

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY  
(A CASE STUDY OF BADAHARE COMMUNITY FORESTRY, DHANKUTA  
MUNICIPALITY, NEPAL)**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Economics,  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements**

**For the Degree of  
MASTER OF ARTS  
In  
ECONOMICS**

**Submitted By**

**BIRENDRA GURAGAIN**

**Roll No. 299/2064**

**T.U. Regd. No: 6-1-9-110-2001**

**Central Department of Economics  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur,  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
April 2011**

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled “**ROLE OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY: A Case Study of Badahare Community Forestry, Dhankuta Municipality**” has been prepared by **Mr. Birendra Guragain** under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

.....

Prof. Dr. Madhvi Singh Shah

Thesis Supervisor

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Date: 2068-01-05

### **APPROVAL LETTER**

We certify that this thesis entitled “**ROLE OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY: A Case Study of Badahare Community Forestry, Dhankuta Municipality**” submitted by **Mr. Birendra Guragain** to the Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

**Thesis Committee**

**Prof. Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhyay** .....

**Head of the Department**

**Prof. Dr. Bijaya Shrestha** .....

**External Examiner**

**Prof. Dr. Madhvi Singh Shah** .....

**Thesis Supervisor**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2011

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Inspiration always plays a vital role in every progress of human life. Here, I am greatly indebted to my respected teacher Prof. Dr. Madhvi Singh Shah whose inspiring suggestions and guidance help me to prepare this thesis. Likewise, I express my deep sense of respect to Prof. Dr. Rudra Prasad Upaddyay, Head of the Central Department of Economics for his inspiring suggestion in the completion of this study.

I am also thankful to my respected teacher, Mr. Baburam Karki and Mr. Khagendra Kattuwal who provided me ideas and materials for this project. Similarly, I am also grateful towards all the teachers of the Central Department of Economics who directly or indirectly helped me in the course of my Study.

I felt great pleasure to acknowledge Central Library, DFO Dhankuta, Badahare CF Office, FECOFU Dhankuta and LFP Dhankuta for providing me thesis material as well as logistic and moral support to carry out this study.

Especially my thanks goes to my brother Yogendra Prasad Guragain, my friends Tarani Prasad Pokhrel, Chiranjibi Bhattraai, Dipak Kafle, Shubhechhya Rai, Yam Kumar Bastola, Kamal Sapkota, Ranjit Karki and Devraj Kattuwal for their extensive support and constant encouragement with valuable suggestion and technical support during the course of this Study.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remember my father Riyandra Prasad Guragain and my mother Geeta Guragain for being there in each and every steps of my life with lots of love, understanding, moral support and constant care.

Birendra Guragain

March 2011

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>Recommendation Letter</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Approval Letter</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>iv-vi</b>
<b>List of Table</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-6</b>
1.1 Background of the Study	10
1.2 Development of Community Forestry in Nepal	12
1.3 Statement of the Problem	13
1.4 Objective of the Study	14
1.4.1 General objective of the Study	14
1.4.2 Specific objectives of the Study	14
1.5 Scope of the Study	14
1.6 Limitations of the Study	14
1.7 Structure of the Thesis	15
<b>CHAPTER – II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b>	<b>7-12</b>
2. Theoretical Review	16
2.1 Global Context	16
2.2 National Context	18
<b>CHAPTER – III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>13-17</b>
3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area	22
3.2 Research Design	22
3.3 Universe and Sampling	23
3.4 Nature and Sources of the Data	23
3.4.1 Primary Data Collection	23

3.4.2 Secondary Data Collection	24
3.5 Data Processing and Analysis	25
3.6 Definition of terms used	25
<b>CHAPTER –IV: PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA</b>	<b>18-31</b>
4.1 Municipality Background	27
4.1.1 Location	27
4.1.2 Land Use	27
4.1.3 Economy	29
4.1.4 Forest Situation	29
4.1.5 Population	30
4.1.6 Ethnic Composition	30
4.2 Introduction of the Study Area	31
4.2.1 Dhankuta Municipality Ward No.-5	31
4.2.2 Introduction of the Badahare Community Forestry	32
4.3 Socio-Economic Condition of Selected CFUG	24
4.3.1 Population Status	32
4.3.2 Ethnic Composition	33
4.3.3 Ethnic Structure of Sampled Household of Badahare CFUG	34
4.3.4 Sex-Ratio of the Respondents	35
4.3.5 Age-Ratio of the Respondents	36
4.3.6 Educational Status of Respondents	36
4.3.7 Land Holding Patterns of the Respondent HHs	37
4.3.8 Occupational Composition of the Respondents	38
4.3.9 Livestock Composition of the Respondent HHs	39
<b>CHAPTER – V: FINDINGS OF THE EMPERICAL STUDY</b>	<b>32-53</b>
5.1 Role of Women in Community Forestry	41
5.1.1 Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management	41
5.1.2 Frequency of Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management	42
5.1.4 Types of Women’s Participation in Decision Making Process	44
5.1.5 Role of Women in Implementing Community Forestry Activities	45
5.1.6 Women’s Participation in Community Forest Activities	46
5.2 Role of Male to Encourage the Women’s Role in Community Forestry	50

