

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

It is widely recognized that local communities have historically played an instrumental role in forest management as an indispensable common property. Management of common forest resources was well developed in England by middle ages with clearly defined use and ownership right and such rights already dated from time immemorial (Rackhari 1986 cited in Thapa 2000). Thus far from "Community Forestry" being a modern concept, it is in fact a very old one, another case of "old wine in a new bottle" (Gilmour et. al 1991).

Community Forestry has a prerequisite i.e. people's participation, in the absence of which community forestry program will be handicapped. The trends of Community Forestry Program in the present days have changed drastically in comparison to the earlier days of the community forestry. Forestry extension has become much user oriented, involvement of many people have been prioritized for the success of community forestry program in any part of Nepal. Villagers have seen as both the users and managers of the forest and facilitator's community forestry program is one of the successful programs in Nepal in the context of people's participation based on master plan and operational guidelines issued by department of forest. New Forest Act 1993 prepared the policy of the formation of User Group committee, Group members should agree with the responsibilities collections. If possible, one third of the representatives should be women and the views of all members of the group should be considered. It also advised that operational plan should include how to improve the productivity of the resource and to satisfy the needs of users on a sustainable base.

In order to remove the feudal land tenure as it is applied to forests, the Private Forest Nationalization Act was passed in 1957. One of the major intentions of this Act was to "prevent the destruction of privately owned forest" (Regmi, 1978 cited in Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). However, this had negative impact on locals; villagers reacted negatively to nationalization, believing that their traditional rights of access and use had been curtailed. Because of inadequate

technical and administrative responsibilities government failed to protect the forest resource. Deforestation became rapid. Villagers destroyed the forest so that the land could be claimed as private property after it was cleared and cultivated. Because of inadequate government control and adverse local reaction to nationalization, Nepal's forests effectively become common property.

The Forest Preservation Act, 1967 was introduced to define and prescribe penalties, thus strengthening the role of the Forest Department as a policy and law enforcement agency. To reduce common-property character of the forest, the government with financial and technical assistance from World Bank and other donor agencies, launched program to return formal control of forest resources to local villagers. Thus community forestry program was initiated in the late seventies. Legislations passed in 1978 and 1982 provided the provision for the establishment of new categories of forests to be managed by local communities, religious institutions and individuals. Thus forests were protected as Panchayat forests (limited to 500 hectares in each Panchayat, and villagers received three-fourths of forest product income), religious forests (forests located at places of religious importance) and leasehold forests (2.5 hectors for individuals in Kathmandu to 68 hectors for institutions in the Terai). In spite of this, very little land had actually been transferred to the Panchyats.

Since Community Forestry Program is people oriented program and its success depends on the people's active participation. There is a need for further research both on technical and social aspects. The technical aspects include management operation, protection rules and conservation strategies whereas social aspects include forest user group and their culture, social norms, interest, religion, need, etc. Both aspects should be considered equally because they affect each other and consequently reflect the success of community forestry. In this regard the study of people's participation in community forestry is very important, which allows to evaluate the success rate of the program. In this respect, people participation in community forestry considering the institutional and decision making processes, affecting factors of participation and changed knowledge of people (user) in Bangsing VDC of Syangja District are studied here.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In community forestry, problems arise when the composition of the caste group, political ideology and culture of one group of community differ from another. As a result, they do not work together. Similarly, people living nearby the forest are not ready to involve outsiders in forest management activities. If the forest is in different VDCs, or on the border of two VDCs, the problem is more severe (Baral; 1994).

There are some reasons in less participation. One of the problematic issues emerges mostly in the presence of political backing in community, where forest user committee. Member may not be accepted by small portion of users being not from political party they support. Thus, they may want to prove the failure of the forest due to rejection of rule of operational plan, avoidance of active participation. To come to the solution from these problems, a new committee can be made incorporating leader of those groups (who are in opposition to committee members) after then Forest User Group can function well (Gautam and Shrestha 1997).

Chhetri, (1999) argues that in practice people's participation has been given a variety of meanings and perceptions. The problems prevail because of inadequate understanding on how the idea of people's participation and empowering the people could be effectively put into practice. This can be because of the lack of knowledge about the social, cultural and economic context of the communities or localities when the ideas have to be transferred into practice. He also argues that there is gap between realities and rhetoric in people's participation in community forestry. Participation of people in plantation work may be carried out by forest user group with the help of District Forest Office or other agency. Most of the users involve in participation. On such participation, elite people are involved in decision making where others are not fully informed about actual objective of the program. Common people involve only in the implementations and they may misrepresent the program thus, may not give expected result (Chhetri, 1999).

There are many potential benefits from CF for rural development. Still there are some problems that some Community Forest might be over utilized and the local elite people may try to capture the benefits. Rural elite of Nepal generally owns more land, big house and has larger herds of animals. Eventually the rural rich use forest products in larger quantities and consequently benefit from the community forest. (Malla and Fishmer: 1988).

Conflict is an expressed competition between at least two interdependent parties who have perceived or have actual incompatible goals or interests. FUGs are key to implant Community Forestry. Conflict resolution is one of the processes in different process implementing CF. There is deferent degree at different level. Conflicts affect the management of CF process. There are different ways to resolve it by social process but there is an important role of forestry staff to mediate it. Therefore, knowledge on nature and degree of levels of conflicts in their effective resolution are important for successfully preceding the CF, in the development of Nepal. The result of the study of levels of conflicts will enable interest groups in designing on the sustainable production harvesting, utilization and marketing of forest products in formulating appropriate policies, plans, strategies and program for sustainable community forestry development in creating and strengthening local institution for sustainability of the resource of CF products. Coercion, division, hostility, dispenses, alliteration, different power, change and contradiction may create conflicts. Most of the Nepalese people are illiterate, poor and rural in nature. Especially in hilly area in Nepal, people depend on forest, where they get timber for building construction, fuel wood for cooking food and fodder for livestock.

Based on the above discussion it can be seen that there are still many problems, which exist in Community Forestry program. Most of the researchers point out that the ignorance of local factor the presence of different cast composition with different interests, lack of their role in decision-making and less or lack of awareness of the interest groups on community forestry development are main reasons for the less participation of the users in community forestry.

Community Forestry Program in Nepal has more than 30 years; the scholars have not sufficiently focused yet their study on the changes in attitude, knowledge and skill of the forest users in Community Forestry program. These social aspects of community forestry play one of the very important roles in the development of society as a whole. Therefore, the researcher has put one of the objectives to study on these factors of community forestry Program. This study is focused on following issues.

-) How does the diversity of cultural group obstruct on the institutional process?
-) How are people participating in implementation process of community Forestry?

-) How are all interest groups taking part in the process of decision-making and benefit-sharing?
-) Which factors are controlling people from active participation?
-) What are main factors of conflicts between FUGS?
-) How the FUGs are trying to manage conflicts?
-) What should be done for the resolution of conflicts?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to find out problem and prospect of Community Forestry in Syangja District. The specific objects are as follows:

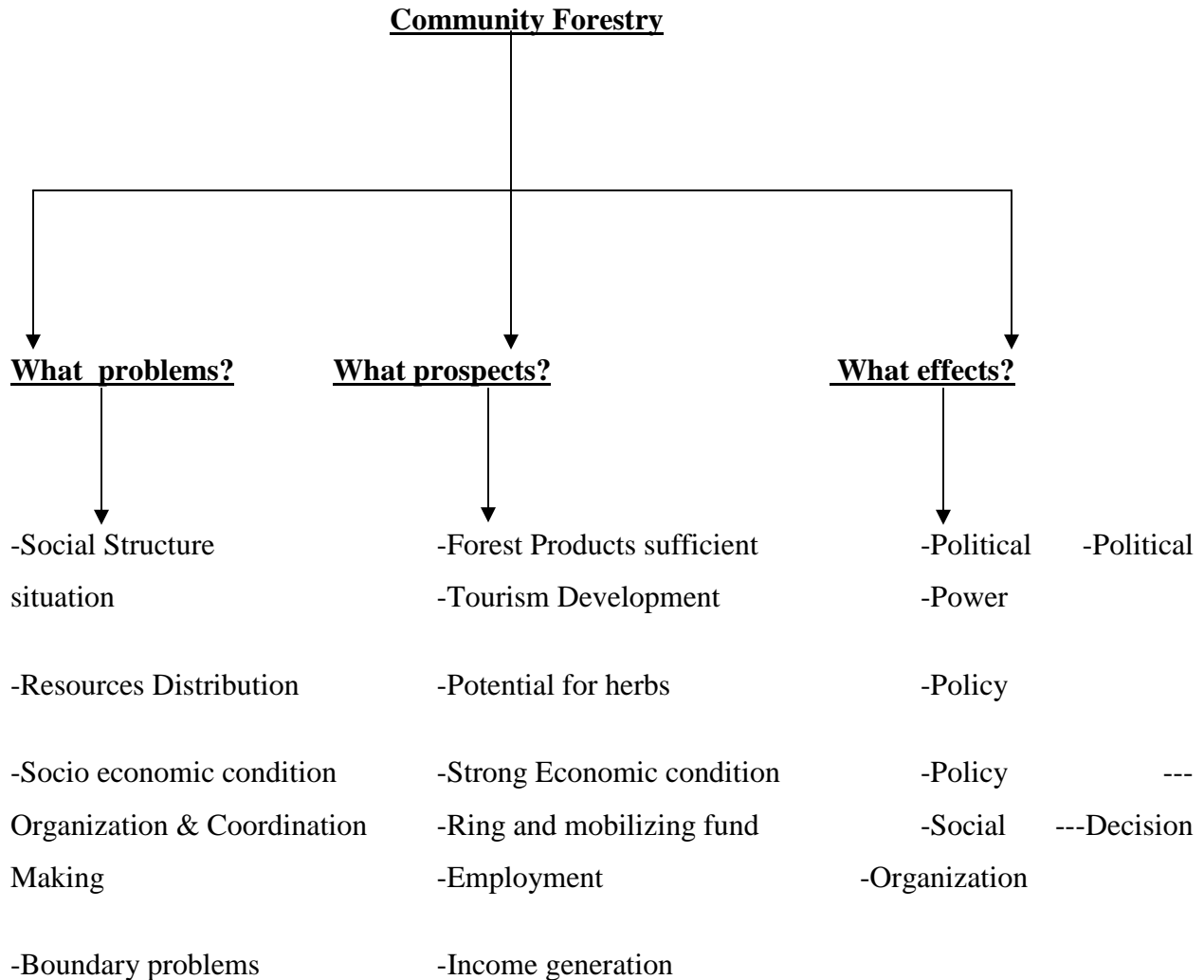
1. To assess the institutionalization process of community forestry,
2. To identify problem and prospect of community forestry,
3. To find out the conflict among user groups.

