

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

Forests provide a wide range of environmental, socio-economic and cultural benefits and services to the people whose livelihood is basically dependent on farming system. Keeping this in view, Nepalese government has formulated many forest policies to ensure the right of local community over forest resources. Implementing community forest program under the provision of Forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995 has become a landmark in the history of forest management and development. Community Forestry is a participatory approach in forest management under which the authority for the protection and management of local forests is handed over to the community to manage as common property by groups of rural people (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991).

Proper management and utilization of forest resources through citizen participation is one of the major development agenda of Nepal. The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) has encouraged women's participation in community forestry from the very beginning of the program. The MPFS made a policy recommendation for participation of at least 33 percent women in the executive committee of CFUGs (HMGN, 1989); however, the provision does not specify women's participation in any specific positions of authority and decision-making. In addition, women-only CFUGs were created to increase women's involvement in community forestry since their participation in the decision-making of mixed-sex CFUGs was minimal (Gentle, 2003). Currently, there are more than 801 women-only CFUGs throughout the country in which women exclusively represent the executive committee and general assembly (DoF, 2010).

Women's participation in CFUG may be classified into two broad categories namely participation in implementation of CF activities and participation in decision making. Participation in the implementation of activities does not necessarily mean effective participation in decision making. Effective participation requires that people's views are

effectively taken into account and their views influence decision making (Agrawal, 1997).

A woman participation in community forestry is a concerning matters of good forest governance. Periodic assessing and understanding of gender and equity, women's participation and empowerment in the process of managing common property resource through collective action is essential the success of community forest management. In these circumstances, the study tries to look at the situation of women participation in the implementation of community forest management activities, decision making and benefit sharing and perception of women regarding the motivating factors and hindering factors that influences their role to involve in CF management.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Women are primary managers, sources of information and teachers in the use of natural resources. Women maintain a rich storehouse of indigenous technical knowledge of forest management which can be mobilized in problem solving process in natural resource management sectors, especially community forestry, watershed management, agriculture and animal husbandry (Adhikari, 2001). They have triple responsibilities i.e., for production, for reproduction at the household level, and for management of a range of activities at the community level. Women are involved in most aspects of forest management. However, in many cases, women are excluded from different phases of community forestry Nepal including membership and participation in forest user groups (Raut, 2006).

All sectors of Nepal including the forestry have begun to give priority to women and have talked about positive discrimination for their betterment. Participation of women, equity in benefit sharing, consideration of gender in FUC and other CF activities are emphasized by the rules/regulations, directives and guidelines but the real women's status in terms of participation for empowerment in CF is still questionable.

Different literatures suggest that the degree of involvement of women in decision-making and benefit sharing remains low and not influential or they are excluded though they are

the principal managers of forest resources (Flintan, 2003; ICIMOD, 1999; Bhatta and Gentle 2004; Gentle 2000; Ghimire 2000.). But how to involve women in a real sense is a major challenge for decision-makers in elite dominated society. There are still many questions to be answered in this arena, and this study aims to determine status of for women's participation in community forest management and explain the promoting and retarding factors with their participation. More specifically, this study is focused to seek answers of the following questions:

- ) What are the socio-economic features of the women users of Ratopahiro community forest of Pokhara Sub-metro Municipality-17 in Kaski district?
- ) What is the situation of women in terms of their participation in decision making, implementation of operational plan and benefit sharing processes?
- ) Whose roles do account more for formulating the norms and rules or in planning process?
- ) What are the factors that motivate or de-motivate women to participate in their CF activities?
- ) Do CFUG follow the norms, rules and regulations that oblige them to participate women?, if not,
- ) What are the possible strategies/options to participate gender/women substantially in future?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to examine women's involvement in community forestry management especially in implementing new programs, decision making and management of community forest.

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of the research are;

- ) To find out socio- economic characteristics of the women users of Ratopahiro community forest of Pokhara Sub metropolitan city in Kaski district;
- ) To examine women's involvement in forest management, decision making and benefit sharing process; and
- ) To explain motivating and hindering factors for participating women in CF.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Nepalese women can play the vital role and contribute to manage natural resources, its development, and conservation that ultimately lead to support in building the nation. Women are the real users of the forest resources. Involvement of women in the CF management process creates the feelings of ownership on them that will help make success the program.

This study basically explains the different dimensions of women's participation in CF management. Moreover, it considers the socio-economic status of women in the study area. Similarly, this research explores the participation of women in decision making level as well as CF management activities in recent situation which will be supportive to future action. This research also provides information on the factors which prohibit women's participation in CF activities. It will help to explore more effective measures to increase women's participation in decision making as well as CF management activities in future. This report will be supportive to concern the CFUG to improve their attitude towards women's participation in FUC as well as CF management activities. They will also understand the importance of women's participation in decision making, for development. The research report will be helpful to N/GO to formulate plans and policies to address relevant problems and issues in future.

## **1.5 Operational Definition of the Terms Used**

**Community Forest (CF):** It is the part of national forest which is formally handed over to the local community for protection, management and utilisation of forest resources.

**Constitution of Forest User Group:** A legally binding formal document of forest user that guides CFUG

**Operational Plan (OP):** A plan of community forest prepared by CFUG with the support of forest technician for the conservation and management of community forest in a sustainable way.

**Household:** The houses, which are the members in forest user group.

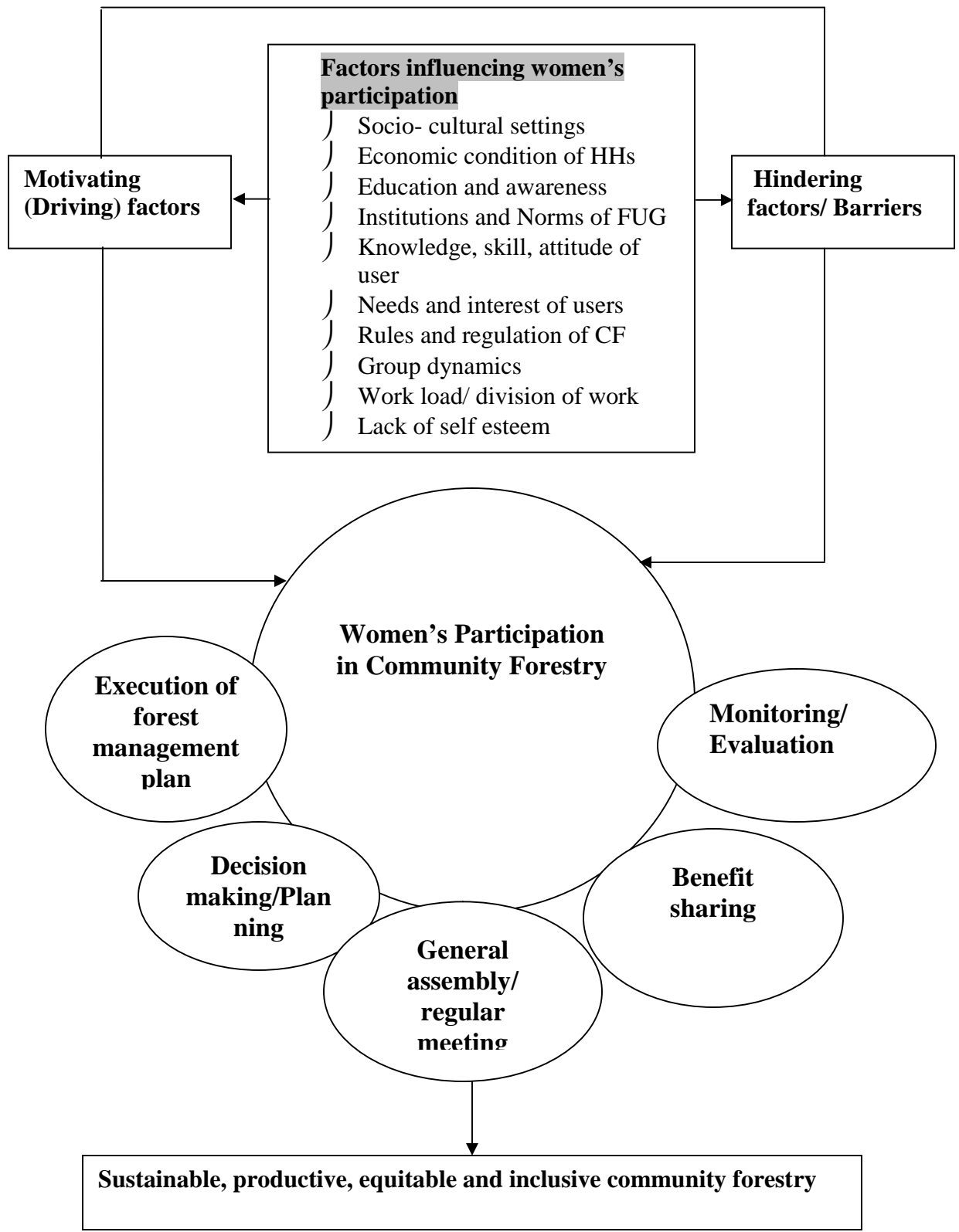
**Community /Forestry/ Users Group (C/F/UG):** A group which includes all primary households as a forest user in community forest and formally registered in DFO.

**Community /Forestry Users Committee (C/FUC):** An Executive body of CFUG selected from general assembly of CFUG for implementing day to day activities of community forest as prescribed by constitution and operational plan.

**Participation:** It implies the active engagement/involvement of women's users in the processes of community forest management so that their voice and choice are heard and addressed.

## **1.6 Conceptual Framework**

In common sense, people's participation means involvement of all concerning people in a project/program from the stage of planning to benefit sharing. For research, the definition of women's participation in the context of community forest management is, "the process of inclusion and involvement of women for the management of forest resources aiming at increasing forest productivity in a sustainable, equitable and inclusive way". The management activities which are included for the study are preparation of constitution and operational plan (planning) and its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, decision making in regular meeting and general assembly and benefit sharing.



**Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the study**

Community forest user group (CFUG) is a group formed by the concerned households of particular community forest in which in both men and women are considered as users. The community forest user committee (CFUC) is formed by the members either by consensus or by election. This conceptual frame work says that if women's participation is in community forestry mainly in preparation of operational plan and constitution, in CFUG assembly, CFUC meeting, planning and decision process, CF management activities and benefit sharing mechanism, the community forest will be sustainable and productive; group will be inclusive and democratic and finally contribute to have equitable society.

The degree of participation of women is influenced by various factors. Driving forces here imply for motivating factors, assuming that it accelerates the process of women participation in community forestry and hindering factors or barriers mean retarding forces for women participation. These both factors are governed by various socio-economic settings (traditions, culture, belief and social norms and values), personal traits, knowledge and skill of respondents, interest and needs of individuals, perception towards women, work load to women, institutional arrangement of community forestry.

During the processes of CF management there may have many socio-cultural, economic and technical, political and institutional forces that boost up or suppress the participation of women. Because of the social constraints women always hesitate to speak in front of a mass, and so they cannot actively participate in decision making processes of FUG/FUC assembly and meeting.

### **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

This research work is mainly conducted for an academic purpose based on the information from primary sources. It has certain limitations. These are;

- ) This is only a micro level study on community forestry focusing on involvement of women in its management in Nepal.

- ) Due to the time and resource limitation, the field survey is conducted only at a community forestry user group. Thus, the generalization made in this study may or may not represent the country as a whole.
- ) The data collected on different characteristics of ideas, thoughts and voices of women will mainly be based on the memory of the respondents.
- ) The data are not sufficient for analyzing degree of participation of women by using different socio-demographic factors as independent variables.

### **1.8 Structure of the Thesis**

This thesis is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter is a general introduction that covers research background, problem statement, objectives, significance of the study, conceptual framework with operational definition of terms used and limitation of the study. The second chapter provides information on literature review that basically focuses on concept, policy provision and evolution of community forestry. It also reflects the situation of women's participation in previous study. Third chapter gives the information of research methodology.

Chapter four includes description of the study area. Similarly, the fifth chapter provides the general socio-economic features of the respondents with respect to community forestry and the sixth chapter deals with women's participation in different community forest management activities, followed by seventh chapter with motivational and hindering factors affecting women's involvement in CF management activities. Finally the eighth chapter has the summary, conclusion and the recommendations.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Review

##### 2.1.1 Gender and Social Inclusion

The issue of gender has been considered important within development circles at least since the mid-1980s (UN Decade of Women 1980s). Studies all over the Himalayas have shown the harvesting of forest resources for daily needs—firewood, fodder, and leaf litter—is done primarily by women (Agarwal 1997). Within the gender and development literature, gender has most often been equated with women and women's issues. Yet gender is defined as the socially constructed differences between biological males and females. In other words, what it means to be a woman and what it means to be a man varies across cultures, places, along with the passing of times. Thus, to take gender seriously within community forestry requires a focus on how differences between men and women are locally defined and what implications this has for participation in the community forestry process (Nathen 1995 cited in Nightingale, 2002).

