

# CHAPTER - ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Forest is one of the most important resources of Nepal for its socio-economic development and People's livelihood. Management of forest one the other hand is still on its primitive stage. Forest degradation and deforestation are serious problem in Nepal since the last few decades.

Nepal has experienced various rules, regulations and policies to conserve and manage its common property. Forest resource many traditional rules and regulations did exist in the past to regulate the access and use of forest. As the political system changed, new regulation and system came up. None of them were said to be effective to control deforestation problem of Nepal. As consequences government realized the need of People's Participation for the forest management, which was implicitly expressed in the forest laws of 1961 local Participation was emphasized on 1970s by decentralizing authority of forest protection and utilization to local government organization as panchayat protected forest, community forest makes community forest a reality for rural communities. Community forest is protected, managed and utilized by local forest user group. It has been realized that users are the 'key manager' of forest resources. Among them women users have main role in implementing community forestry activities. The participation of women in the utilization of forest commodities is usually more than these of male. So, new rule and regulation for community forestry of HMG has made a provision to include at least one-third women member of committee in forest users committee.

In the 1980s in the history of forestry sector a new concept of community forestry through local people was realized by the policy makers. The master plan for the forestry sector of Nepal was laid in 1989 A.D. by the government in order to achieve people's participation in forestry development.

The community forestry and private forestry program was recognized as a major program by the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) Nepal.

The major objective of the MPFS (1989) are firstly : to meet people's basic needs of fuel wood, fodder, timber and others Forest product and secondly, to contribute to food production increment through appropriately conserving and managing Nepal's forest resources where people considers to be.

Community forest was initially defined by FAO as "any situation which intimately involves local people in the forest activity. It embraces spectrum of situation raising from wordless areas which are short of wood and other forest production for local needs through the growing of trees at the farm level to provide cash crops and processing of forest product at the households artisans or small industry level to generate income to activities of forest dwelling communities (FAO; 1978). Thus community forest was planned as encompassing activities by individual households women's and men farmer and other people as well as those involving community as a whole (FAO; 1978).

The MPFS 1989 emphasized people Participation in the forestry development. Community forest leaseholds forestry and prevention and control of erosion are the main forestry policy of the government in order to manage the land and rehabilitation of degraded lands. The ninth five year plan (2059-59) of the country highlighted the poverty of integrated watershed management activities and aiming carried out through people's participation. Participatory forestry involved in Nepal in 1990s with the evolutionary change in forest policies. The forest regulations of 1993 framed community forestry policy in Nepal with financial and technical support of many NGOs and international donor agencies the forest development implemented this policy in many hill districts of Nepal and is claimed to be most successful program at this stage.

The main theme of MPFS is to hand over the existing forest to the local communities if they are willing and able to manage it by themselves. The MPFS has also gone emphasis on involvement of women in community forestry to make these approaches more effective. Simultaneously MPFS gone emphasis on the reorientation of forestry staff to change role from policies to facilitator MPFS also recognized that the rules and regulations related to community forestry need to be changed accordingly.

The intended policy objectives accordingly to the MP of forestry sector are:

- a. Hand over accessible forest to the users, empowering forest users group to manage the forest resources.
- b. Forest users groups get all benefit from the hand over forest and
- c. Convert the entire forestry staff to work as extensions.

The main features of the legislation covering the community's forestry are:

- Any national forest situation to be converted into community forest will not be given to other such as lease holds forest.
- FUGs can use surplus funds in any kind of community development works.
- FUG can transport any forest product simply by information the DFO.
- The FUG can plant long term cash crops with out distributing the main forestry crops.
- FUG WILL not be disturbed by political boundary while handing over the forest.
- FUG can amend the OP simply informing DFO.
- The FUG can establish forest based industries.
- All accessible forest can be handed over to users.
- The FUG can fix the price of the forestry products irrespective of the government royalty.
- FUG can punish miss users (encroaches a development thief's), who offend against the rules of the OP.
- DFO can handover forest to FUG.
- Any agency can help assess to manage community forest.
- The forest users groups (FUGs) have to manage the forest as per the approved constitution and operational plan (OP) of hand over community forest.
- The DFO can take the forest back from FUG if they operate against the operational plan, But the DFO must return as soon as possible once the problem is solved.
- The FUG is an autonomous and corporate body with perpetual succession.

When the restoration of donor agency the term Panchayat was replaced by “users group in the forest act of 1961: in 1993, the government published the forest act of 1993 but it has not been implemented yet as the rules are in the final draft stage the forest act of 1993 categories forest into two broad classes;

A. National Forest

B. Private Forest

The national forest is further divided into five sub-categories.

- Community Forest
- Leasehold Forest
- Government Management Forest
- Religious Forest
- Protected Forest

The new forest act 1991 and forest by law 1993 are being implemented in Nepal that is recognized one of the most liberal forest act and rule in the world. His majesty’s government of Nepal (HMG/N) is implementing community forestry program with the help of different donors through the kingdom. Community forestry which Nepalese government has enacted in combating for both improving land degradation and reducing deforestation is a major forestry programmer. Nepal has experience of more than two decades in Community Forestry.

The tenth plan (HMG/NPC,2002) has emphasized in forestry sector is to support national objective of poverty alleviation by ensuring people participation needed for sustainable development for forest sector in the management forest resource, herbs, watershed management and diversity conservation along with increasing employment opportunities through the development of forest based industries.

Now it is the time to assess the contribution of the community forest program in supporting livelihood of the rural people to guide the forest professionals to change their working style and behaviors to increasing the necessary support for users and the forest. Furthermore, if the blanket approach of the country program is not finding a prepare way then government shall modify the approach for the better improvement of the program. No matter what will be the program model nut the important thing is that forest users

group should obtain optimum benefits from the forest to which they have been managing for a long time.

Now the community forest participation has been launched in 58 districts under the department of forest. The tenth five year plan expects during this period that the program will be launched all over the country (NPC, 2002).

People's involvement or engagement in any activities is generally known as participation. It is not a new concept in the field of development. The words 'participation' and 'participatory' appeared for the first time in development Jargon during the late 1950s (Rehnama, 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 approach 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 women's participation also appeared spontaneously in the fields.

The management, protection and utilization of forest by the local villagers or community are known as community forest. "Community forest program being implemented in Nepal is essentially a strategy to bring about socio-economic and environmental change and development in rural societies through interventions in regards to the management of forest" (Chherti, 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.

Women's economic condition is weak both within the family and outside and women are viewed more as liabilities than assets. They are unable to assert themselves or demand a just share in either house hold or community resources. They are unheard not just socially but politically as well and so can't become a force to content with at any levels.

Inversely this approaches contents that if women gain institutional strength, they gain both visibility and voice in the home, work place and community. As women

become major economic contributors or equal to man in economic terms; their won man and society out large change its attitude towards them and is force to involve them in decision making process. Women compose half of the total population of Nepal. Nepalese women's status is analyzed in this light the picture is generally weak (Acharya, 1995).

The main thrust of institutional development for women's is our society is to enhance their participation in various development program from the decades of 70s. However, in spite of the effort of nearly four decades women's are still in the cycle of poverty and disempowerment only from the sixth five year plan (1980-1985) the government addressed the issue of women's role in national development.

### **1.1.1 Women's role in community forest use.**

Women's lives are the most seriously affected by environmental damage and the shortage of forest product. Women together with their children are the main collectors of fuel and other forest products such as animal fodder and leaf compost. They also take private responsibility for herding family livestock's including cattle, sheep and goat. Women's roles in the collecting of forest production must be seen in the context of their other household responsibility.

Women's economic position is weak both within the family and outside and women are viewed more as liabilities than assets, they are unable to assert themselves or demand a just share in either household or community resources. They are unheard not just socially but politically as well as socio-economic can't become a force to contend with at any levels.

Several factors explain the differences between male and female workloads, first in addition to agricultural and animal husbandry responsibilities. Women have primary responsibility for food processing fuel and fodder collection and domestic care including cooking and child care. Second in many households men have migrated to other part of Nepal or to India to search of wage labor and temporary employment to supplement households' income. The women then most assume a greater proportion of the agricultural task as well.

After participation of women in community forest management there have been many changes because women always have been sincere for their work. After their participation protection and development of forest was found good. So women play a vital role for management of forest.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Though Nepal was rich in forest resources and there was a saying that “HARIOBAN NEPAL KO DHAN”. It depleted very rapidly in the last few decades. Nepal’s forest is decreasing in both quantity and quality over the last few decades the rapid socio-economic change in Nepal has placed a new demand on forest resources. People are cutting trees; farmers are clearing trees for expanding agriculture land. Therefore Nepal’s hills have been degrading considerably due to over exploitation and absence of systematic management. An over increasing human and livestock population intensifies the growing pressure on forest resource. As the forest declines, number of problem related to environmental degradation such as soil erosion, land slide, desertification, climatic hazards etc. emerge.

Defining the problem is the crucial step in the research process. Problem doesn’t necessarily mean that some thing is seriously wrong with a current situation or with the organization under study. A problem simply indicates that on interest in some field in which finding might help to implementation prove the existing situation (pant 2002). Establishment of women status in society is challenging issue for the context of developing countries as well as developed. Their role can’t be seen in the good way or good manner.

In the case of developing country like Nepal; the situation of women is very miserable. Our culture, society and religion are to some extent bounded the female not only our culture gape the female right so many legal provision also support to control the female right and dominated by male. Every part of female life male dominant system occurs different way, female role are change in the case of different situation.

In the context of women's participation in Community forest management only since few year back, national forest has been handover to the user community to manage

and utilize it and women had participated in different community forest activities only from around 1980s.

There are several difficulties for women user like as lack of faith in their own activities, effective penalty, enforcement and delay in effective forest management works. Similarly insufficient resource can not meet the demand of the women. In male dominated society females are always dominated by male for their participation in community forest management. The numbers of women users groups are increasing enormously throughout the kingdom. It appears to play one of the leading roles to uplift the rural women and to stop the rapidly increasing deforestation processing.

Nepalese women are known as the most poor and disadvantaged. So, women's participation in community forest program may be helpful to increase economic status of women in society. It could be big help to the case of poverty alleviation in the country. Due to actual rural poverty of the hilly, mountainous area, the community has extended pressured on the forest for timber and fuel wood collection. Forest is the source of livelihood for poor and the marginalized people during dry season. They have no employment in farmland. So we might change their professional by employed in the forestry development activities through community forestry rather than poaching timber and fuel wood from the forest. Such employment program should reflect the community forestry strategies that can exactly uplift the rural livelihood with no loss.

