

**THARU WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF
COMMUNITY FOREST:
(A Case Study of Kumroj Community Forest Users Group of Kumroj
VDC, Chitwan District)**



A Dissertation

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central
Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology**

Suman Adhikari

Exam Roll No.: 280265/063

T. U. Regd. No.: 24960-95

**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY /ANTHROPOLOGY
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CLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis entitled **“THARU WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST: (A Case Study of Kumroj Community Forest Users Group of Kumroj VDC, Chitwan District)”** has been done myself and has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree. All sources of information have been specially acknowledged by references to the authors or institutions.

.....

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Date.....

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled "**THARU WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST: (A Case Study of Kumroj Community Forest Users Group of Kumroj VDC, Chitwan District)**" submitted by Suman Adhikari, for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for master degree of sociology completed under my supervision and guidance. Therefore I would like to recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This dissertation entitled " **THARU WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FORESTS: (A Case Study of Kumroj Community Forest Users Group of Kumroj VDC, Chitwan District)**" submitted by Suman Adhikari has been evaluated and approved for partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master degree of Arts in sociology.

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It is my great pleasure to present this thesis to central department of sociology anthropology Tribhuban University, Kiritpur, as a part of partial fulfillment of the requirement of master degree in sociology/ anthropology.

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Date:-

Suman Adhikari

ABSTRACT

Community forestry was introduced in Nepal in 1978. The community forestry approach has been highly successful in the protection of forests in the Terai of Nepal. Women are playing an important role in sustainable development of community forests. However, their role is neither properly identified nor explored. So, the study focuses to the Tharu women's participation in community forest management of Kumroj Community Forest User's Group.

To explore the target issues, some general and specific objectives are made. The general objective of the study is to find the women's participation in community forest user group's activities whereas the specific objectives of the study are:

-) To find out the level of Tharu women's participation in Community Forest (CF) activities through CFUG's activities.
-) To determine Tharu women's participation in decision making process of CFUG.

KCFUG of Chitwan district is selected for the present study. The reason for the selection of the site is convenient for the researcher, which is held on the basis of exploratory and descriptive research method. The study is based on primary and secondary data and the nature of data is qualitative. Among the total households, only 138 households are chosen by caste or ethnicity for the study. Female respondents were selected for interview and male as well as female were selected according to the convenience for household survey. Key informants and focus group discussion also used to collect information.

According to the field survey, Female literacy rate is 57.89 percent and only 36.96 percent household heads are female. In forest resource collection, females involvement in firewood collection is 56.25 percent, in grass cutting is 44.20 percent and low participation in timber cutting and collection because hired workers also has been used. Participation in grass and firewood collection of female is higher than the rest.

Participation of women in general meeting of KCFUG is only 26.81 percent and participation of males are 73.19 percent. Participation of female in attending meeting

was like audience is high. Taking part actively in general meeting, sharing in decision-making and discussion is very low. According to the government policy minimum 1/3 of the committee members must be female but in KCFUG committee there are just 2 female members among 15 members of the total committee and only one Tharu women in the Kumroj Community Forest Committee (annex-IV).

According to the field study, there are so many obstacles for women to participate community forest activities, such as; traditional male dominated culture, household work load, lack of knowledge about community forestry, poor economic condition, lack of permission to attend meeting, lack of empowerment, feeling of women needless to participate in public concern, less chance to view for women in every sector of development activities, illiteracy etc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	i
Recommendation Letter	ii
Approval Letter	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	x
List of Figures	x
Abbreviations	xi
CHAPTER-ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-5
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Research questions	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	2
1.4 Significance of the Study	3
1.5 Conceptual Framework	3
1.6 Operational Definition of the Variables	4
1.7 Organization of the Study	4
CHAPTER-TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	6-21
2.1 Community Forestry as the Common Property Resource	6
2.2 Community Forestry in Nepal	7
2.2.1 Evolution of the Community Forest Management Policy	9
2.2.2 Major Objectives of the Community Forestry Policy	10
2.2.3 Devolution of the power in Forest Management	11
2.2.4 'Social Equity', the Second Generation Issue of the Community Forestry	12
2.2.5 Policy for the Women	14