The theory of liberal feminism argues that women and men are essentially similar, and therefore women should be equally represented in public arenas so far dominated by men. They should have the same rights as men and the same educational and work opportunities. Marxist and socialist feminisms, on the other hand argue that the source of women's oppression is their economic dependence on a husband. Development feminism emphasizes on universal human rights and to have access and control over economic resources (Lorber, 2010).

A woman in development (WID) approach is based on assumption that developments proceed much better if women were fully incorporated into development activities. However, gender and development (GAD) emphasizes on both women and men and best interventions that empower to improve their position and relation. The GAD stresses on equity, empowerment and right based development (Bhadra and Karky, 2002).

Social inclusion is usually seen as the opposite of social exclusion. Silver (1994) defined social exclusion in the context of Europe as ‘a rupture of social bond or solidarity’ and stressed to rebuild social bonds through participation of all citizens. To combat inequality and discrimination and to promote social inclusion (a process that creates inclusive society where all people feel valued, their differences are respected and their basic needs are met) civic participation and their empowerment have become an indispensable and essential ingredient of the policy process (Sliver, 2010). Social exclusion has economic, social and political dimensions and it explicitly embraces the relational as well as distributional aspects of poverty (Bhalla and Lapeyre 1997). The main reason for the exclusion of the majority of the poor is the high opportunity cost of joining a group, especially for income-earning women (Acharya 2004; Adhikari 2003; Gentle 2000; Maharjan 1998).

Inequality that prevails in developing countries manifests much social, economic, and political discrimination. HDR (2009) indicates that the level of human development of women is still lower than that of men and women is still in lack of equitable access to opportunities and resources. Although the interim constitution of Nepal, 2006 guarantees equality on the basis of gender (GoN, 2006), the equality is yet to be real.

The gender and social inclusion issue in forestry sector has become prominent and widely documented. It has become clear that functioning of women groups has been found to be more efficient and transparent. The more women participate in forestry, the more the chances are that they bring benefits of forests to the rural poor.

### **2.1.2 Participation: A people Centric Approach to Development**

After World War II, different approaches of development come in to effect. For third world, W W Rostow proposed modernization approach- five steps of development which is strongly criticized by A.G. Frank and he proposed dependency approach. He argued that any society of third world countries never develops until and unless they detach the relation from global economy structure (Slattery, 2003). Certainly the theory outlined the global structure and its nature for exploitation by developed country to under developed countries. In 1980s the new theoretical approach was developed i.e. called people or

community based approach. It strongly supports bottom up approach and principles of decentralization. It advocates that development process must be context specific and indigenous and decentralized (Bhattachan, 2000).

Participation is defined as being combination of involvement in decision making, implementation, benefit sharing and evaluation of the development activities (Regmi, 1992 cited by Fields, 1995). Lohani (1980) has divided people participation in six different criteria for effective development namely conceptualization and identification, decision making, resource mobilization, implementation, benefit sharing and evaluation and control. Bartlett & Nurse (1992) stresses on participation of people in all kinds of developments at four level; participation in decision making, implementation of project/program, participation in benefit sharing and participation in monitoring and evaluation.

Participation of women in community forestry is affected by age, sex, marital status, literacy and wealth (Mannion and Brehony's, 1990 cited by Fields, 1995), caste and place of meeting being held (Nightingale, 2002) family support, size of the committee and marital status ( Regmi, 1992), workload in household works, timing and duration of meeting (Lama, 1999), ladders of needs (Maslow's theory of motivation- basic needs, security needs, social affiliation, self esteem, self actualization as cited in Robbins, 1998), individual perception and or group behaviour (decision making theory as cited in Robbins 1998) and gender ideologies, cultural taboos, state-ascribed roles, education and familiar with the outside world, cash earning abilities, identity and strength, role in decision making and their own inner sense of autonomy ( ICIMOD, 1999).

### **2.1.3 Concept and Evolution of Community Forestry**

Forest, one of the state or public resources, is currently managed and governed by common property resource (CPR) regime- arrangement different from private property or state administration. Propounding CPR Management theory E. Ostrom claims that collective or group actions do not create the problem of overuse of core public resources which is contradicted to Hardin's theory – tragedy of common (Wikipedia, the free

encyclopaedia, 2010). In Nepal based on the theory the forest resources are managed as community forest.

Community forestry involves local people in the management of forest resources, which are at least partly intended for their use. It is based on the notion that appropriate involvement by local people in forest management enhances the sustainable use of forest resources (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). The basic objective of community forestry programs is to increase community involvement in the management and ownership of forest resources. The underlying principle of community forestry program is that the program is of the people, carried out by the people themselves, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

It is widely recognized that local communities have historically played an instrumental role in forest management as an indispensable common property. The concept of community or social forestry crystallized somewhat in the late 1970s with the release of landmark FAO publication 'Forestry for local community Development'. It has defined CF as ".....any situation which intimately involves local people in forestry activity". Hopley (1996:3) presents the typology of change in the concept and philosophy of forestry for local community development since the 1970s (Table 1). The typology clearly illustrates how the concept of CF has evolved and developed since 1970s.

Table 1: Typology of change in community forestry

<b>Decade</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Response</b>
1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Oil crisis = other energy crisis-firewood</li> <li>* Sahelian drought = deforestation</li> <li>* Bangladesh floods = deforestation</li> </ul>	Forestry for local community development
1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Eco-disaster = Forestry renaissance</li> </ul>	Creation of new forest resources = wood lots/social forestry
Late1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Changing development practice = from top-down to bottom up planning</li> </ul>	Local control and management of resources = participation, acknowledgement of value of indigenous technical knowledge, enhanced role of NGOs.
1990s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* New forest sector policy</li> <li>* Rio and Agenda 21</li> <li>* Decentralization</li> <li>* Public sector reform</li> </ul>	Participatory management = institutional and policy reform, new partnerships, collaborative, joint, participatory and community forestry

**Source: Hobley, M. 1996.**

Community Forestry in Nepal is amongst the successful programs of Nepal Government. Nepal has been implementing community forestry programme for the last three decades. Community Forestry programme is recognized as a strategy to improve the condition of forests and to satisfy the household needs of forest products in the rural areas. Community Forestry involves handing over the rights to use and manage the forests to local people, who have traditionally used the forests and are willing to accept management responsibilities (Gautam, 2005).

The concept of community forest was incorporated in Nepal's National Forestry Plan of 1976. Further modification of these plans and legislations made it possible for the development of community forestry in Nepal (Mahat, 1997, quoted in Roy 2002). Efforts on protection and conservation of forest resources were started, after the establishment of District Forest Offices in 74 districts in 1993.

## 2.2 Policy History of Community Forestry

**The Panchayat** Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF) Rules 1978 officially initiated the implementation of a community forestry program in Nepal. Forest lands without trees were handed over to local Panchayats as “Panchayat forest” and with trees as “Panchayat protected forests.” However, forests were not handed over to actual users who were protecting the forests or who could protect the forests (HMGN, 1978)

**The Master Plan for the** Forestry Sector (MPFS) was approved in 1989 providing a 25-year policy and planning framework and remains the main policy and planning document for the continuing development of the forestry sector ( HMGN, 1989). **It has emphasized the role of women and their participation in CF management (Shrestha, 1999).**

Forest Act (1993) and Forest Rules (1995) have given substantial rights to local people in managing their community forests. Further elaboration of these rules is made in the community forestry directives, 1996 and community forestry guidelines, 2001. The one of the focus of this legislation is on empowering women and institutionalizing Community Forestry User Group (HMGN, 1995)

Forest policy, 2000 withdraws some of the rights of local forest users in the plains area of Terai, with the intention that the forests would be better managed by the active involvement of the government. According to the policy, the barren and isolated forestlands of the Terai, inner Terai and the Churia hills will be made available for handing over as community forests (HMGN, 2000).

The ministry of forest and soil conservation is developing a Gender and Social Equity Vision: “The ministry of forest and soil conservation is a Gender and social equity sensitive and socially inclusive organization practicing good governance to ensure equitable access to and decision making power over forest resources and benefits to all forestry sector stakeholders” (MFSC, 2004).

The tenth Five Year Plan and Interim three year Plan (2008-2010) both have emphasized on CF in sustainable management and conservation. Besides, they have stressed greater role of women in decision making in CFUG (NPC, 2008).

The Guideline for community forestry development program (CFDP) lays emphasis on having equal number of female and male in Community Forest User Group Committee (CFUGC). In the CFUG assembly also one female and one male from each household are encouraged to participate and the names and addresses of all users should be clearly stated in the constitution, and provisions made for equal voting by indicating the names of one male and one female voter from each household. For the preparation of the operational plan also, poor and marginalized women should be included in the *tole* meetings as their demands need to be incorporated in the discussion. The Guideline emphasizes on giving leadership opportunities in the CFUG to women, the poor and the disadvantaged and to create an environment conducive to the increased participation of women in forest management (CFDP, 2008).

### **2.3 Women Participation in Community Forestry**

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is, therefore, essential to achieve sustainable development (Principle 20, Rio Declaration, 1992). The exclusion of women in the resource management process has serious negative consequences not just for gender equity, but also for the efficient functioning and long term sustainability of these initiatives, and for women's empowerment (Agarwal 1997, Inserra, 1989).

Several studies conducted in different parts of Nepal have also shown the heavy reliance of women on the forest resources. The involvement of women is crucial for the success of community forestry (Gentle, 2003; Regmi, 1989). Besides this, women are generally excluded in the decision-making process of CFUGs (Gentle 2000; Ghimire 2000). Women constitute half of the population of our country, but only about one fourth of the total members on community forest management executive committees are women (DoF 2010).

Effective participation of women in the institutions of decision making would enable them to influence formulation of rules and regulations in their interest, making rules in favour of them but it does not necessarily guarantee that women enjoy access to the incentives derived from FUGs (Rai and Buchy, 2004).

Women do participate in general meetings, where participation of any household member is mandatory and where a fine often must be paid for being absent from such meetings. Primarily, women are active in the field of the collection of forest products, silvicultural operations and forest protection and management activities. These activities consume significant time and energy, take women away from the home, and limit their participation in CFUG activities, particularly if that participation does not lead to decisions that positively affect them. The participation of women without involving them in productive and community management roles increases their workload and ultimately contributes towards widening gender disparity in natural resource management (Gentle 2003).

#### **2.4 Reviews of Previous Studies**

According to the CBS (2003), the number of female headed household is 15%, ownership of land is 10.84%, and the educational status of women is 42.5% which is below than the national average (53.7%). This shows the poor socio-economic status of the women.

A study conducted in the eastern Koshi hills of Nepal reported that in all FUGs women appear to be fully involved in collecting forest products but their role in decision making within the FUGs is very low. Participation of women is found significant only in those FUGs where the FUGs are exclusively managed by women. In the remaining FUGs, women either did not attend committee meetings and group assemblies or participated passively. When asked about their non-participation, it has been found that due to domination of men in meeting and decision-making process women's involvement in overall planning and forest management is found to be low (Rasaily, 1996). Parajuli et. al (2010) on their study has concluded that there is gap and discrimination between male and female, poor and rich. They also stated that the participation of poor, women and Dalit is minimal in community forest management activities.

Chhetri and Rana (1995) and Shrestha (1987) reported that women's participation in CF has so far been mostly in terms of labour contribution. They are often not involved in



decision making or in the formulation of plans. Most of the CFUGs are formally led by the local elites particularly belong to local political leaders, particular castes, rich and educated people. Even if some CFUGs involve the marginalized sections particularly the women of the community in the decision making process, generally their voice and choices are hardly addressed (Banjade *et al.*, 2004). Rai and Buchy (2004) studied the power relationship (rights, resources, revenue and responsibilities) between men and women and concluded that there is unequal power relationship between man and women that has ultimate negative effects to the women.

A study conducted by K.C. (2008) in CFUG of Kaski district of Lekhanath Municipality revealed that participation of women is higher in grazing of cattle and fodder collection but lower in timber collection. She has concluded that women is still underestimated by men and treated as second class citizen perceiving that they have lack of knowledge and skill, lack of leadership qualities. Rules of restricted access to forest resources mentioned in OP and discrimination of wages between men and women make them humiliated and hindered them to participate in CF.

Community forestry, one of the successful and people centric program started thirty two years ago have been gaining momentum for sustainable forest resource management at community level. During this period many scholars have carried out many researches related to women in community forestry. They found that women are principal users/collector of the forest products like fuel wood, fodder, bedding materials; leaf etc. and they have much more contribution in forest management too. They also found that women's participation in decision making and benefit sharing was low. Research is essential to know the current situation i.e. whether it has progressed or worsened. In this context, the research provides the information about participation of women in various community forest management activities. This research also helps find out the factors that have been motivating and hindering women's involvement/participation in Community Forest Management.