Deforestation is the main problem in our country. Women are the main users of forest product and to stop the illegal activities. So it is necessary to ensure the participation of women in community forest management. Some studies have been made in different part of Nepal about people's participation in forestry but very few studies have been made on the women's participation in forest management. It is felt that in order to develop the forest or even on stop the rapidly increasing deforestation process, only government efforts are not enough. Women themselves should be made conscious for their active participation in community forest management. So women's Participation play a vital role in community forest management, they are the main users of the forest products. In the context of forest management women have been contributing for protection and management of the forest resource from time immemorial. However their involvement in different aspects of natural resource management has been mostly in the



forms of nominal participation (Ostrum.1992, agrawal, 2002). Their role is subsided by the existing patriarchal cultural practices, religious beliefs and cultural system, even though they are the prime managers of the natural's resources.

Some studies reveal that community forest has potentials for empowering the locals people, certainly some of studies show 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 community forest management.

Women are the primary user of forest resources. The management of fire wood, fodder, liters has been managing by women for enhancing the present management system and to achieve sustainable management the women's role can not be underestimated especially in rural Nepal. In order to conserve, manage and develop the forest or even to stop the rapidly increasing deforestation process only government effort and male participation is not enough. Local women themselves should be made conscious for their active participation in forest management and conservation. So, local women's participation plays a vital role in conservation and management of forest.

In this background some of the simple but interesting question impressed the researcher to conduct t the research;

- 1 What is the role of women in forest management in the study area?
- Have women been participating meaningfully in the management of community forest or just sitting it?
- What are the main constraints that hinder the women to participate in community forest management activities?
- What are the major factors that motivate the women to participate in community forest management activities in the study area?
- Do social and cultural values influence the women Participation in community forest in the study area?

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The general objectives of the study is to examine women's in community forest management activities and implementation of community forest program, designed for the development and management to local forest resources at Pathari VDC of Morang

district and to determine the socio-economic condition of respondents at the study area. The specific objectives are as follows:

- To identify the socio-economic status of women's participation in community forest.
- To find out the degree of involvement of women in decision making in community forest management.
- To identify the factors affecting in the participation of women's in community forest management.
- To trace out activities/attitudes of women's towards community forest.

#### **1.4 Rationale of the study**

From different information, media the slogan of women's participation and women's empowerment are being expressed. It is suitable time to know the real situation of women's participation in community forest management.. This study will attempted to assess the activities and show how the women's in community forest management at Sundar and Chautari CFUGs in Pathari VDC Morang. This study aims are to accumulate considerable information regarding participation of women's in management experiences, constrains and achievement of community forest. It helps concerned government agencies, donor agencies, planers policy makers, social activities future researchers to plan similar project better in future. This study also helps to lunch other women's related community development program and access their role to up lift the society.

It is also hoped that from this study, the fostering and hindering factor to participation women's in committee activities would be documented and this would help to impose the affecting factors. The out put of this study will make the plan makers and development professionals responsible to involve women's in national resources management and development activities.

#### **1.5 Limitation of the study**

This research is done for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of MA degree in rural development, so that the researcher has limited economic source, time and manpower for the extensive study. Furthermore, the research will focus on

- Women are participating in community forest management
- Their attitude towards community forestry.
- Their Participation in decision making, participation in committee formation.
- What are the affecting factors for women's participation and implementation of OP and community forest activities?

The study of two user's community committee of pathari VDC may not be enough to generalize all over the nation but it will be helpful to the some ecological, socio-economic and socio-biological area of the nation.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This study has been organized into seven chapters. The first chapter is an introduction of the subject matter which includes background of the study, objectives and rationale of the study. Similarly, various studies are made in the second chapter through review of the literature. The third chapter is about research methodology of the proposed study. The fourth chapter is the description of the study area. The fifth chapter is women participation in community forest management.. The six chapters is a case study of implementation and forest management activities. The seventh chapter is summary, conclusion and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER - TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Literature review is a part of the research. It provides general ideas about the subject matters and methodology which help the researcher to achieve the targeted objects, thus these 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 community forest management activities.

#### **2.1 Origin and concept of community forest**

Community forest is initially defined by FAO as “any situation which intimately involves local people in forest activities. It embraces a spectrum of situation ranging from wordless areas which are short of wood and other forest product for local needs, through the growing of trees at the farm level to provide cash crops and the processing of forest product at the household artisan or small industries level to generate income to the activity of forest dwelling communities. Thus community forest was planned as encompassing activities by individuals households man and women, farm less and other people as well as these involving a community as a whole” (FAO,1978).

According to the new forest policy of 1990s any patch of forest can be handover to local community for its management; conservation and utilization in which land is still owned by government and trees are owned by community. The community has full authority to control over resource and to decide conservation, management, and utilization plan. Community has to prepare a simple operational plan on collaboration with district forest offices where major decisions and made by users themselves expect some technical knowledge are borrowed from forest technicians. All the revenue and benefits derived from the community forest go to the community fund. Community can decide income and expenditure for the various rural development purposes without any approval of local authorities.

- In British Columbia CF can be described as any forestry operation managed by a local government, local group or first nation for the benefit of the entire community
- CF is an important and growing opportunity for committees supporting new options in recreation, wildlife and watershed management
- CF tenure is area based and gives committee exclusive rights to harvest timber as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as timber and plant products recreation, wildlife, water and scenic view scopes.

### **2.1.1 Evolution and emerge of different forest policy in Nepal**

Forest is a biological community dominated by trees other woody vegetation and living creature. It helps to pressure ecosystem. Forest plays an important role in our daily lives and clearly it is one of the country's most important national resources. Nepalese economy based on agriculture and livestock farming is greatly dependent on forest resources for its maintenance for example firewood, fodder, timber, compost manure and supplies by the forest. Besides it forest plays an important role in soil conservation and environmental balance in the part a lot of area of Nepal were covered by forest and accordingly there was a popular saying "HARIO BAN NEPAL KO DHAN" (CHHETRI; 1994:19).

#### **During GORKHA Empire (1768-1846)**

The period up to 1846 was ruled by Gorkha empires that later united the fragmented Nepal. As the Grkha Empire expanded there were inevitable conflicts between if and the British east India Company. The forest of the Terai the plain bordering to India were maintained as a physical barrier against possible invasion from, the south by the east India company. Hill forest was used by local people to support subsistence needs. The state asserted its ownership of natural resources to institutions and individuals as a privilege. Birta, Khoria, and Rakam systems existed as a practice (Hosleyu 1996).

### **Rana regime (1846-1951)**

Rana Empire rules the country for 103 years and forest got severe impacts in this period. In the first half of the twentieth century, forest exploitation particularly in the Terai region appears to have increased greatly. At the turn of the century the British in India extended their railway network to Nepal's southern border and the Rana government suddenly found that it could earn more revenue in the region bordering India by clearing forest and producing grain for exports. They established a timber administration office converted later into the timber export office and employed British forestry experts from the India forest resources in the 1920s.

To supervise felling and export of the Terai sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest for the construction of the Indian railways (Hobley, 1996). In the hills of Nepal different systems of forest management operated in conjunction with the Birta and Talukdari system in the rest of Nepal. At the end of the Rana rule in 1951 at least one-third of the forest of Nepal were under Birta tenure and three quarters of this land belonged to the Rana family (Regmi, 1998 cited from Hobnley, 1996).

### **Nationalization of Forest (1951-1987)**

In 1951 the people's movement overthrew the Rana regime and democratic government did exercise for 10 years, the first forest nationalization policy was published in 1957. Under this act all the forests of Nepal were nationalized and access to and use of the forest in an attempt to regularize the revenue flow and control of forest in Nepal. The Birta abolition act was passed in 1959 and much of the forest land previously under this tenure now came within the review of the state. Although the nationalization act was published many people were not aware of this and continued to practice the Birta system.

### **Forest under Panchayat political system (1961-1990)**

The failure of the democratic movement and the reassertion of monarchical rule in the early 1960s a new party-less Panchayat system was introduced which was to remain in place until 1990. Many forest acts were passed and amended during the period. Some of them were Forest Law (1961), Forest Protection Special Laws (1967) and Panchayat Forest (PFs) and PPFs policy was considered to be a positive moment for forest

protection as the right of protection and utilization was decentralized to local level administrative unit. Under panchayat forest system and government forest or part of it which has been kept barren or contains only stumps, may be handover by government to the village panchayat for plantation for the welfare of the village community on the prescribe term and conditions. Similarly under PPF pitch of natural forest may be handover to the Panchayat for protection and management purpose. In both systems ownership of forest land remained with the government and control could be resumed whenever the government deemed it necessary the Panchayat had some powers to time offenders. However management decision remained with the government forest services.

### **The New Forest policy (1993)**

Nepal forest sector policy was first declared in the sixth five year Plan, which emphasized community participation in the management; conservation and utilization of forest resources. The government prepared a master plan for forestry sector in 1987. This placed greater emphasis of community forest with 47% of proposed investment to the forestry sector in support of community forest program. Based on this policy and precious PF and PPF policies, a new community forestry policy was derived after democracy in Nepal in 1990. The main principle of that policy was to meet the basic forest product needs of local through community forest and private planting by phased handing over of all accessible hill forestry to the local communities to the extent that they are willing and able to manage them (Hobley-1996). The emphasis on users' group rather than Panchayat of village development of committee emerged from the experience gained from the implementation of community forest between mid 1980s and 1990s. The users group as an organizing concept was formulation in 1990 in legislation and policy statement.

**Historical time line of the forest management policy in Nepal:**

| Year       | Policy/ Act regulation   | Remarks  |
|------------|--|--|
| Up to 1846 | Conservation of forest to agriculture land protection of Terai forest              | Increase the tax base of the state as a buffer against foreign invasion.   |
| 1846-1950  | Forest land given as Birta to influential official's exploitation of Terai forest. | Conservation of forest to agricultural and land exports of timber of India   |
| 1957       | Private forest nationalization act   | Indiscriminate cutting of forest   |
| 1961       | Indiscriminate cutting of forest   | Protection, management, and utilization of forest entrusted to the DFO   |
| 1967       | Forest preservation act  | The power of the DFO as a law enforcing agent strengthened further   |
| 1976       | National forestry plan   | Recognized the need for people's Participation   |
| 1978       | Panchayat forest regulation and panchayat protected forest regulation              | Handing over of limited areas of government forest land to the control of Panchayat  |
| 1981       | Forestry sector policy of the sixth five year plan (1981-1985)                     | Emphasized community participation in the management conservation and use of forest  |
| 1982       | Decentralization Act   | Moves to ward transferring the control of forest to local people strengthened  |
| 1988       | Master plan for the forestry sector Nepal  | Covered all aspects of forestry designed to take Nepal's forestry in to 21 <sup>st</sup> century, strongly emphasized community forestry and recognized the role of real user in forest management |
| 1993       | Forest act   | Regulating function of DFO still intact but significantly softened forest can be handed over to FUGs by the DFO  |
| 1995       | Forest regulation  | Procedural guidelines for implementation of the forest Act 1993  |

Source: ICIMOD 1999



### **2.1.2 Importance of community forestry**

Some of the importance features of community forestry policy are as follows;

- All the accessible forest can be handed over to users (no area limit)
- The forest user groups (FUGs) have to manage the forests as per the approved constitution and operational plan.
- Any national forest suitable to be converted in to community forest will not be assigned to other such as leasehold forest.
- District can use surplus funds in any kinds of community development works.
- The FUG can fix the price of forestry products irrespective of government's royalty.
- The FUG can plant long term cash crops without disturbing the main forestry crops.
- FUG can transport any forest products simply by informing the DFO.
- FUG will not be disturbed by political boundary while handing over the forest.
- The FUG can establish forest band industries.
- FUG can punish miss users who affined against the rules of the OP (Kunwar, 2062).

