

CHAPTER: ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

People's involvement in any activities is generally known as participation. It is not a new concept in the field of development. The word 'participation' and 'participatory' appeared for the first time in the development jargon during the late 1950s (Rahnema, 1997). However, in practice, the approach of participation arrived later in the field of development with the slogan of "putting the last first" (Chamber, 1983) due to the failure of earlier development approaches i.e., top down or trickle down approach of development.

In the context of Nepal, the approach of people's participation in the field of development was introduced in the late 1970s, mostly in the area of natural resource management such as forest, irrigation, rangeland and other development activities. Along with the participation of people, appeared spontaneously in the fields. (Chhetri, 1999)

The management, protection and utilization of forest by the local villagers or community are known as community forest (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991, Chhetri, 1994). "Community Forestry (CF) program being implemented in Nepal is essentially a strategy adopted to bring about socio-economic and environmental change and development in rural societies through interventions in regard to the management of forests" (Chhetri, 1994). Over time, this program appeared as one of the best examples of people's participation or people's participatory development activities in the sector of forest management in Nepal.

People are the key collectors as well as users of the forest products such as firewood, fodder, leaf-litter, edible plants, flowers, herbs and ritually needed plants including SaaI (*Shorea robusta*), Bhorla (*Banchininia vahlii*), champ (*Michelia kisopa*), bar (*Ficus benghalensis*), papal (*ficus religiosa*) Bel (*Aegle marmelos*) etc. They also manage and protect the forest resources by planting, weeding, conducting pruning and thinning activities, watching the encroachment over forest resources and area. Therefore people participation is essential for the effective management of the forest resources. However, the various literatures pointed out that the existing social

structure and value system of our society has highly deprived the local people from a meaningful participation in the management activities (Gautam 2003). In this sense local people are not properly participated in CF and their roles are also less effective (ibid).

In the development program, participation is normally measured through different levels such as participation in program implementation, decision making, monitoring, evaluating and benefit sharing. In this study, the researcher has tried to find out the people participation in CF through the study of Panchulli community forest of Birpath V.D.C. of Achham district.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Nepali society is heterogeneous in terms of caste, culture, language, ethnicity, religion, and class. In all religion, cast, ethnic group and class, gender groups have occupied different spaces of the society. In the sphere of development, people from different caste, ethnic group, religion, class and sex do not participate equally in decision making, program implementation, monitoring and evaluating, and benefit sharing

Scholars (Karki, 1994, Dahal,1994, barL,1994, Gautam and Shaha 1997, Malla an fisher, 1998 etc) have mentioned and discussed many practical problems in the implementation of community forestry program in their research paper. Most of them pointed the multi ethnic group language, religion practice and different ideology in politics, which are making problem in people's participation in community forest management.

In the context of forest management, people have been contributing for protection and management of the forest resources from time immemorial. However, their involvement in different aspects of natural resource management has been mostly in the form of nominal participation (Ostrum, 1992, Agrawal, 2002). Their role is subsided by the existing patriarchal cultural practices, religious beliefs and value system, even though they are the prime managers of the natural resources (Njoroge, 1999, Banjade, 2004).

In the context of Nepalese society, people participation are less motivated in some cases to go ahead in the area of decision making and representation in public sphere.

Banjade (2003) writes that our social system has provided local ethnic people with less opportunity of education and exposure to outside world, i.e., their enthusiasm, capacity and confidence on leading the management, decision making and influence in management process and out-comes have been limited. Therefore it is meaningful participation and representation in the community forest management is also highly influenced by their level of awareness, capacity and their confidence.

However, it has been the prime managers of the natural resources from time immemorial (Njoroge, 1999). They have made great contribution in plantation, weeding, conducting pruning and thinning activities of forest resource management. They are the responsible persons for the collection of firewood, fodder, leaf-litter and so on for their livelihood. In addition, especially, in the rural areas, commercially valuable products such as medicine, fruits, nuts, mushroom, etc. are mainly collected by local people (Banjade, 2003). However, the role of local people in decision making and benefit sharing is significantly low (Agrawal, 2002, Ostrum, 2002).

Some studies reveal that CF has potentials for empowering the locals but certainly some of studies shows that it could not equally empower all. The disadvantaged groups like the poor, so called *Dalit* and women are still marginalized through the process of CF management. In this sense Timsina points out:

Community Forest is a strong medium of empowerment in term of involving local people to decide how to use and manage the community resource. It also seems to be devolution of power to the locals to manage the available resources.... program may further marginalizes the weaker sections of the society like women, poor and the low caste as the policy vests the rights and responsibility on only a few key individuals in the community" (2003: 27).

The elites and the male members of the user group use CF as a medium to obtain power and benefits. Therefore, the weaker sections of society have no access to the resource management. That has badly affected local people who are directly depending upon the forest resources. The existing policies did not appear to address the needs and interest of local people (Garner, 1997).The executive committee takes the major decision as regards to the forest resources and such committee generally consists of the local elites and males.

In this background some of the simple but interesting questions inspire the researcher to conduct the research. The questions are as follows:

How people are participating on implementation process of community forestry management. How all interest group are talking in the process of decision making an benefit sharing? Are there any challenges in community forestry management? And What age benefit of participation in community forest management?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine and analyze local people's participation in Panchulli Community Forestry Users Group, Birpath V.D.C. Achham district. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To analyze the socio-economic situation of the study area.
- ii. To analyze institutional process of community forest
- iii. To analyze people's participation in community forestry activities,
- iv. To find out the hindering and motivating factors of local people's participation in Community Forestry.

1.4. Rational of the Study

Community forest programme is very effective in rural area of Nepal. It makes people feel that forest belongs to them and they look after carefully and difference types of income generating activities have been started through people participation to improve their live hoods. The present study is based on the study of Panchulli Community Forestry User Group, Birpath V.D.C., Achham District. It explores local people's participation and their roles and responsibilities in the forest resource management activities in relation to gender equality. Therefore, this study seeks to understand the hidden power relations between different group within the family and community of the study area. This study can be useful to those persons, institutions and organizations that are interested to know about local people's status and role and responsibility in CF for planning and policy making. This study may also be beneficial and provide guidelines for those scholars who are interested to study about the local people's participation in CF.

1.5. Limitation of the Study

All research projects are somehow affected by certain limitations. So, this research has also faced some constraints which limit its findings.

The major limitations of the study were:

1. The present research was based on the field work carried out in 2011 Panchuli Community Forestry Users Group, Birpath V.D.C. In this community, it is also limited because of the diversity of caste/ ethnic groups so, the findings may not be generalized in the other area.
2. Field observation is based on limited duration of only two months

1.6 Organization of the Study

The present study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is an introduction chapter of the study. This chapter deals with the general introduction of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, and significations of the study, conceptual framework and the limitation of the study.

The second chapter presents a review of literature which is also divided into two sections. The first section deals with the general management of the forest resources in Nepal and the second section focuses on literature dealing with community forest management .

The third chapter presents the methodology applied by the researcher to carry out this research. This chapter is also divided into three sections. First section presents the rational for the selection of the study site, the second section describes about the sampling procedure, nature and source of data, tools and techniques applied for collection of data and the third chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of the data applied by the researcher.

The fourth chapter describes the ecological setting of the Panchulli Community Forestry Users Group, Birpath V.D.C. This chapter deals about the setting of study area, the climate, flora and fauna and natural resources found in the study area

It also presents the socio-economic profile of the villagers of Panchulli Community Forestry Users Group; this chapter gives an account of demographic character, settlement pattern, socio-cultural and economic activities of the villagers.

The fifth chapter deals about the general over view of CF management and local people participation in CF.

The sixth chapter of the thesis deals about hindering and motivating factors of local people's participation in Panchuli CF. The last chapter gives a summary and conclusion.

CHAPTER: TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of previous writing is a part of the research. It provides general ideas about the subject matters and methodology which help the researcher to achieve the targeted objectives. Thus, this chapter reviews of available literature such as books, journals, research papers and articles published by various scholars from different perspective focusing on women in the field of CF management activities.

2.1. Forest Management Practices in Nepal

The management of forest is not a new concept in the context of Nepal. Forests have been managed by the local people in their traditional way since time immemorial. Nepal's forest history has been divided into three phases: before the Rana regime, during Rana regime and after the Rana regime (Mahat et al. 1986). We found two types of efforts towards forest management.

2.1.1 Governments Efforts and Practices

Before the Rana regime, Nepal's forest management practice was in the hand of local community and no special rules were made for forest protection. Religious forest, *niji ban*, etc. were found to be well managed by local people (Mahat et al. cited by Palit). During Rana regime forest and land were given to army officers and high ranking officials in the name of *jagir*, *birta* etc. At that time the people in-charge of the forests were *Talukdars* who were responsible for tax collection as well as distribution of fuel wood, fodder, small timber, grazing, collection of leaf litter and other activities. The local people collected what was needed from the forest without paying any fees, although some sort of gift (*Theki*) in return to the functionary had become customary practiced (Mahat et. al.1987).

The government of Nepal nationalized all types of forest in 1957. That act snatched the use right of local people and deprived people from their traditional use practices of forest (Gilmore, and Fisher, 1991, Chhetri, 1994). The main aim of government was to increase state revenue through the forest. However, land area under forests decreased. The Forest Act of 1961 provided legislation for state administration of the forest. This act defined forest categories and covered description, registration and

demarcation of forests. It also defined the duties of the department of forest, listed forest offenses and prescribed penalties. The government was unable to manage the forest effectively because of the lack of requisite infrastructure (both technical and administrative). Forest was categorized into national, religious forest, *Panchayat* forest and private forest. Management decision also remained with the government. However, the ninth plan took a significant step towards community forestry through the forest conference held in Kathmandu in 1974. Forest officers from all parts of Nepal attended the conference. A community oriented group of foresters working in districts strongly favored the involvement of people in the management of forests, a form of forestry to be later known as community forestry (Palit 1996).

