

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT
(A Study of Gwashi Ghanteshwar Community Forest, Malakheti VDC 4&5, Kailali)

A THESIS
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In Partial fulfillment of requirement for the Master's
Degree of Arts in Sociology

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Rohit Prashad Joshi has completed this dissertation entitled "**Women Participation in Community Forest Management**" under my supervision. As supervisor, I forward this dissertation for final evaluation as per the rules of the Department.

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APPROVAL LETTER

The Dissertation entitled "**Women Participation in Community Forest Management**" submitted by Mr. Rohit Prashad Joshi has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Arts in Sociology.

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ABSTRACT

Forests are one of the most important natural resources for sustaining the livelihood of rural people in Nepal, as the subsistence farming systems are mostly embodied within forestry and livestock. The lives of the rural poor and women are closely associated with the forest resources, as these groups are the primary managers and users of the resources. Women's roles and day to day contribution is incredibly important in household activities, agricultural production and natural resource management. Forest plays an important role in our daily life. Nepalese economy based on agriculture and livestock farming.

Community forestry was introduced in Nepal in 1978. The community forestry approach has been highly successful in the protection of forest 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 women's participation in community forest management of Gwashi Ghanteshwar community forest user's group.

The general objectives 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 know the socio-economic condition of women of Community Forestry members (such as: age, caste/ethnicity, religion, education, occupation, income-expenditure structure), To trace out women participation in community forest management activities (such as: management activities, attaining meeting, formulating plan, and decision making process), To explore the problem faced by the women in management activities and implementation.

Gwashi Ghanteshwar community forest was selected for the study. This study was based on primary and secondary data. The total population of the universe was 2,961 of which 1,519 were male and 1,442 were female with 420 households. All households were the users of Gwashi Ghanteshwar community forest. Among total population of the universe (10 percent of each caste group's total Households) 42 women were selected as a respondent from the

sample units by the proportionate size of different castes/ethnicity group. Among 42 women respondents: 17 from Kshetri, 13 from Brahmins, 7 from Dalit (3 Kami, 2 Damai, and 2 Tamrakar) and 5 from Chaudhari. The present working committee is led by women and among 19 members of working committee 11 were females. Key information Interview, focus group discussion and other data collection techniques were used.

According to the field survey there was some obstacles for women to participate community forestry activities. Such as, traditional male dominated culture, households work load, lack of empowerments poor economic condition, lack of knowledge.

Majority of respondents reported that both male and female were getting benefit from community forest. Participation of women in attending meeting was like audience is high. Taking part actively in general meeting, sharing in decision making and discussion was very low.

In this community forest Chhetris caste (40%) are the dominating forest user groups whereas Dalit and Chaudharis are in minority. Participation of Chhetri and Brahmin community is high in comparison to other caste.

Women participation in executive committee was satisfactory but they couldn't active in formulating and implementing the plans and decisions. The users are satisfied with the work carried out by forest user committee and community forest program.

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ABBREVIATION

BS	–	Bikram Sambat
CBS	–	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDS/A	–	Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology
CF	–	Community Forest
CFM	–	Community Forest Management
CFUG	–	Community Forest User Group
DFO	–	District Forestry Office
DOF	–	Department of Forestry
EC	–	Executive Committee
FAO	–	Food and Agricultural Organization
FUG	–	Forest Users Group
GGCFUG	–	Gwashi Ghanteshwar Community Forest User Group
GOs	–	Government Organization
Ha	–	Hectare
HHs	–	Households
ICIMOD	–	Integrated Center for Mountain Development
INGOs	–	International Non-Government Organizations
MoFSC	–	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MPFP	–	Master Plan for Forest Products
MPFS	–	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector
NGOs	–	Non-Government Organizations
NPC	–	National Plan Commission
NTFPs	–	Non-Timber Forest Products
OP	–	Operation Plan
TFPs	–	Timber Forest Products
TU	–	Tribhuvan University
UN	–	United Nation
VDC	–	Village Development Committee

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