5.2.1 Role of Males	51
5.2.2 Role Evaluation among Users	51
5.2.3 Decision-Making role of Women in Community Forestry	52
5.2.4 Motivating Factors for Women's Participation in Community Forestry	53
5.3 Constraints and Potentialities of Women's Role in Mobilization of Community Forest	54
5.3.1 Committee Level Factors	54
5.3.2 Physical and Social Factors	57
5.3.3 Structural Factors	59
5.3.4 Political Factors	61
<b>CHAPTER - VI: SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>54-58</b>
6.1 Summary of the Major Findings	63
6.2 Conclusion	65
6.3 Recommendations	66
<b>ANNEXES</b>	<b>59-65</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>66-67</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

	<b>Page No.</b>
Table 1: Status of CF in Nepal	13
Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age and Sex	30
Table 3: Ethnic Composition of Dhankuta Municipality	31
Table 4: Ethnic Wise Composition of Badahare CF	33
Table 5: Ethnic Composition of the Sample Respondents	34
Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by Sex	35
Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Age	36
Table 8: Educational Status of Respondents	36
Table 9: Land Holding Status of Sampled HHs	37
Table 10: Occupational Composition of Sampled HHs	38
Table 11: Livestock Composition of Sampled Household	40
Table 12: Women's Participation in Community Forest Management	41
Table 13: Frequency of Women's Participation	43
Table 14: Women's Participation in the Focus Group Discussion	43
Table 15: Rational of Participating CF Management	44
Table 16: Activities (Initiatives) Taken by Community FUG Committee	45
Table 17: Working Pattern of the Family	46
Table 18: Grazing Place for Livestock	50
Table 19: Role Evaluation in CF Activities	51
Table 20: Level of Women Participation in Decision-Making Process	53
Table 21: Motivating Factors for Women's Participation in CF	54
Table 22: Women's Participation in Community FUG Meeting	56
Table 23: Daily Activities of the Women Members of the Family	58



## LIST OF FIGURES

	<b>Page No.</b>
Figure 1: Land Use Pattern	28
Figure 2: Ethnic Composition of the CFUGs Household	34
Figure 3: Ethnic Composition of the Respondents	35
Figure 4: Educational Status of Respondents	37
Figure 5: Land Holding Status	37
Figure 6: Occupational Composition	39
Figure 7: Women's Participation in Community Forest Management	42
Figure 8: Gender and Their Role in the Family	49

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	-	Community Base Organization
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CF	-	Community Forest
CF	-	Community Forestry
CFUG	-	Community Forest User Group
CFUGC	-	Community Forest User Group Committee
DFO	-	District Forest Office
DGO	-	District Forest Office
EC	-	Executive Committee
FECOFUN	-	Federation of Community Forestry Nepal
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FPP	-	Forestation Partnership Project
FUG	-	Forest User Group
FY	-	Fiscal Year
ha.	-	Hector
HHs	-	House Holds
NGOs	-	Non-Government Organization
NRS	-	Nepali Rupees
NTFPs	-	Non-Timer Forest Products Proramme
NUKCEF	-	Nepal UK Community Forest
OP	-	Operational Plan
PF	-	Panchyat Forest
PPF	-	Panchyat Protected Forest
SLC	-	School Leaving Certificate
UG	-	User Group
VDC	-	Village Development Committee

## CHAPTER – I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is gifted with the potentialities of natural resources such as water, forest, mineral etc. Among the various natural resources, forest is closely related to the livelihood of rural people. Of the total 147181 sq. km, 43065 sq. km (29.26%) of the area in the country is covered by natural forest (CBS, 2008).

The forest sector has made significant contribution to economic and social development of the country. It has been the backbone of the agriculture sector. This sector has played an important role in providing agricultural inputs as required for the agriculture system, livestock raising, source of fuelwood and other organic matters required for compost fertilizer, fodder plants and pasture for cattle. In addition to this, it gives support to irrigation and electricity projects by conserving watershed areas and ground water resources (Giri 1989).