Community forest was introduced in Nepal with the enactment of Panchayat Protected forest. Thereafter, the Local people were taken as the main manager and user of those forests. After the restoration of democracy in 1991 government owned forest was handed over to villagers as a community forest. The regulation assigned the right and responsibility for forest protection to the local people for their own benefit (Khanal, 1993).

The government of Nepal's Forest Sector Policy was first declared in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1981-1985) which emphasized community participation in the management conservation and uses of forest resources. This policy was further promoted with the passing of the decentralization Act 1982 and the 1984 rules for its implementation. The Act and Rules aimed at handing over responsibility for planning to the panchayat and district levels. The acts formalized the duties and responsibilities of village panchayat and ward communities and empower them to form user groups. The Master Plan for Forestry Sector 1988 has objectives to meet the basic need for fuel wood, timber, fodder and other forest products on a sustained basis and to promote people's participation in forestry resources development, management and conservation. In addition the enactments of Forest Act 1993 and the Forest Rules 1995 have made implementing community forestry programme easier. (Chhetri (1994) stated that in 1977 and 1978 Panchayat forest and panchayat protected forest (PPF) were introduced under the community forest development program (CFDP) with the purpose of handing back the protected forest and its management to the people.

2.1.2. People's Efforts and Practices

It is already mentioned that many ethnic groups of Nepal have been managing and operating the forest resources in their own way. In the eastern hilly region, people mostly managed the forest resources under the *kipat* system (Gautam, 1995). Under this system all land irrespective of its use was owned by the community. This system itself is evidence of local management for local benefit (Tamang 1993). Similarly, Dahal (1994) writes that before 1964, there were *kipat* and *Raikar* system of land ownership in eastern hilly region of Nepal. Both types of land and forest resources were held under control of *Subba*, *Jimawal*, *Pagari* and *Thari* who were not only responsible of maintaining law and order and collecting revenue for the government, but also responsible for the sustainable use, allocation and management of forest resources.

Molnar (1983) investigated the dynamics of traditional forest management systems in a number of communities in Nepal. She noted some key factors, such as leadership, available resources, relative economic inequality, benefit sharing, sanction against users, incorporation of women in management, proximity to markets and a good working relationship between forestry personnel and the community and concluded that they contribute to the success or failure of traditional forest management system (Cited in Dahal, 1994).

2.2. Issue of Participation in Community Forest

In the development activities, new paradigm has been applied by the government worldwide. Nepal is also going to apply this new development strategy to make women's participate in different local level development activities. People have different arguments towards participation in these areas. Some argued that it is really very difficult to bring women in the mainstream of development activities due to lack of education, effective technical knowledge and commitment. However socio-cultural and economic constraints are also identified as a influencing barrier for involving women in different development activities (Njoroge, 1999, Banjade, 2004).

Community forest program is bottom to up participatory program. Participation is decision making, implementation and benefit sharing are main components of participation. Socio- cultural components like caste/ ethnicity / tradition/ culture,

norm/ values, education, economic condition, locations may influence in active people's participation. Belief on caste is found in every society of Nepal. Higher castes feel superior in society and this superiority and inferiority feeling may influence the decision making process of benefit sharing.

Social norms and values may play important role in people participation. In some society in Nepal, women are not allowed to talk with unknown male from outside, to involve in outside activities then the household. This values effect on approaching to women by field level staff our male dominated society is not willing to share authority and power to local people (Adhikari,2010)

2.3. People's Participation in Community Forest Management

In 1970s, CF emerged as a locally managed forest. It was realized that women's participation is also necessary from the view of sustainable development in the management of natural resources. After 1980s, issue of women's participation came in the field of development discourse. To facilitate women's participation in CF, HMGN had launched a forestry program to produce female forest officer and ranger as a facilitator (Gautam, 2003). From 1994 scholarship and other effective training program were arranged by the government. These programs found a milestone in the field of participation of women in CF (IBID).

The forestry sector has played vital role in the environmental conservation in Nepal. The forestry sector used to cover more than 45 percent area of the country according to the statistics of 1964; the forest area was 43 percent around 1979 and 37.4 percent in 1986; and a survey concluded in 1998 shows that forest area is around 40 % of the total land area of the country, which includes 10.6 % shrub area. The rate of deforestation in the country was 1.7 percent per year between 1978 and 1994. It is 1.3 percent in the Terai, but 2.3 percent in the hills and mountains. It is estimated that more than 50,000 hectares of forest area is converted into non-forestry uses. The shrub land, which was 4.8 percent in mid 1980, has increased to 10.6 percent in mid 1998 is also an indication that the forest degradation is continuous. This has resulted in various environmental problems including the soil erosion, landslides and floods. Other major environmental concerns include the pressure on biological diversity. The drying up of the water sources like the springs and wells is another area of concern.

In recognition of the increasing environmental issues in the forestry sector HMG/N has formulated policies, made legislations, and developed guidelines and implemented forestry development programmes. In 50's the policies aimed at using natural resources without taking care of environment. However, the recent policies and programmes have become pro-environment. The focus of the policy has shifted from consumption or utilization to strict conservation. The policy shift is clearly noticeable from command and control approach to people's participation and empowerment of the beneficiaries. In other words, the importance of people's participation in the conservation of natural resources is duly recognized. The Revised Forestry Sector Policy 2000 also aims to the conservation, management and sustainable use of forest products through peoples' participation. The guiding principles for forest management are to promote participatory and ecosystem-based management, sustainable forest development and poverty alleviation, and to establish a national forestry fund. Besides the Revised Forestry Sector Policy 2000, the Agriculture Development Policy, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Hydropower and Irrigation Policies emphasizes the need of conservation of forest resources with proper watershed managements to meet the objective of sustainable development. Even though the macro level survey shows continuing rate of deforestation and degradation, micro level studies show that the hills and mountains are recuperating with trees and forests mainly due to the successful programme of community forestry.

It is widely recognized that local communities have historically played an instrumental role in forest management as an indispensable common property (Upreti, 2000). Management to community forest resources was well developed in England by the middle age with clearly defined used as ownership rights and such rights already date from time immemorial (Rockham,1996 cited in Biniya,2000). Thus, far from "Community Forestry" being a modern concept it is in fact a very old one; another case of old wine in a new bottle." The prevailing development paradigm was pro industrialization, Top down, which has been characterized as the development form above approach (Stohr and Frasartraylor, 1989) and chamber 1983 cited in Glmour et a,1991) because of the criticized of the development from above. The emergence of new approach did not replace the old one on forest development. Both approach continue to exist side by side in general development and forestry

development . n 1945 to 1970 forest was used as source of industrialization and economic growth.

Resource Management approach has been practiced local people before the revolution of 1951. They have traditional knowledge about the conservation and utilization of natural resources At the community level they provided socially equitable and economically profitable ways of distributing resources that encouraged self reliance and sought to minimize losses rather than maximize gains using the conserving resources.

Community forest program run by as the partnership program between government and community organization in which government staff a role as facilitator and catalyst to identify real user groups, to prepare operational plan of forest and constitutioin group and implementation of Cf activities where as community is responsible to manage, protect and utilize the forest on sustainable basis (MPFS, 1988).

CHAPTER: THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the research method and tools in details that are applied for the research during the study. In this research, researcher used various anthropological tools to make the study more systematic and scientific.

3.1. Selection of the Study Area

Panchali Community Forestry Users Group, Birpath V.D.C is selected for the research and studied the situation of people's participation in community forestry management. There are six community forests in Birpath and this is one. The CF has 45 hectares forest land and 189 user households. The study area is situated in the north east direction from district centre, Mangalsen. It is also suitable for the study because it's heterogeneity in terms of caste, ethnicity, class, etc. The study site is also accessible and safe considering in the present conflict situation.

3.2. Research Design

In this study, the researcher applied exploratory and descriptive research design. Exploratory research design was applied to explore the issues concerned with the participation of people in CF management activities. It also assisted to explore the issues regarding to the knowledge, perception and practices about CF management in the studied people. Descriptive research design was used to describe the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of the studied population. Similarly, it is also used to describe the local people involvement in different activities of the CF such as decision making, monitoring and evaluating, program implementation and benefit sharing

3.3. Nature and Source of Data

Both qualitative and quantitative data were used in this research those were collected from the field through the use of various research tools and techniques in order to fulfill the stated objectives and to answer the research questions. These data were gathered from the primary and secondary sources. Primary data were gathered from the field through observation, interview, household survey, group discussion, etc. Secondary data were gathered from various published and unpublished documents,

records, journals, books, articles etc. The Secondary data helped to understand overall status of community forest management.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

The Panchulli Community Forestry Users Group, Birpath V.D.C of Achham was selected as universe purposively for the detail study. Total population of the universe was of which 189 households 1398 users were. Among these household 30 households were selected by using random sampling method. Before selection of the sample households, the researcher, firstly, had listed the name of user's household head in the slip of papers and draw the slip of paper by using random method. After chosen the sample units from the universe, one respondent has been selected from each households and asked questions about community forest management

3.5. Data Collection Techniques

3.5.1. Household Survey

Household survey was conducted to acquire detail information about population characteristics like age and sex composition, marital status, caste/ethnic, religious, occupation and education etc. Moreover, landholding size, livestock numbers and their types, housing patterns, cropping patterns, sources of fire woods, fodder, life-litter and timber, pattern of forest products collection and involvement of collection were also collected through the household survey. Besides these, it also helped selecting the key informants who were actively involved in the forest management activities and who were know about the CF etc. It also helped the researcher to build rapport with community members which made it easier to collect the needed information.