2.2.6	Women's Participation in Community Forestry in Nepal	15
2.2.7	Equity among the Women in FUG	18
2.2.8	Community Forest and Tharu Community	19
CHAPTER -THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY		22-26
3.1	Study Area and Rationale for Selection	22
3.2	Research Design	23
3.3	The Universe and Sample	23
3.4	Nature and Sources of Data	24
3.5	Data Collection Techniques	24
3.5.1	Household Survey Questionnaire	24
3.5.2	Key Informants' Interview	24
3.5.3	Observation	25
3.6	Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation	25
3.7	Limitation of the Study	25
CHAPTER FOUR: STUDY AREA		27-34
4.1	History of the Study Area	27
4.1.1	Social Characteristics of Study Area	28
4.1.2	Demographic Structure by Ward and Sex	28
4.1.3	Caste and Ethnic Composition of the Study Area	29
4.2	Socio-Economic status of sample households	30
4.2.1	Educational Condition of Respondents According to Sex	30
4.2.2	Occupational Structure of the sample Households	30
4.2.3	Distribution of Household Head by Gender	31
4.2.4	Source of income of the Sample Households	32
4.2.5	Land Distribution of Respondents	32
4.3	Natural Resources and Place of interest of Kumroj Community Forest	33
CHAPTER-FIVE: WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST ACTIVITY		35- 46
5.1	Involvement in Forest Resources Collection by Gender	35
5.2	Participation in General Meeting of KCFUG by Age and Sex	37
5.3	Different between past and present management system of	

	CFUG	38
5.4	Role of Women and Tharu Women in KCFUG	
	General Meeting	38
5.5	Motivational Factor for Women's Participation	40
5.6	Obstacles for women's participation in CF activities	41
5.7	Participation of Women Having the Heterogeneous or Diverse Identities	42
5.8	Views of Local people about Women's Role Including Tharu Women, Towards Community Forest	44
	5.8.1 Positive Views about Women	44
	5.8.2 Negative views about Tharu women	44
5.9	Constitution Procedure and Terms of Committee Member Selection	45
 CHAPTER-SIX: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS		 47-49
6.1	Summary and Conclusion	47
6.2	Recommendations	49

REFERENCES

ANNEXS

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	: Population by Ward and Sex	28
Table 2	: The Caste/Ethnic Composition of the Study Area	29
Table 3	: Educational condition of Respondents	30
Table 4	: Occupational structure of Sample Households	31
Table 5	: Distribution of Household Head by Gender in the Study Area	31
Table 6	: Source of income of Sampled Households	32
Table 7	: Land Distribution of Sample Households	33
Table 8	: Involvement in Forest Resource Collection by Gender	36
Table 9	: Distribution of Household Members Participated in General Meeting by Age and Sex	37
Table 10	: Different between Past and Present Management System of CFUG	38
Table 11	: Role of Women in Decision Making in KCFUG General Meeting	39
Table 12	: Distribution of Respondents by Motivational Factor for Women in Community Forest Activities	40

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	: Involvement in Forest Resource Collection by Gender	36
Figure 2	: Distribution of Household Members Participated in General Meeting by Age and Sex	37
Figure 3	: Role of Women in Decision Making in KCFUG General Meeting	39
Figure 4	: Distribution of Respondents by Motivational Factor for Women in Community Forest Activities	41

ABBREVIATIONS

APP	–	Agriculture Perspective Plan
BS	–	BikramSambat
CBS	–	Central Bureau of Statistics
CF	–	Community Forestry
CFUG	–	Community Forestry User Group
DFO	–	District Forest Office
FAO	–	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nation
FECOFUN	–	Federation of Community Forestry Users of Nepal
FUG	–	Forest Users Group
GO	–	Government Organization
HHs	–	Households
HGM/N	–	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ICIMOD	–	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
MPFS	–	Master Plan for Forestry Sector
NGO	–	Non Government Organization
NNFP	–	Nepal National Forestry Project
OP	–	Operational Plan
PF	–	Panchayat Forest
PFNA	–	Private Forest National Act
PPF	–	Panchayat Protect Forest
WG-CIFM	–	Working Group on Community Involvement in Forest.