

**Participation and Decision Making Process of Women in Community
Forest Users Group.**

**(A Case study of Thapla Community Forest Users Group of Silgadhi Municipality-
3 of Doti District.)**

A Thesis

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters
of Arts in Rural Development**

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled "Participation and Decision Making Process of women in Community Forest Users Group: A case study of Thapla Community Forest Users Group of Silgadhi Municipality-3 of Doti District,Nepal" has been Completed by Mukesh Pant under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Art in Rural Development. I hereby recommend this thesis for final evaluation and approval.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Participation and Decision Making Process of Women in Community Forest Users Group: A case study Thapla Community Forest Users Group of Silgadhi Municipality-3 of Doti District,Nepal" written and submitted by Mukesh Pant has been examined and approved by the following evaluation committee of the Central Department of Rural Development(CDRD). It has been declared to be a successful work of fulfillment of the academic requirements towards the completion of Master's of Arts in Rural Development.

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Finally, I am alone responsible for errors of judgment or of analysis if exists any.

Mukesh Pant

Abstract

National Forest of Nepal is being increasingly handed over as Community Forest to fulfill the basic needs of products with income and employment to the rural people. Forests are closely interrelated with daily livelihood as well as other activities for example Farming. It is as the central source of energy, fodders, Construction materials, firewood and equally contributes in agricultural production. Community Forestry is an approach where local users are assumed as manager, protector, and owner of forest resource and ultimately get benefit from there. At present the Community Forest programme is implemented and in most of the area of Nepal that covers more than 40 percent of forest area. To fulfill losing green forest, concept of Community Forest was adopted by Nepalese Government since 1978.

The research study entitled "Participation and decision making process of women in community forest users group: A case study of Thapla Community forest user group of Silgadhi Municipality-3 of Doti District" has been carried out with the objective analyzing the status and role played by women in the Community Forest user group.

The main objective of this research was to examine the socio-economic status of and the existing situation of women participation. The specific objectives are to identify the women's role in Community forest management activities and benefit sharing on women.

To fulfill these objectives of Thapla Community Forest of Silgadhi Municipality-3 of Doti District was selected as a research area. Thapla Community Forest consists of 75 households where altogether there are 85 members of this community forest were taken as sample and other key informants such as teacher, local leaders, etc. Tools like questionnaire, checklists are developed for interview survey, key informants interview, focus group discussion.

Users group of Thapla Community Forest consists mainly four castes Brahmin, Chhetri, Janjati and Dalits. The forest user group is heterogeneous in terms of ethnicity and homogeneous in terms of religion. The main finding of the study show that male and female have an equal contribution in CF management activities but in comparison with males; females are most punctual in various meetings. All the committee members actively participated during the decision making, implementation and benefit sharing process. The finding shows that the major factors that affect the active participation of women in different activities are education and family support.

The Community Forest is the forest handed over the local Community on which they have the full authority to use, protect and manage it in their own way. The female members of Thapla Community Forest executive committee are actively participating in the meeting and other

activities of CF. Educational status of people plays a key role for better involvement of women. The outcome of the study suggested that education has the vital role in active participation of women in public activities like CF management.

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