3.5.2. Observation

Observation was used to collect qualitative information like people's participation in CF management activities including decision making, monitoring and evaluating activities, program implementation and cost and benefit sharing. Observation also helped the researcher to recheck the information which is collected through the other tools. The CF executive committee minute showed that the people 's participation in

meeting in both general assembly and executive committee were high. But in my observation,.

3.5.3. Interview

Interview was applied to find out the past and present participation and position of local people in CF management. Similarly, this tool was also useful for the researcher to find out the people's perception about CF management. A set of questions were prepared for interviewing with the respondent. Four interviews were conducted with female executive committee members about time table of monthly meeting and their attainment and local people's role in management activities. Two interviews were conducted with elderly people about crop production and agricultural calendar, seasonal availability of forest products. Similarly, an interview was held with the president of executive committee regarding local people's role in CF management. Besides, unstructured interview was also held to gather information; physical facilities i.e., school, health post, market, road, agriculture products, labour, economic activities, cultural practices etc. from the field.

3.5.4. Key Informants Interviews

Through the key informants' interview, information regarding the people's participation in CF, the history of forest, local people's involvement in forest management, perception in CF and hindering and motivating factors of their participation in CF management were collected. Key informants were the knowledgeable persons of the community. Among them, 5 were elderly people (3 males and 2 females), 1 school teacher, and 2 executive committee members, and 1 political leader.

3.6. Data Analysis and Presentation

The main task of data analysis is to bring the data in to a systematic order out of the mess of the notes, to pick out the central themes of the study and to carry them across to written work (Baker, 1999). The qualitative data were analyzed and interpreted descriptively making the argument in logical way. The quantitative data were coded, classified on the basis of nature of data and then presented in various tables by using simple statistical tool such as mean and percentage. After presentation of the data in tables they were analyzed and interpreted coherently.

CHAPTER: FOUR

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY AREA

This chapter deals with the physical, socio-cultural and economic setting of the study area. The first part of this chapter deals with physical setting such as location, temperature and rainfall, climate, settlement pattern. Similarly the second part describes about the Birpath V.D.C of Achham.

4.1 Introduction of Achham District

Achham District a part of Seti Zone, is one of the seventy-five district of Nepal, a landlocked country of South Asia. The district, with Mangalsen as its district headquarters, covers an area of 1,680 km² and has a population (2001) of 231,285. It is one of the remotest districts of Nepal. It is accessible by automobile from Kathmandu via a paved road that runs along the western border of Nepal from Dhangadi.

Mangalsen, the district headquarters, is five hours walk from Sanfebagar - a town in Achham sporting a non-functional domestic airport. A seasonal road exists from Sanfebagar to Mangalsen but is often closed during monsoon season. During 2009/2010, the government of Nepal will be constructing a paved road connecting Sanfebagar to Mangalsen. The district is served by two hospitals, the government district hospital in Mangalsen and one recently opened in Bayalpata that is collaboration between the government of Nepal and the non-profit organization of Nyaya Health.

4.2 Natural Resources

Natural resources are indispensable for the people who live in the rural settings and highly depend on agriculture for their subsistence. Without these resources, people cannot run their life smoothly. In the study area, two types of natural resources were found- renewable (forest and water) and non-renewable (land, soil, gravel, stone and boulder).These resources are going to be discussed below.

4.2.1. Forest

Forest covers 51.3 hector land of the Birpath VDC. There are three types of forest which are categorizes on the basis of ownership and management. These are one community forest, one religious forest and one private forest. The CF covers 45 hector land of the Bipath area which occupied 87.72% of the total forest land, all forests products are controlled managed and operated by the local user group. Generally, user groups have formed an executive committee to protect, manage and control the CF. The religious forest cover 6 hectors which occupied 3.09% of total forest land, it is under the control executive committee. Management of forest resource was done by the temple management committee. It also provides various products such as fodder, leaf-litter and firewood for the villagers. The private forest covers 0.3 hector which occupied 0.15%of total forest land of which is managed and controlled by the owner.

In the Panchulli CF types of forests are mixed; however, Salla (*Shorea robusta*), and Utish. (*Alnus nepalensis*) are dominant trees. Besides, various other timber species like Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*), Falant (*Quercus glauca thumb*), Setikath (*Myrsine myrica esculenta capitellea wall*), Bash(*Cephalostachyum capitatum*), Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*) are also found in the study area. In addition to these trees, the people have also planted. Aaru (*Prunus persica*), Katush (*Castanopsis*), Desi-naspati(*Pyrus communis*), Lali-gurash (*Rhododendron arboretum*), Kimbu (*Morus nigra*), Amliso (*Thysanoiaena maxima*) and Gobre Salla (*Plnus wallichiana*), in the CF area with the help of other organization such DFO and other non-governmental organizations. Among the planted seedling of different trees, Ritho occupies nearly 50-60% of the total seedling. Several kinds of colorful flowers, shrubs, creepers and grasses are also available in the area. These forest products have multi-dimensional values for the inhabitant of that community. Some of them are religiously and culturally valuable plants such as *katus*, *bash*, *salla* and so on. Local people use some of these forest products for feeding and bedding the livestock. Normally, dry products used for bedding is later on used as fertilizer to the farmland and green products as fodder for the livestock. . Falant, Chilaune, Saal and Uttish are valuable timber trees in the study area.

It was informed that wild animals like fishing Cat (*Felis viverrina*), Jackals (*Canis aureus*), Rabbit (*Lepus ruficaudatus*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Jungli cat (*Felis chaus*), Deer (*Moschu moschiferus*), and Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*) are commonly found in this forest. Different kinds of birds such as Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), Pheasant (*Lophura emuolana*), peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), Owl (*Bubo nipalensis Tito*), Maina (*Acridotheres tristis*), Dhobi (*Copsychus saularies*), Kalij (*Lophura leucomelana*) are also found in the forest. Similarly, several kinds of snakes and other reptiles, butterflies and insects are also found in the forest. According to the villagers wild animals, birds, reptiles, butterflies and other insects' number is increasing in the study area after the establishment of CF.

4.2.2. Water

Water resource is insufficient in the study area. There is only one small regular stream which is located in the eastern part of the study site. They use this stream as a source of irrigation for the farmland. Similarly, a lot of spring and torrential streams were found there which were dry in winter season. However, these streams provide water for irrigation in the rainy season. The Villagers informed that there is insufficient drinking water for them. Thus, to fulfill the need of drinking water, the villagers themselves constructed a reservoir in the upper part of Panchulli for drinking water. The source of that reservoir was located in Achham which was nearly 3 kilometers away from the upper part of the village. They used this water for drinking, cleaning, washing, and livestock watering. The water is also found used for kitchen garden irrigation in the study area.

4.2.3. Land and Soil

Land is the main source of livelihood for people depends on agriculture. The local people have categorized the structure of land into three categories: sloppy land, less sloppy land and flat land. On the basis of land structure and texture, the nature of soil varies from place to place. The soil found in the upper part of the study area is normally sandy. According to local people, sandy soil is not suitable for agriculture; therefore, this land is less productive. The ratio of sandy soil is high in the sloppy land. However, people grow millet, maize and squash in that land as it is not suitable for other cereal crops. Similarly, less sloppy land is less sandy in comparison with sloppy land. However, it is also less suitable for wheat and paddy production as

regards with flat land. The type of soil found in the flat land is alluvial. According to the villagers the flat land is fertile and irrigated land. Therefore, it is more productive as compared with other two categories of lands. Thus, people grow paddy, wheat, potato and other green vegetables in large quantity. As mentioned above farmers are unable to produce enough crops from the land due to the lack of large chuckle of flat land.

Colorful soil is also found in the area which is used for house smearing and coloring. Mostly, the Chhetri people use red soil to smear house yard and kitchen in various rituals like *Ausi* (a fortnight day), *Purnima* (a full moon day), and *Shraddha* (ancestor worshipping day). Almost all the houses are colored by white, black and red soil during *Dashain* and *Tihar* festivals.

4.3. Population

The study area is characterized as plural in terms of its caste/ethnic compositions. There are 189 households and 1398 beneficiary. Among them 60 household Dalit, 5 households of bramins and 124 houseld chhetri Thakuri, bista, Chalane and Thyayat). While asking them about their arrival in that area, all of them clearly replied that they had came their fore-father time but they had no knowledge about the exact period.

CHAPTER: FIVE

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

This chapter deals with the forest management practices and people's participation in the CF. Participation in the meeting is one of the staple factors which lead to the decision making. It is in the meeting that major decisions about CF management are done. If some section of the committee is left out from such meeting they will not know what has occurred and what is going to happen in future.

5.1 Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

There have been selected 30 respondents in this study among 189 which is 15.8 % (percent) in total. Respondents were randomly selected from each of the house

General feature of the respondents are as follow.

