community Forest
CFUGS	=	Community Forest User Groups
DFO	=	District Forest Office
FGD	=	Focus Group Discussion
Fig.	=	Figure
I.A	=	Intermediate in Arts
ICIMOD	=	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INGO	=	International Non- Governmental Organization
No.	=	Number.
NTFPS	=	Non- Timber Forest Products
S.L.C.	=	School Leaving Certificate.
SPSS	=	Statistical Package for Social Sciences.
T.U.	=	Tribhuvan University.