### **CHAPTER - III**

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

Success of research is dependent upon the selection of appropriate research methods. Considering this truth various methods and techniques have been used for the collection of data and information required for this study.

### **3.2 Selection of the Study Area**

Ratopahiro Community Forest User Group is purposely selected as a sample case study area keeping in mind that the selected CF be at least five years old and that the Operational Plan (OP) should have been revised at least once. It is located at the Pokhara Sub- metro Municipality in the central part of Kaski district which represents the mid-hill forests of Nepal.

The main reasons behind selecting the Ratopahiro community forest for the study are:

1. Among 8 community forests at the municipality, the Ratopahiro community forest, which was handed over to 78 local households in 2051 B S, is one of the well managed and matured CF (DFO, 2010).
2. The study area consists of various caste/ethnic groups who are divided in to different socio-economic strata.
3. Location of the study area is very close to Pokhara city that helps to balance resource constraints of the researchers.

### **3.3 Research Design**

The sociological study is specially designed to explore women's participation in community forest management. This study is based on descriptive exploratory research design. It helped researcher assess the degree of women's participation and identify promoting and hindering factors of motivation with some facts and figures of socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

### **3.5 Nature and Source of Data**

The data is both qualitative and quantitative in its nature. Primary (first hand) data were collected by field works mainly from questionnaire survey. The women users of the

concerned CFUG were the main sources of the primary data. Secondary data were obtained from the documents of concerned CFUG, DFO, DDC, IOF and other concerned organisations. Similarly, various books, journals, national and international conference reports, seminar papers, curriculum, articles dissertations, project reports related to this research were consulted as the source of secondary data.

### **3.4 Universe and Sampling**

There were 78 households at the time of registration and currently there are 116 households in this community forest users group (CFUG) from where 35 households were randomly selected for questionnaire survey. 30 % sampling was done for interviewing the respondents.

For the selection of household for interview prior noticed was served informing the respondents of the household interview. The researcher herself visited the research areas with her research assistant and representatives from the concerned range post with the permission of the DFO Kaski. Then the researcher searched for key persons who have an idea about the concerned community. As respondents were only women, local men were not allowed to be present during the interview.

### **3.6 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection**

Primary and secondary data were collected by using following tools and techniques.

#### **3. 6.1 Primary Data Collection**

For primary data structured open ended and close ended questionnaires, key informant interview and focus group discussion and direct observation methods were followed.

##### **3.6.1.1 Questionnaire Schedule**

A set of questionnaires was developed to achieve the research objectives. The questionnaire contains three parts. The first part includes socio-economic features of the respondent, the second part contains women's participation in different CF management activities and benefit sharing and the third part contains motivating and hindering factors that affect women's participation in CF management activities (*Annex I*).

The questionnaire was prepared in English first and then translated into Nepali. Before conducting the main research, questionnaire had been tested in another CFUG i.e. Jayakot CFUG which is located in Kanhu VDC- 2, of Kaski district. In this test, 20

individual female respondents were randomly selected from the area for questionnaire test (pre-test). Their response helped in correction/refinement/modification of research materials. Changes were also made in the sequential arrangement of questions and the language used for clarity.

### **3.6.1.2 Key Informant Interviews**

The researcher visited research areas with her research assistant and representatives from the concerned range post. Then the researcher searched for key persons who have an idea about the concerned community and CFUG and CF activities. Individual members of the present FUC, Ex FUC members, teachers, ward chairperson, elderly men and women and other knowledgeable persons were considered as key persons. For the interaction they were given prior information by the researcher. As the research team was new to them, first the researcher built a rapport with the key informant, interaction started only when she became familiar with the team. They were consulted for more detailed information about participation of women in CF (Annex III).

### **3.6.1.3 Focus Group Discussion**

Focus group discussions were carried out to explore the knowledge and participation of women in CF. It was supposed to find out the real reasons for the change and also helped to triangulate the information collected from key informants. Four focused group discussions were mainly conducted with CF women members, executive members of the FUC, and FECOFUN of the district and DFO staff. A time and venue for the discussion was decided upon and the selected participants were informed in advance. The concerned members arrived at the venue at the appointed time and discussion was started by introducing the participants, then the objectives of the discussion were expressed and the discussion proceeded based on the objectives of the research. To guide the discussion a check list was used by the researcher informally. The Check list for focus group discussion is attached in the annex II.

### **3.6.1.4 Direct Observation**

The patterns of forest product collection, women's participation in thinning and pruning, regular meeting of executive committee and general assembly were observed. The

observation methods were used for collecting more ideas and information about the existing system of forest management or practices, women's involvement style in CF related activities and their functioning, meeting of CFUC, etc. Photos of community forest and general assembly are attached in annex IV.

### **3.6.2 Secondary Data Collection**

Minutes of the FUC meeting and CFUG's statute and operational plan, as well as financial and administrative records of CF users were reviewed thoroughly. This information was helpful in interpretation and comparison of the results. Secondary data were collected from DFO, Kaski, DDC, Kaski, IOF library and annual reports of DFO, Kaski. Additional information was also gathered to meet the objectives of the study from published and unpublished research reports, journals, literatures and available maps.

### **3.7 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The data collected during the field work were first defined, coded and categorized. The data were logically interpreted along with simple tables, charts, and graphs. The mean score (weighted mean) obtained on three point scale was used to determine the participation rate of the respondents. Collected information were analyzed by using simple statistical tools like percentage, weight mean, and average and presented with tables and pie charts.

Likert scale test was used to measure the respondent's rate of participation in different CF activities by some statements. Three points scale was rated with following values.

- 3-High participation
- 2- Medium participation
- 1- Low participation

The scale 1-3 ranges from 1 in the case of low participation to 3 in the case of high participation, if the number is in the increasing order one needs to understand that rate of participation in different CF activities is increasing.

## **CHAPTER V**

## **PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA**

This chapter deals with the study area and respondents. It includes description of the study area i.e. Kaski district, Pokhara sub metropolitan city and the Ratopahiro community forest and users' demographic characteristics.

### **4.1 Brief Introduction of Kaski District**

The study area is situated in Kaski district which is located in the Western Development Region of Nepal. The district has one Sub Metropolitan City, one Municipality and forty three VDCs as its administrative unit and Pokhara as its headquarter. Forest administration is done by District Forest Office (DFO), under which there is one Illaka Forest Office and eight Range Posts.

Kaski district lies between  $28^{\circ} 6'$  and  $28^{\circ} 36'$  N latitude and  $83^{\circ} 40'$  to  $84^{\circ} 12'$  E. Altitudes across the district varies from 450m in the south to 7939m in the north. It is bounded in the north by Manang and Lamjung districts, in the east by Lamjung and Tanahun districts, in the west by Parbat and Myagdi and in the south by Tanahun and Syangja. The map of the study area is attached in annex V.

The lower elevated part of the district has a sub-tropical climate; climatic variations range from sub tropical through temperate, alpine and tundra are found across the district, from south to north. The average annual rainfall is 3880 mm, which is the highest recorded in Nepal. Snowfall is common in the higher Himalayan and mountainous regions during winter season. The mean maximum monthly temperature is  $33^{\circ}$  C in April-May and minimum monthly temperature is  $5-6^{\circ}$  C during December-January.

According to the population census 2001, the total population of the district is 380,527 out of which 184,995 were male and 195,532 were females. According to the CBS (2003) the literacy status of the population of Kaski above six years of age is as follows; 58718 female as compared to 21100 male cannot read or write. While the number of male who can read and write is 133569(72%), that of female in this category are 106071 (54%), the number of male who can read only is 5815 while the number of female who can read only is 6955.

The total area of the district is 201700ha. Of the total land area of the district, 24% is cultivated, 45% is forested, 11% is residential and 20% is non-arable (CBS, 2003). Natural forest area in the district is 89,943 ha of which 16687 ha is handed over to 459 CFUG (DFO, 2010) to manage as CF.

#### 4.2 Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City

Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City established in 2052 B.S. is situated in Pokhara valley having sub tropical climate. The area of the city is about 55.66.sq. km. According to the population census of Nepal 2001, the total population of the sub metropolitan city is 156,312 where the population of male is 79,563 and female is 76,749. The population growth rate is about 4.59 and the average literacy rate is 78.21 %. There are 37,305 households in the city and population density is 2,808 persons per sq. Km. Table 2 shows the population distribution of Pokhara Metropolitan city by age group.

Table 2: Population of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City by age group

<b>Age class</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>%</b>
0-10	31359	20	16136	20	15223	20
10-19	37776	24	19681	25	18095	24
20-29	34124	22	17445	22	16679	22
30-39	22403	14	11243	14	11160	14
40-49	13730	9	6965	9	6765	9
50-59	8101	5	4180	5	3921	5
>60	8819	6	3913	5	4906	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>156312</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79563</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>76749</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: CBS, 2003.

#### Economic Profile

Table 3: Households involved in non agriculture in Pokhara sub metropolitan city

S.No.	Non-farm activities	Households	%
1	Manufacturing	1156	8.0
2	Trade	5799	38.0
3	Transport	685	4.0
4	Services	6062	40.0
5	Others	1618	10.0
Total		15320	100.0

Source: PSMC, 2010

The Table shows that 40 % of the population of the city is engaged in government service and non government sector and 38 % are in trade and commerce. The population of above 10 years is usually involved in various economic activities. The details of economically active population are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Economically active population in Pokhara

Population > 10 yrs	Active	%	Inactive	%	Total	%
Male	36995	58	26480	42	63475	100
Female	23570	38	37991	62	61561	100

Source: PSMC, 2010

#### 4.3 The Ratopahiro Community Forest

The research unit "Ratopahiro Community Forest" was handed over to users group in 2051 B.S. It lies in ward No. 17 of Pokhara sub metropolitan city of Kaski district and 116 households are involved. As per provision of Forest Act 2049 and Forest Regulation 2051 a separate constitution was prepared and registered in 2054 B.S. The community forest is mixed of both natural and plantation area that covers nearly 13.25 hectares of forest land.

The key informants of the village reported that the forest was previously under the control of District Forest Office. DFO had started plantation operation and finally handed over to the local community known as Panchayat forest. The first Operation plan of the forest was reviewed after 5 years in 2058 B.S. Like wise the second amendment was in 2063 B.S. During the time of registration the density of population was very thin and



only 78 households were affiliated as users. Nowadays, the population growth has the direct effects on forest resources and is not enough to fulfil their household need.

#### 4.4 Demographic Features of Forest User Group

All together there are 116 households in Ratopahiro CFUG with different caste/ethnic compositions. Brahmin and Chettri covers about 54 %, Janajati (Gurung, Magar, Newar) is about 23 % and rest households belongs to *Dalit*. The ethnic composition of users is depicted in figure 2.

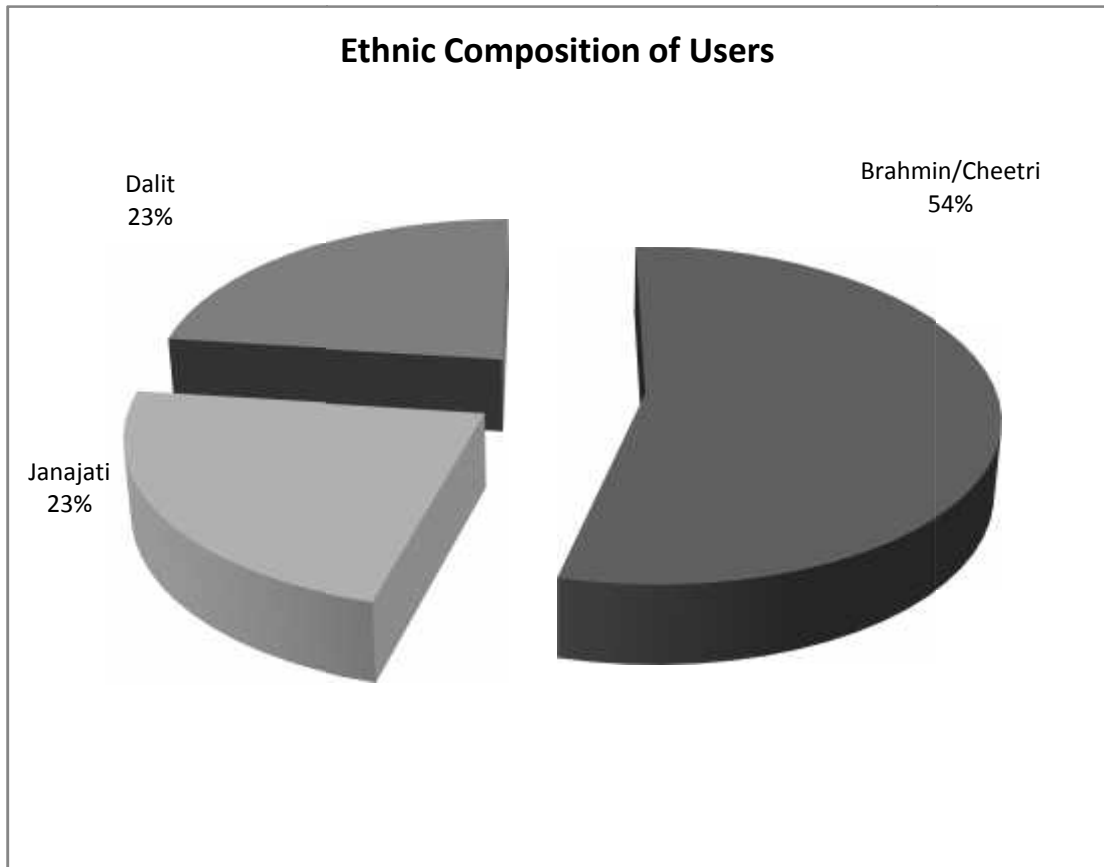


Figure 2

The total population of Ratopahiro CFUG is about 535. Of them 280 are women and 255 men. Hence, the average population of each household is 4.6 which is less than national average. The detail of population by caste is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Caste/Ethnic Composition of Users

<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Chhetri/Brahmin	289	54.00
Janajati(Newar, Gurung, Magar)	123	23.00
Dalit	123	23.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: CFUG Records, 2010*

The table shows that majority of the population of the CFUG is Brahmin and Chettri (57%), followed by Janajati (23%). Relatively the population of dalit is lower than average figure.

## CHAPTER V

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

This chapter highlights the socio- economic dynamics of the respondents. The ethnicity, religion, age group, family size, education of the respondents are analysed and presented below.

#### 5.1 Socio-cultural Dynamics:

##### 5.1.1 Caste/Ethnicity

Nepal has diverse ethnicity which is unique identity of ours. The caste of the respondent has been grouped on the basis Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS), 2004.

Table 6: Respondent by Caste/Ethnicity

<b>Caste/Ethnic Group</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Brahmin	8	22.86
Chhetri	9	25.71
Janajati(Gurung, Magar, Newar, Tamang)	8	22.86
Dalits	10	28.57
Total	35	100

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Table 6 shows that the third majority of the respondents belong to Dalits (28.57%) and rest of the respondents were Janajati (about 23%). The Statistics of Brahmin, Chhetri, and Dalits are more than national average (NLSS, 2004)

##### 5.1.2 Age of the Respondents

Generally, young people are economically more active than the older ones. But they sometimes they loose their emotional intelligence while taking decision for common property resources management.

Table 7: Respondents by age group

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
21-30	3	8.6
31-40	12	34.3
41-50	11	31.4
51-60	7	20.0
>61	2	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

For analysis, the age of respondents has been categorized into various class as defined by CBS (2003). Among 35 respondents more than 85 percent respondents were between 31-60 years and less than 15 percent falls in lower aged and higher aged category. The details of the respondents age group is provided in the table 7. Among them respondents mainly 31-50 age category show very much interest on forest management and those can play a vital role for protection and distribution of forest resources to the users.

### **5.1.3 Religion**

Religion is one of the social institutions that has some belief, traditions, culture norms and values which encourages or discourages any people to take part in social work. Here, the religion of respondents has been defined on the basis of CBS (2004)

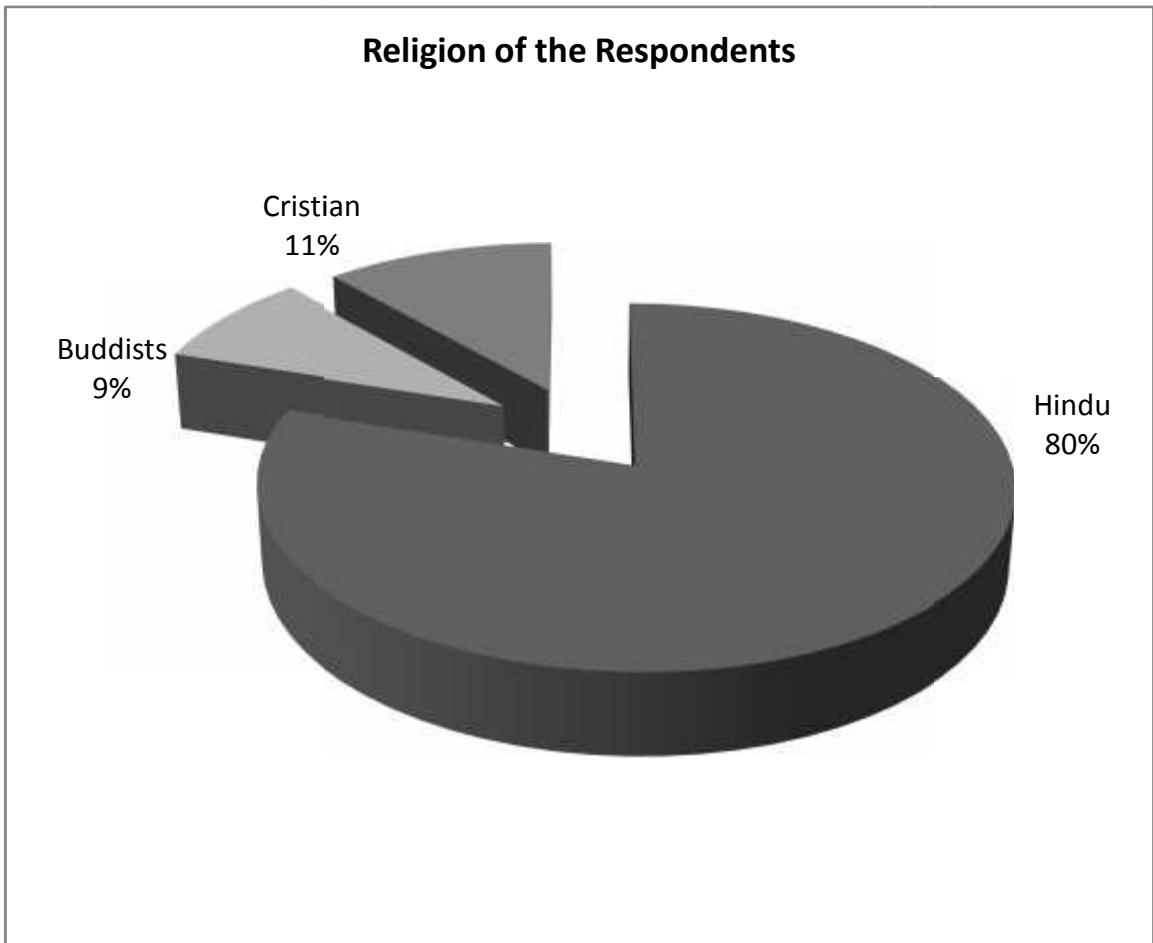


Figure 3

The diagram indicates that majority of the respondents (80%) believe in Hinduism, followed 11 % by Christians and 9% by Buddhism. The religion of surveyed population of Hindus and Buddhists is similar to National data which is 80.62% and 10.74% respectively, where as the sampled Christians population is higher than the national average (NLSS, 2004). In informal discussion, respondents perceived that publicity and extension of Christian mission has more influence in adjoining to the city or buffer area between city and village.

#### 5.1.4 Family Size

Family is one of the important social institutions that has vital role in the process of socialization and performing collective work. The nature and size of the family affect to the degree of women's participation in forest resource management.

Table 8: Family size of the respondents

Family numbers	No of Respondents	Percentage
Up to 3	1	2.9
4-6	27	77.1
> 6	7	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2010*

The majority of the respondents shown in Table 9 were in the category of 4 to 6 family members (77%). This figure indicates that the family size of surveyed population is around the national average which is 5.3 (NLSS, 2004).

#### 5.1.5 Education Status of Respondents

Education plays crucial role to determine the capability of individuals for carrying out different activities. Generally it is perceived that a person with higher educational status has known the importance of women's participation in community forest.

Table 9: Educational status of respondents

Level of Education	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Illiterate	11	31.42
Literate	14	40.00
Up to SLC	10	28.58
Above SLC	0	0
Total	35	100.0

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Here, the level of respondents was broadly classified into four categories such as illiterate, literate, up to SLC, and above SLC. The average literacy rate of the Ratopahiro community was 69% whereas the district average is 72%. The educational status of the respondents is presented in Table 10. Thirty one percent of the respondents were found illiterate. No one has passed the SLC though the respondents reside adjoining to the city. However, the figure of female literacy in sampled population is more than national average i.e. 42.8 % (CBS, 2003).

### 5.1.6 Occupational Status of Respondents

Nepalese people adopted many occupations for their livelihoods. Most of the people have been involved in agricultural activities including livestock farming. For the purpose of the study, the occupation of the respondents has been divided into agriculture, government service, business, wages, and housework.

Table 10: Occupational status of respondents

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Agriculture	11	31.43
Service	2	5.71
Business	4	11.43
Wages	7	20.00
Housework	11	31.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Table 10 shows that 31.43 percent people were involved in agriculture in study area and the same percent of respondents were in housework. Similarly, 20 percent people were involved in daily wage work, 11.43% followed business and about 5 percent people were in services for their livelihoods.

### 5.1.7 Land Holding Size

Land is one of the fix assets that determine the economic status of individual. It has also important role to manage forest resource in private land and improve the supply condition of

forest products. Generally, the lesser the land size the higher the dependency on public resources including forest.

Table 11: Landholding size of respondents

<b>Land size(Ropani)</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<1	23	66
1-5	5	14
5-10	1	3
>10	3	8.5
Landless	3	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Table 11 shows that majority of the respondents were the holders of less than 1 Ropani of land (66%) and only 8.5 % of the respondents were landless. Similarly, 8.5% of the respondents had more than 10 Ropani of land. The figure indicates that majority of the respondents has owned less land holding size than national average since it is about only 17 % of the total households who has less than 0.1 ha or 20 Ropani of land(NLSS,2004). The average size of land holdings operating less than 0.5 ha is increased in national figure also (NLSS, 2004). It is obvious that most of the famous cities of Nepal have very limited land due to urbanization and industrialization.

### **5.1.8 Agriculture and Food sufficiency**

Food security is one of the major challenges for the world including Nepal as growing population require more food but the production process is threatened by limited agriculture land and low productivity of soil. Users of Ratopahiro CFUG do not have enough land, therefore they can not produce sufficient food. The main crops grown on their land includes Rice, Maize, Millet, potato and so on. The following table shows the food sufficiency situation of Ratopahiro community.



Table 12: Household food security status of the respondents

<b>Food sufficiency</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No production	19	54.29
1- 3 months	4	11.42
4-6 months	2	5.72
7-9 months	0	0
10-12 months	10	28.57
Total	35	100.0

*Source: Field survey 2010*

Majority of the respondents (54.29%) have no land and consequently they have no production. About 28 % of the respondents who own land have sufficient grains to meet their annual foods requirements whereas 18 % produce food grains that meet demand for six months for the respondents. The figure is in line with national scenario as there has been sharply declining figure of food adequacy .i.e. 21% as compare to the data of 1995 of NLSS (NLSS,2004).

### **5.1.9 Income of the Respondents**

Annual income of the respondents is one of the important factors that also help in determining the economic condition of the respondents. Due to the lack of enough food most of the villagers were involved in other activities such as small business and private sector employment, foreign employment to fulfil their daily needs. The graph shows the major sources respondent's family income.

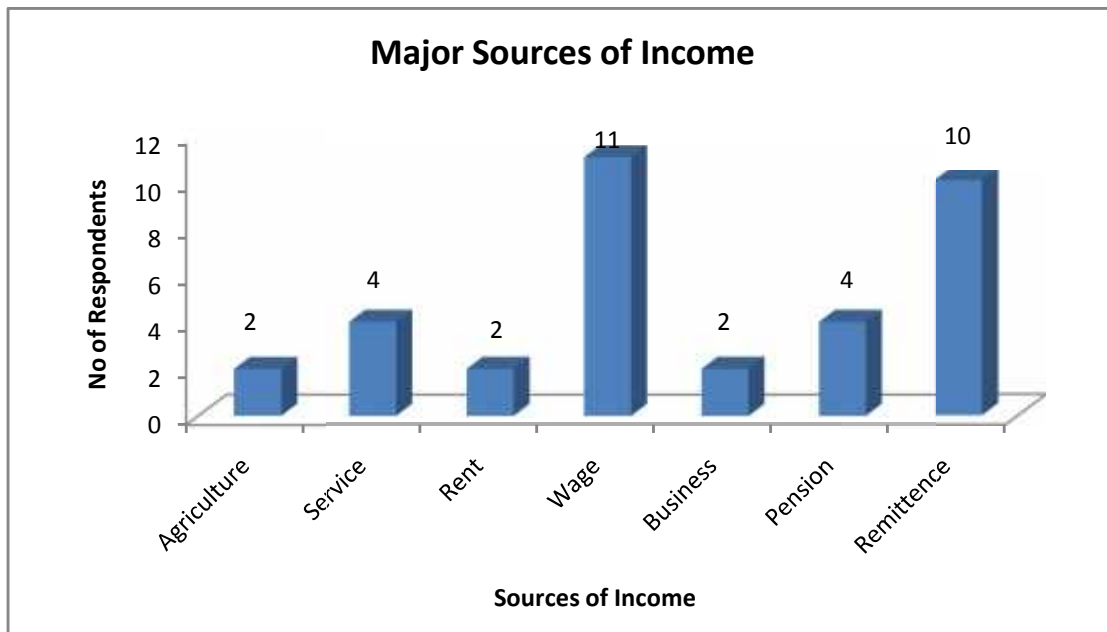


Figure 4

The above figure indicates that the higher proportion of population mainly depends upon daily wages and followed by remittances for their income and livelihood. Only two i.e. 6 percentages are on agriculture and the same was in house rent. The remittance or foreign employment had significant contribution to 30 percent households which is just matched with national figure i.e. 32%. The average range of monthly income of the respondents is shown in the following Table 13.

Table 13: Per capita household incomes of the respondents

Income Range(NRs)	No. of HHs	Per capita income(000')
6000-10000	10	>18
10000-20000	13	34
20000-30000	6	56
30000-40000	4	79
>40000	2	>90

Source: Field survey, 2010

The table indicates that the minimum per capita income of surveyed households is NRs 18000.00 which is more than national average i.e. NRs 15162.00 (NLSS, 2004). It is due to off-farm employment and other sources of income.

## CHAPTER VI

### WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AND BENEFITS SHARING IN COMMUNITY FOTEST

The outcomes of the study related to the rate of women's participation in various forest management activities, decision making and benefit sharing mechanism have been discussed in this chapter.

#### 6.1 Women's Participation on Constitution and Operational Plan Development

It was found that the people of the study area depended upon the forest resources for their livelihood. They had made rules and regulations to manage forest which is known as constitution and operational plan. In the beginning, CF constitution and operational plan were formulated in the presence of local people with the help of district forest office. According to respondents at that time all the users involved in this process were male. They made an operational plan for forest management, plantation, thinning and pruning, collection of fodders, leaf-litter and firewood.

#### 6.2 Inclusion of women in Executive Committee of CFUG

Inclusion of women secures rights, resources and opportunities of them in community forest management. CFDP guidelines and forest sector policy have made mandatory provisions for women's participation. In general, the executive committee members used to select through the consensus of the members at the general assembly. The user committee members are nominated by the users groups themselves.

Table 14: Inclusion of women in executive committee by sex

Year	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
2053/54	7	64	4	36	11	100
2057/58	8	72	3	28	11	100
2061/62	8	72	3	28	11	100
2066/67	9	53	8	47	17	100
<b>Average</b>		<b>65</b>		<b>35</b>		

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

The Table shows the inclusion of women and men in the executive committee of CF in different time period. It shows that women participation in CF executive committee was relatively low as directed by the latest CF policy guideline, 2008, but it is higher than national figure i.e. 25% only as cited in DoF data base of CF (DoF,2010). The policy clearly mentioned that 50 percent women must be present in CF executive committee but only 35 percent is obtained here. The members of the users group said in group discussion "we were less educated than the male and we don't have time to go official work due to the household chores." This is the main causes of lower participation of women in Ratopahiro CF.

Besides, respondents were asked whether their voice and choice is discussed on general assembly and meeting of the executive committee. 29% of the respondents agreed that their agenda had been addressed, where as 29% respondents indicated that the limited voice and agenda being addressed and the rest of respondents did not give any response. The statement is reinforced the previous study carried out by Gentle 2000 and Ghimire, 2000.

### 6.3 Women's Participation in General Assembly

Participation in the general meeting or assembly is one of the major factors which lead to the decision making. The major decisions about CF management were made in this meeting. The substantial and regular participation of women make meeting productive and interactive.

Table 15: Male and female attendance of general assembly

F/Y	Total participation	No of female participation	Percent	No of male participation	Percent
2061/62	45	11	25	33	75
2062/63	NA				
2063/64	NA				
2064/65	73	17	23	56	77
2065/66	78	25	32	53	68
2066/67	90	34	38	56	62
<b>Average</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>70</b>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

29 % of sampled women said that they were not informed in general assembly whereas, 71% of the respondents reported that they were informed to the assembly. 29 % (> 80% attendance) of the respondents were regularly attended the assembly, 43% were only usually (50-80% attendance) and 28% (less than 20% attendance) were never attended the assembly. The main reasons of less participation and never participation in general assembly were due to their limited time for the assembly and tradition of attending meeting by her husband. Some respondents pointed out that their names have not been indicated though they attend the meeting in the minute's books. They obliged to sign in the name of her husband. The desk top review of available records and minutes of general assembly of Ratopahiro community forest user group shows that they don't have regular general assembly. The highest women's participation is obtained in F/Y 2066/67(38 %) and the lowest is in 2064/65 B.S. The average participation of women for last six years is 30%. Though the participation is increasing trend, it is not substantial.

#### **6.4 Status of Participation of Women in Regular Meeting**

Regular meeting of FUC is periodic activity in which member of executive committee is invited with some agenda. With given mandate of forest user group and approved operation plan and constitution decisions are taken.

Table 16: Women's attendance in regular meeting

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No of meetings</b>	<b>No of women in executive</b>	<b>Average Attendance %</b>
1.	2061/62	10	3(27%)	94
2.	2062/63	2	3(27%)	66
3.	2063/64	2	3(27%)	50
4.	2064/65	5	3(27%)	60
5.	2065/66	3	3(27%)	45
6.	2066/67	8	8(47%)	75
<b>Average</b>			<b>4(30%)</b>	<b>65</b>

*Source: CFUG record, 2010*

The figure in Table 16 indicates that women' representation in executive committee accounts for 27% from 2061/62 to 2065/66 which has increased to 47% in 2066/67. However, there is fluctuation in women's average attendance in the last six fiscal years.

The trend of attendance is decreasing from 2061/62 to 2063/64 B.S but it is in increasing in 2064/65. The attendance of women in regular meeting is directly related to the number of meetings held, i.e. the higher the number of meetings the higher is the participation of women. The key informants in group discussion viewed that due to inactiveness of whole executive committee members including men, women representatives also became inactive and absentee. The basic reason was irregularity of the meeting since user committee does not follow the prescription of constitution about the meeting schedule.

### 6.5 Nature of Women's Participation

Participation of women from planning to benefit sharing is equally importation for the success of community forest. Involving only implementation of plan rather sharing benefits ultimately mistrusts among users. Active and decisive role of women help hearing their voice and choices.

Table17: Nature of participation of women in meeting and assembly

SN	Nature of Participation	Participation of Female	
		Number	Percent
1	Passive audience	24	68
2	Interactive and active	9	26
3	Decisive	2	6
Total		35	100

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

The Table 17 shows the nature of participation of women forest users. Among 35 women forest users who participated in assembly meeting either regularly or sometimes, the majority (68 %) attended meeting like passive audience, i.e., they just participated in the meeting without any preparation and agenda. Likewise, 26 percent women attended

meeting interactively and actively. Only 6% women took part meeting in decisive manner.

The low participation of women in both General assembly and executive committee meeting was also characterized by their low level of educational status. The women members seem more dependent on male members due to lower level of confidence and knowledge about subject matter. Hence women's decision-making in CFM is highly influenced by their educational status. Women EC member's participation was passive in the vital discussion and in decision taking. Respondents perceived that women users are relatively less aware about the process and procedures of community forest than men. They were neither empowered nor encouraged to put their views in decision making process.

## **6.6 Decision Making Process**

What decisions are made is less important than how and who made decision. Taking ownership and building confidence in decisions empower women and enhance their capability. Generally forest users take decision through consensus. In the study area, 57 % of the respondents claimed that the decisions are made on consensus basis and rest of the respondents (43%) argued that they don't know the processes. No one responded that only chairman or elite usually took the decision. Regarding the sharing of decision only 17 % agreed that they know what the decisions are made. About 83 % respondents did not know the agenda and decision. One respondent from Janajati explained that we women do not know why meeting had been held and what decisions were taken. The figure indicates that the decision making process and benefit sharing mechanism is very weak and less transparent.

In group discussion the women users explained that they are less educated, they did not easily understand the issues and agenda. The frequency of attendance in meeting from women is very rare and uncommon as most of the men participated in the meeting. Even CFUG did not create conducive environment for promoting participation of women.

More than 80 % of the respondents claimed that they did not initiate to raise the voice and choice of the women in meeting.

The reasons for not influencing in the meeting as explained by the respondents are mainly three which are depicted in figure 5.

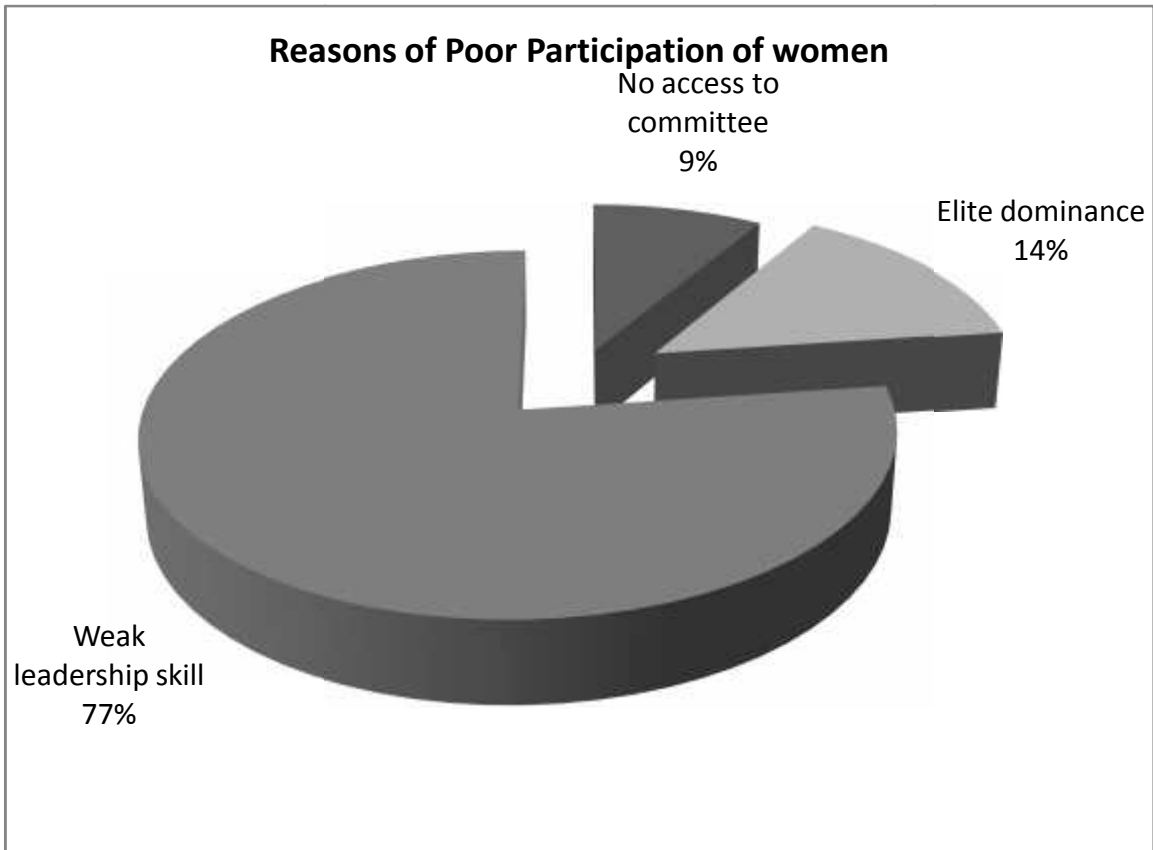


Figure 5

Most of the respondents realised due to their own weak leadership skill they were reluctant to influence on the meeting. Though their representation on executive committee is weak i.e. 30 % on average, about 75 % of the respondents perceived that the forest user committee is good and satisfied with their decision. Only 25% of the respondents were found not satisfied with the committee. The logics behind dissatisfaction were mainly low representation of women, elite dominancy and nepotism.



## 6.7 Rate of Women Participation in Forest Management Activities

For assessing the rate of participation of the women in various community forest management activities, respondent's perception/ views were categorized into three scale i.e. low (1), medium (2) and high (3). The response of respondents in different activities are tabulated and summarized on Table 19.