5.1.1. Age and Sex Composition of the Respondents

Age, sex and marital status are major characteristics of a population, which directly affect its economic activities as well as participation in the development activities i.e., CF management activities. In other words, household size, age and sex structure of the population is directly connected with the activities of resources exploitation. Despite this, these factors also affect the participation in the forest management activities. It also helps to understand the social structure of certain area. The age and sex composition of the studied population is shown in the following table

Table: 5.1

Age and sex Composition of population

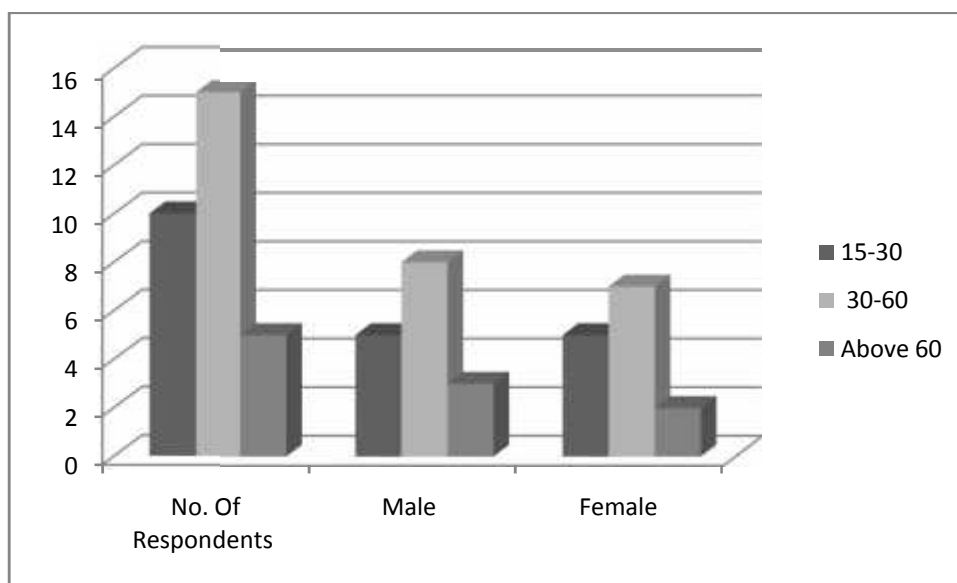
Age	No. of Respondents	Percent	Male	Female
15-30	10	33.33	5	5
30-60	15	50	8	7
Above 60	5	16.66	3	2
Total	30	100.00	16	14

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Above table shows the composition of respondents by sex and age. Data shows that 30 respondents have been participated. Among them sixteen were male and fourteen were female. Similarly ten were under the age of thirty years and fifteen were between thirty to sixty and only five were above that age. The following figure make it further clears.

Figure : 5.1

Age and sex Composition of population



5.1.2 Respondent by Educational Background

Table: 5.2

Respondent by Educational Background

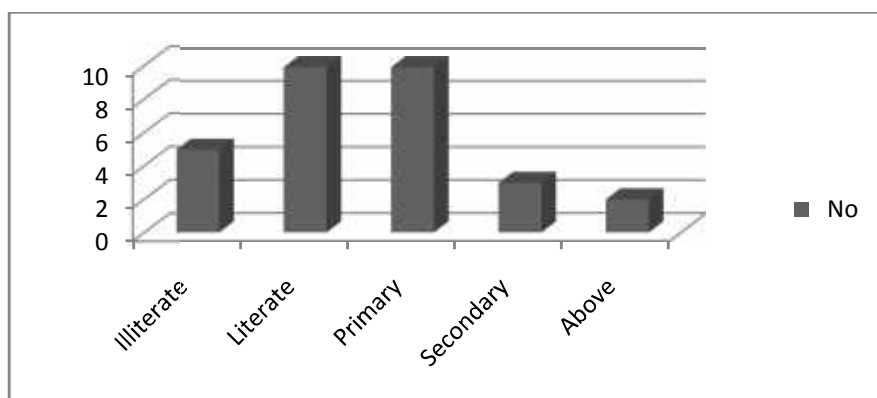
Education status	No	Percent
Illiterate	5	16.67
Literate	10	33.33
Primary	10	33.33
Secondary	3	10
Above	2	6.67
Total	30	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2011*

Above table shows respondents education status. According to the data 16% respondents were illiterate and only 6.67 percent passed secondary level. It shows most of the respondent were literate. The following figure makes it clear

Figure: 5.2

Respondent by Educational Background



5.1.3 Respondents by Occupation

Table: 5.3

Respondents by Occupation

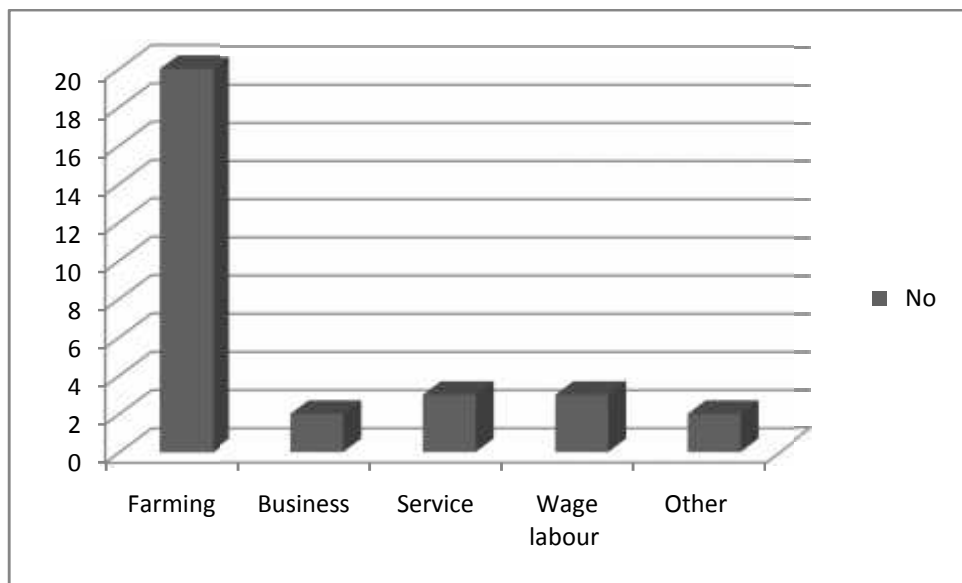
Occupation	No	Percent
Farming	20	67
Business	2	6.67
Service	3	10
Wage labour	3	10
Other	2	6.67
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Above table shows occupation of respondents which play vital role in community forest management. According data more than sixty six percent of respondents involved in agriculture which has based on forest. Likewise other 33.33 percent involved in other occupation. Following figure shows;

Figure: 5.3

Respondents by Occupation



5.1.4 Respondents by Marital Status

Table: 5.4

Respondents by Marital Status

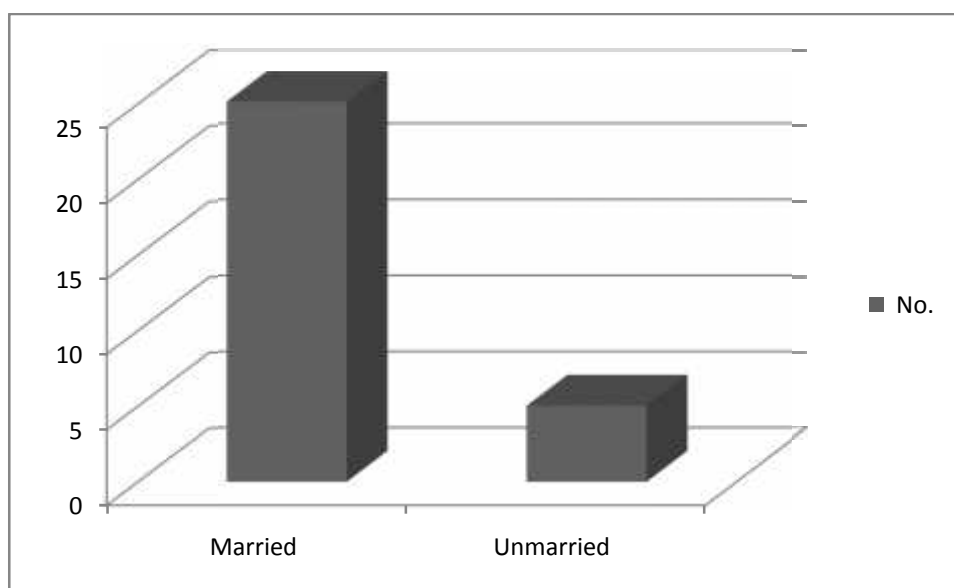
Martial situation	No.	Percent
Married	25	83
Unmarried	5	16.67
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Above table shows the marital status of the respondents. It shows that most of the respondents were married and only 16.67% were unmarried. Married respondents is devoted toward the participation of community forest development. Following figure make it further clears;

Figure: 5.4

Respondents by Marital Status



5.1.5 Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity

Table: 5.5

Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity

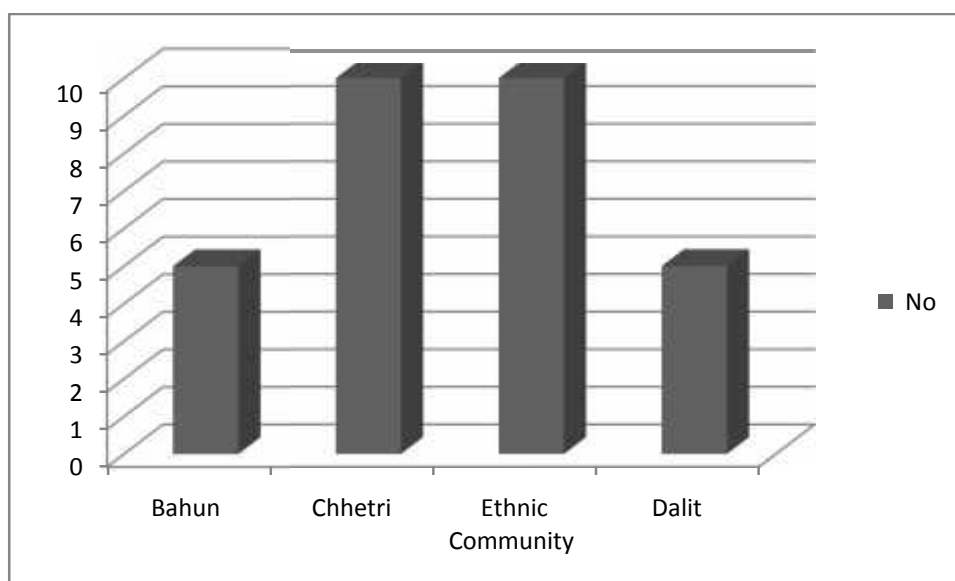
Caste/ ethnicity	No	%
Bahun	5	16.67
Chhetri	10	33.33
Ethnic Community	10	33.33
Dalit	5	16.67
Toal	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Above table shows cast / ethnic composition of the respondents. Data shows that 16.67 Bahun and Dalit . In the same way 33.33 Chhetri and ethnic community.

