

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY:

A Case Study from Ratopahiro Community Forest of Pokhara, Kaski District

A DISSERTATION

Submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Master Degree in Sociology

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RECOMMENDATION BY LANGUAGE EDITOR

This is to certify that I have gone through the draft of dissertation entitled “**Women’s Participation in Community Forestry: A Case Study from Ratopahiro Community Forest of Pokhara, Kaski District**”, prepared by Ms Shanta Kaphle as a language editor and made necessary correction an improvement therein. I have been impressed by her intelligible presentation of facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

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ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATE

The dissertation entitled “**WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY: A CASE STUDY FROM RATOPAHIRO COMMUNITY FOREST OF POKHARA, KASKI DISTRICT**”, submitted by **Shanta Kaphle** to Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master’s Degree of Arts in Sociology has been accepted.

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ABSTRACT

The study entitled “Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management: a case study from Ratopahiro community forest user groups of Pokhara, Kaski district was carried out aiming at examining women’s involvement in community forestry management, especially, in implementing programs, making decision, sharing and managing community forest resources. A set of questionnaires was prepared, tested and used for interviewing along with some popular RRA tools like focused group discussion, key informant interview, participant/direct observation. Women users from each household (all together 35 households) selected randomly and treated as a unit of analysis. The analysis is done by using simple statistical tools such as percent, average, graphs and figures and described in a logical way.

The key finding of the study is that there is no proper and proportional participation of women in the processes and outcomes of the community forest. Despite certain percentage of quota for women is mandatory, there is less participation of women in decision making and benefit sharing. Women from diverse ethnic and academic background have some common problem that their voice and choice are given less priority by elite or men. The study has prioritized the need and interest of women is the prime motivational factor which is accelerated by leaders of CF, family members and development worker. However, the participation of women is affected by individual skill and knowledge, work load, economic condition, socio-cultural values and norms.

The study suggests that active and interactive participation of women secures women’s rights to control and access over the forest resources and provides many opportunities to lead in the community forest. For this, women are to be empowered and motivated by providing formal and informal education through training and visit. Inclusive policy as mentioned in CFDP has to be implemented strictly from FUG and DFO. Devising benefit sharing mechanism based on the principles of equity, productivity and sustainability and providing conducive environment from the state help in promoting high degree of women’s participation.

Key words: Participation, decision making, benefit sharing, community forest

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ACRONYMS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CF	:	Community Forest
CFDP	:	Community Forestry Development Program
CFUG/s	:	Community Forest Users Group/s
CFUGC	:	Community Forest User Group Committee
CM	:	Committee Member
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DFO	:	District Forest Office
DM	:	Decision Making
GAD	:	Gender and Development
GM	:	General Member
GoN	:	Government of Nepal
GSE	:	Gender and Social Equity
ha	:	Hectare
HH	:	Household
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IOF	:	Institute of Forestry
MFSC	:	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MPFS	:	Master plan for the Forestry Sector
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NTFPs	:	Non-Timber Forest Products
OP	:	Operational Plan
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Science
VDC/s	:	Village Development Committee/s
WID	:	Women in Development

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