Table18: Women's participation in forest management activities

S.N	Forest management activities	Response on Participation(%)			Weighted mean
		Low(1)	Medium(2)	High(3)	
1	Setting of calendar of operation	82	6	12	1.3
2	Forest patrolling	17	20	63	2.5
3	Grazing control	31	40	29	2.0
4	Fire protection	51	37	12	1.6
5	Thinning and pruning	9	34	57	2.5
6	Plantation	14	40	46	2.3
7	Species selection	77	6	17	1.4
8	Collection of forest products	38	26	66	2.9
9	Implementing IGAs/NTFPs	49	43	8	1.6
10	Monitoring of CF	72	20	8	1.4
11	Product distribution	46	37	17	1.7
12	Budget allocation for development activities	83	14	3	1.2
13	Set prize and punishment	69	26	6	1.4
14	Revision of Constitution and OP	77	14	9	1.3
<b>Average %</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The outcomes of Table 18 show that about 50% of the respondents perceived the degree and extent of women participation in overall forest management, conservation and development is low. The participation of women especially on collecting forest product is higher (mean value is 2.9) and substantive, followed by thinning and pruning, plantation and forest protection (patrolling) respectively. These activities are labour intensive in its nature in which Nepalese women do work and contribute more. The finding is quite similar to the study of Gentle (2004) and Chetri and Rana( 1995).

Unlikely, The level of women participation in some crucial activities that are directly closed to decision making process like setting prize and punishment, revision of constitution and operational plan, allocation of budget for development activities, product distribution (benefit sharing) is found to be weaker. The lowest participation of women is on allocating budget for development activities (mean value is 1.2). The result supports the finding of Rasaily, 1996 which is carried out in CF of eastern region of Nepal.

### **6.8 Women's Participation in Training and Visit**

Respondents were asked whether they got opportunities to participate various trainings and workshops organised by different agencies. Of total respondents only 17% got such opportunities and rest of the respondents did not. Respondents further explained that due to negligence of CFUG and elite dominance they did not provide opportunities to involve. Respondents perceived that more than 90% of training and visit opportunities had been captured by the members of executive committee and elite. One respondent from *dalit* views that quota from organizing agencies help him to join in bee keeping training. He suggested that reservation or quota for *dalit*, women or *janajati* can build the community forestry program more inclusive and participatory.

### **6.9 Degree of Participation of Women in Benefit Sharing Process**

The actual and real participation of women can be assessed though their level of participation in getting benefits. Respondents were requested to level their degree of participation for the process of sharing benefits. Their views are grouped in to three categories namely low, medium and high and presented on the following figure.

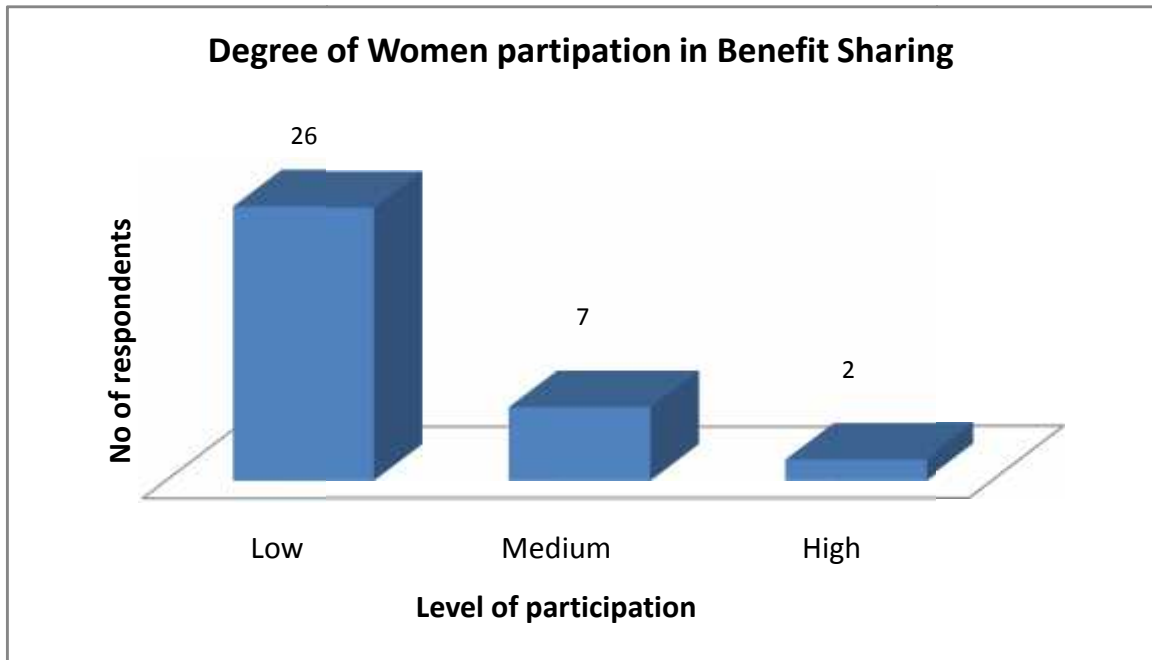


Figure 6

Majority of the respondents (74%) said that their participation is low while deciding the process of benefit sharing. The finding reinforces the outcomes of the previous study carried out by Gentle (2000), Banjade et.al. (2004). Though the involvement of women on collecting forest products is higher, they were not participated in the process (fixing of products to be collected, price, seasons, amount to be collected etc). Respondent from poor family said that her partial livelihood depends on collecting grasses and selling it. No special privilege of discounting of levy for her.

The members of the Ratopahiro were further asked whether they shared the benefits from the community forest equally or not and whether they were satisfied about the present condition of distribution system or not. It was found that benefit was shared equally on household basis as per the provision mentioned in the Operational Plan. The FUG fixed nominal price for the extracted forest products to be distributed among households. There is no any special privilege to women for getting benefits. Only a single respondent indicated that the CFUG provided NRs 10,000 grant for constructing building of Mother Group.

## CHAPTER VII

### MOTIVATIONAL AND HINDERING FACTORS FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

This chapter analyzes some of the enhancing and constraining factors for women's participation in Community forest management of Ratopahiro CFUG. Factors enhancing the women's participation are included in motivational factors and factors, which are the barriers for women's participation, are mentioned in obstacles or hindrances.

#### 7.1 Motivational Factors

Creating conducive environment for promoting women's participation in community forest boosts up users to increase productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of CFUG. In this study, following four alternative factors were given for selection about the motivational factor that motivates them to be involved in community forest activities. Following table gives the view of respondents about the motivational factors.

Table 19: Respondent views on different motivational factors

S.N.	Motivational factors	No. of respondent	Percentage
1.	Need of forest resources	31	88
2.	Self interest due to affection for forest	2	6
3.	Demonstration effect	2	6
4.	Others	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2010*

The field study revealed that among 35 women who were involved in forest management in any form, around 88 percent were found involved in forest management in order to fulfil their forest products requirement. Around 6 percent have affection with forest and hence they were motivated in forest management activities. Only 6 percent were affected by demonstration effect.

From the study it is found that majority of the women of the study area were involved in forest management for the fulfilment of day to day requirement of the forest products like leaf-litter, fire wood, fodder and other non-timber products. Their involvement is only because of others' involvement. They were influenced by others. They were found inspired by some success stories carried out in neighbouring villages and other parts of the country, in which women's role was substantial. The finding is primarily in line with the theory of motivation of Maslow as every human being is mainly derived due to fulfilling his or her needs and interests

## 7.2 Sources of Motivation

Who influenced from whom indicates the sources of motivation. It also helps to identify the role and importance of different stakeholders for increasing the degree of women participation and minimizing or avoiding the barriers of participation. That is why, the sources of motivation were also assessed during study.

Table 20: Sources of motivation

S.No.	Sources	Frequency	Percentage
1	Family member	3	9
2	Neighbour/villager	19	54
3	Executive member	9	26
4	Forest technician	4	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

From the field survey, it has been found that majority of the respondents (54%) were inspired to be involved in community forestry management by their villagers/neighbours. On the other hand, executive members of forest committee (26%) were found as effective tool of motivation, which positively influenced women in community forest management. It has also been found that the forestry technicians (11%) interacted with women during meeting, training and other activities, which inspired women to work as executive committee member, participants of training etc. Family members (9%) were also found inspiring to involve in the community forestry.

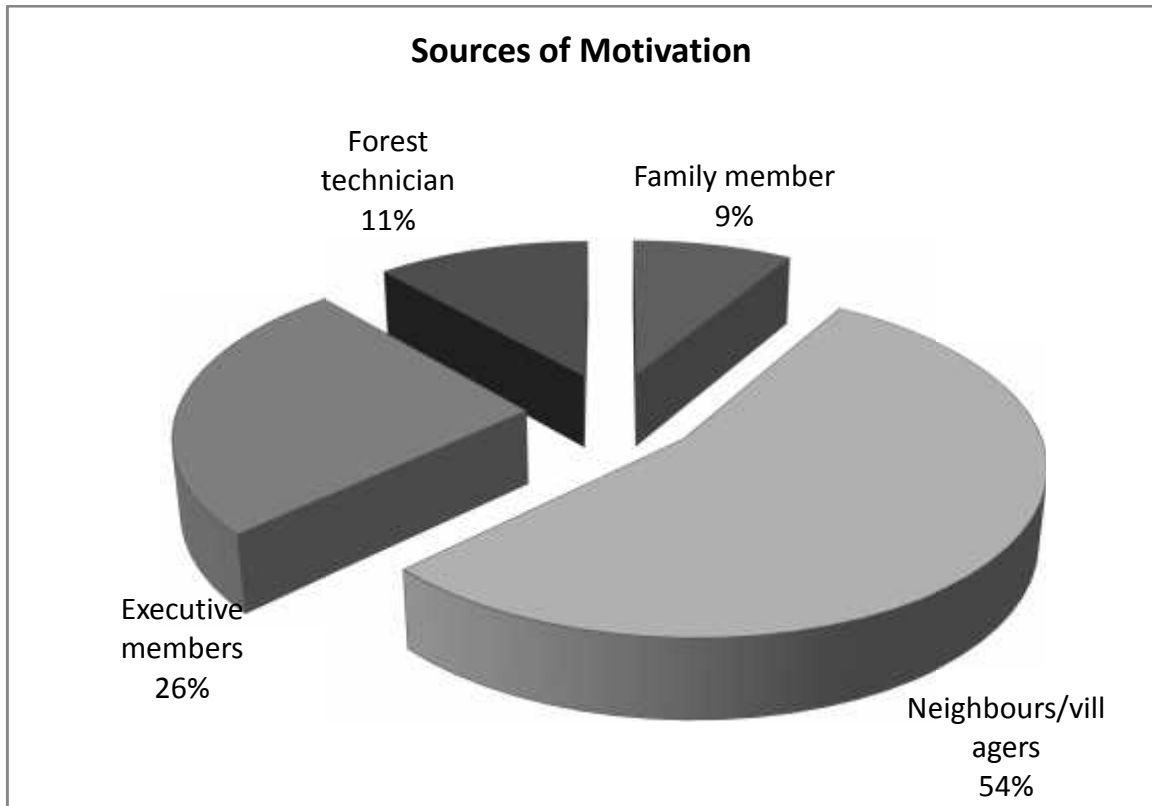


Figure 7

Likewise, respondents were asked to indicate whether they were supported from male or not in household work. More than 50% of the respondents disagreed on the statement and stated that they had not been getting support from male. It is a reality that support from male member of the family to her work and provide opportunity to join community development activities promotes gender equality and reduces gender disparity as stated in HDR, 2009.

### 7.3 Hindering Factors

Major obstacles or hindering factors enlisted from household survey were further discussed with key informants. Major prioritized hindering factors for women's participation are related to workload of women, socio-economic condition, individual traits (knowledge, skill and attitude, perception), policy gap, lack of confidence and self esteem. These factors are explained in the following.

### **7.3.1 Maximum Time Devotion for Household Chores**

Many researchers claimed that Nepali women work for longer period (11 hrs.) than men do (7 hrs.). They are responsible for all household chores and also for collecting firewood, fodder and leaf litter. The situation of women in the area of Ratopahiro CFUG is the same. Women in the study area were observed heavily involving in activities like child rearing, feeding household members and livestock and agricultural activities. Respondents of the study area confirmed the fact that lack of time resulted in due to regular household chores is a main problem regarding their involvement in community forestry management.

### **7.3.2 Illiteracy**

Around 32 percent of women respondents in the study area are illiterate and 40 percent are just literate. The study revealed that illiteracy is another cause for the lack of participation of women in forest management. Being illiterate, the women don't understand why it is important for them to participate in forest management. Lack of education limits to a large extent their willingness and ability to be involved in non-traditional activities that take them out of the home. Because of illiteracy, they themselves are unsure of their abilities as well. Besides, illiteracy has constrained their knowledge in the balanced way of resource extraction from the forest.