1.4 Significance of the Study

MPFS gives emphasis on basic need and the satisfaction of rural people. It also requires the users to prepare the constitution of group operation for the participation of these constitutions and management plan; the government may provide its technical support to those user committees and require active people's participation on both processes. This community forest is also selected, as there is a mixed caste composition within the user group. There are Brahmin, ethnic group and Dalit who are the users of the community forest. During the last nine years of its operation, these C.F. users have gained significant knowledge and skill which can be examined. In the past, this forest user group was not studied by anybody else focusing on people's nature, process and attitude towards participation in Community Forestry is divided into different sectors i.e. age, caste and ethnicity, education, gender, occupation, etc.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

The research study mainly deals with the level of problems and prospects of CFUGs. The basic concerns of the study are:



1. Identification of real users.
2. The institutional strength itself depends upon various other factors which, are influencing indirectly to the function of CFUG. Those factors also are influencing the forest management in general and other important socio-cultural issues in particular.
3. The institutional capacity of CFUG is also determined whether the participation of users from different economic status, caste, gender and professional interest group has given

sufficient consideration or not. The involvement of each people from different perspective is most important for strong institutional base.

4. Various types of conflicts/dispute and their solution process from the FUGs.
5. Various types of prospects and benefit from the FUGs.

1.6 Limitation

This research is done by the student researcher for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Master Degree in Sociology/ Anthropology. Due to the limited budget and time, this study covers the information of only Batase Community Forestry of Bangsing VDC in Syangja district, so the findings of this study may not be generalized comfortably to all Community Forestry in of the district in particular and all over the country in general.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Overview

Community Forestry program is one of the successful Programs of Nepal in the context of people's participation. On the basis of master plan, operational guidelines issued by the department of forest, New Forest Act, 1993 was prepared. The policy specifies the formation of user group committee whose representatives and functions should be women and the views of all members of the group should be considered. It is also advised that the operational plan should include how to improve the productivity of the resource and to satisfy the needs of user on a sustainable basis MPFS gives emphasis on "basic needs" i.e. the satisfaction of rural people. It also requires the user to prepare the constitution of group operation (Gramcer, 1999). For the preparation of these constitution and management plan, the government may provide. It technically supports this user committee and requires active people's participation on the both process.

The community forestry programmed has solved many problems of the villages by providing fuel wood, fodder timber and even employment. It is popular also because the local people manage and handle the forest themselves. They felt that the forest belongs to them.

This study focuses on two types of conflicts in Community Forest User Group (CFUG): conflict between user group committee and user, conflict among users. The users are found impaired from the UGC decisions and their pattern of benefit sharing. Conflict also exists among users: major strategies adopted to manage conflict are found to be their avoiding or forcing; but avoiding is the most widely used strategy. Moreover, compromising and accommodating are found less frequently compared to forcing and collaborating that are really used. This study challenges the common perception that community forestry of Nepal is successful in managing its conflict. The findings of this study do not support this claim because collaborating strategy has really been used in Community Forest (CF) conflict management. In contrast, this study shows that avoiding and forcing are more commonly used. The greatest application of avoiding and forcing strategy in conflict management indicates that CF is still lagging in realizing the best

possible option of collaborating. This finding also challenge the effectiveness of the existing conflict management mechanism in CF. This study also suggests collaborating strategy as a better option for managing conflict. On the other hand, this study also reveals that CF is not benefiting the poor of the community. Though, many scholars trumpet CF as a successful program in Nepal, this study points out that CF has not yet been able to manage its conflicts in a more constructive way. This study also pinpoints shortcomings of existing conflict management strata.

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

2.2 Forest User Group in Community Forestry

The Forest User Group (FUG) focuses subject of Community Forest, Which recognizes local user's right and practices to a considerable extent (Fisher and Gilmour, 1991). The concept of Forest User Group is derived from the concept of uses right. The Forest User Group is an institution based on the concept of "common property". The FUG is known as common property resource institution i.e. group of people sharing specified user's right (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991 and Karki, 1994). The evolutionary background of user group is closely lined to the existence of indigenous forest management system in Nepal, thus the forest profession may not be doing no more than rediscovering and redefining the system (Chhetri and Pandey, 1992 and Gilmour and Fisher, 1991).

Identification of Forest User Group is the first phase of Community Forest handover process. In this process, the field staffs within the village determine the real users of a particular forest by discussion and checking. Community forest extension worker need to devote more time with the forest users in this phase. The process also identifies socio- technical information about the use

of forest and Community Forestry area (Joshi, 1991). When a person is of low cast or disadvantaged, he or she does not easily mingle with the rest of the community and will have a low profile and therefore may not know what is happening around the village and so misses the chance to be included in the user group. Sometimes, low cast people do not speak out in our Community dominated by high cast people As a result when a user group is formed, such disadvantaged, persons are left out Later on at the time of benefit sharing, the conflict will arise (Shrestha, 1994).

2.3 Conflict Resolution

Conflict is reported to be ubiquitous in four CFUGs studied. Community forestry boundaries are the most commonly reported causes of conflicts individual tends to recognize the boundary of the ward or village Development Committee (VDC) as the boundary of the Community Forest. This misconception results from the individual inability to clearly comprehend the basic concept of community forestry. Usually, forestry officials approach communities and require that the inhabitants of one ward or VDC relinquish the control they have over some portion of the forest to claimants of another adjoining ward or VDC (Uprety, 2000).

While most conflicts were resolved, some remained problematic. In one instance, individuals alleged that their land was included on the forest. This was resolved by giving back the claimed portion of the forest land to the private owners. In another instance, some claimed that the inhabitants of neighboring wards of the same VDC used the foot trail within the forest, in response to this problems; the CFUG provided alternative foot-trial in the forest area for those users. The problem of illegal entrance of the inhabitants of one ward into the forest of another ward was resolved by appointing the Batase (forest guard). The issue of whether or not to leave some portion of degraded forest unprotected for livestock and grazing remained unresolved. However, in another community, this research shows that generally users themselves were able to resolve local conflicts regarding the community forest. Nonetheless, the assistance of forestry officials in resolving those of a smaller magnitude was timely and laudable.

(Structural functionalism the conflict theory chapter 7) Although these issues apply to all social positions, Davis and Moore were system with the functionally more important positions, in society. The position that ranks high within the stratification system is presumed to be those are less pleasant to occupy but more important to the survival of society that require the greatest ability and talent. In addition, society must attach feint rewards to these positions so that enough people will seek to occupy the individuals who do come to occupy them will work diligently. Converse was implied by Davis and Moore but not discussed. That is ranking positions in the

stratification system are presumed to be less important and to require less ability and talent. Also, society less need to be sure that individuals occupy these positions and perform their duties with diligence.

In the structural functionalism, the terms structural and functional need not be used in conjunction, although they are typically conjoined. We could study the structures of society without being concerned with their functions (or consequences) for other structures. Similarly, we could examine the functions of a variety of social process that may not take a structural form. Still the concern for both elements characterizes structural functionalism.

Mark Abrahamson (1978) argued that structural functionalism is not monolithic. He identifies three varieties of structural functionalism. The first is individualistic functionalism. Here the focus is on the needs of actors and the various large- scale structures (for example, social institutions, cultural values) that emerge as functional responses to these needs. The anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski was a major proponent of this perspective. The second is interpersonal functionalism, and the exemplar was another anthropologist, A.B Radcliffe-Brown. Here the focus is on social relationships, particularly the mechanisms to accommodate strains that exist in such relationships. The third variety, societal functionalism, is the dominant approach among social structural functionalists (Sztompka, 1974), and as such will be the focus of this chapter. The primary concern of societal functionalism is the large- scale social structures and institutions of society, their interrelationships, and their con- straining effects on actors. It has been argued that the idea of functional positions varying in their importance to society is difficult to support. Are garbage collectors really and less important to the survival of society than advertising executives. Despite the lower pay and prestige of the garbage collectors, they actually may be more importance to the survival of the society. Even in cased where it could be said that one position serves a more important function for society, the greater rewards do not necessarily accrue to the more important position. Nurses may be much more important to society than movies stars. Is there really a scarcity of people capable of filling high- level positions? In fact, many people are prevented from obtaining the training they need to achieve prestigious positions, event though they have the ability.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Rational of the selection of the Study Area

The present study will be carried out in Bangsing VDC of Syangja district which lies in the Western Development Region of Gandaki Zone of Nepal. This VDC is 18 km far from the district headquarters of Syangja. The study unit of the research is Batase CFUG. This CF is selected purposively among five community forestry of Bangsing VDC because it is the oldest CF of this VDC. There are various status groups which are users of CF. In the past nobody studied about this topic.

3.2. Research Design

The study has adopted both the descriptive and exploratory research designs. Descriptive research design is concerned with describing the characteristics of particular individual or of a group. CFUG's character and their rules and process in CF activities are descriptively discussed. Exploratory research designs find out some problem and then analyze these problems applying different research methods. Participation of different level of people and conflict resolution process are discussed on the basis of exploratory design.

3.3. Nature and Source of Data

This study is based on both primary as well as secondary data. The primary data has been collected through the technique of purposively sampling survey. The direct observations by the discussion have been done with forest users by the researcher. The secondary data have been tapped from various types of relevant literature such as journal, articles, dissertations, research report, textbooks, DFO and CFD records etc. However, the study is mainly based on the primary data, which has been collected from the user of CF. Therefore, the user group members of Batase Community Forestry are the primary respondents.

Information related to people's participation of community forestry operation and their access to resources has been collected. Similarly, participation of users in development process, their status in the society and legal provision made for them has also been documented.

3.4. Population and Sample

For this research study, Batase Community forestry of Syangja district is deliberately selected. It is located in Bangsing VDC. There are 80 households in Batase CFUGs. Out of the total households, 50 percent households are selected as the sample unit from the different caste and ethnicity. Different caste, ethnicity, economic status and gender background of the users are considered while selecting the samples. In addition to sampled household survey, key informant interview was conducted. Some people having adequate and in-depth knowledge on the research issues were selected purposively as key informants. They include school teachers, forest official, old aged people and local politicians. Beside those female users, educated users are also interviewed through structured questionnaire to collect information about people's participation and conflict resolution.

3.5 The Data Collection Techniques and Tools

The following techniques and tools are used for the collection of primary data.

3.5.1. Household Survey

Socio- economic data like total forest user, caste composition, land holding and food production, educational status and occupational status are collected through household survey. Close- ended structured questionnaires are used for the socio economic information. The Researcher has visited users on their own house and in the field for the household survey. Quantitative data are collected through this technique during the field survey.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussions

During field study, the researcher has met local users, women users and lower caste users. Formal and informal discussion is done with them. Discussions with women user and lower caste users are held separately. Qualitative data are collected through discussions. The discussions focused on the matter of the user's participation and conflict resolution in the different community forestry activities. Their view about CF is also discussed. Information is noted down in note book after discussions were held. Information was also collected formal the discussion in meeting places of CFUGs e.g. in the field, tea-shops and other public places.

3.5.3 Interview

Some questions regarding people's participation in decision- making, implementation and benefits sharing were asked to sample respondents. On the basis of household's survey, economically rich and poor, illiterate and literate were sorted out and interview was made.

3.5.4 Key Information's Interview

Staff of DFO, FUG committee members, VDC member and other educated users was the key informants of the study. Formal interview and informal discussions were performed with them. The discussions were held on their contribution, history of CF and status of participation of women, lower caste and other general users. The relevant information was recorded in plain sheet. In depth informal discussions was carried out about their experience, feelings and contributions. Maximum focus was given to collect qualitative rather than quantitative data form the key informants.

3.5.5 Observations

Direct observations are applied to get relevant information for the study. In the course of field work, present conditions of forest, applied forest management operations are observed. The researcher observes one committee meeting of Forest Users Group. Firewood storage, firewood consumption pattern, feeding materials of domestic animals and agricultural practices are also observed. Observation is made during report building and informal discussion with users. The observation is made during report building and informal discussion with users. The observations help very much for understanding the field reality, which is fruitful for the study that could not have been captured through verbal discussions.

3.6 Data Analysis

As discussed above the data are collected through various sources using various data collection techniques and tools. Qualitative and quantitative data are gathered form the filed visit. The information related to population structure, caste distribution, education, economic and participation status are quantified. Qualitative data are discussed analytically on the bases of

findings. Quantitative data are tabulated and analyzed descriptively. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage were used to present quantitative data.

CHAPTER- FOUR

STUDY AREA

4.1 District Background

4.1.1 Geographical Location

Syangja, a hilly district, lies in the Western Development Region of Nepal. Its headquarter is in Putalibazar Municipality which is a historical place known as Syangja bazaar. It's boarders with Kaski, Parbat, Tanahu, Gulmi and Palpa. It was divided into six small states in the period of "Chaubise Rajya" that is has own historical identity.

Syangja district lies at 366 to 2512 meters height from the sea level. According to geographical division, it covers about 1164 squire km of area and lies between 83 degree, 27' to 84 degree 46' E longitude and 27 degree, 52' to 28 degree, 13' N latitude. There are 60 VDCs, 2 municipalities and 3 constituencies. Among 60 VDCs, Bangsing is one of them. This VDC lies 18 km north from Syangja bazaar, headquarter of Syangja. It is surrounded by Parbat District in the west, Bichari Chautara VDC, Bagi Fadke in east and Chilaunebas and Setidovan VDC in the south. The Siddhartha Highway crosses the eastern side of the VDC. The total area of the VDC is 1132 hectare. The total average altitude of this VDC is about 2512 meters from the sea level.

4.1.2 Land Use

According to district profile 2009 the total area is 101319 hector out of which 64.9% is covered by agriculture land. Similarly, forest covered 27.7% and water bodies i.e. rivers cover approximately 1.4% and the area occupied by grass, scrub pastureland and other.

4.1.3 Caste Composition

According to the population census of 2058 B.S., the district has 64746 households with total population of 317320. Of this, 143619 are male and 173701 are female. The population growth rate remained to be 0.87% per year. This appears to be lower than the national growth.

Table 4.1: Caste Composition

Caste	Percentage
Brahmin	32.88
Magar	21.29
Chhetri	11.17
Gurung	9.99
Kami	6.67
Newar	3.33
Sarki	3.31
Damai	3.24

Source: Districts Forest Office, 2009/10

Brahmin is dominant caste group which accounts 32.88% followed by 21.29% Magar 11.17% Chhetri 9.99% Gurung 6.67% Kami 3.33% Newar 3.31% Sharki and 3.24% Damai.

4.1.4 Occupational Composition

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in Syangja. But, agriculture production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of the district are involved in subsidiary occupations like service (governmental, non- governmental and private) and foreign employment.

Table: 4.2: Occupational Composition

Occupation	Male%	Female%	Average%
Agriculture	87.7	92.4	90.5
Government Job	3.1	0.9	2
Business	2.0	1.3	1.6
Others	7.2	5.4	6.3

Sources: Districts Forest Office, 2009/10

According to the field survey, nearly 90% people depend on agriculture. 2% and 1.65% and 6.3% have government job, business and others respectively.

4.1.5 Education Status

The general observation helps as to find that almost all young generation go to school and college. According to District Education Office most of the males of the old generation are literate. Generally adult women and people of occupational caste are less educated compared to the males.

Table 4.3: Education status

Description	Literacy Rate in %
Total	66.7
Male	77.9
Female	57.7

Sources: District Education Office, 2009/10

The table shows that out of total population literacy rate of male is 77.9% and female are 57.7%. Average literacy rate is 66.7%. This data show that literacy rate is higher than the national level.

4.2 Present Status of Forest of Syangja

a) Area

The area covered by forest in the district is 326551 Ha out of which only 588 ha is occupied by private and leasehold forest.

Table 4.4: Status of Forest in Syangja District

Forest	Area in Ha	Percentage
Community	10856	33.96
Private and leasehold	558	1.8
Government	20609	64.23

Total	32023	100
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Source: District Forest Office, 2009/10

This table shows community forest is 33.96%, private leasehold forest is 1.8% and government forest is 64.23%.

b) **Stocking of the Forest**

According to the present OFMP, on the basis of Forest Development Class, following stocks are found in this District.

Table: 4.5: Nature of the Forest in Syangja District

Natural Forest	Area in Ha	Volume in per sq. m.
Sapling	5680	6447
Middle Age Forest	7910	223318
Mature Forest	18035	6988577
Total	31625	9118372

Source: Report of Evolution or Monitoring of Community Forestry of Syangja Districts, 2009/10

The table shows out of total Forest area in hector in Syangja sapling forest is 5880 Ha, like wise middle age forest 7910 Ha, and mature Forest is 18035.

c) **Forest Type and Composition:**

Syangja district is one of the districts of the hilly, having low natural resources and condition is in an average. According to the age of forest, there are very few forest areas as a seedling, saplings and pole forest but matured trees are found as large quantity. Therefore, the condition of forest is not taken as good. The forest of the district has been categorized into the following five types.

Table 4.6: Forest type Composition

Types of Forest	Area in hector	Percentage
Sal forest	2409	12.69
Schema castanopses forest	17826	74.64
Achima castanopses forest	2409	6.8
Oak-Rhododendron forest	963	4.0
Chirpine Forest	481	1.17
Total	24088	100

Source: Report of Evolution or Monitoring of community Forestry of Syangja Districts, 2009/10

The table shows that out of total forest types of Syangja , Sal forest is 12.69%, Schima castanopses forest is 74.64%, Achima castanopses forest 6.8% Oak- rhododendron forest 4.0% and Chipine Forest 1.17%.

4.2.1 Community Forestry in Syangja District

The community forestry program has been implemented in Syangja since 1991 and hand over process is very slow due to various reasons. The following table shows the situation of the Community forest in Syangja district.

Table 4.7: Status of Community Forestry in Syangja District

Description	Result
No. of Forest user group	421
Area of Community forestry in Ha	12117
No of benefited household	45000
No of benefited population	75316
Average house hold size	4.9
No of women conducted CF	5
% of C.F in Total Forest	37.12

Max no of Com m. member	22
Min no of com. member	5
Max women in comm. member	17
Average Income of FUG	15041
Average Expenditure of FUG	4294

Source: Report of Evolution or Monitoring of Community Forestry of Suangja Districts. 2009/10

The table shows that Status of community forestry in Syangaj the no. of forest user Group is 421, area of community forest in Ha. 12117, no. of benefited households 45000, no of HH size 4.9, no of women conducted CF 5, percentage of C.F in total forest 37.12, max. No of com. member 5, average income of FUG 15041 rupees and average expenditure of FUG 4294 rupees.

4.3 Study Area Background

4.3.1 Location and Physical Features

Bangsing VDC can be considered as an ancient and historical place of Syangja district. It has a great possibility of tourism development. Famous Panchase Lake, Shawran Kumar Temple, Siddha Baba, etc are the important sites to visit with some high historical and religious values. They add beauty to the VDC. But in fact, Tourism development in this VDC hasn't been enhanced properly yet due to the lack of proper publicity, public consciousness, easy accessibility and local institutional carelessness. It has a high potential of tourism development if such problems are solved with like mindedness in time. If we consider the VDC are attracted to produce cash crops as well like orange, coffee, ginger, etc. Because of the lack of modern technology in farming, they are not succeeding to grow enough crops as wanted. The inhabitants of the VDC will take advantage economically, if the problems mentioned are solve well.

4.3.2 Population

The total population of Bangsing VDC is about 2962 in the census of 2001 out of the total population Brahman occupy the first position, Chhetris occupy the second position, similarly third, fourth , fifth positions are occupied by Kamis, Damais and Sharkis respectively.

Out of 2962 people male population is about 1400(47.85%) and female population is about 1526 (52.15%) The total household of the VDC is 584 according to VDCs census. Most of the people of the VDC depended on agriculture. Except this some are engaged in business and service sectors and some others are engaged in foreign employment.

4.3.3 Climate

The climate of this VDC is similar to rest part of Syaingja district. Most of the VDCs are located in hilly region. So, the climate of this VDC is neither hot nor cold i.e. warm temperate climate. Syangja district can be divided into the climate three categories. Warm temperate is found in 70% of the total area where as tropical monsoon 15% and cold temperature is found 15%.

The average annual rainfall is about 2665 mm and the maximum and minimum temperature is 30.9 and 8.2 degree celcius receptivity.

4.3.4 Natural resources

Natural resources are the crux to make the country rich. Their proper utilization and management take important role, but it is found unsatisfactory to be used in our country due to different reasons like lack of infrastructure, lack of entrepreneurship, education and so on. If the natural resources like water, land, forest etc are utilized properly, the country's economic status will be strong.

4.3.5 Water Resources

Water is very essential for living beings. It is used for drinking, irrigation and other many purposes. Nearly 75% pipe water is distributed in the VDC, nearly 15% people use running water, 8% use dug well water and 2% people use other sources for drinking water and household purposes. Most of the land is irrigated by traditional Kulo. There is a stream called Andhikhola that starts from historical place, Andha Andhi pond and Saradi Khola which is started Sarawan Kumar pound.

Most of the people is depending on agriculture. Roughly 40% land is cultivated and 60% land is occupied by the forest. Generally, there are four types of soil: sand mixed soil are used for

growing vegetables, black soil is used for growing paddy and yellow and concrete mixed soil are used for growing maize, wheat, millet, ginger, orange and coffee as their main income sources.

4.3.6 Forest

Forest is very important natural resource for ecological balance and healthy atmosphere. Forests are the sources of timber, firewood and also add beauty in nature, preserve environment and resist excessive soil erosion. Roughly 55.29% land is covered by forest. There are only five community forests which occupy nearly 44.7% forest area out of total forest area. Some common trees are Chilaune, Katush, pine, Saal, Koiral, Saaj, Pakhuri etc, common shrubs are bamboo, nigalo, kursimlo, etc. and some common medicinal plants are chutro, kurilo, timmur, Tejpatta, etc. Forest also provides shelter for wild animals like monkeys, bears, tigers, rabbits, deers, foxes, jackals, etc. Some common birds like sparrow, crow, owl, and parrot are found in this forest.

4.3.7 Language

There are different castes. All of them can speak and understand Nepali language.

Festivals

The different castes have their own culture, yet some of the festivals like Dashain, Tihar, Holi, Shivaratri, Teej etc. All these festivals have their own importance and they encourage people to gather in the village and to share their experiences with their relatives and friends.

4.3.9 Economic

The economic condition of a place reflects the living standard of the people living there. It includes income resources, performance of works for livelihood and necessary expenditure as well. People are bounded to be involved in at least one occupation to maintain their livelihood.

As most of the Nepalese villagers, the main occupations of the VDC are agriculture, trade and commerce, wage labors and foreign employment. The VDC, being a rural area, a single man is engaged in different occupations in different times and seasons. But some villagers have fixed

occupations as government service holders. This is why: the term occupations don't mean to refer to a certain profession, our activities to earn our livelihood certain profession. It means our activities to earn our livelihood.

Table 4.8: Profile of Bangsing VDC

Description	2002 Census	2008 Projection
Av. household size	5.07	5.24
Total no. of House hold	584	650
Total population	2962	3128
Male	1400	1627
Female	1526	1718
Telephone	-	yes
Electricity	-	yes
Literacy rate(%)	56.5	60.7

Source: District profile of Nepal, 2008/09

The table shows the profiles of Bangsing VDC of Syangja according to census of 2001. The average household size is 5.7, total number of household is 584, total population is 2962, total male are 1400 and total female 1526 and literacy rate is 56.5%.

4.3.10 Historical Background of Batase Community Forestry

Out of 421 communities forestry of Syangja District BFUGS is on of the famous and progressive community forestry programs The community forest owns popularity as it has a road link of local road nearly from Khadkatari to Panchase. The study of the forest area gives a good view of Annapurna and Machhapuchhere mountain range. So the area can be developed as sightseeing for visitors. It lies at an altitude from 1125 to 1300m above the sea level. The forest area occupies 6.77 hectares of land and 80 households have been utilizing it for years now. The community forest is located in the west of Sepat Kholasi, the east of Abadi, the south of Bharsang road and in the north Bangsing road. It has a slope of 20 to 25 degree. It deserves beauty of Panchase area.

The forest area in the past was dense with a large number of tall trees. But it has lost its historical background as forest. The trees have been cut down for different purposes. The main causes beyond the destruction are a lot but mainly due to the pressure of the population, lack of people's awareness and alternative forest areas, the forest has been destroyed at a great extent leading to deterioration. It causes many problems such as soil erosion, landslide, etc every year; a great mass of fertile soil is swept away. The problem was terrible as people carelessly collected forest leaves took cattle for grazing, and cut down trees indiscriminately day by day. So, some conscious villagers thought up a way to check deforestation and conserving environment of the area. This thinking bred a consumers committee in due time, in fiscal year 2050/2051 in the initiation of Upper Andhikhola Watershed Areas Conservation Project that works in some parts of Syangja district. First attempt to handover the forest resulted fruitless as dispute erupted among consumers. Then, an act was completed and recognized by the district forest office, Syangja for group registration. Now, it has gained its previous status.

4.3.11 Objectives of Forest Management in Batase Community Forestry Program

The objectives of this forestry user group as cited in their constitution and approved operational plan are as listed below:

(Source: Batase Community Forestry Action Plan 2051)

-) Effective utilization, management and development of community forest from the collective efforts of all users
-) Conservation of biodiversity and promotion of ecological balance
-) Organize training, workshops and interaction programs related to community forest
-) Gain support and cooperation from the concerned parties such as elected local bodies, district forest office, NGOs related to forest management
-) Cater demand of grass, leaf litter, timber, firewood and other forest resources of the people in the area
-) Conserve water resources and control soil erosion

-) Maintain cordial relationship with other community forest user groups in the nearby area and work jointly for the protection and development of forest
-) Ensure empowerment and effective participation of those users who are very poor and socially and economically backward.

4.3 Information Regarding the User Group

4.4.1: Caste/Ethnic Composition

Batase Community Forest has covered 80 households. These households are primary users of the forest. The table shows the detail information of caste/ethnic composition of Batase Community Forest User Group.

Table 4.9 Caste/ Ethnic Composition

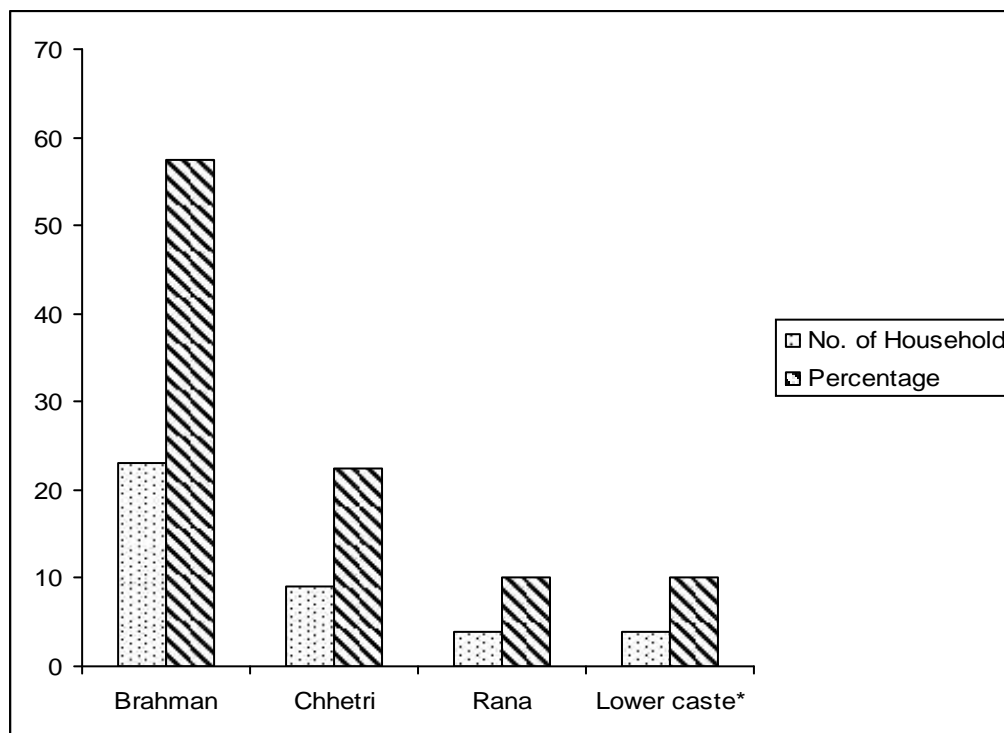
Caste/ ethnic Group	No. of Household	Percentage
Brahman	23	57.5
Chhetri	9	22.5
Rana	4	10
Lower caste*	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

*(Note- * Kami and Dorji)*

The data show that there are 40 sampled households. Out of total sampled households of the study area Brahman is the dominant group which accounts for 57.5% followed by Chhetri (22.5%), Rana (10.0%), and lower caste (10.0%).

4.1 Figure Caste/Ethnic Composition



4.4.2 Age and Sex Composition

Age and Sex composition is one of the most important demographic features. It will help the planners to know which sector is weaker and which one is stronger in a community and what support they can do for the enlistment of the age and sex affect marriage, birth, fertility and mortality directly. It also shows dependency ratio.

Table 4.10: Age and Sex Composition

Age Group	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Below 5 years	12	4.7	11	4.3	23	9.12
5 to 14 years	24	9.52	26	10.31	50	19.48
15 to 59 years	90	35.71	78	30.95	168	66.67
More than 60 years	5	1.98	6	2.38	11	4.3
Total	131	52.0	121	48.0	252	100

Source: Field survey, 20011

This table shows that out of total population (252), large percent (66.67%) of sampled population (both male and female) is of working age group. 9.12% of the total population is below 5 years, 19.48% of the total population falls in 5 to 15 years age group 66.67% of the total population lies in 15 to 59 years age group and 4.3% of the total population lies in above 60 years age group. Among the total population males occupy 52.0% and females 48 %. It indicates that males is slightly more than female in comparison to the national average.

4.4.3 Occupational Composition

When the primary resources of the country are utilized on a commercial scale, when a country is industrialized and when the new technologies are introduced it generates diversification of occupational structure. Due to lack of these factors, there are not alternative opportunities in non-agriculture sectors for employment in Nepal. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the study area. But, agriculture production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of this area are involves in subsidiary occupation.

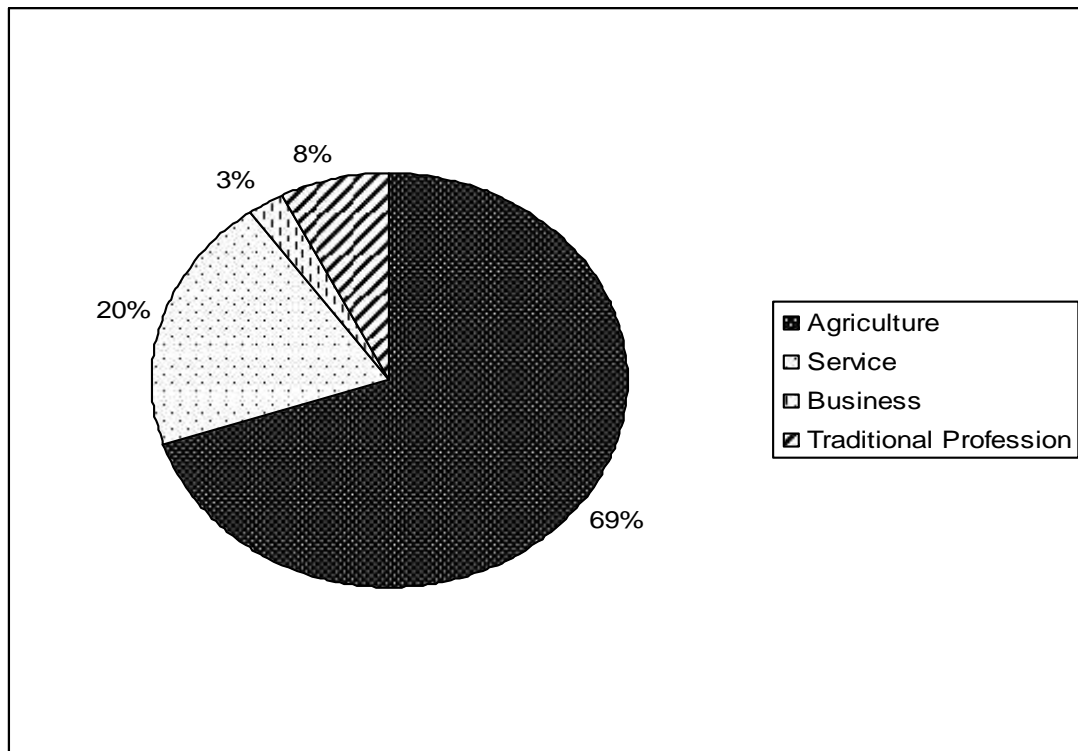
Table 4.11: Occupational Composition

Occupation	No. of HH	% Out of Total pop.
Agriculture	28	70
Service	8	20
Business	1	2.5
Traditional Profession	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Out of total households, 70% are engaged in agriculture and only 20% households are service holders. Similarly, business-having household is 2.5% and traditional profession having household is 7.5%

Figure 4.2 Occupational Composition



4.4.4 Education Status

In this subject, the researcher has tried to show the educational status of total population of 40 households, because educational status particularly represents the human capital. It depends on economic condition of the people, degree of urbanization, stage of technology development, transportation and communication, religion, etc.

Here the levels of education have been divided into four categories like literate (who couldn't read and write at the time of data collection), literate (those who could read and write or could do signature), secondary (those who have passed class 10 but not passed SLC) and higher level (those who have passed SLC and higher education).

Table 4.12: Education Status

Level	Male	% of Male	Female	% of female	Total	%
Illiterate	28	20.29	40	35.0	68	26.99
Literate*	61	44.20	41	35.79	102	40.47
Secondary	27	19.57	22	19.29	49	19.5
Higher Education	22	15.49	11	9.6	33	13.0
Total	138	100	114	100	252	100

Note - *Can read and write but not enrolled in school.

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table shows that the 68 persons (26.99%) are illiterate out of which males are 28(20.29%) and females are 40 (35.0%). The numbers of literate are 102 persons out of which 61 person (44.20%) are males and females are 41(35.97%). Similarly altogether 49 persons have received the secondary education which is 19.5% of total population among which males are 27(19.57%) and females are 22 (19.29%). 33 persons have received the higher education, which is 13.0% of the total population among whom 22 are males and 11 are females.

The overall literacy rate is 72.35% whereas 79.72% are males and 64.98% females.

4.4.5 Economic Status

Economic condition of the respondents is determined by obtaining information on the local definition of wealth. The land holding strength of the household is used as the basis of classifying the economic condition (wealth ranking) of the families. Family without the land or less than one ropani land is regarded as a very poor, with land from 1 to 5 ropanis as poor, 6 ropanis to 10 ropanis as medium, 11 ropanis to 15 ropanis as rich and greater than 16 ropanis as very rich. This categorization of wealth ranking has been made under the basis of the working plans of community forestry.

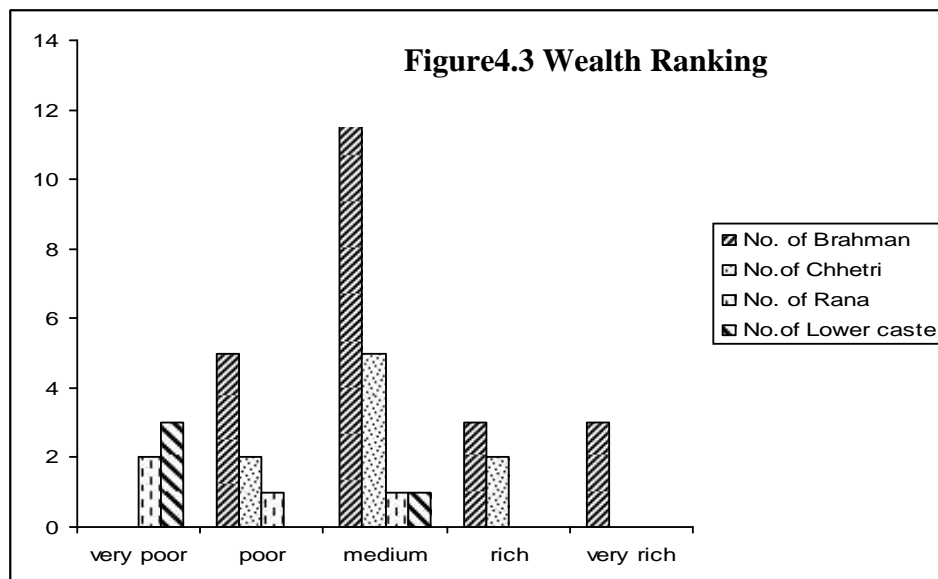
Table 4.13: Wealth Ranking

Wealth Ranking	Brahman	Chhetri	Rana	Lower caste	Total
very poor			2(5%)	3(7.5%)	5(12.5%)
poor	5(12.5%)	2(5%)	1(2.5%)		8(20%)
medium	12(30%)	5(12.5%)	1(2.5%)	1(2.5%)	19(47.5%)
rich	3(7.5%)	2(5%)			5(12.5%)
very rich	3(7.5%)				3(7.5%)
Total	23(57.5%)	9(22.5%)	4(10%)	4(10%)	40(100)

Source: Working Plan of Community Forestry

The table shows that out of 40 households, 12% households are in the rank of very poor, among them 5% HHs belongs to Rana and 7.5% HHs belong to lower caste. 20% HHs are in the rank of poor, among them 12.5% HHs belongs to Brahman, 5% HHs are Chhetris and 2.5% HHs are Ranas. 47.5% HHs are in rank of Medium, among them 30% HHs Brahmans, 12.5% HHs are Chhetris 2.5% HH is Ranas and 2.5% HHs are lower caste. 12.5% HHs are in the rank of rich, among them 7.5% HHs are Brahman and 5% HHs are Chhetris. 7.5% HHs are very rich among them Brahmans belong to 7.5% HHs.

The data shows that Brahman and Chhetri are wealthy than Rana and lower caste.



4.4.6 Land Holding

The field survey finds that Brahman and Chhetri have comparatively big size of land holding than other ethnic groups. Brahman and Chhetri also have more cultivated land than other caste groups.

In the study area, most of the Brahman and Chhetri are cultivating their land themselves. They usually hire labor during the cultivation season and harvesting agricultural products. Kami and Damai work as an agricultural labor for Brahman and Chhetri. Some households have given their land on rent. On the basis of the field survey, the landholding size of the sample households is given in the table.

Table 4.14: No. of Household Having the Land in Ropani*

Caste Group	Landless to 1 to 5 R	6 to 10 R	11 to 15 R	+ 16 R	Total
Brahman	5(21.73%)	5(21.73)	7(30.43)	6(26.08)	23
Chhetri	3(33.34%)	2(22.23%)	3(33.34%)	1(11.12%)	9
Rana	2(50.00%)	2(50.00%)	-	-	4
Lower caste	3(7.5%)	1(25.0%)	-	-	4
total	13(32.5%)	10(25.0%)	10(25.0%)	7(25.0%)	40

Source: Field Survey 2011

*One Ropani is equivalent to 0.005 hector.

This table shows that, Brahman land holding is higher than Chhetri land holding because (26.08%), Brahman holding, +16 ropani, 11.12% is Chhetri Land holding +16 ropani. Similarly, Rana and lower caste they have land only from 1 to 10 ropani, therefore, they are seem to be the lowest land holder.

4.4.7 Agriculture Production and Food Sufficiency of Household

Paddy, maize, wheat, millets and potato are the major agricultural production of the households in the study area. Because of low availability of the plain land, the productivity of the land is also low. Terracing is a common practice in cultivating the land. The field survey finds that food sufficiency is shown in the table below.

Table 4.15: Food Sufficiency of Household

Particular	No. of household	Percentage
Sever	7	17.5
Sufficient for home consumption	10	25
Not sufficient: above 6 M to below 12M	10	25
Below 6 month(M)	13	32.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

The table shows that food sufficiency for sampled HHs. Out of 40 HHs, 17.5% HHs are severe, 25% HHs have sufficient, similarly 25% HHs do not have food, i.e. they have food for to 12 months and 32.5% HHs have food below 6 months.

4.4.8 Livestock Holding

Cow, buffalo, goats and ox are common domestic animals in the study area. All Brahman and Chhetri households are rearing buffalos or cows. Whereas, Kami and Damai households are involved in rearing pig and chicken. The major livestock reared by the sampled households is given in the table below:

Table: 4.16: Livestock Possession

Caste Group	No, of HH	Cows	Buffalos	Goat s	Total
Brahman	23	23(100%)	48(47.91%)	49(46.93%)	120(19.17%)
Chhetri	9	10(90%)	19(47.36%)	20(45%)	49((18.36%)
Rana	4	8(50%)	15(26.67%)	18(22.23%)	41(9.76%)
Lower caste	4	3(133%)	8(50%)	12(33.34%)	23(17.39%)

Source: Field survey 2011.

Live stock holding is an essential component of rural livelihood and agriculture in rural area depends in the livestock. In this study area, the total number of livestock is 100% among them Brahmins have the largest number of livestock (19.17%) and Chhetris have (18.36%) livestock, Ranas have (9.76%), and lower caste have (17.39%). Average livestock having per house is 5.825.

CHAPTER FIVE

INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS OF BATASE COMMUNITY FORESTRY

5.1 Introduction

There are different institutional processes in the practice of Community Forestry. Forest User Group, District Forest Office (DFO) and other line agencies must perform different institutional processes to gain objectives of community forestry program. Forest User Group is a local level organization established for the purpose of management, protection and proper utilization of forest, which has been practiced by them since past. Formation of Forest User Group and forest User Committee, preparation of operational plan of forest and constitution of user group and implementation are major institutional process of community forestry. Institutional processes are being adopted by Batase Community Forest User Group are described below.

5.2 Realization of the Problems

After the enactment of Forest Nationalization Act in 1957, all traditionally managed communal forest were nationalized as a national forest and then, started to control and use forest directly from government. This step of government could not be able to achieve expected results. The Forest Nationalization Act affected Batase Community Forest area as well as. Users of the forest overused forest products supposing that the government owned the forest under the nationalization act. Villagers were not aware of the consequences of forest degradation. Thus, they used forest in such a way that the forest was almost disappeared. Because of the widespread destruction of the forest, firewood and other forest products became scarce. They villagers had to

go far to bring firewood and fodder. Especially this adverse situation created bad impact on women's life who was the real collector of forest products. They had to spend more time to collect forest products. Heavy degradation of forest in study area led to the destruction of medicinal plants, herbs and the habitat of birds and other wild animals. To overcome such problems, the government has planted salla trees (pinus species). Plantation could not succeed because of insufficient protection of the forest from the government side. Adverse environmental problems affect the life of people of the Bangsing VDC. The affords of Government only could not bring success. Therefore, District Forest Office staff has motivated some educated and leading people of the village to form forest user group to manage village forest as Community Forest. Leading people also agree with the idea of District Forest Office of Syangja to form Forest User Group.

5.3 Formation of Forest User Group and Forest User Committee

Formation of Forest User Group and Forest User Committee is the first step in Community Forestry Program. All users of the forest must be identified to form a Forest User Group. DFO has suggested some leading people of ward no. 1 of Bangsing VDC to form user group for the management of their forest as community forest. With the initiation of some leading person, user are mobilized themselves and they organize informal group discussion has teachers, villagers and district forest officials have participated. The informal group discussion, decided to form Community Forest Group to protect the forest according to Forest Act, 1993.

Batase community forestry has 80 households. The members of the FUGs are the primary users managing 6.77 hectares forest area. All users are the primary users and real users of the forest. In 1994, Batase Community Forest User Group was formed. After formation of forest user group, the next task is to select the leaders and other general members who are responsible for the further proceed of the committee. This user committee has encompassed all the members who are responsible for the further precede of community forestry. Forest user committee was registered in DFO in 1994. Since 1994, five users committee have been made through group assembly till now. Every members of all three user committee are selected on the bases of consensus of the users.

5.4 Preparation of Constitution and Operational Plan

Every community forestry needs to make one written constitution of user group and one operational plan for community forestry. This provision is included in forest regulation, 1995, and community forestry guideline, 1995.

Constitution of users is the guideline to go on specific direction and to participate systematically. It is the document of policies, rules, and regulation. It is necessary to include the name, address, objectives, and stamp of the user's group in constitution. Total household, estimated population of users group, formation procedure of users committee and the name list of the user's committee members are also needed to include in the constitution. Working procedure of the users committee, the ways to control forest office, penalties for the user members who do not obey the constitution, a system of collection of funds and auditing are also must.

Preparation of constitution is a difficult task for user members. First, they organized the user's assembly to discuss regarding the preparation of the constitution. Users had no knowledge about it. Therefore, they called users group assembly gave authority to the users committee to prepare the constitution. The user committee members discussed and prepared the draft of the constitution with the help of the ranger. Thereafter they called users group assembly to discuss on the draft constitution. After the rectification of the constitution, they registered the organization in District Forest Office and issued a certificate of registration in the prescribed form in 1994.

Operational plan is the written document with the description of forest (i.e. cleaning, singling, pruning and thinning), income generation program and benefit sharing for those who do not follow the operational plan. After the completion of the survey of the forest by the forest technician, users prepare the draft of the operational plan with the help of ranger. A general assembly of all the users is called and discussions are held in major provisions. Then, operational plan is finalized and submitted to DFO for the approval. District Forest Officer provides the registration certificate. This operational plan is approved for five year. After five years, DFO evaluates and monitors the situation of the forest and working pattern of FUG. In 2000, FUG is given authority to manage the forest for the next five years. However, there is a provision of

making five year operational plan. Batase CFUG has been making one year operational plan through group assembly since 2000. One year operational plan was made similarly like the first operational plan was approved by DFO.

5.5 Implementation Process

For the implementation of community forestry activities, they have formed user committee and made constitution of user group and operational plan of forest. During implementation, user group must follow the rules and regulation of constitution and operational plan. FUG has developed protection and management rules to implement community forestry activities properly which are discussed below.

5.5.1 Duties and Responsibilities of FUG

FUG plays a vital role in protecting and managing the forest with the help of people. They have to follow constitution of user group and operational plan of forest. If user committee needs to change and add new rules, they have to call general assembly to formulate and approve the rules. They can formulate new rules with the agreement of the general users but it is necessary to take approval from DFO. FUG has set some duties and responsibilities for the effective implementation of community forestry activities with full participation as much as possible. The duties and responsibilities of the FUG are as follows.

-) To call committee meeting in every month for the discussion on forest management and other casual problems.
-) To take necessary step to implement the operational plan.
-) To punish and fine the individual who is against the rules and regulation of operational plan and constitution. As per need they get help form DFO for further punishment.
-) To consult with DFO to take necessary technical advice and other helps if needed.
-) To keep the record of income and the expenditure of the committee and to present in general assembly for the approval from group.
-) To dismiss the position holder user committee members if they do wrong.

-) To check where user are performing their duty of forest protection.
-) To notify the users about the works and decisions of FUC.
-) To perform other concerned work of community forest with the help of general users.

5.5.2 Protection Rules

Protection of forest is major task of CF program. Different rules are made in different CF for the protection of community forest. FUG of Batase Community Forest has decided to protect forest on a rotational basis by users themselves. Every user has been assigned a protection duty that is volunteer guarding on a rotational basis. They also supervised each other and if any one is found with poaching forest products, information is passed to user committee for punishment. Grazing is completely prohibited to protect small seedling and sampling of tree species and medicinal plants.

5.5.3 Transparency and Communication

The user group committee has adopted good system for the transparency and communication. The committee has recorded minute and financial transaction of every meeting. Any user can check and look at the committee. Every year an auditor audits the account of the user group. The details of account are presented in the group assembly every year.

The users and user committee are informed by committee chairperson or secretary to the participants in the meeting and assembly. Any absentee user can see meeting minute afterwards without restriction to know what decisions are made in meeting. Similarly for the implementation of every activity, all households are informed to participate through verbal message and letter.

CHAPTER SIX

PROBLEM AND PROSPECT OF BATASE

COMMUNITY FORESTRY

6.1 Problem Regarding the Community Forestry

Community forestry in Nepal has been of 30 years within this period; many challenges in policy, rules and regulation have taken place. The master plan of the forest sector (HMG 1989) has clearly adopted the concept of user groups and all responsibility for organizing user group, planning, decision making and implementation has been given to them (Bral- 1993).

The community forest sector is very good even though it has many problems. These problems are largely related to deficiencies in policy and law or in bureaucratic approaches and practices and a general lack of government capacities to meet present and future challenges (Ananda Monan and Dil Raj 2005).

All handed over community forests are not free from some sort of weakness. Only the degree and frequency of the weaknesses or shortcomings are different from one forest to another forest. The problems appeared in the community forestry management process can be problems at office level and problems at the user group level.

Problems can occur when people have different views or perception on issue when someone's interest is not considered or fulfilled when a decision is made or when other's interest is encroached upon. These problems can be between groups or even between institutions. Similarly, community forestry conflicts are also seen within a forest user groups (User group level) or between a user group and District Forest Office (office level).

In Batase CF problem is arising from the beginning due to the insufficient forest products. It means there are lots of forest users or 80 households but the forest is fulfilling the only around 30% of their needs. So the main problems are too many HHs too few forest products.

Another problem arises due to socio economic as well as political situation. People with different political ideologies can't sit under the same roof. This is the serious problem of Batase C.F.

Another serious problem is lack of active participation of women and lower caste in decision-making, committee and Assembly. Although women are committee members, they can't change the decision, which is made by male members.

6.2 Prospects of Batase Community Forest

-) However the condition of matured trees does not seem good, the regenerating and reproducing of the plants and their condition seem to be very good. As a result in future, villagers will get forest products sufficiently.
-) Khadktari to Panchase road goes near Batase community forest. The place is possible for sightseeing of Annapurna and Machhapuchhre mountain ranges. If we conserve this forest many tourists are attracted from its natural beauty or it can be a model community forestry or tourist area in Nepal.
-) Some people of this area are getting the chance to produce the herbs in this forest. Therefore, this forest seems to have potential for herb production, also there is potentiality of non- timber production specially Amliso, Kurilo, Tejpat, Betbas, Titepati, Chutro, Kimboo, etc. These are cash crops. People can get direct benefit from these productions.
-) Though only three women are committee members, in near future, new committee is going to be formulated and this committee, which is going to be formulated very soon, will be inclusive.

6.3 Social and Development Works Supported by Community Forestry

Batase Community Forest User Group has become a part of daily life of ward no. one of Bangsing VDC because they all are Forestry User Group members. Any social and development work is to be passed through UG committee because the main fund has to be passed from the committee. The committee has supported up till now, various social and development works till now. They are as below.

-) It has constructed roads and temples in village.
-) It has conducted the Ghumti Fund program for very poor and target group.
-) It has conducted the women literacy classes.
-) It has provided goats to very poor and target groups.
-) It has provided the sewing machine to very poor women for tailoring purpose.
-) It has provided subsidy for Siranchure Secondary School.
-) It has helped local irrigation.
-) It has helped in drinking water supply program for villagers.
-) It has conducted micro finance activities.

CHAPTER SEVEN

CONFLICT IN BATASE COMMUNITY FORESTRY AMONG USER GROUPS

7.1 Causes and Resolution

Conflict has been a common problem in every sector of the society. So conflict resolution now has to be paid great attention to run an institution effectively, there -fore, community forestry program no longer remains free from conflict. Unequal and inequitable benefit sharing, lack of awareness of group regulations, influence of politics, conflict of boundary, and conflict with DFO for imposing strict terms and conditions, conflict between/ among ethnics/ castes, conflict between male and female are some of the major causes of conflicts that have been found in community forestry so far. Definitely, the Batase CFUG has been facing some conflicts though they have not caused any serious effects on the program. Almost all the respondents have been found satisfied with the activities and management system. Another conflict the CFUG is facing so far is that the neighboring villagers have their Khet (crop land) within the boundary of the CFUG. They have been found to encroach the forest around their Khet. The users have some dissatisfaction to the DFO for not providing the financial support for the forest watcher and for thinning and pruning activities. However, though there are some small conflicts, the FUG itself has been able to resolve them without the presence of external agencies like VDC, DFO, etc.

7.2 Results and Discussion

In the user group, now there are some conflicts because they do not come in agreement at a point. Some of the conflicts which are seen in Batase CFUGs are described below.

- 1. Land Conflicts:** For centuries the natural forests have been protected and managed by Brahman group. At present, there are three blocks of forest land and distributed to the main ethnic groups named Brahman, Chhetri, Rana Kami and Dorji. As the field survey has been preformed and data have been verified. It is concluded that distribution of forest

land is not equal and forest products are not same in all the forest area. Some elite persons capture the forest border side gradually one by one every year.

2. **Power Dispute/ Conflicts:** In the present executive committee the key portfolios have been captured by Brahman community. There are only two (one Kami and one Damai) representatives in the executive committee. Therefore, they have argued that the committee should have every caste and ethnic representation in the key posts.
3. **Policy Conflicts:** The policy of the forest department is not clear cut, it is vague and general. Local factors of the ethnic group and situation of the forest demand a new rule and regulation. Therefore, forest users are confused with the rules and regulations.
4. **Resource Use Conflicts:** One of the main conflicts is related to the use of resources. There are many types of herbs and medicinal plants. If one group exploits the plants avoiding the rule of operational plan, then other individuals or ethnic groups may oppose them. There is conflict between Brahman group and other group, each opposing the other for resource exploitation.
5. **Ethnocentric Conflicts:** Moreover, kinship and group's language and culture are paramount in the society (Deutsch, 1977). The individual member within his/ her ethnic group cannot be disloyal to his/ her own group and cannot go against the group. For example, in Chilaunebas VDC of Syangja district marginal and poor peasants wish to form a FUG under the government community forest program as they need the forest for their livelihood, but the well-off families are not interested in forming a FUG (Yadav, 1996). The same events have been repeated in Bangsing VDC. The ethnic forest area is converted into community forestry. Even the dominant ethnic groups or sub-groups do not want to share with the other community without any kind of compensation. Therefore, lower caste or new comer in the society must compromise with the old settle for equal sharing and to be equally benefited. So, psychology of the people in ethnocentrism is one of the major causes of the conflict.
6. **Social Structure:** Social structure is not favoring the women to involve them in different social works and activities. Enough opportunities have not been given to the women to participate in the activities conducted in the society.

7. **Level of Knowledge and Skills for Development:** There is not adequate knowledge in majority of the women about the government policy to conserve forest, their technical skill about the conservation and utilization is also poor in comparison to the men.
8. **Organization and Coordination:** Most of the lower caste groups don't have enough land and education. It means they are socially as well as economically backward. However, they are users of the forest, they are not in decision making, General Assembly and meeting.

Table 7.1: Level of Some Conflict faced by the Villagers in the Study Area

Problems	Response of HH	Percentage
Socio- economic conflict	7	17.5
Political conflicts	5	12.5
Policy conflict	4	10.0
Resource use conflict	22	55.0
Land conflict	2	5
Total	40	100

Sources: Field Survey 2011

Out of 40 HHs, 55% respond that the main problem of this CF is the resource use conflict, 17.5% responded social and economic conflicts, 12.5% believe in political conflicts, 10.0% responded the policy conflicts and 5% responded land conflict.

So, from the above table, it is clearly understood that the serious conflict on Batase community forestry is resource use conflicts.

CHAPTER EIGHT

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Although, community forestry program is one of the effective programs of Nepal, different scholars have pointed out some problems in the implementation of CF through their discussion paper and research work. Some problems related to the research have been explained in the literature review. Most of the scholars have mentioned complex social and economic structure of Nepal as major effecting factor in CF program. Problems resulted from lack of education, economic status, caste structure of the society, gender inequality and cultural values are identified in different literature.

The objectives of this research are; to assess the institutional process of community forestry, to find out the problem and prospect of community forestry and to find out the conflict among user group. To fulfill these objectives Batase community forestry of Bangsing VDC of Syangja district is selected as the study area. Forty household members of Batase CF are taken as sample for household survey by random sampling. Other key informants like ranger, teacher and VDC members were also included in interview schedule. Besides, observations, formal and informal discussion, interview from caste study are used to collect the necessary information. Furthermore, primary data as well as secondary data are collected Quantitative data are tabulated and analyzed. Simple statistical tools i.e. arithmetic mean and percentage are used for quantitative data analysis. Qualitative information is presented in descriptive form.

Study is made on Batase CFUG. This CFUG is selected purposively among 5 community forest of Bangsing VDC because it is the oldest CF of this VDC. There are different types of caste and cultural group of people who are the users of CF. Batase FUG is a multi ethnic/caste group where Brahman, Chhetri, Rana, Kami and Dorji work together. There are 80 benefit households. They all are Hindu. Brahman and Chhetri are economically rich, educationally ahead and forward in leading than other casts groups because of the majority of Brahman. They have dominated the forest user committee, too.

Brahman has managed to extend their occupation in different organization of government and non- government sectors whereas, the main occupation of kami and Dorji is labor work in construction as carpenter and agricultural labor. Most of the kami is depend on their occupational job of Arann (traditional technology).

The Batase CFUGS has made operational plan and constitution with the help of the District Forest Official. They have made rules for protection, management and benefit sharing with the help of ranger. CF in the study area is managed by following these rules and regulations. The leadership has been taken by Brahman as community participation of Brahman is higher than other groups. Rana, Kami and Dorji, users are found inactive. They have less interest and awareness towards CF activities. Women participation is active to collect forest product but inactive in leading power.

The economic and educational levels are the major affecting factors in participation of users of Batase community forest. Educated users occupy all leading positions of FUG. Since CF is launched here, FUGs are benefited by direct and indirect benefits from the program. Direct benefits are getting firewood, fodder, leaf litter and grass easily in terms of need. Getting training and tour opportunities and gaining knowledge are indirect benefits of the CF program.

Community forestry program no longer remains free from conflict. Unequal and inequitable benefit of boundary, and conflict with DFO for imposing strict terms and conditions, conflict between/ among ethnics/ castes, conflict between male and female are some major causes of conflicts that have been found in Batase community forestry. Definitely, the CFUG has been facing some conflicts but they have not caused any serious effects on the program. Almost all the respondents have been found satisfied with the activities and management system. Another conflict, the CFUG is facing so far is that the neighboring villagers have their main road within the boundary of the CFUG. They have been found encroaching the forest around their destination. The users have some dissatisfaction with the DFO for not providing the financials support for the forest watcher and for thinning and pruning activities. CF conflict is arising from the beginning due to the insufficient forest product. There are lots of forest user but the forests is fulfilling the only around 30 percentage of their needs.

Conclusion

The users of this CF are the people of five villages. They have made a head committee for execution but it has been highly dominated by Brahman. Agriculture is the main occupation in this area. Because of being a large number of Brahman and Chhetri, BFUGs has a higher level of literacy rate. However 72.35% people are literate. This is higher than National level, but Rana and lower castes are illiterate. 5 house holds are found in the level of very poor. The average land holding is 10.65 ropanis and average size of animals holding is 6.5.

FUG has given full authority to user committee to enforce implementation of CF activities. Firewood and fodder are main demands of the users. The forest is still young to supply timber sufficiently. All users are satisfied with the benefit sharing except Kami and Dorji users. According to Kami and Dorji respondents they are unable to pay nominal price for the firewood and would like to have it in free of costs. So they are against the distribution rules. The committee members have good leadership quality. Excluding two women and one male member, all committee members are educated and five out of fifteen are jobholders on government or non- government organization. Most of the committee members actively participate in decision making, implementation and benefit sharing process. The findings reveal that education is the major influencing factor in decision making and leading the group in user committee. It is a forum that Kami and Dorji are interested in C.F program and they are satisfied with FUC and their work. Kami and Dorji users are some how affected by their economic situation and are unable to actively participate in CF activities. They are not participating in decision making as well as benefit sharing due to lack of awareness as well as due to inadequate representation in user Committee.

The villagers have greater impact on other income- generating activities by using the saved time to collect fuel wood, fodder. It has been amply demonstrated in the study area that communities are capable of organizing themselves to conserve local forest resources. Besides, the monetary prospects the people of the study area are being entertained by the real co-operation among the people, environmental improvement, etc, after the implementation of community forestry program. Villagers are getting the firewood as a source on energy, fodder for animals feeding

and timber as a construction material. In this way, firewood, fodder and timber are consumed by the villagers but actually the contribution is seemed very low.

The villagers save the time and utilize the saved time in the various income generating activities, e.g. production of herbs and non- timber. Fines and penalties are also found as the source of income of the CF. It is a forum that in the study area, some social and development works are supported by CF but villagers are facing some problems like lack of forest products, low level of income, lack of trained leaders, lack of the study tour and lack of others observation of the villagers etc and future prospects of this CF seem to be good.

8.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the finding of the study.

-) Social and economic condition directly affects the life of the people so it should be made strong by conducting various programs like small business (bee keeping, poultry farm), skill development program like literary program, electrical training, tailoring training, etc.
-) Lower caste communities are not ready to pay membership fee, so the rules should be reviewed involving and discussing with those communities to find out suitable solution.
-) More intensive awareness and communication training should be conducted by DFO to make active to the passive users Lower cast group should be given position in user committee to avoid caste discrimination.
-) The user group has no sufficient technical knowledge on forest management. Thus, more training should be conducted in this field.
-) Training materials of technical aspect should be provided to user committee as reference materials.
-) Women participation in decision making should be increased through awareness. They should be encouraged to hold responsible position in user committee.

-) The user group has given more emphasis only on protection but is not applying management operation effectively. They should increase their participation in forest management.
-) During the last 12 years, this forest is well protected. Social aspect of equal opportunity to all levels of people should be taken as a condition in community forestry not equal participation. During the formation of FUG the criteria regarding caste and ethnic group and religion should be included.
-) Government and non-government organizations should be encouraged to work on community forestry program.
-) An election should be held in every two years for selection of FUGs committee in the study area because the period of 5 years is very long.
-) Proportional basis should be adopted in forest products distribution in the study area. This CF should be free from socio-economic conflict.
-) In the study area, the forest products problem are observed in high level. Therefore, regenerating plants and reproducing plants should be conserved properly.
-) The success of community forestry management is based on mobilization of local people's awareness, perceptions, skills and attitudes. So it is recommended that conservation extension education should be conducted along with the implementation of community forestry program.

APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Household Survey

By Arjun Prasad Sharma

General information:	Location of Interview:	Date.
Interview date:		
Name of the respondent:	From(VDC/ward) :	No of family members:
Caste/ethnicity:		
Religion:		
Sex:		

Section A: Family Background

HH member	fat.	Mo	B 1	B 2	B 3	SI 1	SI 2	SI 3	SI 4	Res p	H/Wf	So 1	So 2	D 1	D 2
Age															
Occu.															
User comm.															
Exp. member															
Main sources of income															

Section B: Household economy:

Muri-maund/kg	Dhan/1		gahu	makai	kodo	alu	&c/	&c/	Land
Prod(own)									khet
Prod(rent-in)									bari
Buy(quant)									livestock
Buy(which month)									buffalo
Buy (Rs)									cows
Sell (which month)									oxen
Sell (Rs)									goats
If both sell & buy: why									

Siction C: Village institutions/ infrastructure:

-----	Sc	h	o	o	l	C	SFD	Cooperativ	Roa	Telephon
-----	Primar	Lowe	secondar	high	-	---	---	-----	-----	-----

	y	r sec	y	r sec	-					
where (distance)										
Since when										
Use it (since when)?										
Use it (how Often)										

Section D: History of Community Forestry

	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067
Cost bearing for CF							
1. Labor/Cash							
2. Protection							
3. Develop a forest							
Benefit Getting							
1.							
Firewood(Bhari/Rs)							
2. Grass (Bhari/Rs)							
3. Fodder(Bhari/Rs)							
4. Wood Timber(cft/Rs)							
5. Others							

Community Forestry

1. When was the community forestry user group (CFUG) established in your village?

.....

2. How did you form FUC?

VDC's decision () By ranger ()

By discussion () by consensus ()

By other means ()

3. When was the user committee formed?

Year..... Month.....

4. How many members are there in the committee?

.....

Number of users committee members:

Male..... Females..... Lower caste..... Total.....

How many households are there in the user group?

.....

1. Participation of CF activities:

Have you participated in the group meeting during the formations of FUG and forest user committee?

Have you participated in the group meeting during the participation of constitution and Operational plan?

.....
How many times have you participated in group meeting (frequency)?

- a. Always b. Sometimes c. Never

1.4 How many times are institutional meetings held in a year?

- a. Yearly b. half yearly c. monthly d. weekly

2. What is your frequency of participation in following Community Forest activities?

2.1 Protection:

- a. High b. Moderate c. less d. Never

2.2 Implementation of Management operation:

- a. High b. Moderate c. Less d. Never

2.3 Distribution of forest product.

- a. High b. Moderate c. Less d. Never

3. What are the main obstacles to you to participate in every activities of community forest?

- a. Family size b. Caste
c. Education d. Gender
e. Economy f. Age
g. Occupational Nature h. health
i. Any other

4. What factors encourages you to participate?

- a. Family Support b. Education
c. Absence of male d. Self motivation
e. DFO staff f. with the request of general users.

5. What is your perception towards participation of women and lowercase?

6. What type of knowledge and skill have you gained through CF program?

7. While decision making, your views were.....

- a. ignored b. Just listened c. Listen and discussed d Implementation

8. Have you benefited from CF program?

- Yes No

9. What do you think about benefit sharing process?

- a. Strongly b. Agree c. Neutral
d. Disagree e. St. disagree

10. Have you involved in any development activities? If yes, which.....

11. Are you satisfied with CF program?

Conflict Resolution:

Dispute/ Conflict

1.1 Is there any cultural conflict in the society concerning with community forestry? If yes, then mark any of the following:

Religion () Language ()

Age () Other ()

2. Gender Conflict:

What is the role of women in community forestry? is she active or inactive worker.

.....I.....

How many disputes are recorded as gender conflict?

.....Which gender violates the existing rules and regulations of the Community Forestry?

.....Do you think that there is any gender exploitation in your village?

.....What measures are applied to minimize the gender difference in male dominated society?

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----|----------|-----|
| Education | () | Religion | () |
| Law | () | ustom | () |
| Training | () | Other | () |

3. Resources Conflict:

Is there social equity in the village? If so, since when is it applied?

.....Is everybody getting equal chance to forest products. At what basis so they get forest product?

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Per house hold | () | Per individual | () |
| Per user group | () | Other | () |

Are there any police cases? If yes, which type?

.....

4. Land Dispute/ Conflict:

Is there any fencing on the boundary of the Community Forestry?

.....

Do the people have land certificate? Who are living in the community forestry?

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Yes | () | No | () |
|-----|-----|----|-----|

In your opinion, what is the future of community forest land?

.....

Environmental Conflict:

Is any ecological improvement on society being community forestry protected?

.....What is the impact on environment after the community forestry establishment?

.....What are the uses and misuses of forestry product on environment as a whole?

.....What challenges in your CF conditions did you notice?

I. What are the main strengths and weaknesses of your FUG?

Strengths	Weaknesses

II. Do you have any expectation from your FUG? If yes, what are they?

III. Do you have any suggestions to improve your CF?