Figure : 5.5

Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity



5.1.6 Cultural Practices

Hinduism is the dominant religion of this area. Majority of the people are Chhetri and follow Hinduism. Due to the variation in religious backgrounds, they follow the different rituals and religious practices. They used various kinds of forest products in their rituals according to their religion such as *bar*, *pipal*, *saal*, *bhalayo*, *titepati*, *pati*, *payau* are commonly used by both religious people in various ritual practices.

In the study area, some of the forest related rituals such as *ban pooja* (forest worshipping), and *nag pooja* (snake worshipping) are commonly practiced by both caste and ethnic people. *Ban pooja* and *nag pooja* are arranged before transplanting the paddy. To arrange the rituals, they collect 10 Rupees and one *mana* (half kg.) rice from each PCF users household. From that collected money, they bought a black she-goat to offer the *ban* deities. During that time, all the male members of the community were participate whereas female were not restricted even though they normally did not involve in the ritual. It is believed that the ritual help them to protect from the natural calamities and evil eyes of forest deities such as diseases, attract of wild beasts to their domestic animals, plants.

Similarly, *nag pooja* is another ritual which is related to the agricultural activities because it was arranged for the better rain fall, favorable weather, and better crops.

This ritual has also important relation with the forest. The villagers informed that they made a snake with wheat flour and make it's eyes with black-gram Dal and worshipped it outside their house or in the mouth of the water resources which is located in the eastern side of the forest. The users of Panchulli believed that to cut down the forest products from the mouth of the water resources is omen for the village. It is generally believed that if they cut down the forest products from those areas then the god of snake (*nagraj*) would be angry with the villagers. As a result, the various unpleasant events should be occurred in the village such as destroy of crops, diseases, land slide, drought and so on.

5.2. Forest Management Practices of the Study Area

Panchulli community forest of Birpath VDC covers nearly 300 (approximate) hectors land. Traditionally, this village is the habitant of Chetri, bahun and dalit people. According to the respondent, the villagers themselves managed the forest before the government nationalized it. During that time, the density of the population was very small and resources were abandoned, so there was no higher demand of forest products. After nationalization, the government itself started to manage the forest through the forest guards. Then people were restricted to collect the forest resources. As a result, they began to use forest resource in illegal ways. Therefore the condition of forest became worse day by day. The villagers nearly cleared the forest and forest resources either by encroachment of the forest land or illegal cutting of green timber for earning money by selling them in the local market. As a result, the forest resources were nearly finished and villagers started to collect firewood from the nearby forests which were nearly 1 to 2 hours walk from the study area. Due to the policy of the government.

5.3. Community Forestry Formation

Panchuli Community Forest was formally formed as CF..... The official program of CF formation was announced by local elites. During the formation process only 30 people participated. All participants were male. These participants themselves declared the boundaries of CF, counting the trees, identified the tree species and separated the location of user group. The forest covers an area of 45 hectors. Chaitepatal lies in the east, panchulli, in the north, Bandalidanda in the west which covers 7 hectors.

5. 4. Constitution and Operational Plan Development

It was found that the people of the study area depended upon the forest resources for their livelihood. They had made rules and regulations to manage forest which is known as constitution and operational plan. In the beginning, CF constitution and operational plan was formulated in the presence of local people with the help of district forest officers. It was informed that at that time, only male members were involved. They made an operational plan for forest management and utilization such as plantation, thinning and pruning, collection of fodders, leaf-litter and firewood. Within the field visit it was found that all the users had followed the rules and regulations strictly. They had formulated different rules and regulations for different kinds of resources which are described below briefly. If anybody went against the rules and regulations, he/she will be punished.

5.4.1. Rules for Firewood

Cutting down green trees for firewood was strictly prohibited for the users in the CF. They had allowed collecting dry twigs of trees at any time. There is no restriction on the collection of dry firewood. The thinning and pruning activity is held in every winter season in each block. During this time, the users distribute the firewood that came from thinning and pruning activities on the basis of equality.

5.4.2. Rules for Fodder

The collection of fodder was strictly prohibited at all times from CF. It was only opened for the users twice a time in a year. In *Dashian* and *Tihar* festival, forest is opened for fodder collection for 5 days for each festival. Similarly, in winter season, it is also opened for 5 days which is decided by the executive committee. During the open period, only 2 persons of each household are allowed to enter the forest and they pay 5 rupees for each *bhari*.

5.4.3. Rules for Leaf-Litter

The leaf-litters have to be collected during a specific time of a year. The committee decides the time of leaf-litter collection. Normally, it is opened from February-April. In each month it is open for 5 days only.

5.4.4. Rules for Timber

It is not allowed to collect timber from CF. However, timber is given only to those users who need to construct or repair their house. There was no evidence of timber distribution to the users group in the study area till the field visit time.

5.4.5. Tree Plantation Rules

In the study area, plantation of seedlings is usually held in Jun and July. Seedlings for plantation were provided by the district forest office and other NGOs. The committee had planted 2500 seedling of different plants in 2008.

5.4.6. Thinning and Pruning Rules

In this study area, the committee had organized thinning and pruning activities each November. During that time, they removed useless twigs of trees and unnecessary seedlings for the proper growth of the trees. The operational plan declared that only one third twigs were allowed to be removed from the trees.

5.4.7. Management of CF Fund

The fund of CF came from the entry fee, punishment fee, donation etc. which were kept in the bank in the name of president and treasurer. They used that fund to manage the forest and other local development activities. It was informed that they used 75% fund of the total fund for the development activities such as road construction, temple construction etc. whereas 25% of the fund was found to be used for forest management.

5.5. People's Participation in CF Activities

5.5.1. Participation of people in Executive

In PCF, the executive committee members were selection through the consensus of the user members. The present executive committee called the general assembly for the formation of next executive committee. The name for executive members is nominated by the user groups themselves in general assembly and then attendance user groups agree to that nominated person. Then, that person is selected for the executive committee member.

The formation of executive committee is an important aspect in CF because major decisions regarding to forest management is generally done by it. Therefore, local people access and participation in CF also clearly assert their presentation in CF executive committee. The involvement of them in the executive committee of CF from the first formation to the present is presented in the following table.

Table: 5.6

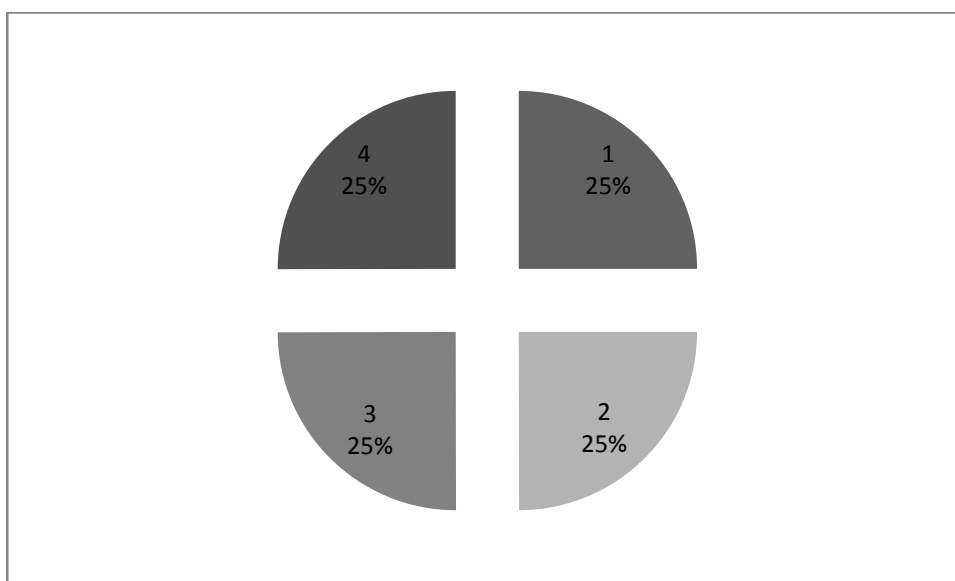
Sex wise People’s participation in executive committee (2006-2010)

Year	Sex				Total
	Male	%	Female	%	
2006	11	100	-	-	11
2007	9	81.81	2	18.18	11
2008	13	72.12	5	27.88	18
2009	9	69.23	4	30.77	13
2010	8	62	5	38	13

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure: 5.6

Sex wise People’s participation in executive committee (2006-2010)



Above table and figure clear that participation in CF executive committee on the basis of sex was relatively lower than the CF policy. The policy clearly mentioned that 33% women must be present in CF executive committee. However, the participation of women is seen in increasing ratio. In the first formation of CF, there was not a single woman in the executive committee whereas 38% women are found to be participating in the present Committee.