### **2.1.3 People's Participation in CF**

The concept people's participations have been used since ancient time of Plato and Greek philosopher in public affairs, especially in political science. Participation on those days was merely a matter of voting, holding office, attending public meeting playing taxes and defending the state (joshi, 1995). The meaning of participation however has changed with the passage of time. Participation of people on the affairs of the state is necessary for a modern welfare state. The participation ideology "button up" approach

was originated in reaction to colonial bureaucratic failure in 1950s (Moris, 1981 cited in Rahnema, 2000). During the later half of the 1970, the concept people's participation in development becomes more popular and fashionable as oppose to the 'top down' approach (Lisk, 1981, cited in Joshi, 1995). World Bank also realized the participatory development approach due to far less achievements an expected output from billions spent in development project, through "top to bottom" approach of development the concept, people's participation has become a politically attractive slogan; it is perceived as an instrument for greater effectiveness as well as new source of investment. Participation is becoming a good fund raising device and it could help the private sectors to be directly involved in the development business (Rahnema, 2000).

People's participation is the most essential feature of community forest. It is the principal aims of community forest to involve people in all stages term decision, making to harvesting. Similarly to goods and services derive from forest resources and made available for people. Especially rural poor in and around the forest these people in turn are expected top cooperate in forest protection and management measures. The techniques are using participatory rural appraisal to assist for widespread application in Nepal. By using these techniques when conducting investigation the field worker will gradually develop a pastime relationship with the villagers.

By involving the users in all stages on information gathering the collected information in more likely to be relevant to the needs of the users and hence useful for the preparations of the operation plan (Bartlett and Nurse, 1991), thus community forest development project is basically structures for local participation. Although social forestry is the active participation of local communities in planning and managing local forest resources, there is no attempt form the party of implementers to improve opportunities and minimize constraints to people effective's participation in this sector.

To promote Participation a deep study of cultural, historical, political and other socio-economic determinants of the people's participation is indispensable (Koirala, 1992). The people's perception of social forestry cost and benefits of social forestry are a prerequisite for the study of popular participation.

#### **2.1.4 Women Participation in CFM**

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 participation in different local level development activities. People have different arguments towards women's participation in these areas. Some argue that it is really very difficult to bring women in the mainstream of development activities due to lack of education, technical knowledge and commitment. However socio-cultural and economic constraints are also identified as an influencing barrier for involving women in different development activities.

Mainly rural women are not socio-economic courageous to discuss any social and developmental problem in front of men because of culturally biased assumption towards women, their capability and socio-economic they are not given proper place in the society. As a result, women's voices are not properly heard in Nepali society. Similarly most of household sphere such as basic nutrition knowledge family planning by carrying secretarial job etc. but their need and roles in large socio-economic activities are ignored (Skutsch; 1986). Thus women are seen primarily as wives and child bearers. Majority of the rural women in Nepal are involved in household work, such as processing and production of food, fetching water, collecting fire wood and other forest products; tending livestock and cultivating crops.

Women and forest are a closer link in rural areas where life is shaped and dedicated by availability and access and of basic resources such as water, fuel wood, fodder and other forest products (Siddigui, 1989). Women are deeply related with forest and their products which are near their houses. If forest is not near by women need to walk long distance to collect fuel wood and fodder. In the study carried out in villages, Molnar states that women's over all contribution to household work including forest related tasks, was found to be approximately 11 hours a day as compared to 8 hours for man. Thus women spend a significant portion of their time in forest related activities such as farming collecting fuel wood and fodder, grazing animal etc. (Molnar, 1983). There extensive and closer contact with the forest may give local women more details understanding of forest resourced than the man.

- According to Hoskins; though women in rural communities are directly dependent on forest related resource many forest management projects are designed without any recognition of the impact on them when the government, NGOs and INGOs speak about improving the position of women. It is to be expected that they will give attention to a reduction of the disadvantage women's face in relation to men, but women are not significantly supported by the policies of different governments. As the few examples the fact that basic right like education, land, equal wage and reproductive health fascinating are still only in paper as in some instance. The worse living condition and deforestation is correlated in the context of rural women. What they need is information on possibilities of improving their productivity through applied or improved technology. In this matter agricultural methods that have beneficial influence on the fertility of soil will also improve the general environment at the same time”.

- In the context of exposing the issue of participation of women's in CF; the women's participation in committee are only fashionable then functional in operational issue. They are unable to implement and manage plans because of lack of support and encouragement from men and forestry staffs. Only few women of FUGs attend meeting and are usually listeners rather than talkers (Hant et.al.1995).
- Inserrs's (1988): experiences are that women have worked successfully in both mixed and all female forest in rural Nepal. Village men and women professional forest now generally agree that women are capable of committee management. She recommends that women's membership of committee be promoted primarily through extension activities. According to the women should participate as possible in fort management committee.
- Kharel (1993) reveals that if women's are involved in every stage of community forest management planning process. The change of their voice; voicing their opinion and making people listen to them are increased. When committees are formed without female representation decision usually fail to recognize women's needs and constraints.
- Chhetri and Rana(1995) write that women's participation in forest has to for mostly in terms of labor contribution. They were not formulated Brahmin and Chhetri women in parts of color are not expected formal meeting invitation to meeting and gathering are often aimed at the household head who is generally a man.

## **CHAPTER - THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHTHODOLOGY**

This chapter describes the methods to adopt in the study. This chapter deals with methodology employed for the study where criteria for selection of the study area and respondent; sampling producer, data collection and methods of data analysis are discussed.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The main concentration of research is to find out women's participation in community forest management. So, exploratory and descriptive research design has been used for this study. Exploratory research design was applied to explore the issue concerned with the participation of women's in community forest management activities. It also assisted to explore the issue regarding the knowledge, perception and practices about community forest management in the studied people. Descriptive research was used to describe the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of the studied population; similarly, it is also used to describe the women's involvement in deferent activities of the community forest such as decision making, monitoring and evaluating program implementation and benefit sharing.

#### **3.2 Selection of the study area**

The sunder and Chautary community FUGs were selected for the study. These CFs lie at pathari VDC ward no. 2 and 9 in Morang district. The researcher is better familiar with the research site because of his home village. So it was possible to collect reliable information easily. Another reason, the proportion of users group member are mix types i.e. different gender, cast and ethnicity. Furthermore it was felt easy to collect data and carry out the study because the researcher is already well known to this area and it is accessible to the researcher to collect data. So this area was selected.

### **3.3 Nature and source of data**

Both primary and secondary data have been used for the study, primary data have been collected from the field survey with the help of household survey, questionnaire, observation, group discussion from key informants. Secondary data have been collected from published document, records, journals, books, articles, etc. The secondary data helped to understand overall status of women's in Nepal. Theoretical perspective to look at women's position, participation and decision making of women's in CF management activities.

### **3.4 Universe and sampling**

The Sunder and Chautary CF of Pathari VDC of Morang district were selected as universe purposively for the detail study. These CFs are located in ward no. 2 and 9. All the households were the users of Chautary CF out of total households (471), 10% (47) user's households and of Sundar CF out of total households (153), 10% (15) users households were chosen for the sample by applying simple random sampling method.

### **3.5 Method of data collection**

Quantitative and qualitative methods are used to collect data from the field. The data have been collected through semi-structural questionnaire which asked to the respondent. Directly information has been collected through other method as key informants interviews, focus group discussion and field observation etc.

#### **3.5.1 Households survey**

Household survey conducted to acquire detail informations about population characteristics like age and sex composition, marital status, caste/ethnicity, religion, occupation and education, landholding size etc. Besides these it also helped to select the key informant. They were actively involved in the FM activities and were known 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 Interview**

Interview schedule is the kind of information collection way in a short time. The information was gathered from target population such as members of Chautary and Sundar CFUGs, DFO, key informants and local people. Interview information regarding the women participation in CF, the history of forest women's involvement in forest management, women's perception in CF and hindering and motivating factors of women participation in CFM were collected from the key informants and the knowledgeable person of the community. It was used for collection of data to fulfill the objective of the study.

### **3.5.3 Observation**

Observation was used to collect quantitative information like women's participation in CFM activities including decision making, monitoring and evaluating activities. Observation also helped the researcher to recheck the information which is collected through the other tools. The CF executive committee minute showed that the women's participation in meeting in both CFUGs, general assembly and executive committee were high. Observation found that women signed only in the minute book and returned back to their household care as soon as possible.

### **3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

FDG was conducted to collect the data for specific objectives using the set of semi-structured questionnaire. Group was briefed about the objectives of the study and all key questions. The questionnaires were distributed before the discussion. Group discussion was performed to individual's interviews to reduce the personal bias to get a true picture of all situations within the FUGs. This method was found effective in terms of getting mostly reliable information within a reasonable short time. However some short coverage of this method was also noted.

The FGD has been held in separate CFUGs of women and men. The interaction programs were held in CF office with the participated "GASTI TOLI". There were 35 and 29 Gasti Toli respectively Chautari and Sundar CF, among them total 9 toli were



participated in FGD. The discussion was focused on condition of forest development, protection, transparency, operational plan, accountability, fine system, encroachment, benefit etc.

### **3.5.5 Secondary data**

Besides the primary data, relevant secondary information was also collected from related office, such as DFO office, books, booklets, articles and publication of DDC etc. The secondary information obtained from these source and various FUGs records were extremely valuable and contributed substantially to supplementary the objectives of the study.

### **3.5.6 Data analysis**

The main task to data analysis is to bring the data in to a systematic order out of mess of the notes, to pick out the central themes of the study and to carry them across to written work (Beker- 1994). The qualitative data were analyzed and interpreted descriptively making the arrangement in logical way. The quantitative data were coded and classified on the basis of nature of data and then presented in various tables by using simple statistical tools such as mean and percentage. After presentation of the data in table they were analyzed and interpreted coherently.

## **3.6 Limitation of the study**

This study is try to focus on how women participation in CFM. The attitude of users towards CFM activities and women's participation in CFM may very from place to place. The priority a demand of women users groups might be site specific. So it can not be generalize to whole country. Furthermore this research will focus on how women's were participating in CFM. Their attitude towards CF their participation in decision making, participation in committee, affecting factor for women's participation and implementation of OP and CF activities, simultaneously this study seek to have a answer on what steps followed on participatory women's comity forestry planning process in community level but not in the whole district due to time limitation.