### **7.3.3 Lack of Knowledge about Provision of Community Forest**

According to the respondents, inadequate knowledge and skills about the community forest is also a serious problem. Due to the lack of knowledge about the rules of community forestry as mentioned in the constitution and Operational Plan, women could not share in various activities of the forest management. Lack of knowledge has also nexus with illiteracy factor mentioned above. The factor is also pointed out by KC (2008) in her study.

#### **7.3.4 Poor Economic Condition**

Though the income of the respondents is more than national average due to remittance, they don't have sufficient food and it is not sustainable. 66 percent of the respondents have less than one ropani of land. They spend most of their time in make their living and hence they lack time to participate in public activities such as community forest management. The scenario can be interpreted in different angles. Low level of economic condition constraints them to involve themselves in forest management activities freely because they only think forest as a source of firewood, fodder and grazing land and extract forest products for their household needs lacking knowledge to mange forest in a scientific way.

#### **7.3.5 Lack of Self Esteem**

Lack of confidence and self esteem is another factor which has been hindering for the effective participation of female in the management of community forest. Most of the women in the study area feel that they are not as capable as male in the activities related to discussion, decision making and forest rearing. They also feel that they cannot maintain relation with the district forestry officials and they are not capable of involving themselves in managerial task. These kinds of ill feelings turn Ratopahiro CFUG women members somehow passive in community forest management. The statement proves the conclusion made by KC (2008) in her study. She concluded that men of Pargatisil CF perceived that women have poor leadership quality that hinders them build confidence to take participatory decision.

#### **7.3.6 Traditional Male Dominated Culture**

Hindu culture was found dominated in the study area. In Hindu culture women are fixed to do household work and they have restriction to go and to stay away from the home without family permission. So this is one of the major problems for women's participation in CF management. The aforesaid causes were not separately responsible for the low participation of women in community forest management activities. The combination all factors causes main problems for women's participation.



#### 7.4 Prioritization of Hindrance Factors

Respondents were requested to prioritize these six factors of hindrance. The value for the least priority was given 1 and the highest was rated by 6. Each respondent gave 1 to 6 points from least to the highest. These hindrance factors listed were namely; more workload to women, traditional man dominated society, low salary and poor economic condition, gap of knowledge on mandatory provision of CF, no socially defined work/lack of self esteem, lack of awareness and right to information. The value of each hindrance factor was finally added to rate the priority of barriers. Table 21 shows the comparative value obtained for prioritizing hindrance factors.

Table21: Value obtained and priority of hindrance factor

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Factors of hindrance</b>	<b>Value obtained</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1	More workload for women	178	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Traditional male dominated culture	122	5 <sup>th</sup>
3.	Gap of knowledge on mandatory provision of CF	88	6 <sup>th</sup>
4	Awareness/ right to information	165	2 <sup>nd</sup>
5	No socially defined work/Lack of self esteem	132	4 <sup>th</sup>
6	Poor economic condition	140	3 <sup>rd</sup>

*Source: Field Survey, 2010*

The above table clearly mentions the priority of barriers that causes hindrance to women to participate in community forestry. The first priority goes to more workload to women than men. They are busier in both reproductive and productive work and they can give little time to community work.

The second priority lies on awareness or right to information. It is due to high rate of illiteracy among women. The respondents are de-motivated due to not informing timely. They are neither encouraged nor kindly informed to have involvement in community forestry. Hence, the second factor is improper communication and lack of sustainable information sharing mechanism through proper education system.

Likewise the third barrier prioritized by the respondents is related to income and economic condition. Our society did not practice in providing equal salary to both men and women. They claimed that women's salary is less by 25% than that of men.

The social taboos, a form of male domination which is linked with our culture and tradition, our social structure and hierarchy, social norms and values ranked on fourth priority.

Due to lack of self esteem or confidence even women perceived that social gathering and participation is mainly accepted as men's responsibility. The socially defined gender role does not allow them to participate in many activities of community forestry. Respondents ranked such barrier as the fifth priority. And the least priority is due to lack of mandatory provision of participation in their constitution and operational plan. They perceive that mentioning the nature and form of participation on their documents can have contribution to increase level of participation of women in community forestry.

The factors of motivation or hindrance in women's participation identified and prioritized in the study are not different from previous studies carried out by different scholars. However, the priority may vary. It is influenced by caste, level of education, sex, family structure, site, and support from family member as mentioned in literature review.

## CHAPTER VIII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

#### 8.1 Summary

Community forestry, in its thirty two years in Nepal has provided many benefits to the people of Nepal. It saved their time on going far and wide in search of fodder, fuel wood and bedding materials for the cattle, by providing it from a nearby forest and they could now use the saved time for their family, kitchen garden and own development. In spite of these benefits of CF there are still some issues in community forestry like women's participation in decision making and forest management, benefit sharing mechanism, governance etc. All rules and regulations of community forestry encourage women to participate in decision making as well as forest management but their participation in both areas are still an issue of concern. They are in FUC but their role in decision making and benefit sharing. In this regards, the study examine women's participation in community forestry management - decision making, implementation of plan and benefit sharing and explain motivational and hindering factors of women's participation.

This descriptive research conducted in Ratopahiro CFUG, Pokhara sub metropolitan city, Kaski district of Nepal has been purposively selected and adopted random sampling design within women member of CFUG. Women of each household were taken as unit of analysis with 30% sample size. Structured schedule questionnaire with some Rapid Rural appraisal tools including focus group discussion, key informant interview, direct observation were used to gather primary and secondary data. The collected data were analysed and interpreted it in logical way through some charts, tables and figures. Key findings from the study have been summarized in following points

#### 8.1.1 Socio-economic Features of the Respondents

Researchers found the following characteristics of the respondents in the research by analyzing the collected data.

The percentage of *Dalit* in the study area is relatively higher (29%) whereas *Brahmin/Chettri and Janajati* castes are almost equal in proportion. Most of the

respondents were of 31 to 61 years of age, i.e. average age of the respondents of Ratopahiro community forest is around 46 years. The average family size of the study area is around 5 in number and their average annual income is higher than national figure. Major sources of income are remittance and daily wages followed by pension and services. The literacy rate of respondents is also high but no one was above the SLC. Majority of the respondents have less than one Ropani of land and they have higher dependency on food sources.

### **8.1.2 Participation of Women in Various Activities of CFM**

Though CFUG had taken majority of decision of community forest on consensus basis, women user (43%) views that they don't know how the decision are made. More than 80% of women participant do not know the agenda also. Only 17% women respondents agreed that they know that what decision were taken from general assembly and regular meeting. The average percentage of women in general assembly and regular meeting of executive committee is 30% and 35% respectively. Of the total women in executive committee the average attendance for last six year is 65%. Hence, the inclusion of women and their rate of attendance are low and decision making process in the study is very weak and less transparent. They viewed that the nature of women participation is passive audience rather than active and decisive. They perceived that the reason of not influencing in meeting is due to weak leadership in executive committee and elite dominance in the community.

Regarding the rate of participation in forest management activities, there is also low rate of participation in preparation of calendar of operation, species selection, monitoring, budget allocation, control and punishment, implementation of IGA and revision of operational plan. Women, on the other hand, have high degree of participation in forest patrolling, thinning and pruning, plantation and product collection.

Similarly, women role in benefit sharing mechanism is normal. There is no any special privilege given to women yet. Forest products have been distributed on equal basis.

Empowering women through providing training and visit is almost nil. Such opportunities if offered from any organization are mainly captured by elite.

### **8.1.3 Motivational and Hindering factors for Participation**

The degree of participation varies with existing motivation factors or hindering factors. Respondents view that the need of forest resources is the key motivational factor that inspires women and any member of group to participate in community forest management. Among many sources of motivation, they feel that they were inspired mainly from villagers/neighbors (54%) to fulfill the needs of forest products (88%). The respondents perceived that having more work load to women followed by less awareness and illiteracy makes their situation unfavorable to participate. Due to poor economic condition and cultural and social setting they are obliged not to participate in community development.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

Following conclusions are drawn basing on findings from the research.

- ) The socioeconomic characteristics of households are unique; diverse ethnic group, higher income but lower in family size, less agriculture land, livelihood dependency on off farm economic activities.
- ) The inclusion of women in executive body and their participation in general assembly and regular meeting is fluctuating. Though it is higher than national data base it does not meet the standard as mentioned in CFDP guidelines.
- ) The degree of women participation is less than that of men in connection with planning and budget allocation, species selection, monitoring and evaluation. In contrast, it is higher in forest patrolling, thinning and pruning, plantation and collection of forest products.
- ) Women of the study are mainly passive audience rather than active and decisive while taking decision. They perceived that low participation in decision making

process is influenced by elite dominance and weak leadership skill. The decision making and benefit sharing mechanism is less fair and not transparent.

- ) Women are mainly motivated by their needs and interests and inspired by neighbours and villagers.
- ) More work load to women, knowledge gap and illiteracy and poverty are major barriers to increase women's participation.

### **8.3 Recommendation**

Based on the findings following recommendations have been made for further improvement of governance of community forestry through participation.

- ) Improving the decision-making capacity of women by providing better opportunities for education and providing orientation training on CF policy, CFUG's constitution, operational plan of CF and utilization arrangement will help them to be empowered.
- ) Devising benefit sharing mechanism based on the principle of equity promotes fair and social justice in community forestry which may ultimately lead comprehensive and logical participation from all members of the FUG.
- ) Encouraging women's participation in planning and monitoring and benefit sharing through empowerment must be considered for improving the governance of the community forest.
- ) Mainstreaming women in decision making process, DFO and other support organisations should periodically monitor the process and encourage them to remove the barriers and to promote the motivation factors. For this, key positions such as chairman, secretary and treasures should be assigned to women.
- ) To address the problems concerning lack of technical know-how, co-ordination with DFO staff especially female staff is essential.

## REFERENCES

- Acharya, K.P. 2004. *Sustainability of Supports for Community Forestry in Nepal*. Forest, Trees and Livelihoods (Formerly called International Tree Crop Journal).
- Adhikari, B. 2003. *Property Rights and Natural Resources: Socio-economic Heterogeneity and Distributional Implications of Common Property Resource Management*. Working Paper No. 1.03. South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). Kathmandu.
- Adhikari, J.R. 2001. *Women, Natural Resources and Indigenous Technical Knowledge: Issues and Opportunities in Integrated Watershed Management, A case study of Tungan Subwatershed, Lalitpur District, Nepal*. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis. International Institute For Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC), The Netherlands
- Agrawal, B. 1997. *Environmental Action- Gender Equity and Women Participation*. Development and Change, vol. 28, pp: 1-43.
- Bhatta, B. and P. Gentle, 2004. Strengthening the Internal Governance of the CFUGs: Experience of SAMARPAN Project. In *Twenty Five Years of Community Forestry Contribution in Millennium Development Goal*. Kanel, K. et al (eds). Proceedings of Fourth National Conference of Community Forestry, August 4-6, 2004 in Kathmandu.
- Banjade M. R., Luintel H. and H.R., Neupane. 2004. *An Action and Learning Process for Social Inclusion in Community Forestry*. 25 years of community forestry, pp: 480-488.
- Bartlett, A.G. and M.C. Nurse, 1992. *A Participatory Approach to Community Appraisal*. In Banko Janakari Vol 3(2). DFRS, Kathmandu.
- Bhattachan, K.B. 2000. People /Community Based Development Strategy in Nepal. In K.B. Bhattachan and C. Misra (eds) *Anthropology of Nepal: Peoples, Problems and Processes*. Mandala Book Print, Kathmandu
- Bhalla, A. and F. Lapeyre, 1997. Social Exclusion: Towards an Analytical and Operational framework . In *Development and Change* 28: 413-433.
- Bhadra C. and B.S., Karky. 2002. *Assessment of the Role of Women in Water Resource Use in the Annapurna Conservation Area*. NTNC, Nepal.
- CBS, 2003. *Population Census 2001*. Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu, Nepal.

CFDP, 2008. *Community Forestry Development Program Guideline-2008*. MoFSC/GoN, Department of Forest, Community forestry division. Kathmandu, Nepal.

Chhetri G. and S., Rana. 1995. *A Gender Analysis of Women's Participation in Community Forestry*. A Report Submitted to the Nepal Australian Community Forestry Project.

DFO, 2010. Community forest users group data base. District Forest Office, Kaski, Nepal.

DoF, 2010. *Community Forest User Group Data Base*. Community and Private Division, Department of Forest, MoFSC, Kathmandu

Encyclopaedia, 2010. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common-pool\\_resource](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common-pool_resource), April, 2011

Flintan, 2003. Women, Gender and ICDPs-Lesson Learnt and Ways Forward: Summary Document. In *IIED Wildlife and Development Series* Vol 1, No 16. International Institute for Environment and Development. London.

Gautam N. 2005. *Special Study on Collaborative Forest Management in Nepal's Terai*. A Report submitted to Institute to Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal (unpublished).