Bhattarai (2009) in his report ‘Participatory Exclusion, Community Forestry and Gender’ explain that forest at present are found to be classified into five categories on the basis of ownership. The main objective behind this classification is better enhancement, protection and utilization of forest resources. These are:

- ) National Forest: That forest, which are owned and managed by the state, is called national forest.
- ) Religious Forest: Forest under the control of religious institutions like the *Guthi* act.
- ) Leasehold Forest: Forest that have been leased by central or local agency of the government, private owners and corporative institutions etc.
- ) Private Forest: Forest raised on people’s private land.
- ) Community Forestry: Forest which are under the ownership of forest user groups.

Community Forestry program was initiated in Nepal in the late seventies and Nepal has been practicing it most effectively since last two decades after the commencement

of Master Plan of Forestry Sector in Nepal 1988 and consequently the Forest Act 1993. Till the end of 2060 B.S., according to the National Forest User Group Database of Community Forestry Division of the Department of Forest, Nepal, the total number of forest user groups (FUGs) formed is 12,562 and the area of national forest handed over as Community Forest is 9,97,137 hectares. Total number of households benefited is 14, 01,467. Women are also the active users and members of most of the Community Forests. There are about 960 women user groups.

Thus, women are providing an important role in sustainable development of Community Forests and its effective utilization. Their role cannot be neglected in the utilization of Community Forest. Their participation has brought changes in the overall structure of the Community Forest. In Nepal, rural women normally play a major role in the collection of various forest products. Supporting their families through the use of such products has become increasing in the present scenario of rapidly degrading environment. Hence, women who are clearly a major beneficiary of the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, and who have put forward their recent demands of rights to be treated justly in order to maintain the benefits from the adjoining vegetation and to overcome the difficulty in a praiseworthy manner.

There are various examples that women organizing themselves and establishing self-help groups, with involvement in biodiversity conservation and management programs in different communities. Forest user groups in Nepal are characterized by a comparatively high level of women's participation. As a result several forest user groups are predominantly or entirely composed of women. Women in most of the groups are very committed to forest protection and management, and their effective use. Most of the male dominated rural societies in Nepal have now been increasingly convinced that women's role cannot be undervalued regarding forest conservation and the sustainable use of forest resources (Bhattarai, 2009).

Some studies have been made in different parts of Nepal about people's participation in forest management. However there has only been a few studies which examine the participation of women in the user committee and some recommendations to improve the organization and participation of women groups in forest resource management and its utilization, so to fill this gap, this study plays a vital role for forest resources

utilization. So aoristic changes are required in forest sector through women participation.

## **1.2 Development of Community Forestry in Nepal**

More than 90 percent of Nepal's people live in rural areas. Forests are especially important to the livelihoods of the landless and the poorest, which depend on fuel wood, fodder, and other non-timber products for their daily survival. Forests and shrubs occupy roughly 40 percent of Nepal's land area, about 80 percent of which is either hills or mountains. Economically, the most important forest area in Nepal is in the *Terai*-narrow, fertile, densely populated lowland along the border with India. Traded timber from its continuous belts of forests provides a major source of revenue for the state. By contrast, forests in the mid-hills region are scattered, intermixed with settlements and agricultural land, not easily accessible, and valued primarily for meeting the basic needs of the local population.

In 1957, the government brought all of Nepal's forests under its direct control but was unable to reduce the rate of deforestation. Without the long-standing indigenous and traditional systems of managing the country's forest resources, large areas of forest were lost in the 1950s and 1960s. The failure of state-controlled measures revived interest in participatory resource management. In 1978, the government handed over limited areas of forestland to *panchayats* (now replaced by local elected governments), a practice that often excluded forest users who lived outside the panchayat's administrative area. This led to adoption of the concept of user group (UG) management in 1988. Nepal's Master Plan for the forestry sector (1989) strongly advocated community participation in forest management, and the 1993 Forest Act gave it the highest priority-also lending forest UGs legal status as "autonomous and corporate institutions with perpetual succession," with the right to sell and acquire forest products. The Community Forest Act 1993 gives local people significant control in the management and harvest of forest resources (Euphrat and Shrestha, 2002). Because of this progressive act, Community Forest hand over process has speeded up rapidly during this nine years period. Bhattra (2001) reported that about 850,000 hectares forest areas have been handed over to eleven thousands forest user groups. In a forest user group, there are rich, medium and poor households.

The contribution of rich and poor households to Community Forest protection and management is equal.