## **CHAPTER - FOUR**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE SUDY AREA**

#### **4.1 Brief introduction to Morang District**

Morang district is one of the eastern Terai districts of Koshi zone in Nepal. It is located in 87°11" to 87°41" eastern longitude and 26°20" to 26°53" north latitude. Jhapa, Ilam, Dhankuta, Panthar, Sunsari and Bihar of India have share border with this district on the east north, west and south respectively. This district covered 1855000 hector (1855 km<sup>2</sup>) and the elevation range between 60 meter to 2410 meter, 80 % land is lies in terai. According to censuses 2002 the total population of district was 843220 among them male was 422895 and female was 420324 and population growth rate was 2.27. It has 65 VDCs and one sub-metropolitan. Among 65 VDCs 12 are in hill and 57 are in terai. Nine election centre and 17 Ilakas are here. The total number of households is 167875 with average household size of 5.02 in this district 56.7% of the people is literate. Among them male literacy comprises 66.8 and female literacy comprises 46.6.

Among the total area of the district agriculture land is 105270 hector (56.7%), forest area 55500 hector (29.9%), bridge; river, canal etc. are cover rest area (13.4%). Rice, corn, wheat are the main crops of the district. Moran district one of the biggest suppliers of rice and wheat to other parts of the country and out of the country like India, Bangladesh etc. also.

Due to geographical disparities this district has different temperature (minimum 6.1o c to maximum 39.3 o c) climate tropical and sub-tropical and rainfall pattern.

#### **4.2 Introduction of Pathari VDC**

##### **4.2.1 Physical setting**

Pathari is one of the VDC among the 65 VDCs and one sub-metropolitan of Morang district. Toward north side of east west highway (MAHENDRA HIGH WAY), and 50 km far from east side of the district headquarter (Biratnagar) and 6 km far from west side of Jhapa district (MAWAKHOLA) It is bounded by Rajghat, Urlabari, Sanischare, Jante and Hasandaha VDCs are respectively east, west, north and south. Total

area of this VDC is 25.03 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the census 2058 BS total population was 21588, among them male are 10351 (47.9%) and female are 11237 (52.1%). Literacy rate of Pathari VDC is 67.8%. Beside these pathari VDC lies two community forests (Chautary and Sundar), they have covered 128.75 and 85 hector respectively.

#### **4.2.2 Location of CF**

Chautary CF is bounded by bakrahakhola- east, Sundar CF- west, Mahendra highway –North and Latiholi –south. Total area occupied by the CF is 128.75 hector. Sundar CF is bounded by Chautary CF – east, Baudha Gumba and Telephon tower – west, Mahendra highway – North and Jungle edge way – south. 85 hacter occupied of this CF.

#### **4.2.3 Vegetation**

Most of the area of pathari VDC lies in tropical zone. Many kinds of vegetation are found in these Chautary and Sundar CF. main vegetation by SAAL, BOD DHAYERO, SAHAJ, and KYAMUNU. Some fodder species like TIK, KADAM, MASALA, SISAU, KHAYER etc. many kinds of species like saal, sisau, khayer, kadam, tik, masal etc. are planted in these both CF.

#### **4.2.4 Education status**

Education is an important social indicator in society which plays dominant role in creating well off society. It helps to create consciousness, awareness and analytical capability. According to CBS report 2002 the total literacy rate of pathari VDC is 67.8%.

#### **4.2.5 Institutional arrangement of users committee**

FUGs have executive committee out advisory committee for forest management. There as 13 members in Chautary CF and 11 member are in Sundar CF executive committee. The executive committee is responsible for enforcing rules and regulation of operational plan calls meeting and assembly of FUGs.

**Table - 4.1**

**Participation of women in user committee**

| User group | Female | %     | Male | %     | total |
|------------|--------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Chautary   | 5      | 38.4  | 8    | 61.6  | 13    |
| Sundar     | 4      | 36.36 | 7    | 63.64 | 11    |

*Source: forest committee record 2008*

**4.2.6 Demographic situation of study area**

The total population of Chautary CFUG are 2777 among them 1382 male and 1395 are female, similarly in Sundar CFUGs total population are 847 among them 429 male and 418 female. The average household size of Chautary and Sundar CFUs is 5.9 and 5.5 respectively.

**Table - 4.2**

**Households and population size of CFUG**

| User group | Total HHs | T.Popn | Male | %    | female | %    | Average HHs size |
|------------|-----------|--------|------|------|--------|------|------------------|
| Chautary   | 471       | 2777   | 1382 | 49.7 | 1395   | 50.3 | 5.9              |
| Sundar     | 153       | 847    | 429  | 50.6 | 418    | 49.4 | 5.5              |

*Source: forest committee record 2008*

# CHAPTER - FIVE

## WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

This chapter deals with the FM practices and women's participation in the both CF. this is the main section of the study. Basically, it concerns with the specific objectives and their corresponding result. The result is totally based on the data collection from primary and secondary sources. Four dimensions of participation such as women's involvement in decision making and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and benefit sharing are discussed as their participation in CFM.

### 1.1 Women's participation in executive committee

The formation of executive committee is an important aspect in CF because major decision regarding to forest management is generally done by it. Therefore women access and participation in both CF also clearly assert their presentation in CF executive committee. The involvement of women and men in the executive committee of Chautary and Sundar CF from the first formation to the present is presented in the table.

**Table - 5.1**  
**Sex Wise People's Participation In Executive Committee**

| Year | Chautary |      |   |      |       | Sundar |      |        |      |       |
|------|----------|------|---|------|-------|--------|------|--------|------|-------|
|      | M        | %    | F | %    | total | M      | %    | Forest | %    | total |
| 5055 | 11       | 84.6 | 2 | 15.4 | 13    | 9      | 81.8 | 2      | 18.2 | 11    |
| 2057 | 10       | 79.6 | 3 | 23.1 | 13    | 8      | 72.7 | 3      | 27.3 | 11    |
| 2059 | 9        | 69.2 | 4 | 30.8 | 13    | 8      | 72.7 | 3      | 27.3 | 11    |
| 2061 | 8        | 61.5 | 5 | 38.5 | 13    | 6      | 54.5 | 5      | 45.5 | 11    |
| 2063 | 8        | 61.5 | 5 | 38.5 | 13    | 6      | 54.5 | 5      | 45.5 | 11    |

*Source: forest committee record 2008*

Table no 5.1 shows that women participation in both executive committees was relatively lower than the male participation. The policy clearly mentioned that 33% women must be presented in CF executive committee. However, the participation of women in previous year (2055-2059) is seen lower, but relatively now (2061-65) it is increasing ratio. Above presented table shows that executive member in CF. the participation of women is increasing strongly in both CF.

## 5.2 Women Participation In The General Meeting

Participation in the general meeting is one of the major factors which lead to the decision making. The major decision about community forest management is 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 and the decision which had done in the meeting. As a result they have no knowledge about the future plan of cf. the member of both user group say that there is less participation of the women in meeting of community forest executive committee as well as general assembly due to their busy schedule in their household activities.

**Table - 5.2**  
**Male and female attendance in general assembly**

| Year | Chautary |     |      |     |    |       |       | Sundar |    |      |    |    |      |       |
|------|----------|-----|------|-----|----|-------|-------|--------|----|------|----|----|------|-------|
|      | M        | NA  | %    | F   | NA | %     | Total | M      | NA | %    | F  | NA | %    | Total |
| 2057 | 195      | 100 | 46   | 79  | 49 | 18.67 | 423   | 65     | 7  | 58.5 | 35 | 4  | 31.5 | 111   |
| 2059 | 223      | 102 | 49.6 | 39  | 85 | 8.6   | 449   | 70     | 6  | 58.8 | 36 | 7  | 32.4 | 119   |
| 2061 | 241      | 78  | 51.1 | 111 | 91 | 23.5  | 471   | 78     | 11 | 54.9 | 44 | 9  | 30.9 | 142   |
| 2063 | 251      | 65  | 53.3 | 108 | 46 | 22.9  | 471   | 80     | 14 | 52.9 | 48 | 9  | 31.7 | 151   |

*Source: forest committee record 2008*

Above table shows that as compare to male participation, women participation in general assembly was found not to be in satisfactory ratio.

### 5.3 Women Participation In Forest Management Operation

Forest management is the scientific operation that is applied in forest. Forest management operational includes plantation, weeding, thinning, and pruning, cleaning bushes shingling collection/transporting forest product and fire line construction inside the forest area. It needs technical knowledge for the forest management. Therefore management operation needs technical assistance from district forest office for both CF. So users as well as DFO often plays several roles simultaneously in forest management. Both CFUGs planted more fees seedling in side the forest area. Every year they carryout thinning, firing and clearing operation in the forest.

**Table - 5.3**

**Women Participation In Forest Management Operation**

| S<br>N | Description                  | Chautary            |      | Sundar              |       |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|-------|
|        |                              | No of participation | %    | No of participation | %     |
| 1      | Plantation                   | 26                  | 13.5 | 14                  | 16.66 |
| 2      | Weeding                      | 50                  | 26.0 | 18                  | 21.42 |
| 3      | Thinning/Pruning             | 42                  | 21.8 | 15                  | 17.85 |
| 4      | Bush clearing                | 56                  | 9.0  | 20                  | 23.8  |
| 5      | Collection Of Forest Product | 34                  | 17.6 | 17                  | 20.23 |

*Source: forest committee record 2008*

The above table shows that majorities of women about 13.5 and 16.66 percent of the total respondent were involved in plantation, 26 and 21.42 percent were involved in weeding, 21.8 and 17.85 percent of women were involved in thinning/pruning , 29.0 2 and 33.8 were involved in bush cleaning and 17.6 and 20.23 of total women respondent were involve in collection of forest product respectively chautari and sundar CF. it shows that more 29.02 and 20.23 women were include in bush cleaning and less (13.5 and 16.66) were involved in plantation in both CF. It shows that the involvement of women in implementation part of the CF management is higher than other plants like decision making monitoring and evaluation. Therefore women are the key actors in the managing forest product and agricultural plant resources.

In the observation, it was found that women and men were involved in forest product collection and transportation in both community forests. However the degree of women involvement was again higher in the actual field. Users reported that men used to consider it as women work. Some time men felt losing their prestige by transporting the fuel from the community forest. Hence, men used to daily collection and transporting forest production from the community forest.

#### **5.4 women's participation in protection of forest**

Both Chautary and Sundar community forest user group has appointed paid watchmen and GASTI Toli has also established in there, in chautary there were 35 groups (15-23 HHs/ group) and 29 group (5-7HHs/group) and they protect forest by volunteer guarding on the regular rational basis.

**Table - 5.4**

**Participation level of women in protection of forest**

| Participation level | Chautary |      | Sundar |       |
|---------------------|----------|------|--------|-------|
|                     | Number   | %    | Number | %     |
| High                | 39       | 32.5 | 24     | 34.28 |
| Moderate            | 45       | 37.5 | 21     | 30.00 |
| less                | 21       | 17.5 | 16     | 22.86 |
| Never               | 15       | 12.5 | 9      | 12.86 |
| Total               | 120      | 100  | 70     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

The field survey found that 32.5 & 34.28 percent women were highly participated in protection of the both community forest. 37.5 & 30, 17.5 & 22.86 and 12.5 & 12.86 percent was participated in moderate, less and never respectively chautary and sundar community forest.



## 5.5 Women's Participation In Decision Making Process

Self motivate participation is considered the real participation, though women's representation is very low in both community forest but they are the key agent in the management of community forest compulsory provision of meeting attends and absence of male member in family makes the high attendance of women in meeting but the attendance of women is like audience is high. Percentage of women for decision making process is found low but not bad. Details of women involvement in decision making process are given in table below;

**Table - 5.5**

**Women Participation In Decision Making Process**

| Description                           | Participation |       |        |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                                       | Chautary      |       | Sundar |       |
|                                       | No            | %     | No     | %     |
| Involvement in rules preparation      | 28            | 23.33 | 14     | 20    |
| Name registration from family as CFUs | 40            | 33.33 | 21     | 30    |
| Involvement in OP preparation         | 20            | 16.67 | 16     | 22.86 |
| Participating in voting right         | 23            | 19.17 | 12     | 17.14 |
| Conflict management                   | 9             | 7.5   | 7      | 10    |
| Total                                 | 120           | 100   | 70     | 100   |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

Above table shows that 23.33 percent & 20.00 percent women were involved in rules preparation meeting this is acceptable but, according to respondents this was due to mainly the ignorance. Like as 33.33 and 30 percent were involved in name registration from family as community forest user 16.67 and 22.86 percent, 19.17 and 17.14 percent and 7.5 and 10 percent were involved in OP preparation, participation in voting right and conflict management. Above figure shows that it is not active participation of women in different sector in community forest.

## 5.6 Attitude of women towards community forest management

Women's are primary collectors of forest product so attitude of women affect the management of forest. If women have positive attitude towards community forest management trends to be affective. Attitude of women is shown in table no 8

**Table - 5.5**

**Attitude of Women towards Community Forestry**

| Age         | Qty of forest |    |    | col. time |    |    | protection |    |    | benefits |    |    | future of forest |    |    |
|-------------|---------------|----|----|-----------|----|----|------------|----|----|----------|----|----|------------------|----|----|
|             | P             | Ne | Nu | P         | Ne | Nu | P          | Ne | Nu | P        | Ne | Nu | P                | Ne | Nu |
| <30<br>n=8  | 5             | 2  | 1  | 6         | 1  | 1  | 6          | 2  | 0  | 4        | 3  | 1  | 5                | 3  | 0  |
| >30<br>n=25 | 23            | 1  | 1  | 21        | 2  | 2  | 19         | 4  | 2  | 22       | 1  | 2  | 24               | 1  | 0  |
| total       | 28            | 3  | 2  | 27        | 3  | 3  | 25         | 6  | 2  | 28       | 4  | 3  | 29               | 4  | 0  |
| Education   |               |    |    |           |    |    |            |    |    |          |    |    |                  |    |    |
| Edu         | 17            | 2  | 1  | 16        | 2  | 2  | 18         | 1  | 1  | 15       | 3  | 2  | 19               | 1  | 0  |
| N-Edu       | 10            | 5  | 0  | 11        | 3  | 1  | 10         | 2  | 3  | 11       | 2  | 2  | 13               | 2  | 0  |
| Total       | 27            | 7  | 1  | 27        | 5  | 3  | 28         | 3  | 4  | 26       | 5  | 4  | 32               | 3  | 0  |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

P= Positive

Ne= Negative

Nu= Nuetral

Edu= Educated

N-Edu= not educated

In over all activities women's attitude towards community forestry is found positive. About 62.5 women felt that quality of forest was better, compared to past. About 25 percent women expressed neutral attitude in both committee.

They said that in the past due to free access forest destruction occurred. Now after forming forest user group forest user committee had been controlling free access. after handing forest as community forest. District forest office and other some NGOs like forest action, Madan Bhandari Smriti Pratisthan, HAFER etc. had been giving technical

advise, controlling access, amend technical input have improved quality of the forest. Weeding had been done regularly and open area is being naturally generated. In this way it is known that they have positive attitude 7 women (25%) have neutral attitude that are not totally satisfied with technical input. they believe technical input is ineffective in improving quality of forest.

Regarding of frequency of collection about 80 percent of the respondent were fully satisfied with it which shows forest protection was effective. About 9.09 percent had neutral attitude towards collection time who said that frequency of collection time must be increased. About 9.09 percent had negative attitude towards frequency of collection they said there must be any control in collection of tome.

Regarding the protection of forest about 80% had positive attitude and about 9 percent had neutral attitude and about 12 percent had negative attitude.

These who had positive attitude said that the rules and regulation of OP regarding protection are affective and the remaining expressed that rules and regulation regarding protection are no implemented as in OP due to practical difficulty, for example punishment for illegal activities is not implemented by user committee because there are changes of hostility. So they said that to some extent forest is being protected but it is not fully protected.

Reading the benefit of protection about 75 percent expressed that protecting forest by community forest helped controlling flood and increases benefit of fuel wood and fodder in comparison to past. The remaining who had neutral attitude regarding benefit said that they were not satisfied with benefit of forest. Such type of neutral attitude was found mostly among small household size. But such practice is not found to prevail in the study area.

When women's attitude towards future of forest was assessed 91 percent, women expressed positive attitude and 9% expressed neutral attitude, women users had positive attitude expect more fuel woods, fodder and timber in future from the forest. Women having neutral attitude, greedy nature of some people are not sure whether forest will be good in future or not.

Table no 5.5 revels that educated and middle age women had more positive attitude towards CFUGs because they were more aware than uneducated and old age

women. This indicates that education and age of women seen to be responsible for positive attitude towards community forestry.

## 5.7 Factors Affecting Women's Participation in Community Forest Management.

Various factors affect women in community forest management, such as education, Occupation and caste/ethnic group of population

### 5.7.1 Motivating Factors For Women's Participation.

There are different factors which are responsible to motivate women in community forest activities. About 37 percent women were motivated by their own interest. They observed that gradual decline of forest and their desire for better management for the future.

Some women were participating in the absence of men in their families and household activities. It is also a kind of motivating factors often men do not like women to participate in development work. However the males in 35% household had played some role in motivating women to take part in different activities.

Training, tour, observation, listening to government official and extensions were strong motivating factors, but in study area, only 18% women were motivated by these factors. Some 17% women are participating in community forest activities by villager's request. Therefore request also seems to be important motivating factors.

**Table - 5.6**

### Motivating Factors For Women's Participation

| SN | Motivating factors | Age group   |              |       | Educational status |                      |       |
|----|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|
|    |                    | < 30<br>n=8 | > 30<br>n=40 | Total | Educated<br>n=24   | non educated<br>n=15 | Total |
| 1  | Self interest      | 2           | 16           | 18    | 8                  | 5                    | 13    |
| 2  | HH advice          | 1           | 12           | 13    | 5                  | 4                    | 9     |
| 3  | official request   | 2           | 7            | 9     | 6                  | 2                    | 8     |
| 4  | villagers request  | 3           | 5            | 8     | 5                  | 4                    | 9     |
|    | Total              | 8           | 40           | 48    | 24                 | 15                   | 39    |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

Table no 5.6 Shows there is little affect on motivating due to education and age. Educated women were firstly affected by their self interest and secondly by villagers request and household advice.

In greater than 30 year age about 40 percent were mainly motivation and by self interest and 30 percent were motivated by household advice, 17.5 percent are motivated by official request and only 12.5 percent were motivated by villagers request. In less then 30 years age same numbers of women were affected by same factors.

### **7.5.2 Inhibiting Factors for Women's Participation**

In our society there are different factors which are inhibiting women's participation. Inhibiting factors of study area was shown in table 10.

In study area male influenced female to participate. In this area culture has not affected their participation. Most of the women were busy and they could not devote their time to community forestry work even though they were interested. Our social structure in no favoring for women they care to look and feed their children and to work in their farms, besides they do not get support in house hold work fro their family. Due to ethnic heterogeneity, ethnicity also affected their participation another major constraints is self confidence most of the women expressed that they did not participate even if they participate, they didn't towards raise their voice. This is due to poor education and they said "if we have education it enhance our knowledge and then we can spend among male" they believe education will enhance their sets candidacies.

Not only education but encouragements of male and other family members were also responsible factors. Such type of to encourage women was not found in the study area. Local people said that women's participation is necessary but practically they are not seen supporting women.

**Table - 5.7**

**Inhibiting Factors for Women's Participation**

| SN    | Motivating factors | Age group |          |       | Educational status |          |       |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-------|--------------------|----------|-------|
|       |                    | <30 n=8   | >30 n=40 | Total | <30 n=24           | >30 n=15 | Total |
| 1     | Family             | 2         | 10       | 12    | 6                  | 3        | 9     |
| 2     | Society            | 2         | 12       | 14    | 7                  | 4        | 11    |
| 3     | Education          | 3         | 14       | 17    | 8                  | 5        | 13    |
| 4     | Time               | 1         | 4        | 15    | 3                  | 3        | 6     |
| Total |                    | 8         | 40       | 48    | 24                 | 15       | 39    |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

Table 5.7 shows that greater than 30 year women mainly affected by education constraint which is about 35.4 percent. They were also affected by time which was about 31 percent. Educated women feel that their education constraint was the main inhibiting factors. About 34 percent educated women expressed such feeling. Where as about 34 percent uneducated women feel that lack of education was the most important inhibiting factors. In this way it seems that education and time are more important influencing factors and responsible in inhibiting women's participation by adequate family support and good opportunity of education, these constraints can be minimized.

### **5.7.3 Facilitated Factors For Women's Participation**

Many factors that enhance women's participation are described in detail below;

#### **5.7.3.1 Familiarity with Program**

People's participation in several development projects depends in part on how familiar the technological or operational aspects of the programs are to the intended beneficiaries. In these study areas women were not participated in most of the committee work because they were engaged in different activities which they already did in their every day life. The women were the ones involved in such forestry related activities as planting trees, collection fuel wood and fodder. It was difficult to carry out committee work which dealt with these tasks. The women's knowledge about committee's activities

and the work expected by the committee, As a result their participation in committee work can be active.

This implies that the intended beneficiaries here the greater familiarity with the task of a program and we hope that greater will their degree of participation.

### **5.7.3.2 Requirement to Participate In the Program**

All members replied that they participated because to work for the committee. They did not have to provide any sub satirical inputs such as land and capital but only with time labor and a nominal cash contribution. They could offer enough time and labor because most of the members come from the middle and lower classes of economic status. They were also capable of contributing some financial resources for a nominal cash contribution. The committee member also reported that minimum requirement of the program was one major factor that helped them to mobilize other workmen's time and labor for committee's work. However, committee member also stated that women's participation in committee's activities may decrease if the labor and normal cash contribution is low. For the reduction of committee's activities there has to be incensement in substantiality for that they have to use the available resources in the view of incensement.

### **5.7.3.3 Clear Prospect of Benefit.**

Participation also depends on the perceived benefits. For that the people have joined the program in study areas. Women members participated actively in committee work because they thought that it will fulfill their several needs.

Because of the clear prospect of benefits the committee members are also able to incorporate the other women's participation in the committee work. So there is favorable situation from their site to involve in the committee.

### **5.7.4 Structural Factors**

Many factors are related to the structure of the committee. They are salient features in determining women's participation in the community forest management. There are some factors which are given below.

#### **5.7.4.1 Size of the Committee**

The size of committee apparently brought about smoother intra personal and inters group relationship as well as fostered a sense of group loyalty. In study area, size of the committee is small so it is easier for the local people to know about committee activities and response of each member's activities.

#### **5.7.4.2 Marital Status, Selection Procedure and Representative.**

Marital status plays vital role for the active participation in any committee activities. Married people are generally mature and more responsible for the intended activities. Almost women participants were married and more than 30 years old. Their responsibilities were more important than men because they stayed home almost all time. Women are the stable part of the committee. So they are more involved in household works such as collection of firewood, fodder etc. The selection observation of women member of the committee is done by general consent of the people who represent different localities. The general assembly decides them; accordingly the committee will give full support and authority to carry out its activities.

### **5.8 Problems Resisting the Active Participation of Women in Community Forest Activities.**

There are many problems found resisting the active participation of women in community forest activities. The main problem found during the study basing upon the respondent's views, field observation and analysis of the collected information's can be categorized in to following four groups.

#### **5.8.1 Social Structure**

Social structure is not favoring the women to involve them in different social works and activities, enough opportunities have not been given to be the women to participate. They have to be their household works, to care and feed all family members and to work in their farms. But the male believes that it is their right to attend public activities, to divide the works and responsibilities in their house and to conduct their families. There are still some families with traditional right deciding what he/she should do in their villagers. The existence of such vested interest in discouraging the lower level



users and disadvantaged group especially women. There is the lack of better coordination among women and between men and women, in this way the women have been left behind from social works by the rural social structure.

### **5.7.2 Knowledge and Level of Skill Development.**

There is not adequate knowledge in majority of the women about the government policy to conserve forest. Their technical skill about the conservation and utilization is also poor in comparison to the men. Women are illiterate due to lack of rights in male dominant society; lack of enough awareness and attitudes towards women to participate.

### **5.8.3 Organization and Co-Ordination**

There is lack of better cooperation and self confidence in women about the conservation activities. Women are not united because of which they are not strong and powerful. There is no organization supporting the women in their various activities especially in community forestry. Any organizational and leadership training has not been given to them, and they have been just kept representation.

### **5.8.4 Role of Forest Technician**

There is the lack of proper understanding of the situation of the rural women in technicians and forest personal. They believe that the women should take initiatives for their active involvement. It looks quite impossible in Nepalese villages, where the domination of male is sharply controlling the female. Researches which have been done by different researchers and organizations are only in paper but have not been utilized.

There is the vast difference between theory and practice of women's participation. When rules and regulations were made up of in both community forests, the presence of women in assembly was only 50 percent. They weren't interested in group meeting activities that time. Such literal interpretation of participation was not fully encouraging women for active participation. Technician and some socially higher status people press the women to stay in the committee. Women member, who was not present in the assembly, was elected in the committee. It does not make her active but only the post is occupied; such emerging methodology of participation has been practicing which is not becoming able to attract the women to participate with their own interest.

## **CHAPTER –SIX**

### **A CASE STUDY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Implementation of OP for the management of the forest is the most important aspect of community forestry. The forest act 1993 mentioned that all FUGs follow approved OPs for managing their CFs. Implementation of OPs requires that aspect to be covered forest protection, development and utilization. Ignorance in the implementation of Op leads either to over protection of the forest with no development and under utilization of forest product in to over harvesting leading to un-sustainability, both situation are unacceptable in FM, thus it is necessary that all FUGs possess adequate knowledge and skill in implementation of their Ops. We will be going to discuss mainly about the ability of FUGs to implement their Ops in terms of forest protection, development and utilization and identify and analysis the areas of weakness while discussing the FM activities.

#### **Summary of the Characteristics of CF and the OP**

The objectives of forest management as stated in Op are:

- Project develops and utilizes the forest.
- Make user group self reliant for forest products.
- Sell the surplus forest product after fulfilling needs of users and increase the income of the group.
- Increase the income potentialities by planting medicinal plant and fruits trees activities appropriate site.
- Protect the plants, wildlife and herbs which are disappearing.
- Control soil erosion and increase the land productivity.
- Increase the opportunity of employment and women's participation.
- Motivate people to use biogas as an alternate top the fuel wood.
- Encourage to plant fast growing and improved grasses

- Use money saved after forestry work in social development programs.
  - ❖ The CF is very closely associated with the NF
  - ❖ Information on forest inventory is not included in the OP.
  - ❖ The Op has a clear block description in terms of boundary, forest types, major species, useful species and status of natural regeneration.
  - ❖ A clear working schedule for Silvi-cultural operations in terms of year activities and all other essential information.

In the study area the forest user group and committee has been doing forest related activities since 2056/57 Bs; the establishment of the CF they have been done activities CF and also follow and implementation operational plan, they are discussed intensively below.

## **6.1 Formation of the Forest User Group.**

In both CFUGs all the users discussed to form the forest user group in meeting where social workers, teachers, villagers, representative from district forest office and women were presented. In Chautary, they were agreed to form only female users group to protect and strengthen the according to operational plan, but they were not succeed. After the detail discussion in the beginning 423 HHs forms the user group, at present the no of HHs are 471. So the users of this forest are the general member. In the beginning there were 11 members in the committee and now the members are 13. The duration of committee is two year, after two year the forest user group will select another forest user committee to protect and manage forest carefully. If any member of the committee stands against the rule and regulation and her/his work is unsatisfactory he/she will be expelled from the committee. This is only done when 50 percent of total users sign against the accused member and submit their signature to the forest user committee and the meeting discussed about this case.

In the Sundar CF user group after the detail discussion in the beginning there were 111 HHs, and now the no of HHs are 153. In the beginning there were only two women member participation in the committee, no of committee member were 11. From 2059 to

till now there are 4 women participant in committee, others rules and regulations are like as Chautay CFUG.

## **6.2 Duties and Responsibilities of Forest User Committee.**

The user committee has to perform some duties and responsibilities which will be mentioned in later topics. But if user committee needs to formulate the new rules or if they want to change the formulated rules, they have to decide and they can implement after the permission of DFO. The duties and responsibilities of the forest user committee areas follow:

- To discuss in FM and other casual problems and call the meeting.
- To punish and fine the individual who is against rules and regulation of OP and get necessary help from DFO.
- To prevent it from cattle grazing firing.
- To notify the users once a year about the decision.
- To take the necessary steps for the development of forest such as choosing the spot, planting, curing the plan, weeding, pruning, thinning etc.
- To take with DFO and other related organization necessary technological advice and other helps if needed.
- To sent one duplicate copy of decision effect by the forest user committee to DFO.
- To write the DFO for permission if anything changed in working plan of forest or new rules formulated.
- To conscience the forest and protect the plants from being harmful illegally.
- To collect the forest product use it properly and take the necessary steps for its sale and distribution.
- To announce publicity, income and expenditure of he committee every year within the month of Bhadra and send the information to DFO.
- If the chair man of the committee wants the resign he/she should submit the resignation to the committee and other concerned members they should submit the latter of resignation to the chair man. In both cases the

later will be accentuated by the meeting and some users from the same region will be elected for the vacant part.

### **6.3 Forest Protection**

Forest protection includes any action that is helpful in protecting forest from harmful activities in the context of community forestry. In Nepal such as harmful activities may include encroachment, unauthorized removal of trees and other plants, excessive grazing and setting of fire in the forest. They are human activities and women's participation in CFM is important about these materials.

In both CFUGs women were really aware to protect the forest; women's were the main user of forest product because daily life is related to forest product. The protection system adopted by the women users is largely effective indicating their participation in protection activity. For protection they have made many rules and regulations which are describe as follows.

#### **6.3.1 Rule related for forage grass cutting**

In a year in September or October people are allowed to cut forage grasses in nominal rate within the user group. No body should violate the rules; otherwise he/she will be kept in the charge of disobedient he/she may also be fined in both CF.

#### **6.3.2 Rules related to punishment**

In both CF have adopted same rules about the punishment, if any person either belonging to the user committee or not breaks the rules or normal of the forest Op he/she will get punishment in accordance with his/her nature of the crime. The charged system is like below in Chautary and Sundar CFUGs;

**Table - 6.1**

**Punishment and charge system of Chautary and Sundar CF**

| SN | Particular                       | Unit                                 | Chautary  |                 |                 |          | Sundar          |                 |     |          |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|----------|
|    |                                  |                                      | 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | finally  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3rs | finally  |
| 1  | If any person cut the green wood | per cubic foot                       |   |                 |                 |          |                 |                 |     |          |
|    | i. Saal                          |                                      | 100   | 200             | 500             | Deposit  | 100             | 200             | 500 | Deposit  |
|    | ii. Sisau                        |                                      | 100   | 200             | 500             | collapse | 100             | 200             | 500 | collapse |
|    | iii. others                      |                                      | 80  | 100             | 200             |          | 80              | 100             | 200 |          |
| 2  | for dry fodder                   | One Bhari                            | 50  | 100             | 200             | "        | 50              | 100             | 200 | "        |
| 3  | Agricultural Instruments         | Per pices                            |   |                 |                 |          |                 |                 |     |          |
|    | i.Halo                           |                                      | 100   | 200             | 400             | "        | 100             | 200             | 400 | "        |
|    | ii. Juwa                         |                                      |   |                 |                 |          |                 |                 |     |          |
| 4  | plant cutting                    | Per Plant                            | According to the loss CFUGs can decide about punishment |                 |                 |          |                 |                 |     |          |
| 5  | For fire                         | per hacter                           | According to the loss CFUGs can decide about punishment |                 |                 |          |                 |                 |     |          |
| 6  | for encroachment                 | With proof CFUGs can handover to DFO |   |                 |                 |          |                 |                 |     |          |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

This table shows that committee member were very sincere to protect forest resources and community forest.

## **6.4 Forest Development**

Forest development encompasses all these activities that lead to increase in forest or improvement in the quality of existing forest. In Nepal the term is used synonymously to cover all forest related technical activities. Thus nursery operation, plantation, weeding, tending operation such as thinning, pruning, singling and all other silvi cultural treatment are included in forest development. All these activities are carried out on CFs. women participation in forest development is therefore developing their interest and participation to develop forest resources to their needs.

In both CFUGs forest women's participation in development practice through community forestry is found active but not satisfactory. To increase women participation in CFM, it must be necessary to develop their interests in forest development activities, because the forest development is the most important management aspect of Op implementation and women's participation can play vital role in forest development activities.

Both FUGs conduct most of the technical activities indicated in their Ops. However government financial support for seeding production, plantation and weeding achievement in these activities were mostly poor, because users lacked both time and skill to carry out those activities. Similarly the cultural operation such as thinning, pruning, and singling are not conducted satisfactorily even though some user's male and female both have received in FM. Women participation in forest development activities is much below how it is necessary to think how women feeling can develop towards forest development activities practices.

## **6.5 Forest Utilization Refers The Harvesting Of Both Wood And Non Wood Forest Product.**

OPs indicate that main forest products are to be harvested including timber fire wood grass, fodder and leaf litter, other product such as medicinal herbs is also some times harvested. Women's participation in CFGs in forest utilization will be required in systematic harvesting of the forest product as prescribe by the OPs.

Forest utilization is the hired and final aspect of Op to be discussed. Both FUGs harvested timber, firewood and non timber forest product as indicated in their Ops.

However, utilization patterns were not found to be sustainable. These areas had some weaknesses; contradiction in government policy and timber transport and sale and lack of knowledge and skill among FUGs for volume estimation, economical maintenance saving and there stand manipulation, which affected all type of forest product utilization. Thus, women participation in utilization is inadequate removing. These hindrances are essential if the participate women are enhancing their ability to utilize their forest properly, which are the main objectives forest management but there are other issues in implementing Ops. There were some rules for forest utilization which were described bellow.

### **6.5.1 Rules Of Using The Forest Product;**

The forest products like dry leaves, timber and wood litter, dry branches, fodder and forage grasses etc. can not be used as a personal interest and desire. The user committee has formulated rules to utilize the forest product for all member of the group. If any person doesn't follow the rules he/she will be punished according to rules to discourage these types of activities.

### **6.5.2 Rules Related For Firewood.**

Both Chautary and Sundar FUCs have formulated the rules about fire wood. Women are only allowed to cut the branches like unhealthy, dry, pest, attacked fallen dry branches, dead plants and unnecessary shrubs and so on. The collected woods are divided for all user groups in a nominal cost.

### **6.5.3 Rule Related For Timber.**

In both CF, the trees should not be cut without taking permission from FUC. They have fixed the rate regarded the cubic foot for public welfare and personal. The wood for timber purpose is providing on priority basis like these who have houses, who have poor economic condition etc. before cutting the wood for timber purpose all official processes should be completed. They get the application a normal process from user group, identification of tree etc.



## **6.6 Make CFUGs Self Dependent for Forest Product.**

In both CFUGs were not self dependent for forest product, because the number of HHs is high and forest area is small. Active participation of women can make forest product sufficient but women they were not actively participating.

## **6.7 To Increase Income of Group Surplus and Sell the Forest Product.**

To increase income in both CFG, they have sold their forest product but which is not surplus product, because they have compulsion to sell forest products without sufficient consume, main source of the income of the group is forest product.

## **6.8 To Increase The Opportunity of Employment and Income Generating Activities.**

In both FUGS, much success committee member and users were consulting DFO and other organizations take forest action, Madan Smriti Pratisthan, HAFER etc. to provide found and advice to increase forest activities and employment opportunity. But they have developed some other employment opportunity through their CF and some support for DFO and other supported organization.

## **6.9 Encourage To Plant Fast Growing and Imposed Grasses.**

Fast growing plant is one of the important forest resources to fulfill the demand of grass which will give the out put after 3-4 years. It is also important to fulfill user's other need like to make roof of house, cattle's house etc. it is also useful to fulfill small type of fodder. In both study areas plantation of fast growing plant were attractive and they were using modern technology for forest and grass.

## **6.10 Use Money Saved After Forest Work In Social Development Purposes**

Both CFUGs have lack of money for using after forestry work to social development work but they have been trying to do many social development activities. In

both CFUGs have made temple, road, bridge, culvert, etc and they have been providing the wood make for School, Dharmasala, Chautary and other poor people in own CFUGs member also.

### **6.11 Divided Forest In To Different Blocks.**

To divide the forest in to different blocks it is very helpful for various activities. In Chautary CF the forest has divided into seven blocks to utilize and protect forest resources in sustainable way. And Sundar CF has been divided in three blocks and they have been made fire line also.

### **6.12 Mobilization Of Income Fund**

The income from forest product, donation from the visitor or organization, grant from any other agencies are saved in bane under the present and treasure account. The money is mobilized in different community development activities. They invest money to make path, temple, bridge, kulo, paini, school, and other public works. In both CFG have 2-2 buffalos, 2-2 oxen and 2-2 goats as a production of good generation of animal.

### **6.13 Benefit form CF**

This CFs has no long history. They established in 205/56 Bs. Actually user group has not got significant profit from the community forest, however they have realized the important of the forest conservation due to following reason.

#### **6.13.1 Keep Environment Healthy and Green**

The fresh air is absolutely necessary for human being to remain healthy, which is possible only when if we were able to protect forest.

#### **6.13.2 Provision of Fodder And Forage Grass.**

Both CF's area is recognized as resident areas of farmers. They have cattle and goat and other livestock. They have been taking fodder and forage for their livestock. Protections from the livestock are by keeping them healthy, through nutritional different from the forest product.

### **6.13.3 Timely available of wood or timber**

Before registering the community forest there was no sufficient woods and timber for people. They had destroyed the Jungle for personal interest and desire. As a result the Jungle has converted slightly in to desert and grassing land, but now the condition is improving. There is sufficient wood and timber for them.

### **6.13.4 Sufficient Available Of Mulching Materials**

After handover to CFUG, the forest is going to be dense. So many types of plants, shrubs and grasses are growing. As a result man can get mulching materials for agricultural productivity; it is going to be increase every year by maintaining soil fertility.

# **CHAPTER - SEVEN**

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This chapter summarizes the study draws some conclusion about affecting issue for active participation of women and provides some recommendations to enhance the active participation of women in community forest management.

### **7.1 Summary**

The study "women's participation in community forest management" was conducted in Chautary and Sunder community forest of Pathari VDC in Morang district, aiming to assess the status of women participation in CFM in the study areas. Among the total 471 houses 47 (10%) were surveyed in Chautary, like as total 151 houses 15 (10%) were surveyed in Sunder community forest.

Forest is one of the major resources of rural livelihood. It is the source of food, fodder, timber, firewood, leaves and liters. Rapidly increase of population and its subsequent effects on natural resource particularly forest resource has been noticing since long time. During the field observation most of the women were busy whole day in productive as well as household work. Most of the women were involved in vegetable farming, animal husbandry, farming, caring family member and labor work. Due to this women had no leisure time, while men where only busy in productive work.

Women collects fire wood and others forest products. They fulfilled their additional requirement of firewood from agricultural resides. And some elite family used to LP Gas and Bio Gas also. In the past, they killed much time for collection of fire wood. Now a days fire wood collection from CF is much more time saving and cashier. Timber is used for house construction and HHs tools. Except very few house others house are made by the timber and forest products, Fodder is the main animal feed for the livestock in these areas. People used this fodder for stale-feed which is important for animal husbandry. Every household maintain livestock for domestic purpose. Therefore,

collection leaves mad, litters become the main job of the local people. Tree leaves are collected specially for bedding purpose.

Women participation is important in almost all aspects and activities of community forest management. But the self motivated participation is considered the real participation. The importance of women participation noticed from the period of formation to the protection of forest.

Finding of this study shows that women's can play significant role in committee forest development, protection and management. Hence success of the community forest program largely depends upon degrees of women participation in its management from the very beginning. Women's participation in CFM was greatly determined by various factors like biophysical situation of committee forest. Socio-economic and cultural practices, institutional culture of forest the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organization, perception and attitude towards committee forest and allied issue and status of women in the family and society. Women participation as executive committee member and their presence in regular meeting were found satisfactory but their participation in discussion was found passive. Participation of women was very low in decision making process due to deal rooted patriarchal domination in the society. Participation of women in implementation process was found high. Making in the family requirement of forest product, to women and tendency of giving less resource to social work, prevailed in the community are the reason for it. Women participation in monitoring and evaluation process was found poor in the both community forest users group due to lack of knowledge a woman in this regards.

Women were motivated to participate in CFM due to require of forest products attachment with forest and women involved success stories carried out in different parts of the country. Similarly women considered the self inspiration theirs villagers, concerned EC, forestry technicians, local political leaders and family member as potential sources of motivated to involve in CFM.

Factor like household's chores, inadequate knowledge, illiteracy, economic condition, and self humiliation, patriarchal influence in the family and society and backbiting nature of society found as hindering factors of women participation in CFM.

The participation of forest management by women is limited due to social role. Women are found highly busy involving households chores and household level forestry activities. Even to day, two types of issue are out standing regarding women's participation. First issue is quantitative aspect of women's very difficult to analyze and interpret and secondly involvement of women in equal proportion wit male in all dimensions of community forestry management is the burning issue of the forest resource management.

## **7.2 Finding**

Findings of this study show that women can play significant role in CF development, protection and management. Hence success of the community forestry program largely depends upon of women's participation in its management from the very beginning. Women's participation in CFM was greatly determined by various factors like biophysical situation of CF, socio- economic and cultural practices, institutional culture of the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organization, perception and attitude towards CF and allied issue and status of women in the family and society. Women's participation as executive committee members and their presence in regular meeting were found satisfactory but their participation in discussion was found passive. Participation of ordinary women was found very low in decision making process due to deep rooted patriarchal dominate in the society.

- Majority of the respondents of the study area were involved in forest resources management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of forest products.
- Out of total population of the study area there were 13.3% illiterate in Sundar CF similarly 7.5% in Chautary CF.
- Women's participation in user committee was 5 in Chautary and 4 in Sundar CF.
- The average HHs size was 5.7 in Sundar and 4.3 in Chautary.
- There mixed social composition of the study population.
- By age group of the respondents in both CFUG most of them 70% were 31-40 years of age and almost all of the respondents (92%) were married

in CFUGs in the Chautary CF and similarly 68% were married in Sundar CF.

- Near about 90% of the respondent had received training of the CFM in Chautary but only 81% respondent had received training of the CFM.
- The monitoring of the CF was satisfactory.
- By caste/ethnicity high majority of CFUGs were upper caste in both CFUGs.
- In both CFUs more the 80% of the respondents and their households had 3-6 cattle and goat and nearly 5-10 % had more then 5 member.
- More then 68% of CFUG were involved in agricultural occupation while other occupations were rarely.

### **7.3 Conclusion**

The study about CFM trace out that woman can play important role in the protection, development, and other activities. Regarding this important role the government of Nepal has also initiated programs since the year around 1980s. Women in forest management program is one of the leading program for forest management and it initiates different activities to formulate forest user committee that also included women. The success of such forest user committee would depend on how to participate the women member in committee activities. Accepting this formulation the study examines status of women in different community forestry activities of two user group of Morang district.

Decisions are found under the domain of male in forest user groups, assemblies and forest user committee meeting the presence of women was in minority and their role in decision making was very poor. Plantation, thinning, pruning, clearing etc activities have been done mainly women users. Women's participation in benefits sharing and other CF activities were found satisfactory.

Educational status and age of women played crucial role for high participation of women in community forestry activities. Most of the community forestry activities women's attitude was found positive rather then negative. Most of them 42% are motivated by self interest and about 36% motivated by husband advice.

Implementation CF activities in both study area are found satisfactory but not sufficient. About 48 percent educated women are affected by self interest where about 42 percent not educated women are motivated by self interest. Middle aged women are motivating by self interest, only 10 percent in Sundar CF. Similarly educated women are motivating by self interest 44 percent where about 36 percent not educated women are motivated by self interest, middle aged women are motivating by self interest, only 12 percent in Chautary CF. Most of the women respondent expressed that lack of adequate time is major factor in inhibiting their participation because much time spend in HH works, other factor is male ego. Women do not possess set confidence for participation in CF activities due to lack of education and women encouragement by family member. Most of the respondent in both causes believed that the beat way to influence the decision making is social status.

Most of the women in the study area are of religious belief therefore the CF program should be launched in such a way that their creed in religion is not affected.

#### **7.4 Recommendation**

Based on finding of the study, the section suggests how the factor affects women's participation in FM in committee and can favor women's group. Recommendations are given below in detail.

- Educational status of the people plays a key role for better involvement of women. High educational status of the women higher would be the participation of women. Similarly if more constant support from DFO and other line agencies are provided and professional development opportunities among FUG member are available greater would be the changes of generating women's participation in community FM.
- In community only women consciousness and awareness is not enough to succeed community forestry program. Also there must be necessary consciousness of men in community to overcome the social barriers between man and women. So, we need to create an environment in which men and women listen to each others.



- The both users group are clear about the benefits joining after FUG and clear about the right and authorities of groups as well as less conflict between members higher would be the participation of women in community forestry.
- Village women should be encouraged to participate in VDC or ward meeting when different community development project are discussed and they should be given right and freedom to decision and thinking.
- Fundamental problem of women should be solved by employment and income generating activities.
- Participation of women in resource management should be encouraged through publication and distribution of photograph, poster, pamphlets, study, tour, training and demonstration illustrating the role of women as resource manages.
- Participation of women is development work together with the male member should be increased to build self confidence of women in the villages.
- Provision of training should be made for the forest technician and extortionist to encourage women for participation and through their negative attitude if women should be changed.
- Supporting organization must be needed to enhance women's participation by creating awareness and interest in them.
- The women's work and time should be reduced by introducing technological bio gas, improved cook stove and forest product availability.
- Encourage the technical school to make more female students and DFO to imply and utilize there in field.
- Although the village women respond mere readily to women field's staff, there is very few women field staff in Nepal, male Ranger need to see their role as fascinator not enforcers of women involvement.
- As communication homogeneity and mutual understanding among committee member are major determinants of participation.

- System of co-ordination among government officials, municipality and local people should be incorporated to develop working policy.
- All the member of user group should internalize the area for saving and credit program.
- Regular income source and participatory decision making roles and professional development opportunity threat the degree of women's participation the system of utilization of local human resource knowledge and resource also plays vital role in the pattern of women participation.
- Focus should be given to introduce alternative strategies to bring women in to main stream of development in general and their role decision many process in CFM in specific for gender equity.
- Key position such as chairman, secretary and treasures should be assigned to women such type of practice helps to boost up knowledge moral and feeling of responsibly among women that ultimately will increase women's participation.
- Women are the real users the forest resource and immediate victims of deforestation. Therefore CF activities should be lunched with timely consign and voluntary participation of women activities all stage of the community FM. Income received from the community forest should be invest a those activities which could make benefited to women and disadvantaged group.
- Actually, the agriculture service not so effective in this village. And villagers are not so aware about improved cultivation practice of agricultural and they have been rearing out cattle, goat, pig and poultry etc, so different organization of government should try to make available newly published agricultural and harvesting technology.
- Further researchers on different activities of community forest practice should be carried out to find the degree of involvement of women and to suggest possible measures to encourage their participation.

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## Appendix - 1

### General information

1. Name of the respondent
2. Address  
 VD C.....Ward no.....village.....
3. Age/Gender:            Male            female
4. Marital status:  
 a. Married    b. Unmarried    c. Divorce    d. Others
6. Religion: .....
7. Caste .....
8. Education:  
 (a) Illiterate    (b) Literate    (c) Above SLC    (d) Under SLC
9. Land holding size.....
10. Family description:

| S<br>N | Name | Age | Sex |   | Educ<br>ation | Occupation | Marital<br>status | Others |
|--------|------|-----|-----|---|---------------|------------|-------------------|--------|
|        |      |     | M   | F |               |            |                   |        |
| 1.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 2.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 3.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 4.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 5.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 6.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 7.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 8.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 9.     |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |
| 10.    |      |     |     |   |               |            |                   |        |

11. Are you familiar with community forest executive member?
  - i. Yes
  - ii. No
12. Who is the member of your family in cf?
 

Husband son daughter .....
13. Did you participate in the group meeting during the participation of statute and operational plan?
  - i. Yes
  - ii. No

If yes what were your roles.....
14. How many times have you participated in group meeting?
  - i. Regularly
  - ii. Moderately
  - iii. Occasionally
15. Did they call the entire member for regular meeting?
  - i. Yes
  - ii. No

If no why.....
16. Who encourage you to participate in CF?
 

a. community member b. NGO c. consumer group d .....
17. What is your role in decision making process?
 

A adviser b facilitator c.....
18. Which factor affect in participation of cf?
 

A social status b. income c .....

## Appendix - 2

### QUESTIONIRE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION OF FUG

#### A. General information on the FUG

1. Name..... Address.....
2. Year of registration and CF hand over .....
3. Number of CFUG member.....
4. Number of household in the CFUG.....
5. Area of community forest.....
6. Area you involved any work CF.....
7. How many members are in your CF board committee.....
8. How many female members.....
9. What are the roles bear by women in forest management?
10. What methods use in formation of CFUG.....
11. Do you have any opposition by males/female .....
12. Do you have forest watcher .....
13. Who pay the forest watcher.....
14. What type of rule and regulation for protection and development.....
15. Whose roles are vital for management work
16. What type of management works have been done by women users.....
17. Are you trained or not.....
18. Is CFU committee is in transparent or not?  
If not what are their untrasperancy?
19. Are Operational plan (op) were implementing in your cf.
20. Are you satisfied with the performance of uses committee?
21. Is the committee accountable to users
22. Are the responsibilities spelled out in daily life?
23. Does the committee make feel the users on their right?
24. What is the fine system in your FUG?
25. What is the income generating source?
26. Are any females were employed?



if yes in what types of occupation they involve....

**(B) Decision making and benefit sharing**

1. what is the status of decision making
  - a. High degree of participation
  - b. Low degree of participation
2. Do you attend meeting regularly?
3. Have you given your idea about CF decision?
4. What is the best way to influence decision making?
  - (a) Social status
  - (b) caste
  - (c) gender
  - (d) Others.
5. To what extent you are involved in the following decision making?
  - (a) Formation of user's group committee.
  - (b) Protection
  - (c) harvesting
  - (d) inclusion of new member
  - (e) price for the forest product
  - (f) fund mobilization.

**(C) Affection factors:**

1. Are there any factors which are affecting in your participation?
  - (a) From family
  - (b) from society
  - (c) from culture
  - (d) education
  - (e) time
  - (f) others.
2. Are you able to complete your duty?
3. What are the reasons behind your involvement in CF?
4. Do you get support from your family?
5. To increase Women's involvement in decision what is required?
6. What are the motivational factors which help to increase participation?
  - (a) Self interest
  - (b) husband advice
  - (c) training workshop
  - (d) demonstrate
  - (e) radio programmed
  - (f) villagers request
  - (g) government official request
7. What do you accept from forest?

**(D) Attitude of women**

1. Attitude towards community forest?

| SN | Subject           | Positive | Neutral | Negative |
|----|-------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1  | Quality of forest |          |         |          |
| 2  | Collection time   |          |         |          |
| 3  | Protection        |          |         |          |
| 4  | Benefits          |          |         |          |
| 5  | Future of forest  |          |         |          |

2. What is your attitude about committee forestry activities?

- |                      |                      |                   |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| a. quality of forest | i. good ii. Not good | iii. I don't know |
| b. collection time   | i. good ii. Not good | iii. I don't know |
| c. protection        | i. good ii. Not good | iii. I don't know |
| d. benefits          | i. good ii. Not good | iii. I don't know |
| e. future of forest  | i. good ii. Not good | iii. I don't know |

**(E) Protection**

1. Was there encroachment in your CF prior to hand over?

Yes                      No.                      If yes, what is present situation?

2. What should the women do to develop utilize and do well administration of the forest?

3. Have you kept any watcher man to protect the Jungle?

4. Are illegal activities completely stopped in your CF in these days?

5. What kind of contribution have you shown for me protection of the forest?

**(F) Forest management**

1. How much time do you spend for the forest management?

2. What have you done to manage the forest resource during your working duration?  
Could you mention please.

3. Do you know how many people are trained in your users group and feel that training programmed is useful?

4. To devote time for the management of the forest have you felt any extra load?
5. What has the present executive done for the management of the forest?

### **III. Interview schedule for key information.**

1. What was the condition of the jungle for 10 to 15 years? What are the main reasons for it?
2. What steps have been taken from the jungle for 10to 15 years?
3. What has the present executive committee been done? What has been produced from the jungle
4. Does the forest consumer committee take party in the activities of forest?
5. Is forest consumer committee powerful to manage it? How does it become so and what does it do?
6. Do all the women of the committee participate to manage the forest resource? If not, in your opinion how can we increase it?
7. Are there any obstacles to increase the women participation? If they are what are they?
8. Is there any social and cultural invasion for the management of the forest?
9. How long have you been servicing of this office?
10. How have present forest users committee participated in their activities?
11. Do women participation the committee energy activity? If they don't participate what are the main factor?
11. How can women participate for the management of all forest?
12. Are there any social and cultural sanctions for the management of forest?
13. Is the management of forest is going in the positive way after female's participation?