Fields , 1995. *A Gender Analysis of a Participation in Nepal's Community Forestry Program*. A M. Sc. Thesis Submitted to College of Graduate Studies University of Idaho

Gentle, P. 2003. Women's Participation in Community Forestry and Decision Making Process in Forestry Partnership Project. In *Care ko Pratibimba*, CARE Nepal, Kathmandu.

Gentle, P. 2000. *The Flow and Distribution of Community Forestry Benefits: A Case Study from Pyuthan District, Nepal*. M.Sc. (forestry) Thesis Submitted to School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.



Ghimire, K. 2000. *Financial Management System of Community Forestry Users Group: A Case Study from Banke, Bardia, and Dang Districts Nepal*. Thesis Submitted to Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

GoN, 2006. *The Interim Constitution of Nepal*. Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of Nepal. Kathmandu.

Gilmour, D.A. and R.J. Fisher 1991. *Villagers, Forest and Foresters: The Philosophy, Process and Practice of Community Forestry in Nepal*. Sahayogi Press. Kathmandu, pp212

HDR 2009. *Human Development Report: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World*. UNDP, New York, USA.

HMG/N, 1978. *Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest Rules 1978*. Ministry of Law and Justice, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Kathmandu.

HMG/N, 1989. *Master Plan for the Forestry Sector, 1989*. Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal.

HMG/N, 1995. *The Forest Act 1993 and the Forest Regulations 1995: An Official Translation by the Law Books Management Board*, Kathmandu.

HMG/N, 2000. *Forest Sector Policy 2000*. Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Hobley, M. 1996. *Participatory Forestry-the Process of Change in India and Nepal*. Overseas Development Institute, London.

ICIMOD, 1999. *Participatory Forest Management: Implication for Policy and Human Resources Development in the Hind Kush-Himalaya*. Vol 5. pp: 23-31. ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal

Inserra, A.E. 1989. Women's Participation on Community Forestry in Nepal. In *Banko Jankari*. Vol 2 (2). pp: 119-120. FRSD, MoFSC, Kathmandu.

Lama, A. 1999. *Changing Roles of Women in Forest Resource Management: The Case of Community Forestry in Nepal*. M. Sc. Thesis submitted to Australia National University.

KC, P. 2008. *Women's Knowledge and Participation in Community Forest: A Case Study from Pragatisil Community Forest of Lekhnath Municipality, Kaski District*. A M.A Thesis Submitted to Department of Sociology/Anthropology, PN Campus, Tribhuvan University, Pokhara.

Lohani, P.C. 1980. *People Participation in Development*. Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), Kritipur, Kathmandu.

Lorber, J, 2010. *The Variety of Feminism and Their Contribution to Gender Equality*. In [http://www.ibit.unildenburg.de/bisdoc\\_redirect/publikationen/bisverlag/unireden/ur97/kaapl.pdf](http://www.ibit.unildenburg.de/bisdoc_redirect/publikationen/bisverlag/unireden/ur97/kaapl.pdf). April 18, 2010.

Maharjan, M.R. 1998. *The Flow and Distribution of Costs and Benefits in the Chuliban Community Forest, Dhankuta district, Nepal*. Rural Development Forestry Network, ODI, London.

MFSC 2004. *Gender and Social Equity Vision*. MoFSC, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Nightingale, A.J. 2002. Participating or Just Sitting in?: The Dynamics of Gender and Caste in Community Forestry. In *Forest and livelihood*. Vol2(1), pp: 17-24.

NLSS, 2004. *Nepal Living Standard Survey, 2004*. Government of Nepal, Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu, Nepal.

NPC, 2008. *Three year interim plan (2008- 2010)*. National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

PSMC, 2010. *Facts of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City*. Office of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City, Pokhara, Nepal.

Parajuli, R; Pokharel, R.K.; and Lamichhane, D. 2010. Social Discrimination in Community Forestry: Socio-economic and Gender Perspectives. In *Banko Janakari*, Vol 20(2) pp 26. DFRS, Kathmandu.

- Rai B. and M., Buchy. 2004. Institutional Inclusion of Women in Community Forestry: Is Women-only Strategy a Right Answer? pp: In *Twenty Five Years of Community Forestry Contribution in Millennium Development Goal*. In Proceedings of Fourth National Conference of Community Forestry .pp 399.
- Rasaily, L. 1996. *Benefit Sharing and Social and Institutional Decision-Making Process within Selected Forest User Groups*. Final draft, Project Report B/NUKCFP/33. Nepal-UK Community Forestry Project, Dhankuta, Nepal.
- Raut, N. 2006. *Role of Gender in the Management of Community Forest-A Case Studies from Two Community Forests of Mahottari District*. A M.Sc. Thesis Submitted to Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal.
- Regmi , S.C 1989. *Female Participation in Forest Resource Management: A Case Study of Women's Forest Committee in Nepalese Village*. Dissertation (M.Sc), Ateneo de Manila University.
- Regmi, S.C. 1999. *Women in Forestry: Study of a Women's Forest Committee, in a Nepalese Village*. HMGN, Ministry of Agriculture/Winrock International, Nepal.
- Robbins, S.P. 1988. *Organizational Behaviour: Concepts, Controversies, Application*. Prentice-Hall India.
- Roy, R. 2002. Impact of Community Forest on Women's Workload and the Use of Chemical Fertilizer. In *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*. Vol 2(1). pp:15.
- Slattery, J.M. 2003. *Key Ideas in Sociology*. Nelsn Thrones Ltd, United Kingdom.
- Shrestha, A.D. 1999. *Searching for Women's Voice in Hindukush Himalaya: A Case Study in Nuwakot District*. pp: 259-312. ICIMOD, Nepal.
- Shrestha, N. 1987. *Women's Participation in Community Forestry- A Case Study of Two Village Ppanchayats in Kaski District*. M.Sc. dissertation submitted to University of Philippines at Los Banos.
- Silver, H. 1994. Social Exclusion and Social Solidarity: Three Paradigms. *International Labour Review* 133: 531-78.
- Silver, H. 2010. Understanding social Inclusion and its Meaning in Australia. In *Australian Journal of Social Issues* Vol.45 No.2 WINTER 2010

## Annexes

### Annex I: Questionnaire for Household Survey

#### A. Household and Socio-Economic Information

Name of the respondent

Ward No:

Name of FUG:

Age:

Occupation:

Sex:

Caste:

Religion:

Education:

Family size:

#### 1.2 Land Ownership:

How much land does your family have?

a) below ropani b) 1-5 ropani c) 5-10 ropani d) above 10 ropani e) landless

#### 1.3 Major source of income in monthly basis (Rupees)

Agriculture	Service	Wage/Labor	Business/trade	Pension	Remittance	Other

#### 1.4 Food Sufficiency in Month:

a. 1-3 months      b. 4-6 months      c. 7-9 months      d. 10-12 months      e. No production

### B. Information Related to Forest User Group and Participation of Women in Community Forest Management

#### B.1. Related to Decision Making Process:

1.1 Are you informed when the General Assembly of the CFUG members is held?

a. Yes

b. No

1.2 How frequently do you and women member of your family participate in General Assembly Meeting?

a. Always

b. Sometimes

c. Never

1.3 What is the nature of your/her participation in assembly meeting?

a. Like audience

b. Interactive and giving suggestions

c. Decisive

1.4 What are the areas on which you participate while involving in decision making process?

a. Involvement in Constitution preparation and OP

b. Conflict Management

c. Fund mobilization

d. Implementation of Plan

1.5 Do they discuss women voice and choice in general assembly and meeting?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Don't know

1.6 How decisions are made in general assembly and meeting?

a. Concensus b. Decision from elites c. Decision from chair person d. I don't know

1.7 Do you know the agenda before meeting?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Don't know

1.8 Do you know what decisions are made in the meeting?

a. Yes

b. No

1.9 If not, may I know the reasons behind it?

1.10 While being participated, have you ever influenced that plan formulation and decision making process for your betterment?

a. yes

b. No

1.11 If not, may I know the reason behind it?

a. No access to CFUG Committee

b. Dominance of elites

c. Lack of leadership quality

d. Institutional weakness

e. Others ( specify)

1. 12 Are you satisfied with CFUC members of your CF?

a. Yes

b. No

1.13 If not, may I know the reasons of disaffections?

a. Poor representation of women In FUC

b. Dominance of elites

c. Nepotism and favouritism

d. Monopoly of FUC member

## B. 2 Participation of women in various forest management activities

S.No.	Forest management activities	Participation Level		
		Low(1)	Medium(2)	High(3)
1	Setting of calendar of operation			
2	Forest patrolling			
3	Grazing control			
4	Fire protection			
5	Thinning and pruning			
6	Plantation			
7	Species selection			
8	Collection of forest products			
9	Implementing IGAs/NTFPs			
10	Monitoring of CF			
11	Product distribution			
12	Budget allocation for development activities			
13	Set prize and punishment			
14	Revision of Constitution and OP			

## B. 3. Participation related to benefit sharing

3.1 Is forest being used according to the rules of the Operational Plan of the CF?

- a. Yes                      b. No

3.2. Is sharing of benefits equal for all the CFUG members?

- a. Yes                      b. No

3.3 Are you obtaining forest products from the CF easily?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3.4 Is there any affirmative approach followed while distributing forest products to women?

- a. Yes
- b. No.

3.5 What is the frequency of women participation in benefit sharing?

- a. High
- b. Moderate
- c. Low

3.6 Have you received any sort of training, workshop, visit for your skill enhancement from the CF?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3.7 If not, may I know the reasons behind it?

- a. Getting no opportunities
- b. Negligence of CFUG Committee
- c. Dominance of elites

3.8 Who are receiving such training?

- a. Elites
- b. FUG Committee
- c. Poor

3.9 Are there any affirmative norms, rules for the benefits to the women? If yes, in what areas:

**C. Related to motivating and hindering factors**

1 Do they consider the voice of women members while making decisions in the FUC meeting?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I do not know



2 What are motivating factors for women involvement in the community forest management?

- a. Needs of forest products
- b. Affection with forest
- c. Demonstration effect
- d. others (specify)

3 What is your sources of motivation for involving in the community forest management?

- a. Villagers/ neighbour
- b. Forest Technicians
- c. Executive Committee
- d. Local Political Leaders
- e. Family members

4 Do males help females in household chores in your family?

- a) Yes
- b) No

5 What factors restrict you to participate the CF activities (Rank on Priority basis)

- a. Work load
- b Traditional male dominated culture
- c. Illiteracy
- d. Lack of knowledge about CF provision
- e. Lack of self esteem
- f. Poor economic condition
- g. Other (specify)

6. Do you have any idea, on local people's perception towards women's participation in community forest management activities?

- a. Positive
- b. Negative
- c. Indifferent attitude

7. What are your suggestions for the improvement of women involvement in Community forest management?

**Annex-II: Guidelines for Focused Group Discussion**  
**(For CFUG Members/DFO staff)**

1. Does the operational plan of the CF address the problems of Women?
2. How has women's participation influenced the decision making process of the CFUG members?
3. What are the major benefits that you have been receiving from this community forest?
4. Are the activities of this CF offered to the pro-poor and pro-women?
5. What are the major programs of this CF sanctioned for women?
6. What are the principal reasons of women participation for being not effective in forest management?
7. What measures should be adopted to make women's participation effective for forest management?
9. Composition of Executive committee (man and women)
10. Benefits Sharing mechanism among the users (special provision for women)
11. Issues of women and its state of addressing on Constitution and OP
12. CF Fund and its Mobilization for women
13. Forest management activities and women involvement
14. Overall perception towards women participation

### **Annex III: Checklists for Key Informants**

1. Religion and culture of the area
2. Past and present condition of the forest
3. Past and present forest management system
4. History of community forestry
5. Formulation process of FUG and Forest User Committee
6. Criteria for the formation of the FUG and Forest User Group Committee
7. Preparation process of constitution and Operational Plan
8. Decision making process
9. Participation of users in decision making process
10. Participation of users in decision making meetings
11. Participation of users in other community forest activities
12. Participation of lower caste and women users in overall community forest practice
13. Information dissemination system
14. What type of forest products found in the forest area
15. Problems and conflict within the forest user group
16. Training management
17. Opinion towards whole community forest programme
18. How is the relation to District Forest Office officials
19. What type of help and guidance are you getting from district forest office?
20. Forest used and collection system
21. Rules and regulations of forest user group regarding the use of forest products
22. Solving pattern for forest offences
23. Any suggestions or comments

#### Annex IV: Some Photos



Photo 1: Focused group discussion with women respondents



Photo 2: Researcher with respondent for household survey



Photo 3: Ratopahiro Community Forest, Pokhara 17



Photo 4: General Assembly of Ratopahiro CFUG

**Annex 5: Map of study area locating Rotopahiro CF in Pokhara**