**Table 1: Status of CF in Nepal**

<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>Amount</b>
No of User Groups	144337
Area of Community Forestry	1190,000 hector
No of Households	16,50,000
No of User Groups, Women concluding	780
Women concluding area	22000 hector

Sources: Department of Forestry Diary 2009

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Only involvement of local communities in government programs will not be successful. Since household economy is inherently linked with women's participation in forestry, they should be empowered and supported. Government should formulate procedures to implement programs that depend upon indigenous knowledge, socio-political situation and ecological conditions of the region with legal protection specially ensuring security to local women. Women are the primary managers, sources of information and consumers in the use of natural resources. Women around the world have triple responsibilities i.e., for production, for reproduction at the household level, and for management of a range of activities at the community level. Various projects have been launched to assess the role of women in natural resources management for a number of years. It is observed that there are many problems in the effective role of women in Community Forestry such as lack of awareness, low literacy rate which ultimately affects the decision making role of women in Community Forestry. In this light, the current study address the following areas which may add the stake on its further way to develop the CF in Nepal.

In this regards it intends to address the role played by women in CF program with the magnitude of their contribution and man's role to enhance the role of women in forest resource utilization. Moreover it also explains the constraint and potentialities of women's role in Community Forest.

## **1.4 Objective of the Study**

### **1.4.1 General objective of the Study**

The overall objective of the study is to assess the role of women in Community Forestry with its economic importance and outputs.

### **1.4.2 Specific objectives of the Study**

- a. To assess the role played by women in CF programme.
- b. To examine the position of male regarding the women's participation in forestry programmes.
- c. To find out the constraints and potentialities of women's participation in forest resource utilization.

## **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The study on women's role in Community Forestry has its own importance. It examines the participation of women in Community Forestry. To examine the factor affecting the participation of women, the study like this is beneficial as well as helpful aspect. This study thus is an attempt to document the activities of women in the forest resource utilization by analyzing its social and economic importance. This study will evaluate the role of women in Badahare Community Forestry of Dhankuta Municipality. This project therefore, is an asset for the better understanding of the linkage between women's role and its economic impact in Community Forestry. Further, this study can also be helpful on making the policy for forest user in forest development activities as well as to the similar field workers and agencies who are involved in forestry management, conservation and utilization programmes.

## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

This study has following limitations:

- a. The study focuses only on one forest user group, which is Badahare CF of Dhankuta municipality. The research is bounded by a limited time period and cost.

- b. This study has been focused on the economic role of women in Community Forestry.
- c. The reliability of the study is dependent upon response of respondents.

### **1.7 Structure of the Thesis**

This study has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter has covered background, statement of problems, objective of the study, limitations of the study and organization of the study.

Chapter second mainly deals the review of literature where all possible relevant information's was consulted and findings of the similar types of research have been cited. This chapter deals on the literature reviewed by the researcher related to the Community Forest for the upliftment of disadvantaged groups in the Nepalese society. Regarding the literature review a number of published and unpublished different reports and other books have been consulted to proceed this research.

Chapter third explains research methodology including population, sample size, techniques, research design, nature of data, methods of data collection, data collection techniques and data analysis tools. The operational definitions also have been included in this chapter.

Chapter four is related to the socio-economic status of the respondents and general information of the study area.

Chapter five highlights the facts and findings of empirical study with women's role in Community Forestry, constraint and potentiality of women participation in different Community Forest activities and role of males.

Chapter six includes summary of the major findings, conclusion and recommendation of the study.



## CHAPTER – II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2. Theoretical Review

##### 2.1 Global Context

Forest is the major and prime natural resource of the world which is also called mother of nature. It is the valuable asset which helps the human beings in various aspects. In fact various environmental consequences such as ozone layer depletion, global warming, acid rain, loss of bio-diversity etc are reduced and persevered by the forest resources. Realizing the seriousness resulting from the depletion or deforestation of forest, international community has been prioritized in forest resource management. Thus the people's participation is emphasized in the management of the forest resource. Then after, the role and participation of women along with male is emphasized. The principal reason for enhancing the role of women in Community Forestry is to improve their living standards as well as their participation regarding the different socio-economic aspects.

Community Forestry generally assumes that users should have a high degree of understanding in Community Forestry concept, process, their roles and responsibilities. Community forestry is identified as a participatory approach of forest management where CFUG members are fully authorized to plan and implement the activities for their collective benefit. Both the men and women have equal concern on the local forest and its products. So, both of them should equally participate in planning and implementation of the Community Forestry activities. Exclusion of women from decision-making process is one of the limiting factors of gender equity in Community Forestry.

Involvement of women is crucial for the success of Community Forestry. Women are the major collectors of forest product. Such as fuel wood, fodder, fruits and grass etc. Women have worked successfully in both mixed and all female forest committee in rural Asia. Village men and women and professional foresters now generally agree that women are also capable of committee management. Inserra recommends that

women's membership of forest committee has been promoted primarily through extension activities. According to her, women should participate as much as possible in forest management committee. However they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected (Inserra's, 1988).

Global forest cover, in 2000, was 3.9 billion ha. Worldwide, some 350 million of the world's poorest people and women are heavily dependent on the forests for their survival. Community-owned and administered forest totals at least 377 million ha, or at least 22% of all forests in developing countries (around 10% of global forests) and about as much global forest as is owned by private landowners. This figure is expected to reach 540 million ha by 2015 – perhaps representing 45 percent of the developing world's forest estate. Much of this area will be managed by poorest people and women user groups (William's, 1991).

Following the practices of Europe and America, forest protection with the involvement of local people and women initiated since 1980 in South Asia. For example, under the joint forest management (JFM) in India, the degraded forests were given to community for management and regenerates. Similarly in Africa (Gambia and Tanzania), attentions was shifted to community based natural resource management. The emerging trend in Africa was to support the custodial interest of the forest adjacent community which enhances the status of rural, disabled, poor as well as the life of woman who are deserted by their husbands (Carr-Harris, 1992).

The worth of the Community Forestry for enhancing and expanding the role of woman of rural areas can also be seen through the following data. In the late 1970s, it was generally perceived that widespread deforestation had led to environmental degradation, and that governments acting alone were not able to reverse the trends. Community Forestry emerged at this time as an approach to address widespread forest loss and its consequent environmental degradation and negative impact on rural livelihoods. The first 10-15 years of effort in implementing Community Forestry in countries such as India, Nepal and the Philippines was spent in developing, testing and institutionalizing approaches aimed at effectively involving rural communities as well as women in the active protection and management of forests. The protection and rehabilitation of degraded forests and the establishment of new forest resources were the major policy and practical objectives. This is still the case for many countries in

the Asian region where Community Forestry (under its various guises) has come into the national agenda only during the past decade. Utilization of the rehabilitated and regenerated Community Forests in India and Nepal has only commenced during the past decade and in other countries in the region it is barely being considered (Agarwal, 2001).

Thus, the participation of the women in the Community Forestry helps for raising their rural livelihood, the standard of their life as well as other various aspects. So, the participation of the women in Community Forestry is the successive effort for altering and bringing positive changes in their life. The practice of Community Forestry thus is the significant for the rural women and the women of the third world.

## **2.2 National Context**

Nepal is one of the pioneer countries to hand over the management responsibility of government owned forest area to local community forming a forest user group as an autonomous body for forest management and utilization. Though Leasehold Forestry Programme for the poor and women is the first priority programme of Forestry sector of Nepal, Community Forestry had received the highest priority in the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector of Nepal (1989) and is regarded as the most successful programme (Acharya and Oli, 2004). The Panchayat Forest (PF) and Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF) rules allowed for the transfer of responsibility for forest management from the government to the local Panchayat as PF and Panchayat Protected Forest PPF (Joshi 1993; Bartlett 1992). The promulgation of Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest Rules 1978 provides a convenient bench mark for community based forest management in Nepal. After democracy was restored in 1990, the government framed the Forest Act of 1993, which focused on sustainable management of forest resources under community-based property rights regimes (Pokharel, 1991).

Recognizing the importance of people's participation in CF, Community Forestry policy has made mandatory provision for at least 33% of women representation in Executive Committee (EC). Moreover, District Forest Office and foreign aid funded agencies have supported to promote women- only user group formation where general body and executive committee are made up of women only. A quick glance at the national level database shows that 24% of the CFUG committee members are women

and there are more than 600 women-only CFUGs (CFD, 2004). Although Community Forestry policy has emphasized the inclusion of all the concerned groups and stakeholders including women in the mainstream of Community Forestry, the translation of policy into practice has several implications.

Women's participation in Community Forestry Programs may be helpful to increase economic status of women in society. It could be big help to case of poverty alleviate in the country. Involvement of women is crucial for the success of Community Forestry women's are the major collectors of forest product. Such as fuel wood, fodder, fruits and grass etc. They cook and do most of domestic works. Therefore, it is they who suffer the social and economic consequences, of deforestation, most directly having to spend more and more time and walk longer distances in search of this essential forest product. However they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected (Kayastha, 1999).

Women are also the active users and members of most of the Community Forest. Thus, women are providing an important role in sustainable development of community forests and its effective utilization. However their role in Community Forestry for its sustainable development has not been properly studied. It also highlights the constraints on maximum female participation in Community Forestry and focuses on possible ways for solving the problems faced by women in Community Forestry (Shrestha and Britt, 2004).

Regmi concluded in his study that women's involvement in forest committee could definitely help the government to solve deforestation problem in Nepal. Several studies conducted in different parts of Nepal have also shown the heavy reliance of women on the forest. These studies have also recommended women's active participation in Community Forestry programme so that the community can protect and develop local forest resources (Regmi, 1989 cited by Khatiwada, 2008). Women have worked successfully on both annexed and all female forestry committees in Nepal. Rural people and professional foresters generally agree that women are capable for doing committee work of learning how to do it (Gurung, 1994), cited by Khatiwada (2008).

Among 14,000 FUGs of the country, less than 5% are women-only FUGs which are spread across the 61 of 75 districts, with 82 percent in the hills and the rest in the *Terai* (CFD, 2004). It is not clear where the idea of women-only groups is originated, and though it is still small, their number has dramatically increased since the late 1990s. Whether this trend will continue is difficult to say, as currently formation of FUGs has slowed due to the political and security instability in the country.

Regarding women's participation, data (DFO, 2003) shows, that currently 613 (4.8%) FUGS are handling by all women group. Similarly, 33567 (21.5%) women are working EC member in different FUGS. The number of formation of all women FUGs is higher (97 FUGS) in FY 053/054 and higher in percentage (9%) in FY 2058/059. FUG is optimistically increasing in recent years Nepalese women have shown equal concern in forest resource and environmental management. For example, women handled FUG, named Malati of Saptari district showed capability and won ward Ganesh Man Singh Ran Puraskar, by conserving the Community Forestry efficiently.

At the field level, some NGOs have also dedicated resources specifically targeting women, such as CARE Nepal through Forestation Partnership Project (FPP) started in 1996. To the date, in the project area (Rapti zone alone), 90 FUGs offer women a forum for experimenting with governance and forest management. Apparently women's motivation for forming and joining women-only FUGs is that women can manage natural resources as men do ... [and that] ... *unity* in a women's FUG opens up their opportunities to participate in training, workshops and cross visits, which enhances their capability' (CARE, 2003a). At first sight this initiative seems to have very positive results for women: 50 community reading centers have been opened training 1000 women; 49 women are trained as local resources persons able to prepare operational plans and facilitate awareness workshops; about 200 women from the project districts hold 'key executive positions in local government' (CARE, 2003b). However, in such statements, women are essentialized as one category and the differences amongst them are being blurred (Krishna, 2001). Although the 'myth of community' (Guijt and Shah, 1998) was exposed in the late 1990s, on the ground women are still seen as one category and many practitioners fail to look critically at

how women become involved, how they benefit or how they are transformed (Jackson, 2004).

It is evidence from above that the benefits of Community Forestry among women users groups are very immense. The numbers of that participant are also increasing day to day. But the lack of efficient management of such forest and optimum utilization of it has been frequently seen as the problem. In this regard the current study can add a milestone in its further way a head highlighting the women's contribution on the Community Forestry.

## CHAPTER – III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area

Community forestry has been very successful in the mid-hills among other regions of Nepal. The study related to community forestry is more beneficial for the further considerations of the program in the mid-hills. Altogether 29 FUGs (out of which 2 from Women-FUGs) of Dhankuta district has selected with simple random sampling to meet the research objectives. Other rationales for the study area selection are as follows.

- ) It represents the mid-hills of Nepal.
- ) It is home district of the researcher so, he better knows about socio-cultural, economic and political situation of the district.
- ) A substantial number of community forests i.e. more than 360, have already been handed over out of which more than 20 are women-CFUGs.
- ) Such type of study has not been carried out in the district before.
- ) Due to excessive participation of women in this CF than in other CFs.

#### 3.2 Research Design

This research design has been adopted to the purpose of the study. The design as such includes both analytical and descriptive types. While preparing this research design one of the most popular types of research design like, case study has been used. For the case study the data are collected from Bahadare CF of Dhankuta Municipality. The nature of the data is cross - sectional. These cross – sectional data are obtained especially from carefully designed survey of those economic units. The economic unit here refers to the members of Badahare CF. The detailed explanation of the research design has been highlighted below. However the diagrammatic presentation of the research design has been attached in Anex-III.

### **3.3 Universe and Sampling**

Among the 29 Community Forestry user groups of this municipality, Badahare CF is taken for the study. Out of 128 (CF bulletin, 2010) members of this Community Forestry, only 26 households i.e. 20% of total household has been selected for the purpose of study where the simple random sampling procedure has been applied to select the user group (households). Among the 26 selected households, 10 of them are male i.e. 38% and rests of the households are female i.e. 62%. The other stakeholders and key informants are also considered for the informal discussion and accidental interview. Whereas the key informants are the local teachers, elder person, social workers, politicians etc of the study area.

### **3.4 Nature and Sources of the Data**

The collected and used data and information are both qualitative and quantitative in nature and have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. During the study, the quantitative data is obtained from HHs survey where as the qualitative data is through the FGD, field observation and key informants. The primary source is the field survey, which has been conducted by the researcher in order to generate and obtain the primary data whereas many published and unpublished materials provided are the sources of secondary data.

#### **3.4.1 Primary Data Collection**

The required data and information from the primary sources were collected with the following techniques.

- ) Structural Questionnaire: While developing the set of structural questionnaire, various information's like, socio-economic status of the respondents, general information of the CFUG, role that women are playing in the mobilization of the Community Forestry Programme, man's role to enhance their participation as well as the constraints and the future potentiality of women participation in CF are incorporated. For the sake of the respondent's convenient a set of questionnaires have been formulated in Nepali language. (Anex-I).



- ) Ratio of Male and Female: To highlight the both male and female's contribution of CF both male and female respondent are selected interviewed.
- ) Schedule/Questionnaire for Personal Interview/Household Survey: A set of questionnaire are used for personally interviewing the randomly selected members of the community forest user group. The questionnaire included both open and close ended 25 questions and additional 10 for Women-CFUG (Anex-II). The entire questionnaires are filled up by the enumerators.
- ) Informal Discussion: Informal discussion with key informants, FUG members, DFO field staffs and other concerned agencies are held during the survey.
- ) Focus Group Discussion: FGD are organized to get the views and opinion or women's participation in CF among the concerned NGOs and Community Base Organization (CBOs).
- ) Field Observation: Field observation is also the key factor of the survey which has been accomplished similarly during the field study.

### **3.4.2 Secondary Data Collection**

The secondary data and information have been collected from the following sources.

- ) Forest Operational Plans of the FUGs
- ) Minute Books/Records of the FUGs
- ) DFO records/database: general information about Community Forestry, District Profile of the Forest, and program and progress documents of the office were picked out.
- ) Reports/booklets published by the DFO
- ) Reports/booklets published by the FECOFUN
- ) Other published and unpublished sources
- ) Text and reference books: the literature regarding women's roles and decision making in community forestry were consulted throughout the study.
- ) District profile of Dhankuta, Nepal

) Online sources

[www.forestrynepal.org](http://www.forestrynepal.org)

[www.sandeeonline.com](http://www.sandeeonline.com)

[www.forestaction.org](http://www.forestaction.org)

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

### **3.5 Data Processing and Analysis**

A huge mass of data that have been generated during the study period. To handle it conveniently the collected raw data are processed in a computer in the beginning by means of sorting, grouping, frequency distribution and tabulation presented in the forms of table, pie-chart and bar-diagrams etc. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been analyzed with appropriate statistical tools accordingly. In case of quantitative data; average, mean and percentage has been used. On the other hand, descriptive method of analysis has been applied for qualitative data.

### **3.6 Definition of terms used**

#### **Community forestry:**

Community forestry is a participatory forest management model where access and control over the forest resources goes to local people and forest resources are managed under the approved management plan.

#### **Community forest:**

Part of the national forest which, the District Forest Officer hands over to the user groups for development, protection, utilization and management in accordance with the work plan, with authorization to freely fix the prices of the forest products, and to sell and distribute the forest products for the collective benefit and welfare

#### **Forest User Group:**

Forest user group embodies of an organized or clearly defined group of users for a particular area of forest who uses forest resources and who are regarded as having legitimate right to do so by other users.

**Operational Plan:**

A plan prepared by the FUG with the help of forestry technician that consists of detailed activities to be carried out in the CF for certain periods usually five years or more.

**Women Community Forest User Group:** The community forest user group that has its entire executive committee with composed of women members.

**Decision making process:**

A logical and psychological process determining the best course of action from among the alternatives.

**Participation:**

People's participation refers to the organization of the community as well as empowering them for contributing of the collective actions to achieve a common goal.

## CHAPTER –IV

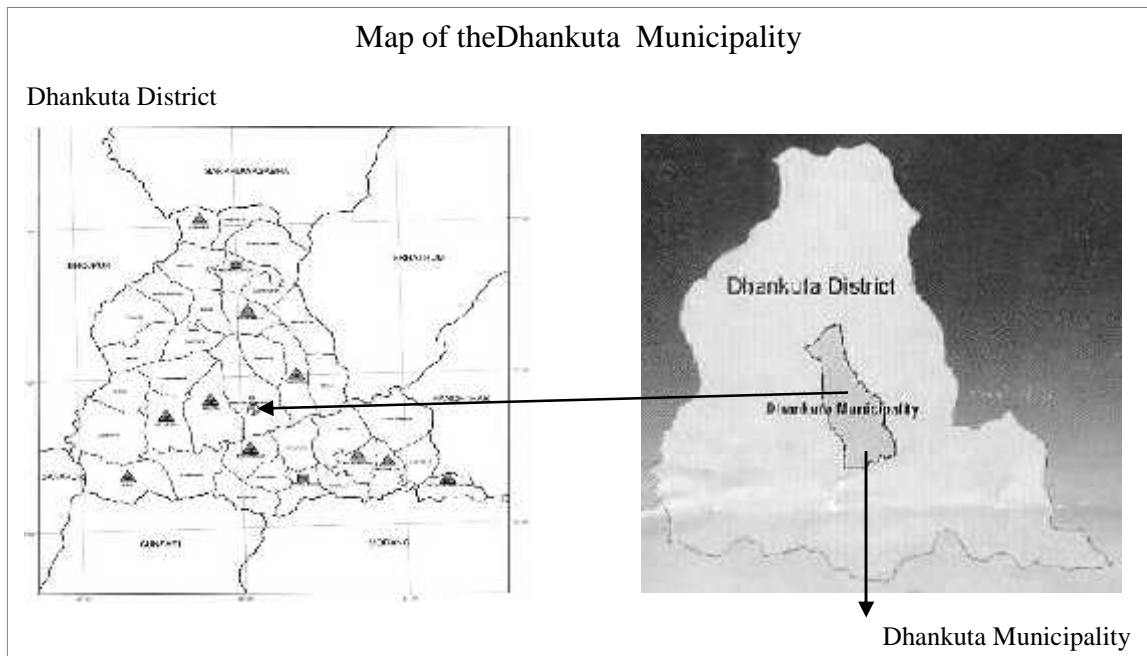
### PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

#### 4.1 Municipality Background

##### 4.1.1 Location

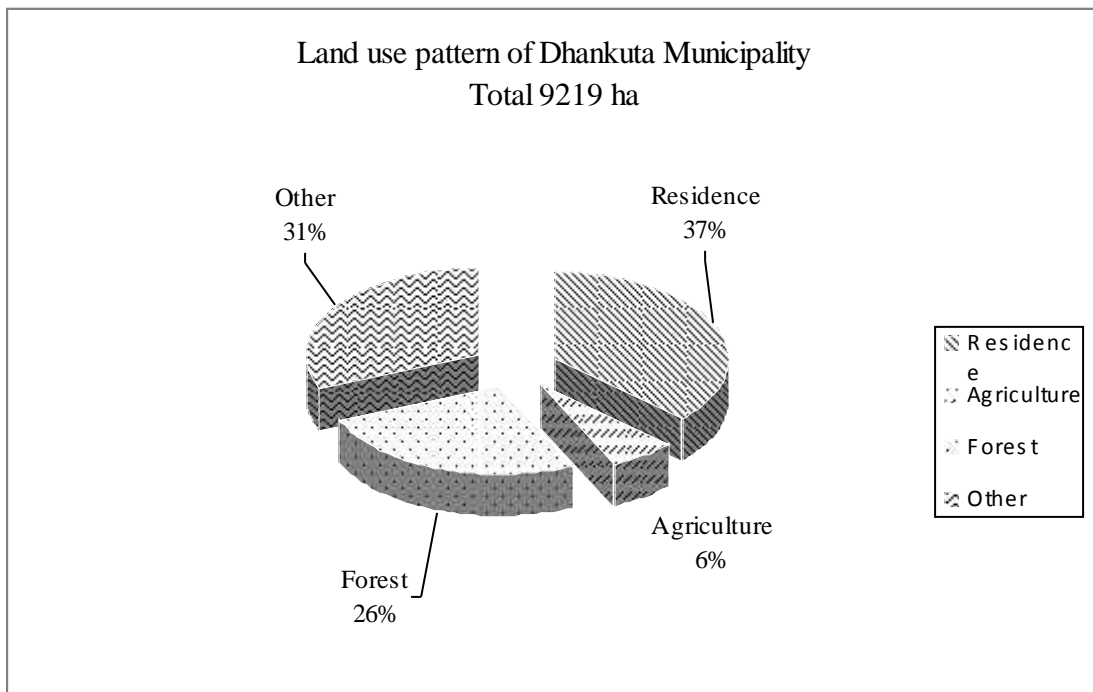
Dhankuta Municipality is one of small municipality in Eastern Development Region and got Municipality status in 1978 A.D. It is surrounding by Virgaun VDC from east, Belhara VDC from west, Pakhribas VDC from north and Tamor River from south. