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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Nepal has the total land area of 14 million hectares and a population of 23.2 million. The country is divided into three ecological belts, the terai, the hills and the mountains. The total cultivated land of Nepal is 2.96 million hectares. The ratio of population density to cultivated land area is very high. Since the country is mountainous, land area for agricultural production is limited. About 4.27 million hectares of Nepal is covered by forest (MOPE, 1998). In Nepal more than 90% of the people live in rural areas and depends on subsistence farming. (FAO, 1994).

Poverty is one of the main causes of environmental degradation in most of the developing countries. It is increasingly recognized that the socio-economic needs of rural women and men must be given high priority in any sustainable strategy to resolve environmental problems. The crisis of the poverty is closely tied to nature of local eco-systems as it arises in part out of growing scarcities of water, food, fodder and fuel which are associated with increasing ecological degradation.

The linkage between people and trees include food and nutrition, energy, fodder, off-farm employment, income, medicine and sustainable agriculture and livestock production. These are especially vital among the rural people. Community Forestry (CF) efforts were designed to address the interrelated problems on environmental degradation and rural poverty, promoting local people as the agents and beneficiaries of forestry activities.

CF is the forest, which is handed over to the local community by the Government for the better care of forest resources. CF is an innovative program being used by His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) to build capacity within the rural communities to manage local forests sustainably for their own development. CF, today, forms one of the central themes of all rural development programs in Nepal.

Nepal has tradition of using its forest for both environmental and utility proposes. The rural people depend on the forest for their livelihood. They have always used forest and tree products in their subsistence farming systems and have little choice but to continue to do so.

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

Nepal has experienced various rules and regulations and policies to conserve and manage its common property. Many traditional rules and regulations existed in the past to regulate the access and use of forest. As the political system changed, new regulations and system came

up. None of them were seen to be effective to control deforestation problems 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 is protected, managed and utilized by local forest user group (CPFD 1995). It has been realised 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 male. So, new rule and regulation for community forestry of HMG has made a provision to include at least one third women member in forest users committee.

In 1980s, a new concept of community forestry through local people was realized by the policy makers of forestry sectors. The master plan for the forestry sector 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 master program by the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) Nepal. The major objective of the MPFS(1989) are basically to meet people's basic needs of fuel wood, fodder, timber, and other forest product and to contribute food production increment through appropriately conserving and managing Nepal's forest resources.

Community Forest was initially defined by FAO as 'any situation which intimately involves local people in the forest activity. It embraces spectrum of situation ranging from woodlots in areas which are short of wood and other forest products for local needs, through the growing of trees at the farm level to provide cash crops and the processing of forest products at the household, artisan or small industry level to generate income, to the activities of forest dwelling communities' (FAO 1978).

The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) followed the MPFS Policy in order to continue its main thrust of people's participation in forest management practices. The main objective of the Ninth Five Year Plan is poverty alleviation through providing economic opportunities for poor people and encouraging their participation in development activities. The main objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan for the forestry sector include a) mobilise, conserve and manage forest resources to reduce the gap between demand and supply; b) create income generating and employment opportunities for poor and marginal families; c) mobilise local people to enhance productivity; d) adopt proper land use practices.

The main policies and strategies to achieve the above objectives include: a) Local users will be supported in their efforts to fulfil their day to day needs for timber, fuel wood, fodder and other forest products. A regular supply will be ensured through community forestry development; b) Support to poverty alleviation will be provided by promoting and establishing participatory forest management and by implementing community based development activities; c) Conservation of the Siwalik area will be carried out in order to maintain the renewal capacity of the groundwater reserve by giving priority to soil and water conservation programmes; d) The management, marketing, industrial development,

processing and export of herbs and forest products will be supported; and e) The private sector will be encouraged by providing the opportunity for the commercial management of government owned forests in potential areas.

In regard to the implementation of the MPFS development, a Forestry Sector Co-ordination Committee (FSCC) has been established as a forum for the discussion of policy analysis, planning, and programme implementation on a priority basis among forestry sector donors and officials of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

Following the policy statement of 2000 was the “Tenth Plan.” The Tenth plan was prepared in the context of Millennium Development Goals, and is also considered as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The plan has target for the reduction of poverty in Nepal from 38% to 30% by the year 2007. It has four pillars for intervention - broad based high economic growth, social sector development, social inclusion/targeted programs, and good governance. In line with the overall objectives of the PRSP, the Forestry Sector under the Tenth Plan also has goals of reducing deforestation, soil erosion and the degradation of biodiversity as well as so living the problems of poverty and unemployment. Sustainable management and conservation in this case includes managing a supply of forest products while conserving the environment through management and enterprise development of forests, watersheds, plant resources and biodiversity. Poverty alleviation includes providing employment and income opportunities for the poor, women and disadvantaged groups using participatory approaches and expanding forest development activities, as well as providing greater access to decision making in Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). The plan also allows farming of NTFP and medicinal plants within community forest areas. Finally, the user group formation process will be monitored and improved to address the challenge of achieving equitable forest product distribution among community forest users.

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 (Rehnema, 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.

Inversely this approaches contents that if women gain institutional strength, they gain both visibility and voice in the home, workplace and community. As women become major economic contributors or equal to men in economic terms; men and finally society out large and change its attitude towards them and is forced to involve them in decision making process.

The main thrust of institutional development for women in the society is to enhance their participation in various development programmes from the decades of seventies. 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 Role of Women in Community Forest Use.

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

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

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

Women participation has been increasing due to change in perception that women also have capacity to make decisions related to village development, resource management and their family concerns. CF processes have encouraged and provided spaces to women to get engaged indecision making as well as play the role of catalytic agent that helped to grow other groups and co-operatives managed primarily by the women in the village. Before CF program, women participation was very low in development programs related to common concerns in the village. CF has important role in bringing women out of household domain. The CF programs have recognized women as real resource manager and users to be empowered. The CF guideline (issued by DOF) has indicated that there should be at least 33% women in FUGC. The constitution of FECOFUN has also a compulsory provision that 50 percent of executive committee members should be women. There are some cases in which poor women are given opportunities and encouraged in this process, including external opportunities such as training and exposure visits.

Women constitute half of the population of the country, but only about one fourth of the total members on community forest management executive committees are women (DOF 2005). The guideline for community forestry has highlighted that there should be equal representatives of male and female in executive committees so that they can make their decision suitable to themselves. Poor, woman and disadvantaged groups are not adequately

represented in executive committee (Kanel and Kandel, 2004). On the other hand involvement of women in forestry related activities has facilitated a change in males' attitude towards female and gain power in the society as well. Holding posts in the forest management committee encourages women to make their voices strong. Community forestry aims to alleviate poverty, for that reason there should be more representation of poor people and women in executive committees so that their access to resources will increase. However, poor and lower caste groups are still excluded from the decision-making level (Maskey et al., 2003). Though marginalized groups represented in decision-making body, evidence shows that voices of weaker community were not represented in the formal decision-making process due to ignorance or low level of influence of the representative (Banjade et.al, 2004). Active participation of poor, women and disadvantaged groups in decision making is critical for effective community forest management and equitable benefit distribution among the users (Kanel and Kandel, 2004). So, representation only is not enough; listening to their voices and incorporating them in decision is necessary to make CF program more effective.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Though Nepal was rich in forest resources and there was saying that 'Hariyo Ban Nepal Ko Dhan' it depleted very rapidly in 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 agricultural 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, landslide, desertification, and climate hazards etc. emerges.

Defining the problem is the crucial step in the research process. Problem doesn't necessarily mean that something is seriously wrong with a current situation or with the organization under study. 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 miserable. Our culture, society and religion to some extent bounded the female not only our culture gape the female right. Many legal provision also support to control the female right and dominated by male. Female roles are changing 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 handed to the user community to manage and utilize it. Women participated in different community forest activities only from around 1980s.

In general most of the Nepalese Women are not much strong both economically as well as socially. So, women participation in community forest programme may be helpful to increase

economic status of women in society. It could be big help to the case of poverty alleviation in country. Due to actual rural poverty of the hilly, mountainous area, the community has extended and 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 it might be helpful to change their profession by employing them in forestry development activities through community. Such employment programme should reflect the community forestry strategies that can exactly uplift the rural livelihood with no loss.

In context of Nepal, Women are the main users of the forest products. 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 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 to 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 forest products. In the context of forest management women have been contributing for protection and management of the forest resource from time immemorial.

There are several difficulties for women user like as lack of faith in their own activities, enforcement and delay in effective forest management works. Similarly insufficient resource cannot meet the demand of the women. In male dominated society female are always dominated by male for their participation in community forest management. The numbers of women users group are increasing enormously throughout the kingdom. It's time to evaluate their role in community forest management.

Deforestation is the main problem in our country. Women are the main users of forest product and to stop illegal activities. So it is necessary to ensure the participation of women in community forest management. It is felt that in order to develop the forest or even 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 main users of 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. Their roles is subsided by the existing patriarchal cultural practices, religious beliefs and cultural system, even though they are the prime managers of the natural resources.

Women are the primary users of forest resources. The management of fire wood, fodder, litters has been managed by women for enhancing the present management system and to achieve sustainable management. The women's role cannot 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. In this background some of the simple but interesting question impressed the researcher to conduct the research;

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

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study about women participation in community forestry is to know about:

1. The socio-economic status of those women who participate in community forestry.
2. The factors affecting in the participation of women in community forest management.

1.4 Significance of the Study

From different information, media, the slogan of women's participation and women's empowerment are being expressed. It is necessary to know the real situation of women's who are participating in community forest management. This study will attempt to assess the activities and show how the women are in community forest management at Gaukhureswor community forest near the semi urban town of Dhulikhel, about 30 km east from Kathmandu. This study aims to accumulate considerable information regarding participation of women's in management experiences, constraints and achievement of community forest. This study will help to launch other women's related community development programme and access their role to uplift the society.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study is done for the partial fulfilment of the requirement of MA degree in Sociology, so that the researcher has limited economic source, time and manpower for the extensive study. Further more research will focus on:

- Women participation in community forest management.

- Their attitudes towards community forestry.
- Their participation in decision making, participation in committee formation.
- What are the affecting factors for women's participation and community forest activities?

The study of Gaukhureswor community forest may not represent in the national level but it will be helpful to similar type of area studied.

1.6 Definition of the terms and concepts used in the text

- **Community:** Group of people who live in particular place, area.
- **Community Forestry:** Community forestry is a participatory forest management model where access and control over the forest resources goes to local people and forest resources are managed under the approved management plan.
- **Participation:** Participation is defined as being combination of involvement in decision making, implementation benefit sharing and evaluation of the development activities in questions (Regmi, 1992).
- **Deforestation:** The act of cutting down are or burning the trees in area.
- **Degradation:** A situation where soil has lost.
- **Management:** The act of running and controlling business or similar activities.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

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 woodlots 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 individual household’s men 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 dispatch 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 decision are made by users themselves except 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.

2.1.1 During Gorkha Empire (1768-1846)

The period up to 1846 was ruled by Gorkha empires that later united the fragmented Nepal. As the Gorkha empire expanded there were inevitable conflicts between Nepal 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, Rakam, Khorja existed as a practice. (Hobley, 1996)

2.1.2 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 20th 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 production of grain for export. They established a timber administration office converted later in to 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 Indian railways (Hobley, 1996). In the hills of Nepal different system of forest management operated in conjunction with the Birta and Talukdhari system in the rest parting of Nepal. At the end of rana rule in 1951 at least one third of forest of Nepal were under Birta tenure and three quarters of this land belonged to rana family (Regmi,1998 cited from Hobley,1996).

2.1.3 Nationalization of Forest (1951-1987)

In the year 1951, people's movement overthrew the Rana Regime and democratic government did exercise for ten years, the first forest nationalization policy was published in 1957. Under this act all the forest of Nepal were nationalised and act regulated 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 come within the review of the state. Although nationalism act was published many people were not aware of this and continuing to practice Birta system.

2.1.4 Forest under Panchayat Political System (1961-1990)

The failure of democracy 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 periods. Some of them were Forest law (1961), Forest Protection Special Laws (1907) 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 welfare of the village community on the prescribe term and conditions. Similarly under PPF pitch of natural forest may be handover to 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.

2.1.5 The New Forest Policy (1953)

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 programme. 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 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.

2.2 Women's Participation in CF

In the development activities new paradigm has been applied by the government worldwide. Nepal is 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 main stream 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 (NJ croge, 1999, Banjade, 2004).

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 aspects are not given proper place in the society. As a result, women's voices are not properly heard in Nepali society. Thus women are seen primarily as house-wives and child bearers. Majority of 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 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 the villages, Molnar states that women's overall contribution to household work including forest related tasks, was found to be approximately 11 hours a day as compared to 8 hours for men. 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).

A situational analysis of women's status in Nepal reveals numerous gender disparities between the social and economic well being of men and women. From the 81% of the ecologically active population engaged in farming and related activities in the 1991 census, 74.7% were men and 90.5% were women (Acharya, 1994). In spite of women accounting for such a high percentage of the economically active labour force they remain largely invisible in national statistics receive lower wages than men and have poor status and working conditions. The opportunity of education, mobility, remoteness and self-reliance are severely impinged due to the prevalent social attitudes that prescribe an unequal division of labour, resources and access for women as compared to men (Swiss Development Co-operation).

Nepal's Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (1998) emphasizes the need to involve women in CF programme in order to achieve success in forest conservation. Women must be involved in all the stages, from the formation of FUGs to protection, management and utilization of community forests.

In Nepal, women collect 84% of fuel wood and carry several tones of fodder for each buffalo every year (FAO, 1994). In a study conducted in Yarsha Khola watershed, the middle mountains of Nepal, Women typically worked 13.5 hours per day compared to 9.7 hours for men. Women are largely responsible for domestic activities and livestock care, while decision making and farm management were controlled by men (Brown, 1999).

Although women are the primary users of forests and are dependent on forests to meet their daily needs for leaf litter, fuel wood, fodder and grasses, their involvement in decision making and in CF executives committees has been traditional negligible. Because they are more knowledgeable about forest related activities than men are, women must start participating actively. This will not only help forest management improve, but will also uplift the status and confidence of women (Borg, 1989).

2.3 Gender

'People are born female or male, but learn to be girls or boys who grow into women and men. They are taught what the appropriate behaviour and attitudes; roles and activities are for them and how they should relate to other people. This learned behaviour is what makes up gender identity and determines gender roles' (OXFAM, Gender Training Manual as cited by Chhetri et al., 1996).

Gender is a concept that deals with the roles and relationships between men and women, which are determined by the social, political, and economic context and not by biology. Gender is culturally over time according to location and across cultures (ICIMOD, 1997).

Gender is not a synonym for the word 'women' nor is it an abbreviation for 'men' and 'women'. But it is a concept that attempts the differences between men and women that are externally influenced and conditions imposed on the naturally given biological sexes (ICIMOD, 1997).

Gender is all about reconciling growth with equitable distribution of benefits among men and women, equality of power, relationships between men and women and to highlight the interdependence and partnerships between men and women any field of development (ICIMOD, 1997)

2.3.1 From Women in Development to Gender and Development

In recent years gender equality has been much spoken subject in context of Human Rights. The Women in Development (WID) approach emerged in 1970's is to integrate women into global processes of economic, political, social growth and change. WID women gain more economic power. WID focuses on women and seeks to integrate them into development by making more resources available to women. Very often, this approach has increased women's workloads, reinforced inequalities and it has widened the gap between men and women (Chettri, 1996).

The Gender and Development (GAD) approach emerged as an alternative to WID in the 1980's, GAD viewed women as active participants rather than passive participants in development. It focuses the social construction of gender and assignment of specific roles and responsibilities and the expectations of women and men (ICIMOD, 1997).

2.4 Status of Women in Nepal

Women make up about half of Nepal's population, which crossed 22 million in 1999. But the female population is not evenly distributed across the country. Topographically, the country can be divided into three ecological zones, the mountains, the hills and terai, each accounting for 7.8 per cent, 45.5 per cent and 46.7 per cent of national population respectively. In recent years, the terai has become a 'safety valve' for out-migrants from the hills and mountains. As a result, the share of terai population to total population has increased from 37.8 per cent in 1971 to 46.7 per cent in 1991, an increment of almost 10 per cent over this period (APROSC, 1995).

Women have been taking part in development activities in Nepal, long before international concerns were voiced for including women in development and increasing their participation. In Nepali socio- economic context, women's workload is believed to be heavier in the rural areas of the country compared to that of their men. However, their contribution to development activities at community level and work at household level is never recognized and their status remained unimproved in spite of global efforts in increasing women's participation in Nepali society at various levels which can be eliminated or overcome mainly by awareness generating and training at massive scale for both men and women because neither of the two gender exist in isolation. (Chhetri, 2001).

At the level of the national government there is a lack of explicit policy and programme formulation to reduce gender disparities; at the community level, social and religious norms

and taboos continue to prevail and constrain the activities of women; and at the household level there is often an overt discrimination against women. The consequence is that the status of women in Nepal continues to be low. They are disadvantaged in many ways: as poor people they live under the same harsh conditions as their male counterparts, as women they suffer from social, cultural and political biases, and as heads of households they have to carry out the full traditional roles with the added responsibility of household and production management. In contrast, men have benefited from expanded educational and employment opportunities, so that women's relative status has probably been declining.

Nepal has more than 60 caste/ethnic groups and women's status varies among these groups. The life of the Nepali people in most of these communities is governed by traditional cultural values. In many ways, these stand as a barrier in the holistic development of women. The state religion of Nepal is Hinduism, (Nepal is the only Hindu country in the world), and about 87 per cent of the population was Hindu in 1991, followed by Buddhists (7.8 per cent) and Muslims (3.6 per cent) (CBS, Nepal 1995). Women's status may also vary by religion: women of Buddhist religion enjoy more freedom than Hindu women. (APROSC, 1995)

2.5 Role of different organizations in Community Forestry

Changes in the political climate in Nepal in 1990 have allowed the rapid growth of a large number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and community Based Organizations (CBOs), in which citizens come together to advance interests that they hold in common (Edwards, 2001). Many of these NGOs and CBOs are now involved in the promotion of community forestry in Nepal.

The move to community forestry was an important policy shift in the 1990s- from state control of forests to management by "forest user groups" comprised of local residents. This new policy has markedly changed the role of the government forestry officials- from a police person to a community extension and facilitation agent. Significant outcomes have been achieved through these changes in policy and rules. There are now 13613 community forest user groups formed in Nepal during the period of 16 years with 1.54 million households that are managing 1118490 hectares of forest area as a community forest (DOF, 2004).

Nowadays, many local NGOs have been involved in community forestry activities. Local people NGOs, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and its field offices and donor agencies are the prime concerned with limited success of community forestry program in Nepal. Some local NGOs have been proved to be a responsible partner of the users' for community forestry development. On the other hand, they have also been facing many problems, like in regulatory, institutional, financial and technical aspects. The activities they perform in their working areas for the community forestry development are more or less different in the different parts of the country, which consequently, affects the level of performance differently.

According to Tenth five-year plan (HMG/N 2002)¹, the role of government has been redefined; and public intervention will be limited and focused on areas where they can yield the maximum social benefits. The plan relies heavily on the private sector, NGOs, / International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Community Based

Organizations (CBOs) for carrying out economic activities, infrastructures development and service delivery wherever possible, both in partnership with central and local governments and agencies and to complement the role of the government.

Most NGOs have women's programs while a few of them are registered as women's NGOs and work exclusively for women. Much larger programs are conducted for women by non-women specific NGOs. Notable examples are those of FPAN, IIDS, CSD, NIRDHAN, Red Cross, etc. Nevertheless, such programs — including those conducted by women-specific NGOs — are focused on involving women in project activities without specific efforts at impact analysis from a gender perspective. They lack gender perspective in general. (Acharya, 1997)

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

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 will be used for this study. Exploratory research design is applied to explore the issue concerned with the participation of women in community forest management activities. It also assists to explore the issue regarding the knowledge, perception and practices about community forest management. Descriptive research will be used to describe the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of the study population; similarly, it is also used to describe the women's involvement in different activities of the community forest such as decision making, monitoring and evaluating program implementation and benefit sharing.

3.2 Universe and Sampling

The 'Gaukhureswor Community Forest' of Dhulikhel Municipality of Kavre District have been selected as Universe purposively for detail study. This forest was known as 'Thulo Ban' prior to handover as CF. With the emerging concept of Community forest, the forest was handed over to Community in 2049-3-30. During these, 12.49 hectares of religious place Gaukhureswor of Thulo Ban was handed to the community. The total area of forest now is 54 hectares.

A forest user group (FUG) consisting of 60 household is present who protects and manage the forest. Out of total households, 30 user households were chosen by applying simple random sampling method.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data was collected from the field survey with the help of questionnaire, observation, group discussion from key informants. While secondary data was collected from published documents, records, journals, books, articles etc. The secondary data help to understand overall status of women in Nepal. Theoretical perspectives look at women's position. Participation and decision making of women's in CF management activities.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

Quantitative and qualitative methods were used to collect data from the field. The data were collected through semi-structural questionnaire asked to the respondents. Direct information have been collected through other methods as key informant interviews, focus group discussion and field observation.

3.4.1 Interview

Interview schedule is the kind of information collection way in short time. The information was gathered from target population, from the women respondents of Gaukhureswor Community Forest Users Group and from the key informants. Interview information's regarding the women participation in CF, the condition of forest, the women's perception in CF, 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 fulfil the objectives of the study.

3.4.2 Observation

Observation was used to collect qualitative 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 other tools. The CF executive committee minute showed that the women's participation in meeting, general assembly and executive committee was high.

3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

FGD was conducted to collect the data for specific objectives using the set of semi-structural questionnaire. Group was briefed about the objectives of the study and all key questions. The questionnaire was distributed before the discussion. Group discussions were performed to individual's interview to reduce the personal bias to get a true picture of all situations within the FUGs. This method was found effective in term of getting mostly reliable information within a reasonable short time.

3.4.4 Case Study

The case study was conducted about one respondent to find out the condition of women and her activities before and after involvement in community forest.

3.4.5 Secondary Data

Besides the primary data, relevant secondary information were also be collected from the related office such as DFO, booklets, articles and publications of DDC etc. The secondary information obtained from these sources and various FUGs records has been contributed to supplement the objectives of the study.

3.5 Data Analysis

The main task of data analysis is to bring the data into a systematic order out of mesh of notes, to pick out the central themes of the study and to carry them across to written work. The qualitative data are analyzed and interpreted descriptively making the arrangement in logical way. The quantitative data are coded and classified on the basis of nature of data and then present in various tables by using simple statistical tools. After presentation of the data in table; they are analyzed and interpreted coherently.

Chapter 4

THEMATIC FEATURES OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Brief Description of Kavrepalanchok District

Kavrepalanchok district is situated in Bagmati Zone of Central Development Region. It is situated in the height of 1007 meters to 3018 meters from sea level .The total area of this district is 1396 sq.km. The total population of this district is 425694 as per the census of 2058 B.S. literacy rate of this district is 64%.

4.2 General Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in the Gaukhureswor Community Forest (GCF) near the semi urban town of Dhulikhel, about 30 km east of Kathmandu District of the middle mountain region. Elevation ranges from 1440m to 1770m, and the topography is hilly with the slope of 10 to 40 degrees. The aspect of CF is north facing. The CF is divided in to 5 blocks.

The ‘Gaukhureswor Community Forest’ was well known as ‘Thulo Ban’ prior to hand over as CF. With the emerging concept of community forest; the forest was handed over to the community in 2049-3-30. During these 12.49 hectares of religious place Gaukhureswor of Thuloban was handed to the community. And based on this religious place the forest was named ‘Gaukhureswor Community Forest’. Later recognizing that the forest area was not enough for the community and an additional 9.10 hectare forest was handed over in 2052-8-24 B.S. Now, the total area of forest is 24 hectare.

A Forest User Group (FUG) consisting of 60 households are present who protect and manage the forest. There are 6 female and 3 male executive committee members in FUG.

4.3 Climate of the Study Area

The climatic condition of GCF is warm temperate with maximum temperature of 32 degree centigrade and minimum temperature below 0 degree centigrade.

4.4 Vegetation

Dhulikhel district lies in high altitude tropical zone, thus many kind of vegetations are available. Main vegetations are Patle, Chilaune, Bhalayo, Kharane, Kholme, Angeri, Asare, Lali gurans, Gobre sallo, Chap, Uttish etc. Some fodder species like Barat, Phalat,etc are found here. Lokta and Alaichi are planted at CF to generate income.

4.5 Water Resource

Water resource has been greatly impacted by the operation of community forest. Earlier, water was collected from river and kuwa, which consumed large amount of time. With community forestry source of water has improved. The source from forest was collected in tank and distributed to household by tap. But nowadays the source of water is drying. So the users have to buy the water.

4.6 Demographic and Its Related Features

4.5.1 Population

The total household in the user group of GCF is 60, comprising of 146male and 140 female. Thus the total population is 286 are residing and using GCF products.

4.5.2 Caste/ Ethnic Composition

Jangam, Neupane, Humagain, Adhikari, Hamal, Tamang castes are predominately found in this area. Other castes like Dulal, Gajurel, Chaulagain, Timilsina, Giri, occurs in minority. Thus this area comprise majority of Brahmin, Chhetri and Tamang.

4.5.3 Culture and Religion

The users predominately are Hindus, two household are Buddhist. The major festival celebrated in this area are Dashain, Tihar, Sangkranti and Teej.

4.6 Educational Status

The place being a semi urban area most people are educated. Both the girls and boys are provided with equal opportunity of education. For the elderly female the FUG committee organized adult literacy programme.

Table 1: Educational Status

Literate		Illiterate		Secondary level		Higher level	Secondary
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
51	54	40	25	29	32	20	35

Source: GCF Office record

Among 140 female 51 are literate, 40 are illiterate, 29 are in secondary level and 20 are in higher secondary level. Similarly, among 146 male 54 are literate, 25 are illiterate, 32 are in secondary level and 35 are in higher secondary level (Table 1).

4.7 Occupation and Economic Status

The main occupation of the people in this area is agriculture. Along with agriculture, milk selling is also an important source of income. Due to this, livestock farming has become an important occupation of the people. Along with this people are also involved in government and non-government services and business. The place being near to capital city and Dhulikhel, there are more job opportunities.

4.8 Human Resource Development and Resource Mobilization

4.8.1 Income Generating Activities

Japanese Lokta (*Edworthia papyracea*) or commonly called Argeli and Alainchi (*Amomum Subulatum*) have been planted in the community forest for income generation. The plantation of Argeli started in 2052 B.S. with the help of Japanese company named 'Kanpou Nepal' and the processed argeli is also sold to the company. In the year 2055-56 B.S 160 kg argeli was processed which generated Rs.50, 400 and about 200 bojo were planted in block 2. And in the year 2065, more Lokta and Alainchi were planted which is shown below (table 2).

Table 2: Number of plants and the expected income

Species	Number of Plants	Investment	Income
Lokta	18,000	50,000	1,00,000
Alainchi	5,000	5,000	15,000

Source: GCF Office record

Table 2 shows that 18,000 plant of Lokta and 5,000 plant of Alainchi were planted in Gaukureswor community forest in the year 2065 which helps to generate income. In the year 2065, Rs.50,000 was invested on Lokta which is expected to generate the income of Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.5,000 was invested in Alainchi in order to generate an income of Rs. 15000

4.8.2 Trainings

The committee has implemented many activities for empowering the users through institutional development. Different training and study visit are organized for the members to increase their knowledge and experience for the capacity building. Training about forest management, community cleaning, agricultural and animal husbandry have organised by the GCF.

4.8.3 Community Development Activity

The income generated from the community forest activities are used for different developmental activity in the community such as drinking water programme, renovating temples and other community activities.

CHAPTER-5

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION (Socio-Economic Status of Women)

Women Participation in Community Forest Management

This chapter deals with the forest management practices and women participation in the community forest. This is the main section of the study. Basically, it concerns with the specific objectives and their corresponding result. The result is based on the data collection from primary and secondary sources.

5.1 Demographic Characteristics

5.1.1 Age composition of Respondents

Maturity is the most important thing to learn anything. So age wise distribution of the respondents also plays the vital role in participation as well as decision making process of forest management. Age wise distribution of respondent is presented below:

Table 3: Age wise distribution of respondent

Age Group	No.	%
20-30	5	16.66
30-40	14	46.66
40-50	6	20
50-60	4	13.33
Above 60	1	3.33
Total	30	100

Source- Field Survey 2010

Table 3 shows that most of the members represent young generations of the age group (30-40). They are literate. They are active, enthusiastic and creative as well as innovative. Only 1 member is above 60 years and 5 people belong to the age group of 20-30 years old. From this

table, we find that people from the 20-30 age group to be not energetic in community forest management as they are busy in other activities and they have other responsibilities too. This shows that all members of 30-40 age groups to be devoted in the conservation, protection and utilization of forest resources in proper ways.

5.1.2 Household Population By Caste/ Ethnicity

The household population of Gaukhureswor Community Forest by caste wise is tabulated below:

Table 4: Residential status of male and female population by ethnic group

Gender	Brahmin	Chhetri	Thakuri	Tamang	Giri	Total	%
Male	37	23	16	8	4	88	55.34
Female	30	22	10	3	6	71	44.65
Total	67	45	26	11	10	159	100

Source- Field Survey 2010

The research was carried out in 30 households. The total population of sampled household was 159. The total population of male and female was 88 and 71 respectively. Out of the total sampled population constitute 55.34% male and 44.65% female as shown in Table 4.

5.1.3 Ethnic Composition

Gender stratification is greatly influenced by the ethnic composition of the area. So before giving any conclusion of gender based findings, ethnic composition of a place must be studied clearly. GCF is inhabited by 5 castes namely Brahmin, Chhetri, Thakuri, Tamang and Giri.

Out of the total population, 50% sampling was done which constitute of 15 Brahmin HH, 7 Chhetri HH, 4 Thakuri HH, 2 Tamang HH, 2 Giri HH.

5.1.4 Marital Status of the Respondents

For Nepalese women marriage is very important ritual. The study of this area shows that all the women are married. The society generally prefers the inclusion of married women members because of their stability, acceptability, maturity and accountability.

5.1.5 Family Size of the Respondents

Family size is also an important factor to determine the economic strata and living standard of the people. In Nepal, a family, which depends on agriculture production at the subsistence level, whether it is self reliable or not can determine on the basis of family size relating to its land ownership and other income sources. The family size of the respondents is tabulated below.

Table 5: Family size of respondents

Family size	No. of HH	%
Less than 5	19	63.33
5-8	9	30
Above 8	2	6.66
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 5 shows that more than 60 percent of sampling household has less than 5 members in the family which shows that people are more interested in small family size rather than more. Women are found to be undertaking birth control measures. Very few household have settled in the joint family.

5.1.6 Caste and Ethnic Composition of Respondents

The study area is found to have heterogeneous type of society with various caste and ethnic composition which has been tabulated below.

Table 6: Caste and ethnic composition of respondents

Caste/ Ethnic	No.	%
Brahmin	15	50
Chhetri	7	23.33
Thakuri	4	13.33
Tamang	2	6.66
Giri	2	6.66
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 6 shows that there is a higher population of Brahmin and Chhetri in Gaukhureswor community forest. There are no any dalits. Mainly all people are depended on community forest for firewood and fodder due to lack of private forest.

5.1.7 Educational Status of Respondents

Education is a learning process and acquisition of knowledge and skill that helps a person to earn a living and find the better place in the society. It has been accepted as the preliminary means of country's all round development. Educated human resource can play an effective role in reducing poverty. The table below gives the details of the educational status of the study area.

Table 7: Educational Status Of Respondents

Caste	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
Brahmin	4	4	6	1
Chhetri	3	1	3	-
Thakuri	1	-	2	1
Tamang	2	-	-	-
Giri	1	1	-	-
Total	11	6	11	2

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 7 shows that most of the women who belong to Brahmin and Chhetri community are literate than other communities. Only 11 women passed secondary level. Most of the women members of community forest are just literate. They have only completed primary level. The respondent informed that considering the low literacy rate, the GCF had launched the adult literacy program and villagers have been benefited from the programme.

5.1.8 Occupational Status of Respondents

Nepal is predominantly an agricultural country where more than 80 percent of people are involved in it for income and employment. In the study area the respondents have different types of occupation which is shown below.

Table 8: Occupational status of respondent

Occupation	No.	%
Job	5	16.66
Business	6	20.00
Agriculture	19	63.33
Other	-	-
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 8 shows that the majority of respondents are involved in the agricultural activities. The agricultural sector includes crop farming, livestock rising, and horticulture. 5 women are involved in services in hotels and 6 women are involved in business activities.

5.1.9 Land Holdings Size of Respondents Family

Mainly, the land of the study areas is classified in to four types according their nature of production.

Table 9: landholding by respondents' family

Types of land	0-1 ropani	2-4 ropani	5-7 ropani	Above8 ropani
Khet	-	4	4	1
Bari	3	9	2	4
Pakho	-	3	1	-
Private Forest	1	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 9 shows that most of the people do not have Khet, Pakho and Private Forest land. Many people have Bari which is used to grow maize, wheat, mustard and grow different types of vegetables. Most of the people have land size of 2 to 4 ropani and very few people have above 8 ropani. Due to traditional social values, very few women have registered land in their names. Only 6 women have registered land in their names.

5.1.10 Annual Income and Food Sufficiency of Respondent Family

The annual income of the respondents depends on the types of occupation, size of land holding and other source of income. Some of them have high level of annual income and some of them have low level of income.

Table 10: Annual income and food sufficiency

Caste/ Ethnicity	Annual income		Food sufficiency	
	<50000	>50000	<6mont	>6 month
Brahmin	8	7	7	8
Chhetri	6	1	5	2
Thakuri	3	1	1	3
Tamang	2	-	1	1
Giri	-	2	-	2
Total	19	11	14	16

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 10 shows that annual income and food sufficiency of Brahmin is more than that of Thakuri and Tamang. Their annual income is higher than 50000 per year and most of them

fulfil their needs of their family. Majority of respondents are involved in agricultural activities and some others are engaged in services. Income and food sufficiency are closely related to each other. Those having more income can easily manage the expenses of their family where as those having low income feels difficult to manage their family expenses.

5.1.11 Livestock Holdings and Agricultural Productions of Ethnic Group

The major production of the different ethnic groups consists of Rice, wheat, maize and mustard which is as shown in the table 11.

Table 11: Agricultural products of ethnic group per annum in Muri

Caste/ Ethnic	Rice	Wheat	Maize	Mustard
Brahmin	53	13.10	51	2.85
Chhetri	6	-	34	5.20
Thakuri	-	-	40	5.30
Tamang	30	1	18	2
Giri	-	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey 2010

Almost all the HH has their own bari. Brahmin and Chhetri HHs also have Khet land. As the area of khet land is small, paddy and wheat are secondary crops. While maize and mustard are the main crops grown by all the farmers on the bari (Table 11). Some HHs are also engaged in vegetable and fruit growing and are engaged in selling those products. This has helped in subsistence income for the family. The establishment of CF has affected both the agricultural production and animal husbandry. The livestock raised are cows, buffaloes, goats and poultry. For the study purpose status of livestock, environment for livestock and benefit from livestock after the community forest formation have been studied. Due to the proper management of community forest there has been increased availability of forest product needed for livestock. Formation of community forest has been credited for increased number of fodder and other trees on private land. One of the major benefits derived from livestock is the sale of milk. On an average 65% of the population was involved in this activity. The household involved in this activity sold about 15 litres of milk per day with an economic benefit of 600 per day.

5.2 Women Participation

Women participate in various activities of community forestry management.

5.2.1 Women 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 CF clearly assert their presentation in CF executive committee. General

assembly of the forest users is held every year but executive committee is selected or elected in every four years. The involvement of women and men in executive committee of Gaukhureswor Community Forest is presented in the table below.

Table 12: Sex-wise people participation in executive committee

Year	Male	%	Female	%	Total
2060-64	4	44.44	5	55.55	9
2064-2068	3	33.33	6	66.66	9

Source: GCF committee record

Table 12 shows that in the year 2060-2064, 55.55% women were elected in executive committee and in the year 2064-2068. The figure shows 66.66% women were elected which shows that women participation has increased in Gaukhureswor Community Forest.

5.2.2 Women Participation in 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 and decision done in the meeting. As a result they have no knowledge about the future plan of CF. The respondents say that there is high level of participation of women in meeting of community forest executive committee as well as general assembly. The table below shows the attendance of women in general assembly.

Table 13: Male and female attendance in general assembly

Year	Male	%	Female	%	Total
2066	21	35	39	65	60

Source: GCF committee record

Table 13 shows that as compare to the male participation, female participation is satisfactory. Many women have participated in the general assembly in spite of patriarchal social system and their multiple responsibilities in the household activities.

5.2.3 Women Participation in Forest Management Operation

Forest management is the scientific operation that is applied in forest. Forest management includes planting, weeding, thinning, bush clearing, collection of products and fire line construction inside the forest area. It needs technical knowledge for the management of the forest. Therefore management operation needs technical assistance from District Forest Office. So users as well as DFO often play several roles simultaneously in forest management. CFUGs have planted species like lokta and alainchi inside the forest. Every year they carry out thinning, clearing operation in the forest for 4 months.

Table 14: Caste wise women participation in forest management operation

Description	Plantation	Weeding	Thinning	Bush Clearing	Collection of products
Caste/Ethnic					
Brahmin	6	4	7	14	14
Chhetri	4	4	4	6	6
Thakuri	2	2	2	3	3
Tamang	1	1	1	2	2
Giri	-	-	1	2	2

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 14 shows that most of the women are involved in bush clearing and collection of products activities. Mainly Brahmin and Chhetri women are involved in all the activities of forest management. The above table shows that the involvement of women in implementation part of CF management is higher than other activities like decision making, monitoring and evaluation. Therefore women are the key factors in the managing and agricultural plant resources.

In the observation, it was found that women and men are involved in forest product collection and transportation in community forest. However, the degree of women involvement was higher in the actual field. Users reported that men used to consider it as women work and also because men are busy on other activities.

5.2.4 Women Participation in Protection of Forest

Women participation in the protection of forest resource play very important role. Many community forests have appointed paid security for the protection of the forest and some users group members themselves involve in such activities. GCF has also appointed a security guard for the protection of the forest. GCF users have participated in such protection activities.

Table 15: Caste wise women participation in forest protection

Participation level	High	Moderate	Less	Never
Caste				
Brahmin	2	6	6	1
Chhetri	4	-	2	1
Thakali	-	1	2	1
Tamang	-	1	1	-
Giri	-	2	-	-

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 15 shows that most of the women from the Brahmin and Chhetri castes are involved in the protection of forest regularly, where as the Tamang women participate rarely due to their

household reasons. Most of the women are conscious about the importance of forest resource. But they don't participate properly in the protection of forest and forest resources.

5.2.5 Women Participation in Decision Making Process

Self motivated participation is considered as real participation. Women's participation is satisfactory in GCF, they are key agent in the management of community forest. Compulsory provision of attending the meeting and absence of male member in the house make the high attendance of women in the meeting. Percentage of women for decision making process has been found high. Details of women involvement in decision making process are given in the table below.

Table 16: Women participation in decision making process

Description	Participation	
	Numbers	%
Involvement in rules preparation	6	20
Name registration from family as CFUs	12	40
Involvement in OP preparation	6	20
Participating in voting right	6	20
Total	30	

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 16 shows that most of the women have participated in all the activities like involvement in rules preparation, OP preparation and casting vote. There are 6 women who are in decision making process. Table 17 shows that there is active participation of women in different activities of community forest.

5.2.6 Motivating Factors for Women's Participation

There are different factors which are responsible for motivating women in community forest activities. Motivating factors for women participation in different activities are determined by the roles and responsibilities she has heard in the society.

Table 17: Motivating factors for women participation

Motivating Factors	No.	%
Self interest	18	60
HH advice	9	30
Official request	-	-
Villagers request	3	10
NGOs/ INGOs	-	-
Total	30	100

Source: Field survey 2010

Majority of the women are motivated by their own interest. Some women are participating in the absence of men in their families and household activities. However the males of majority household have played some role in motivating women to take part in different activities. Trainings, tour, observation, official request is strong motivating factors, but in the study area, no any women are motivated by these factors. Some women participated in community forest activities by villager's request because they are literate and are involved in other activities. Therefore request also seems to be important motivating factors.

5.2.7 Caste Wise Distribution of Self Motivated Respondents

In the study area, most women were found to participate in community forest management by their self motivation.

Table 18: Caste wise distribution of the CFUs

Caste/ Ethnic	No.	%
Brahmin	10	66.66
Chhetri	4	57.14
Thakuri	1	25
Tamang	1	50
Giri	1	50

Source: Field Survey 2010 (Note -The percentage is calculated on the basis of total population of this caste)

Table 18 shows caste wise distribution of self motivated respondents. Mainly 67 percent of Brahmin castes are self motivated as they are more literate. Very few people who belong to Thakuri, Tamang, and Giri caste are self motivated as they are motivated by their husbands.

5.2.8 Inhibiting Factors for Women's Participation

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

Table 19: Inhibiting factors for women's participation

Inhibiting factors	No	%
Family	8	26.66
Society	5	16.66
Education	12	40
Time	5	16.66
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey 2010

Table 19 shows that maximum women are inhibited by their education. Due to their education level they are not involved in any types of activities in the society which are related to speech and decision making. Some women do not participate in such activities due to the time factor as they are busy in their services. Family also seems to be inhibiting factor for women participation.

In study area male influence female to participate. In this area culture has not affected their participation. Most of the women are busy and they cannot devote their time to community forestry work even though they are interested. Our social structure is not favouring women as they have to look after their children and have to work in their farms, besides they do not get support in house hold work for their family. Another main constraint is the lack of self confidence. Most of the women expressed that they do not participate, even they participate, and they don't raise their voice. This is due to poor education and they even say 'if we have education it enhance our knowledge and then we can be equal as male' they believe education will enhance their capabilities.

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

5.3 Utilization of Forest Products from CF

The establishment of CF has in much way affected the livelihood directly or indirectly. The accessibility of forest products and water are some of the major benefits gained from the CF. Beside these benefits people are enjoying both direct and indirect income sources.

Water source has been greatly impacted by the operation of community forest. Earlier water was collected from river and kuwa, which consumed great amount of women's time. But with community forestry source of water has improved. The water was collected in tank and distributed to household by tap. Some of the forest products utilized by various caste group are as tabulated below:

Table 20: Forest products use from CF

Caste	Grass		Fodder		Leaf litter		Fuel wood	
	Yes	No	Yes	NO	Yes	No	Yes	No
Brahmin	4	11	7	8	14	1	15	-
Chhetri	1	6	3	4	7	-	7	-
Thakuri	-	4	2	2	4	-	4	-
Tamang	1	1	-	2	1	1	2	-
Giri	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Total	6	22	12	16	26	2	30	-
%	21.42	78.57	42.85	57.14	92.85	7.14	100	-

Source- Field Survey 2010

Another major advantage of CF has been easy availability of forest products. Almost all HH bring leaf litter and fuel wood from CF. FUG get fuel wood from community forest in a very little price compared to market price. People even do not use kerosene as they have enough fuel wood. The amount of these products from CF is large enough to support them. However there was scarcity of grass and fodder in the community forest. Only 21.42% of the population responded that they take grass from CF and 42.85% responded they take fodder from GCF. The forest is however opened for grass and fodder during Dashain and Teej and forest is also opened for four months in a year.

Some of HH was involved in selling of compost manure they make from leaf litter collected from the CF and this activity is directly helping to increase the household income. The compost is sold at Rs.25 per bhari. This aspect of economic activity can directly be attributed to CF, which produces enough leaf litter for animal bedding. (Table 20)

5.4 Contribution of CF in HH Income

Community Forest has contributed to increase the income level of the people through various means.

Table 21 Impacts of community forest to the people

Caste	Increase in income		Probability of increase in income in future		Participation in CF meeting		Voice heard in CF meeting		Satisfied with CF management		Development activities in community after CF establishment	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Brahmin	4	11	6	9	14	1	15	-	15	-	15	-
Chhetri	3	4	4	3	6	1	7	-	7	-	7	-
Thakuri	2	2	2	2	4	-	4	-	4	-	4	-
Tamang	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
Giri	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
Total	11	19	14	16	28	2	30	-	30	-	30	-
%	36.66	63.33	46.66	53.33	93.33	6.66	100	-	100	-	100	-

Source- Field Survey 2010

Out of the total respondent only 36.66% believe their income has increased after CF and 63.33% do think their income has not increased. People only regard direct sources as sales of timber, fuel wood as income generating sources but they do not take account of easy accessibility of forest products such as leaf litters, water availability, which are indirect income benefits. These indirect benefits from forest save their time and energy in household activities.

The direct economic benefits they get from CF are fuel wood, which they get in a very cheap price compared to market price. Also much of the argeli and alainchi works was started in a small scale and is still growing. Half of the respondent believed there was possibility of generation of income from CF in future. With the increasing scale of argeli and alainchi and sales of timber is sure to increase economic benefit. Almost all the respondents participate in CF meeting, responded that their voice being heard positively and were satisfied with the committee's work. And when asked if the committee has done any developmental work, all were positive (Table 21).

5.5 Facilitated Factors for Women's Participation

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

5.5.1 Familiarity with Program

People's participation in several development projects depend on part how familiar the technological or operational aspects of the programs are to the intended beneficiaries. In these areas women participate in most of the committee work in spite of their daily house hold works. Women are involved in different forestry related activities like planting trees, collecting fire wood and timber. Women should be made familiar with the different task.

5.5.2 Size of the Committee

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

5.5.3 Marital Status, Selection Procedure and Representative

Marital status plays vital role for the active participation in any committee activities. Married women are generally mature and more responsibility for the intended activities. All the women respondents were married and more than 30 years old. Their responsibilities were more important than men because they stayed home almost all the time. Women are the stable part of the committee. They are more involved in household works such as collection of forest products.

5.5.4 Government Policy

Government has made a provision for social inclusion of women in any type of development activities. At least 33% women should be involved in any type of committee. This also increases participation.

5.6 Time and Task Distribution

Different types of works; productive, reproductive, community managing activities and other works were allocated for women and men and performed in different time of a day. Productive works are work in farm land, animal rearing and labour work. Task, including water and fuel collection, cooking and care of young ones are called reproductive works. These works are particularly time consuming as they are often carried out with traditional tools and processes. The other works are time allocated for community activities, rest, leisure time, watching TV and teashop gathering.

Times spent in doing different work were found out to show the gender difference in time allocation pattern. Women in the study area were heavily involved in farming activities; their work schedule is particularly hectic during planting, harvesting time and during festivals like Dashain, Tihar. Women do not sit idle even when they are not engaged in farm activities. While gossiping, they often work such as making pickles, sewing, shelling corn. During a normal day women are busy with routine HH chores. Their days are often long starting as early as 5am in the morning and finishing at about 9pm. Most of the men in GCF have services in nearby town area. So they are engaged in farm work only in holidays. Men have less responsibility towards HH task and child caring.(Annex III)

Both girls and boys go to school. But girls wake up early and do more HH chores than boys. But during planting and harvesting the entire group significantly works in the farmland. During planting and harvesting period rich family hire labour workers. So women from such household have less work to do in farm land. But women from medium and poor family significantly spent more time on HH tasks, livestock, work longer days as compared to the women of rich family. So, women in studied area were active in both productive and reproductive works while men were active in productive works. Daily time allocation shows the work burden difference among women, men, girls and boys.(Annex IV)

5.7 Labour Allocations

In the study area, the main utilization of labour was found in HH chores and farm land. Domestic activities (cleaning, cooking, childcare and fetching water) were largely the responsibility of women.

Farmland works were divided according to sex. Crop production typically involved shared responsibility, with women more involved in planting, gathering manure and applying compost and men in ploughing, terrace repair and irrigation system management.

Mostly women and men from medium and poor family go for exchange labour work during crop planting season. It is known as 'Parma' and is popular traditional system of exchanging labour. Both male and female farmers work as exchange of labour. Women and men equally contribute in farm land but men are paid more than women which clearly show gender disparity.

5.8 Gender Responsibility and Decision Making

It was found that HH activities were mainly responsible of women. In Brahmin community women looked almost all HH chores. Childcare was the responsibility of women but education of children was looked after by both sexes. In Chhetri community fuel wood collection, water collection, care of livestock was the major responsibility of women. Almost all respondent said that women did such HH chores.

Women usually have the authority to make decisions at the HH level on such matters as what to cook, child rising, borrowing, lending and selling small amounts of grains or vegetables. Men usually market cash crops produced by women and decide on sales of livestock, houses or land, often without consulting their women.

Though women manage HH budget, men themselves control it. Young, educated women had good self image and actively participated in community activities but middle aged and old women stay back at home and hesitate to participate. In some cases women have the responsibility to take the permission from their partners to participate in such community activities. But some women have freedom to participate and are encouraged by their partners to join such activities.

5.9 Factors for Women Upliftment

In GCF, women and men have different opinions regarding cause for women backwardness in the society. Cause for women backwardness were identified and ranked by both women and men. For women the main cause for women backwardness was education. Though women were literate, they have no higher education, which cause hindrance to come forward in the society. The second and third key causes were social structure and HH burden respectively. Due to wide spread assumption that women's most important relationship are in the context of their roles as mother and wives, women's domain is limited only to HH chores.

Other identified causes were lack of decision making capabilities of women, access to opportunities, credits and lack of awareness.

In opinion of men, the main cause for women backwardness in the community was due to social structure. Lack of education was ranked fourth because men believed that women in the society have better access to education facility and many of the women are also educated, but due to social structure they lack behind.

Women had a feeling that they should have ownership of land and property. Beside this support from men were essential for women empowerment. Though CF has reduced the time for forest product collection, there should be equal division among HH members. Moreover women should be provided with opportunities and income generating activities in CF to build their capabilities.

5.10 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 was basing upon the respondent's views, field observation and analysis of the collected information's can be categorised in to following four groups.

5.10.1 Social structure

Social structure is not favourable for the women to involve them in different social works and activities. Enough opportunities have not been given to the women to participate. They have to do their household works. But male members believe that it is their right to attend public activities, to divide the works and bear the responsibility in the family. There is lack of better co-ordination among women and between men and women, in this way the women have been left behind from social works by the rural social structure.

5.10.2 Organisation and co-ordination

There is lack of better cooperation and self confidence in women in conservation activities. Women are not united. Because of this they are not powerful. Any organisational and leadership training have not been given to them, and they are given chance to represent in the committee just to prove their participation.

5.10.3 Role of Forest Technician and Facilitator

Forest technicians and other don't have proper understanding of the situation of the rural women. They believe that the women should take initiatives for their active involvement. It seems quite impossible in Nepalese villagers where 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.

5.11 Forest Related Activities of Women

In the study area, women are involved in different types of forest related activities. Generally, forest related activities are categorized as planting, weeding, harvesting, guarding. They are presented below:

5.11.1 Planting

In every rainy season, planting is necessary. They perform annual planting activities. Generally women do the plantation by bringing the seedling from GCF nursery.

5.11.2 Weeding

Planted area is weeded every year in the month of Aswin. This has to be done three times a year. For weeding, one person is called from one house. Female participation is more than males.

5.11.3 Harvesting

Like planting and weeding, women play vital role in harvesting than male. Protected community forest is opened once in a year for four month. In this time forest products are distributed equally to all the members of FUG. Forest products are usually harvested by female. Female goes to cut grass, collection of leaf litter and fire wood etc. Likewise, cutting the big tree and branches are done by male members.

5.12 Case study

Case study helps to find out the condition of women and their activities before and after involvement in community forest. Here is the case study of Angoor Adhikari.

Angoor Adhikari is a member of the executive committee of Gaukhureswor community forest user group. She is 38 years old married woman. She has completed her SLC. She has six members in the family with three daughters and one son. Her husband is a teacher. She has 4 ropani bari which is used to produce food and other things needed for the family. She grows about 4 muri maize and 1 muri mustard which is used in household purpose. She has 2 cows and 6 goats and she generates income by selling milk. She is involved in different activities of the community forest. As an executive member, she spends her time to manage forest, and is busy in preparing operational plan. She is also involved in decision making process and she is happy to be part of Gaukhureswor community forest.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the study and 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.

6.1 Summary

The study 'Women's participation in community forest management' was conducted in Gaukhureswor community forest of Dhulikhel municipality in Kavrepalanchowk district aiming to assess the socio economic status of women in CFM in the study areas. Among the total 60 houses 30 houses(50%) were surveyed in GCF.

Forest is one of the major resources of rural livelihood. It is the source of fodder, timber, fire wood, leaf litters. Rapidly increasing of population and its subsequent effects on natural resources particularly forest resources has been noticing since long time. During the field observation most of the women seemed busy whole day in productive as well as household work. Most of the women were involved in vegetable farming, animal husbandry, caring family member. Due to this women have no leisure time, while men were busy in productive work.

Women collect fire wood and other forest products. They fulfill their additional requirement of fire wood from agricultural resides. And some elite family used cylinder gas also. In the past, they spend much time for collection of firewood. Now a day's fire wood collection from CF is much more time saving and cashier. Timber is used for house construction and HHs tools. Except, very few houses other houses are made of timber and mud. Fodder is the main source of animal feed for the live stock in these areas. People use this fodder as stale feed which is important for animal husbandry. Every household maintain livestock for domestic purpose. Therefore, Collecting leaves, branches, mud, litters become the main job of the local people. Tree leaves are collected especially for bedding purposes and animals bed.

The study provides information on several issues related to gender. Men and women in GCF are seemed to be in different mainly because the community and society give greater status and importance to men. However, many of the conventional attitudes such as discrimination and subordinate behaviour towards women have undergone significant changes in GCF. For

instance, there is no discrimination against male and female child attending school and food distribution.

Time and task distribution pattern provides important information concerning the daily activities of men and women. Women's days are particularly hectic during planting, harvesting and festivals. Similar is the case of female child. Women perform a wide spectrum of duties in and outdoors.

CF has provided many direct and indirect benefits to the local people. After the establishment of the CF, the time for resources collection has been decreased which has eventually decreased the work burden of women. Community forest has provided various programmes to uplift the status of women in Gaukhureswor. Both men and women actively participate in CF activities.

The literacy level and awareness level is high among the people. Most of the women had good self image, confidence and believed that women have equal capabilities and should be treated equally. But there was gender discrimination in amount of money paid for equal labour works. Comparatively women from poor household spent a greater portion of their time working in farm than women from rich household.

Though women had a better access to education, resources and income, the control lies with the men. Both men and women have the perception that the household activities were the responsibilities of women. Both men and women were socially and economically dependent to each other, but women's contributions were less valued and not rewarded.

Followings are the major findings of the study:

1. More than 46% women belong to 30-40 age group where as 54% women belongs to other age group.
2. 100% of women respondent are married.
3. Approximately 64% households have less than 5 family members in the family. Only 30% households have 5-8 members in the family and 2 households have more than 8 members in the family.
4. In GCF, 50% members belong to Brahmin caste and 23% members belong to Chhetri caste and rest of the members belong to Thakuri, Tamang and Giri caste.
5. Out of 30 members from GCF, only 11 have completed secondary level and 2 have completed higher secondary level and 11 are illiterate and rest have studied up to primary level.
6. In GCF, almost 64% women are engaged in agriculture, 20% in business and rest are engaged in services.
7. Almost 67% women were elected in the executive committee in 2064-2068 general assembly.
8. In 2066, 67% women attended the general assembly.
9. 60% of women are motivated by their self interest to participate in community forestry.

10. Almost 27% women said family to be the inhibiting factor to participate in community forestry.

Findings of this study show that women can play significant role in community 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 is greatly determined by various factors like socio economic and cultural practices, institutional culture of CF, government forest policy, efforts of forest related organisation, perception and attitude towards community forest and the status of women in family and society. Women participation as executive committee member and their presence in regular meeting were found impressive but they were found passive in interaction session

Women are motivated to participate in CFM because of the need of the forest products and similarly women consider the self inspiration, villagers request and HH advice as potential sources of motivation for their involvement in CFM.

Factors like household chores, inadequate knowledge, illiteracy, economic condition and self humiliation, patriarchal domination in the family and society were found as inhibiting factors for women participation in CFM.

6.2 Conclusion

The study about CFM shows that women can play important role in the protection, development, and other activities. Regarding this, government of Nepal has also initiated programme since 1980s. Women in forest management programme are one of the leading programmes for forest management and it initiates different activities to formulate forest user committee that also includes 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 Gaukhurewor community forest in Dhulikhel.

Decisions making level of women, and their participation in GCF were found satisfactory. Plantation, weeding, thinning, and collection of forest products were mainly done by women users.

Educational status and women's age have played crucial role for high participation of women in community forestry activities. In most of the community forestry activities women's attitudes was found positive rather than negative. Most of them are motivated by their self interest and others by HH advice and villagers request. Most of the women respondent expressed family be an inhibiting factor for their participation.

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Annexes

Annex I: Names of Household Interviewed

S.No.	Household head	Interviewed Person	Caste	Profession
1	Ramesh Jangam	Puspalata Jangam	Brahmin	S&A
2	Rajan Jangam	Nirmala Jangam	Brahmin	S&A
3	Suman Jangam	Kamala Jangam	Brahmin	A
4	Susil Jangam	Ranju Jangam	Brahmin	S&A
5	Ravi Jangam	Sarswoti Jangam	Brahmin	S&A
6	Uddhav Jangam	Sumitra Jangam	Brahmin	A
7	Bidur Jangam	Indra kumari Jangam	Brahmin	A
8	Buddhi Jangam	Sushila Jangam	Brahmin	A
9	Mahesh Jangam	Sunita Jangam	Brahmin	B
10	Ram Hamal	Muna Hamal	Thakuri	A
11	Madan Hamal	Bhawani Hamal	Thakuri	S&A
12	Man.Bd Hamal	Krisna kumara Hamal	Thakuri	SP&A
13	Ujjwal Hamal	Asha Hamal	Thakuri	A&S
14	Arjun Adhikari	Goma Adhikari	Chhetri	S&A
15	Utsav Adhikari	Basundhara Adhikari	Chhetri	B
16	Hari Adhikari	Angoor Adhikari	Chhetri	S&A
17	Govinda Adhikari	Parvati Adhikari	Chhetri	A
18	Ram Bd.Adhikari	Muiya Adhikari	Chhetri	SP&A
19	Bom.Bd.Adhikari	Ambika Adhikari	Chhetri	A&S
20	Nandi kishori Neupane	Bishnukumari Neupane	Brahmin	A
21	Dhurba Neupane	Sabitri Neupane	Brahmin	B&S
22	Yubraj Neupane	Bhagwati Neupane	Brahmin	A
23	Mukunda Neupane	Indira Neupane	Brahmin	B
24	Ram Pd Giri	Motimaya Giri	Giri	S
25	Gitaraj Giri	Sita Giri	Giri	S
26	Madukar Dulal	Niranjana Dulal	Chhetri	A
27	Chaturman Tamang	Patali Tamang	Tamang	A
28	ShankaBd. Tamang	Kanchi Tamang	Tamang	B
29	Laxman Humagain	Bimala Humagain	Brahmin	S&A
30	Ganesh Humagain	Kalpna Humagain	Brahmin	B

A – agriculture

B – business

S- service

SP- service pension

Annex II:Name of Key Persons

S.No	Name of key person	Sex
1	Badri Pd.Jangam	Male
2	Sanju Jangam	Female
3	Sabitri Timilsina	Female
4	Bisnu Bd. Adhikari	Male
5	Durga Pd. Neupane	Male
6	Ganesh Humagain	Male
7	Srijana Jangam	Female
8	Sita Chaulagain	Female
9	Parvati Adhikari	Female

Annex III: Daily time allocation for men and women in GCF

TIME	WOMEN	MEN
4:00 am	When there is more work women get up early	Sleeping
5:00 am	Generally wake up to day today household	Wake up and morning chores
5:00-6:00 am	Bathing, sweeping, religious work, collect water	Feed animals, milking
6:00-6:30 am	Prepare kudo for livestock	Have tea
6:30-7:00 am	Tea making, serve	
7:00-8:00 am	Collection of fodder and grasses for animals	Take milk to dairy shop, have tea in the shop
8:00-9:00 am	Prepare lunch	Have lunch
9:00-9:30 am	Prepare children for lunch	*set for office or work in the field if needed
9:30-10:00 am	Washing dishes	
10:00-11:30 am	Clean house, wash clothes	
11:30-3.00 pm	Take livestock for grazing To carry out various field work (weeding, planting, harvesting)	Tea shop gathering, playing cards
3:00-4:00 pm	Prepare tiffin	Have tiffin
4.00-5.00 pm	Prepare kudo and serve to livestock	social gathering
5:00-6:30 pm	Milking, working in kitchen garden	
6:30-8:30 pm	Prepare dinner, clean dishes	Dinner
8:30-9:00 pm	Watching TV, take rest	Watching TV, take rest
9:00 pm	Bed	Bed

* Office going men

Resource persons

Name	Sex	Age
Angoor Adhikari	F	38
Bimala Humagain	F	49
Arjun Adhikari	M	52
Yubraj Neupane	M	38

Annex IV: Daily time allocation for girls and boys in GCF

TIME	GIRLS	BOYS
4:00 am	When there is more work girls get up early	Sleeping
5:00-5:30 am	Wake up and morning chores	Sleeping
5:30-6:30 am	Clean house, collect water	Wakeup, morning chores
6:30-7:00 am	Prepare tea, serve	Have tea
7:00-8:00 am	Help mother in kitchen	
8:00-9:00 am	Study	Take milk to dairy
9:00-10:00 am	Prepare to go school	Study
		Prepare to go school
10:00-5:00 pm	In holidays- care younger siblings, take animals for grazing, clean house, watch TV	In holidays- take animals for grazing, watch movie, play, have fun with friends
5:00-5:30 pm	Back from school, have tiffin	Back from school, have tiffin
5:30-6:30 pm	Care for siblings, household chores	Study or play
6:30-7:30 pm	Study or cook food	
7:30-8:00 pm	Eat dinner	Eat dinner
8:00-9:00 pm	Study or watch TV	Study or watch TV
9:00 pm	Sleep	Sleep

Resource person

Name	Sex	Age
Manita Giri	F	17
Rajkumar Tamang	M	15
Anish jangam	M	12
Muna Adhikari	F	s13

ANNEX V: Interview Schedule

General information

1. Name of the respondent:

2. Address VDC..... Ward No..... Village.....

3. Age.....

4. Marital status:

a. Married b. Unmarried c. Divorce d. Separated d. Widow

5. Religion.....

6. Caste.....

7. Education

a. Illiterate b. Primary level c. Secondary level d. Higher Secondary level d. or above.

8. Land holding size

Type	0-1	2-4	5-7	Above 7
Khet				
Bari				
Pakho				
Private Forest				

(Note-Land in Ropani)

9. Is there any land in your name?

a. Yes..... b. No.....

10. What is the main source of income in the family?

a. Land b. Farming c. Job c. Others

11. Is the income through land is enough?

12. Which Crops do you grow in your land?

S.No.	Crop	Amount (Muri)	HH use	Sell
1	Rice			
2	Wheat			
3	Maize			
4	Mustard			
5	Others (Specify)			

13. What are the other economic activities you perform?

14. Do you hire labour to work in your field? If yes then who and how much do you pay for the day?

Gender	Amount (Nrs) per day
Male	
Female	

15. Do any members of your family go to labour work and who?

16. What kind of domestic animals do you have?

S.No	Kind	No.	Potential use	HH use	Sell
1	Cow				
2	Buffalo				
3	Goat				
4	Hen				

17. Family description:

S.No	NAME	AGE	SEX	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	MARITAL STATUS	RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HH HEAD
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

18. What type of family structure do you have?

a. Nuclear b. Joint c. Extended

19. Does your family member encourage you to involve in community forest?

20. Which factor is affecting most in your participation?

a. Family b. Society c. Culture d. Education e. Others

21. What are the motivational factors which help to increase participation?

a. Self-interest b. Husband advice c. Training workshop d. Radio program e. Villagers request f. Government official request

22. Are you familiar with the Community forest executive member?

a. yes..... b. No.....

23. Who is the member of CF in your family?

24. Did you participate in the group meeting while making of operational plan of the CF?

a. yes..... b. No.....

If yes what were your roles?

25. How many times have you participated in group meeting?

a. Regularly....b. Moderately..... c. Occasionally.....d. No.....

26. Who encourages you to participate in CF?

a. Self motivated.....b. HH advice.....c. Society.....d.....

27. What is your role in decision making process in CF?

a. Advisor.....b. Facilitator.....c.

28. Which factor affects you in the participation of CF?

a. Social status.....b. Income.....c. Culture.....d.....

29. Do you participate in any act of Patrolling?

a. Yes.....b. No.....

If yes, how many times do you do?

30. What type of work do you do every day?

.....

31. Name of CF.....

32. No. of CFUG member.....

33. No. of household in the CFUG.....

34. Area of community forest.....

35. How many members are there in CF executive committee?

36. How many female members are there in CF executive committee?
37. What are the roles played by women in community forest management?
38. What methods are used in the formation of CFUG?
39. Are you trained or not?
40. Is CFU committee transparent or not? If not what are their untransperancy?
41. Is Operational Plan (OP) implemented in your CF?
42. Are you satisfied with the performance of your user committee?
43. Is the committee accountable to users?
44. Are the responsibilities carried out in daily basis?
45. Does the committee make feel the users on their right?
46. What is your status of decision making in CF?
47. Are you able to complete your duty?
48. What are the reasons behind your participation in CF?
49. What is required to increase women's involvement in decision making process?
50. What are the motivational factors which help to increase participation?
51. What do you expect from forest?
52. What should women do to develop utilization and well administration of the forest?
53. How much time do you spend on forest management?
54. Do all the women of the forest users committee participate to manage the forest resource? If not, in your opinion how can we increase it?
55. Are there any obstacles to increase women participation in CF? If yes what are they?

56. Is there any social and cultural invasion for the management of the forest?
57. What is the source of energy for HH purpose?
58. What is the source of water for HH use?
59. How do you feel about the situation of women in your society?
60. How are women's voices responded in CF meetings?
61. Which are the works that CF has started or done for upliftment of women's status?
62. Do you have any suggestions to improve the people status through CF?

Interview Schedule for Key Informants

1. What was the condition of the jungle for 10 to 15 years ago?
2. What steps have been taken for protecting the forest since last 10-15 years?
3. What has the present executive committee been doing? What has been produced from the jungle?
4. Does the forest users committee take part in all the activities of forest management?
5. Is forest user committee powerful to manage it?
6. Do all the women of the forest users 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 yes, what are they?
8. Is there any social and cultural invasion for the management of the forest?
9. How long have you been working in users committee?
10. Do all women actively participate while making rules and regulations of users group? If not why?
11. Are there any social and cultural barriers for proper management of all forest?
12. Is the management of forest going on the positive direction after women's participation?
13. Do you feel any changes after the women participation in community forest?
14. Do you feel any changes after the women's participation in CF?

Glossary

Alainchi : Cardamom

Argeli : Japanese Lokta

Bari : The land near to the house which is rain fed

Bhari : Local term to quantify the land

Brahmin : Aryan origin- high caste of Nepal

Chhetri : Aryan origin- Second ranked caste of Nepal

Dashain : Festival of Nepal

Khet : Land having irrigation facilities

Muri : Local unit of measurement equivalent to 20 pathi

Parma : A popular traditional system of exchanging labour

Tamang : Nepalese people with Mongolian origin

Teej : Festival of Nepal

Thakuri : A caste



Figure 1: Taking Data from the Forest Users



Figure 2: Gaukhureswor Community Forest