5.5.2. Participation in the General Meeting

Participation in the general meeting is one of the major factors which lead to the decision making. The major decisions about CF management are done in this meeting. The absent member of the committee had no role in decision making and could not know about the current subject matter of CF and the decision which had done in the meeting. As a result, they have no knowledge about the future plan of CF.

The members of the user group say that there is less participation of meeting of CF executive committee as well as general assembly due to their busy schedule in their household activities. The president of the executive committee informed during the interview that members normally came after starting the meeting and left it before ending due to their household chores. An executive member made the readymade answer that 'those who had household chores did not take participation in the meeting but I went after finishing my work". When the same member was asked what kinds of decisions were taken at the meeting, she replied "nice things". When asked to clarify nice things she was able to say, "Saving the forest for the future.

5.5 3. Participation in Plantation Activities

It was informed that plantation of the seedling were done three times in the CF after its formation. The first plantation was done in 1998, second in 2006 and last in 2008. It was done in the barren land of the forest which covered nearly 12 hectares of the forest land. They planted several varieties of trees plants i.e. *Ritha*, *Salla*, *Utish* and *Chilaune* were planted for timber products whereas *Ritha* which is a highly demandable in the market.

In the study area, CF plantation was usually done in the rainy season. It was normally done by both sexes. However, male were engaged to prepare the bed for planting the seedling and bringing it from the nursery to plantation area whereas they were found

to be highly involved in plantation and wedding activities. The table no. 5.7 shows the participation of males and females in CF plantation activities which was done in 2008.

Table: 5.7

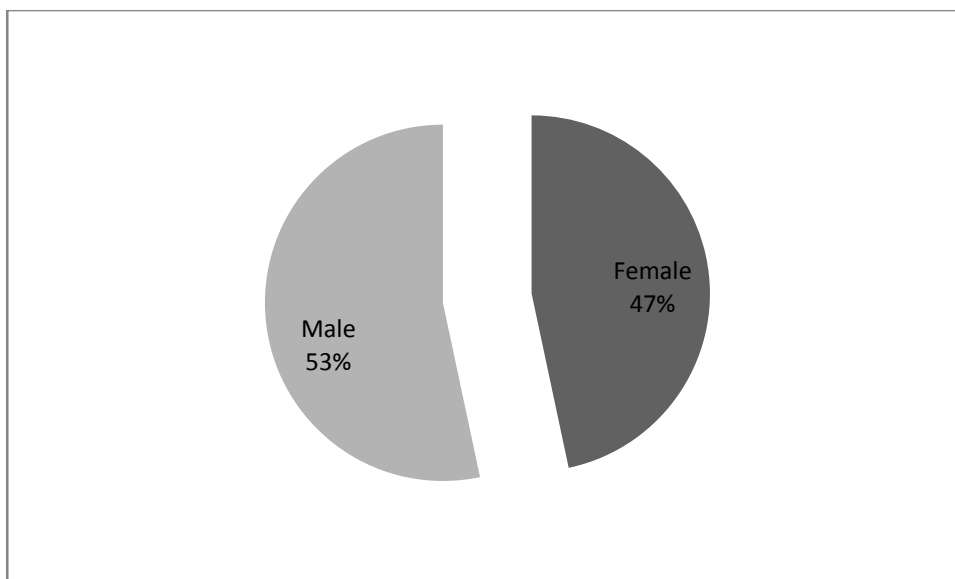
Sex Wise People’s Participation in Plantation Activities

Sex	Number of Participant	%
Female	14	47
Male	16	53
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure: 5.7

Sex Wise People’s Participation in Plantation Activities



Above table and figure explains that male participation in the plantation activities is relatively less than female. The main reason was found that were the key users and collectors of the forest resources in the study area. They depended upon forest for fuel, leaf litter and fodder for livestock. Therefore, they have more demand of the forest resources in their daily life than the male.

5.4.4. Participation in Thinning and Pruning Activities

In the study area, the thinning and pruning activities are normally done in November and December. It was held in each block every year for the well growth and betterment of the seedling. All the user members of CF participate. After thinning and pruning, the removing parts of the tree were collected in a certain place. After that, each of the participants got those parts in equal basis. The user members who did not participant in thinning and punning activities had no access to that resource. Children under 12 were not allowed to participate. Males were engaged in supervision of thinning and punning activities whereas females were found involved in removing the useless parts of the trees. The president of the CF, Kul Bahadur Shahi informed that people's participation was relatively found higher in this activity.

5.5.5. Participation in Forest Products Collection

There is restriction to collect green twigs from the CF even though the CF is opened for the user groups for collecting dry twigs fallen from the trees twice or thrice a year. Despite the CF, in this study area, the villagers who had their own private forest or agricultural land did not find the need to go to CF or religious forest for fire wood collection. They collected the needed firewood from their own land. Normally, they collected firewood in winter. Similarly, they also used straw of maize and wheat as firewood. On the other hand, the poor people who did not have their own forest land also bought firewood from the rich villagers to fulfill their need of fuel.

Table: 5.8

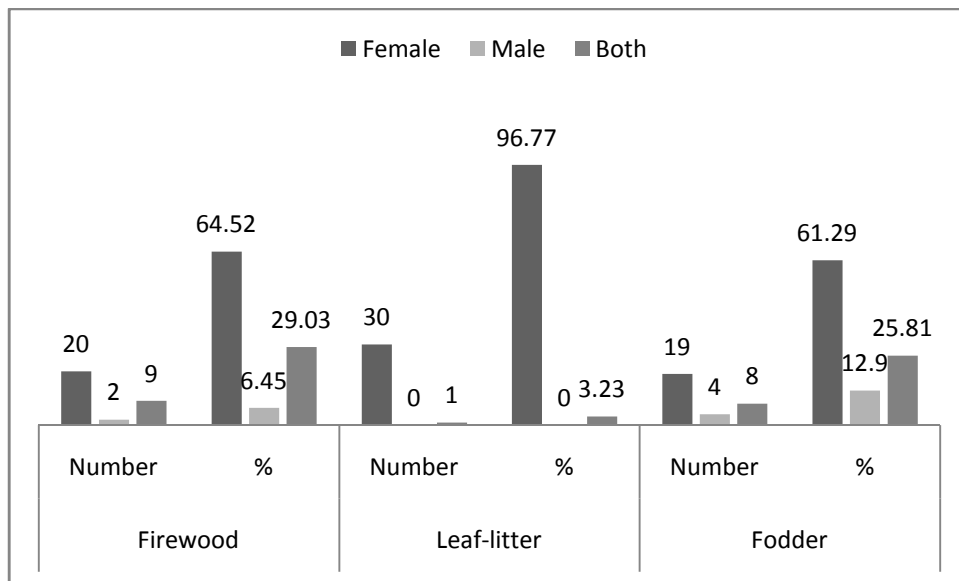
Sex Wise People's Participation in Forest Products Collection

Sex	Firewood		Leaf-litter		Fodder	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	20	64.52	30	96.77	19	61.29
Male	2	6.45	-	-	4	12.90
Both	9	29.03	1	3.23	8	25.81
Total	31	100	31	100	31	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure: 5.8

Sex -Wise People’s Participation in Forest Products Collection



Above table and figure clear that both male and female was responsible for firewood collection even though female involvement is higher than male. It was found that 64.52 % women were involved in this activity whereas only 29.03% males were found to be involved in firewood collection.

Leaf-litter collection is found the main working sphere of female in the study area. It was found that more than 96% of the female were actively involved in leaf-litter collection and the rest were male. Similarly, children also helped them to collect leaf litter. However girl children were found higher than boy.

Similarly, in fodder collection women are found highly involve than men in the study area. However, men collected fodder for their livestock only in the absence of women in the family. Children were also involved in collecting fodder. However, it was informed that girl children involvement was relatively higher than boy children in the study area.

5.6 Challenges of Community Forest Management in Achham

Community forest is only source of timber. To fulfill the increasing demand of timber executive committee members themselves involve in illegal activities and

create challenges to preserve the forest. In Nepal, there is political tussle to earn money by using natural resources. Major Challenges are a follow

5.6.1 Political Problems

Political party create problems in community forest management by doing grouping . In Panchulli community forest also there were congress , communist (UML and Maoist own interest to form executive committee.

Table: 5.9

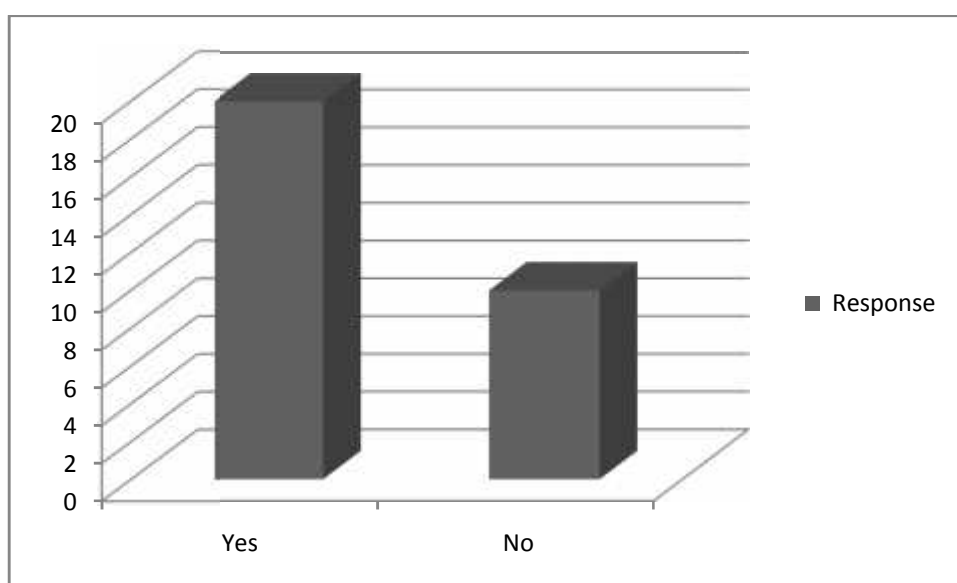
Political Problems

Political problem	Response	Percentage
Yes	20	67.
No	10	33.33
Total	30	100

Above table shows that political problems of community forest management in Panchulli Community forest user group.

Figure : 5.9

Political Problems



5.6.2 Low Related Problem

Community forest law is unclear in itself so it create problem in time to time. Forest office tries to control over the community forest by using this unclear provision of law.

5.6 3 Other Problems

There are other socio economic problems which directly and indirectly related with the management of community forest management.

Table: 5.10

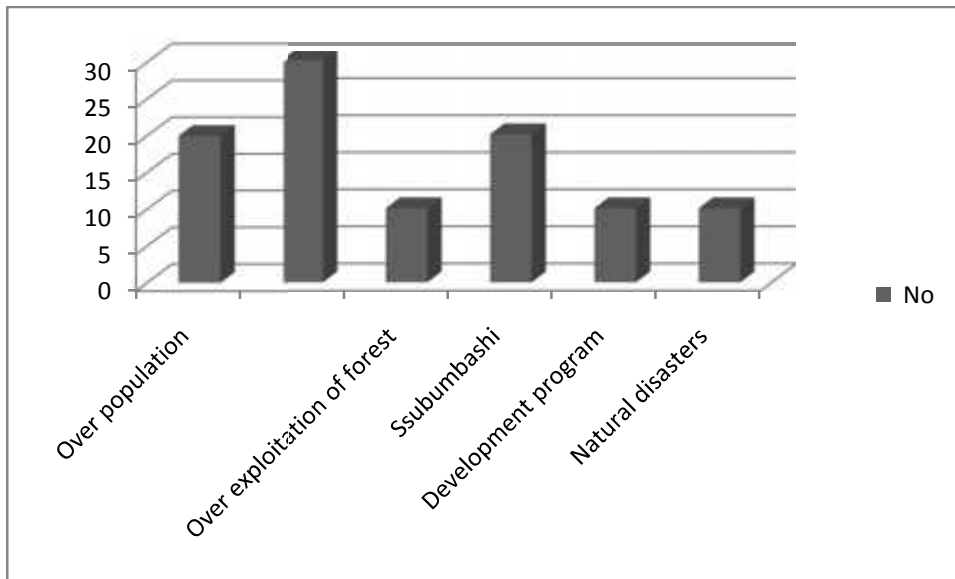
Major Problems of Community Forest Managements

Problems	No	%
Over population	20	67.67
Lack of other income sources except farming	30	100
Over exploitation of forest	10	33.33
Sukumbashi	20	67/67
Development program	10	33.33
Natural disasters	10	33.33

Above table shows the majors challenges of community forest management except political causes. The following figure make it further clears.

Figure: 5.10

Major Problems of Community Forest Managements



5.7 Hindering and Motivating Factors of People's Participation on Forest Management Program

In the present day scenario, participation especially of people's participation became the attractive slogan in any development and other kinds of activities. In this sense, local people are encourage to participate in CF management Also in Panchulli CF, women's participation in CF executive committee is found to be increasing.

5.7.1 Hindering Factors

Local people are the main users of forest resources in the study area. They collect fodder and leaf-litter for their livestock, firewood for cooking and vegetables, fruits and roots for family. Therefore, forest is the integral part of their life. Similarly, women have vast knowledge about the multiple benefit and usefulness of forest. They argue that forest makes the desert green, helps to protect landslide and helps to increase the sources of water. So it seems that women have vast knowledge of forest and their roles may be more beneficial for forest management. However, some constraints play vital role in hindering the women participation in CF., the main obstacles of women's participation in Tusarae CF are briefly mentioned in the following topics.

5.7.1. Gender Disparity

Gender relation refers to the relation of power between men and women. In the study area, boys and girls were grown up differently. While discussion with female group, they informed me that girls taught to work in household activities such as cooking, cleaning, collecting fodder, leaf-litter and firewood whereas boys did not. Similarly, I also observed that each and every decision within households such as buying and selling of agricultural products, animals, land, construction of house, shade and their managements were made by senior male member. Only in the case of *pewa*, and *daijo*, the female themselves make decision what to do. Such household level socialization process was found highly influence in the community or societal level decision making process.

5.7.1.2. Limited Time for Public Work

In the study area, it was found that local people were engaged in household activities such as involving in household earning works. All these activities make them busy throughout the day. They must leave these activities to participate in forest management activities.

During the interview it was found that they do not have enough time for other tasks except household work. A local Saradha Shahi represents the women of Panchulli community and their daily work.

5.7.2. Illiteracy and Lack of Technical Knowledge

In the study area 40 local people were illiterate. Due to their illiteracy, they feel hesitate to participate in public works including CF management activities. In the course of group discussion, some women said, “*hami le padheka chhainau hami kehi jandainau*”. Literally, we are illiterate and we do not know. Similarly, when I observed the executive meeting held in the November 2010 I found 2 women members were participating in the meeting and 2 were absent. Those women did not say anything throughout the meeting. After held the meeting, I asked question to those, why were you salient in the meeting? Both of them made the readymade answer “*hami le padheka chainau, logne-manchhe le padheka chhan hami bhanda uniharu janchhan*”. Literary, male were literate than female so they know well than female. This indicates that they have great problem of reading and writing due to the

lack of education. As result, they remain back to make decision about CF management.

The chair-person of the committee Kul Bahadur Shahi informed me that they send 15 users members to different training programmes i.e., plantation, weeding, thinning and pruning activities, livelihood, organized by GOs and NGOs in different period.

5.7.3. Poverty

Economic condition also play important role in forest management. In the study area, all respondents have no equal economic status. Some of them were economically sound and others were poor. All these people had not given the equal time in different activities of CF management such as *lauri-palo*, thinning and punning activities, plantation of seedling, and attendance of meeting. Those households which could not produce sufficient food products throughout the year, they went outside the village for daily wage labour. They informed that to run livelihood was more important than CF management. Similarly, some informant informed that if they have enough money, they would use bio-gas or other alternative energy for cooking. It would help to save their working time. That time could be used for forest management and other activities.

5.7.4. Motivating Factors

Local people's participation in CF is increasing . In the first formation of CF executive committee, there was no woman in it. After that, women's participation was found which is increasing in each formation of executive committee. Regarding, the increasing of women's participation in CF, the respondents point out several factors that motivate them to participate in the CF activities, which are discussion below.

5.7.4.1. Access to Resource

Before formation of the CF, an elder informant, Amber Bahadur Shahi, informed that the condition of the forest was poor which was going from bad to worse day by day. During that time, women had to walk nearly 3-4 hours for fire wood collection. Similarly, the leaf-litter was also not available in the local forests. After formation of the CF, the local people took interest to manage the forest. Then, the forest condition was gradually improving and became better. Consequently, the quantity of the fodder

and leaf-litter were also increased in the CF. women did not need to walk to other forests to collect the forest products. And then, they also gradually started to participate in forest management activities by involving in executive committee, planting and weeding of seedling, thinning and pruning activities of the forest.

Feeling of Hamroban (Own Belongingness)

The informant informed that before formation of Panchulli CF, the forest was under the control of the government and its management was done by the government itself. During that time, the villagers fulfill their basic needs such as firewood, fodder, leaf-litter, timber, agricultural equipments from the forest through the illegal way. Some of the villagers and outsiders were also collected forest products for their personal benefit. At that time, a person had no feeling to care for the forest and then the condition of the forest was become poor to poorer. After handing over the forest to the local people in 1997 and then they started to manage the forest themselves. Thereafter, they collected their basic needs such as firewood, fodder, leaf-litter, fruits, roots, vegetables, timber from CF through the communal based with the consensus of the users group. It creates the feeling of “*hamro ban*” (our forest) toward forest among the villagers both male and female. Consequently, women were also motivated to protect the forest through direct and indirect participation in the forest management activities in CF. As mentioned above woman are major collectors of forest products

Direct Benefit from the Forest

In the study area, it was also found that the participation of women were encouraged by the benefit they shared from the CF. By showing the forest in the northern side of the study area, Chakra Bahadur Shahi says, “we had to walk nearly 3-4 hours for fire wood collection, the leaf-litter was also not available in the local forests. It took nearly till day to collect one *bhari* leaf-litter for animal bed. After formation of the CF, we need not to walk 3-4 hours to collect firewood. It is available in the CF, the leaf litter and fodders are also available here”. It indicates that villages especially women could get forest products like firewood, fodder and leaf-litter in CF without spending much time. It also leads them to participate in forest management activities.

5.8 Conclusion of the Findings

Participation of community forest is beneficial in everyone and it's also inevitable for the famers. In Panchulli community forest people take interest to participate in community forest and take certain benefit from the forest. There are also challenges in management because political party members take interest to misuse the forest resources and earn money. Except that there were other problems. Some problems are created by people another are natural problems. Both problems create difficulties in community forest management.

People's participation is good in Panchulli community forest. Regular meeting and general meeting also held in time. Both male and female participate in community forest management.

CHAPTER: SIX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Findings

Participation in CF Management

The plantation of several varieties of trees like *Uttish*, *Katus*, *pangar*, *Ritho* and *Salla* were done in the barren land of the forest in the past few years. It was normally done by both sexes. However, male are highly engaged to prepare the bed for planting the seedling and bringing it from the nursery to the plantation area whereas people are found to be highly involved in plantation and weeding activities. Similarly, in thinning and pruning activities of the forest, both sexes are participating but male are found to be engaged in supervision activities and female are in removing the branches of the trees.

The forest products collection is the major task of local people in the community. On the basis of obtained information during the study time, According to research findings both male and female are responsible for different activities of CF even though female involvement is higher than male in particular activities. It was found that 64.52% women are involved in firewood collection, 96.77% in leaf-litter collection and 61.29% in fodder collection activities. Male were only collect the fodder and leaf-litter for their livestock in the absence of female in family.

The formation of executive committee is an important aspect because major decisions regarding to forest management is generally done by it. Therefore, the access and participation in CF also clearly assert their presentation in CF executive committee. In the case of Panchulli CF, women participation in the executive committee and general assembly was found less as compared with man and their participation is also found less effective because they just sit and listen what male member say in the meetings. That is why the people's participation is passive as compared. Thus, people's participation in CF is only seen rhetoric rather than realistic (see, Chhetri, 1999).

6.2 Summary

The main objective of the research was to analyze people's participation of Panchuli community forest users group of birpith V.D.C. Accham. Further more it has also

found out the hindering and motivating factors of local people's participation in CF activities. Secondly, the researcher has tried to examine and analyze the motivating and hindering factors of people's participation in the CF. On the basis of the findings the researcher has reached to these conclusions

Researcher has tried to find out the people's participation in different aspect of forest management such as: formulate operational planning, program implementation, weeding, thinning and pruning activity, involvement of executive committee.

Local people are taken as a manager of natural resources, especially, forest resources because they are also home –maker and their sound knowledge of ecosystem. Even though some socio-cultural factors play vital role to hinder their involvement in forest management activities. Hindering factors of local people's participation in CF in the study area are as follows:

The villager perceive that management like decision making about different activities of CF is taken as educated member's task and collection of firewood and fodder, leaf-litter is considered as local people task. Thus, this disparity hindered local people to participate and had no feelings of equal right and responsibility to make decision about CF management. Feudal Value system also restricted poor to participate in public sphere. Thus, in the context of CF, the attendances in executive committee meeting, making decision, are taken as wise man the society sphere not of poor one

Local people were found highly engaged in household activities such as involve in wage labour, carrying load and other households activities firewood, maintenance of shed etc. All households activities make them busy throughout the day. So, limited time also affect to participate.

Illiteracy creates the feeling of hesitation among the local people to raise their voice in the group or public field. In Panchulli CF, they could not raise their voice in major decisions regarding to forest management in general assembly and executive committee. Economic status of poor local also determines their involvement in forest management. The poor families could not give time in CF such as plantation, *lauri-palo*, due to their engagement in fulfilling their basic needs. So, poverty is also a factor which hinders to participate.

6.3 Conclusions

Community Forestry Program is the most priority program in the sector of forestry in Nepal. The program is launched in Nepal since 1978. The research unit “Panchulli Community Forest” was handed over to the user group in 1993. User Group of Panchulli Community Forest consists three caste groups; Dalit, Brahaman and Chhetri (Bista, Chalaune, Thyayat and Thakuri). Users Group is highly dominated by Chhetri, Brahaman so; their representation in Users Committee is also high. Although, the forestry policy mentioned that there should be representation of women in one-third seat of committee and must integrated ethnic group representative in community forestry Program, the findings of the study has shown that it is not applied satisfactorily in the process of Panchulli Community Forest Users Group formation and Users Committee formation. In the past, two User Committees there was less participation of women and Dalits. In the existing User Committee there is satisfactorily representation of women. The Users Group has well adopted institutional process except proper identification of users. The findings reflect that user Committee is responsible body to take decisions in minor issues, whereas major issues are decided in the general assembly or group meeting. All decisions are being passed by consensus but not by voting. Forest user Group has given full authority to user Committee to enforce implementation of Community Forestry activities. Firewood and fodder are main demand of users. All users are satisfied with the benefit sharing except. According to Committee member has good leading capacity. Excluding two women members, all committee members are educated.

During the process of Community Forestry practice, Users Group has managed also to benefit by gaining experience, knowledge and new skills from Community Forestry Program. It was found that most of the users could say more or less about community Forest, forest management and importance of forest. This is due to the result of their interests in Community Forest. Forest user Group has good relation with district Forest Official. District Forest Office evaluated Panchulli Community forest as a best forest of Birpath VDC, Achham.

6.4 Recommendations

In Nepal, CF program has become the major issue for the management and protection of the forest resources and local people are taken as a manager of forest resources. The findings of this research revealed that people's participation is less than men in executive committee and general assembly and their roles are also less effective in decision making process due to the work burden in household, illiteracy, gender

disparity and existing value system. Therefore, to bring them in the mainstream of decision making process these obstacles should be gradually changed or removed.

In this thesis, I have tried to examine and analyze the hindering and motivating factors of people's participation in Panchulli CF. The finding based on certain period and place which is applicable for that time and place but not applicable for all period or all CFs. So, I suggest further researchers to investigate and examine the other factors that motivate and hinder to participate in other CFs whether they may be varied or not from the UCF.

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District Forest Office Report ,2067

DDC Report, Achham ,2010

V.D.C Report Birpath VDC Achham

Interview / Questionnaire

1. Name of the respondent:

Caste/Ethnicity:

District:

VDC:

Ward No:

Since how long have been the member of CF.....

2. Details of the family member of the household:

Name	Relationship of house head	Marital status	Age & Sex	Religion	Occupation

3. Land Ownership:

Own Land		Share cropping/Others	
Land type	Size in Ropani	Other's land by the HH	Land of HH its to other
Khet			
Bari			

4. Livestock owned by households:

Animal	Number	Animal earning
Buffalo		
Cow		
Oxen		
Goat		
Sheep		
Pig		

5. What is the main source of your family?

6. How and when was this community forest users group established?

7. Who established this community forest users group?

8. What contribution did you make to establish this community forest users group?

9. Whose name has been registered in FUG from your household?

10. What kind of forest resources do you use from CF?

11. Do you get enough leaf-litter for animal breeding from the CF?

12. What is the source of fodder for your livestock?

13. Do you have planted trees on your private land? Mention the types of trees?
15. Do you use NTFPs resources from this CF? If yes, what purpose?
16. What is your contribution for your CF management?
17. What types of benefit did you get from your CF?
18. Did you participate to make constitution and OP?
19. Who collects firewood/ fodder/leaf litters from your CF?
20. Who selects executive member for your FUG committee?
21. How far is the forest?
22. What is the process of benefits sharing/ resources utilization system in your CF?
23. Did you get chance to be participate in training, seminar from your CF?
24. How did you motivated in CF management?
25. Do you have any obstacles to participate in CF management? If yes, what are the obstacles?
26. What type of forest management activities do you perform in your CF?

27. Have you gone to participate FUG meeting?

28 How many female are in executive member in your community forest?

29. Does local people involved in community forest management activity?



Participation in plantation



Participation on timber cutting



Photograph by Richard Weigand

scene of forest





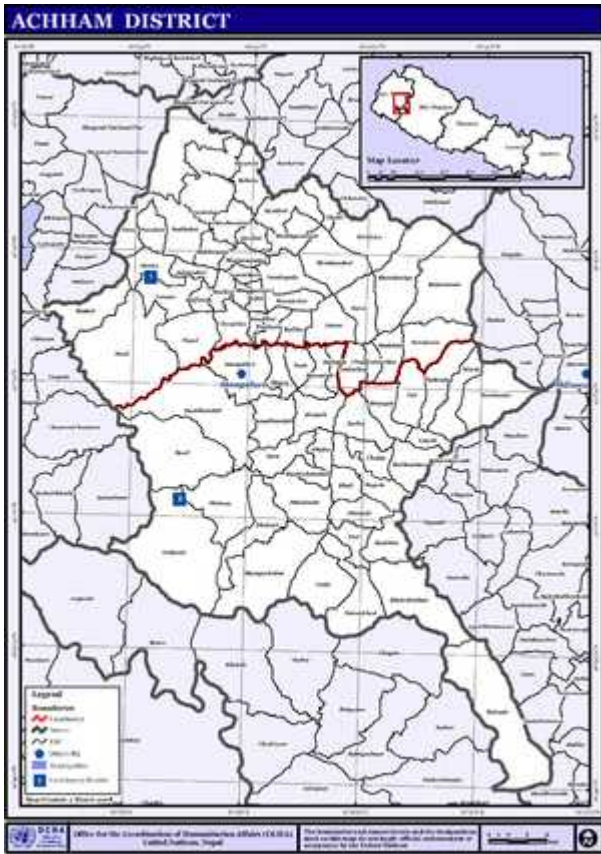
Meeting scene



Map of survey area in Nepal's map



Map of Achham district



Source: DFO, Achham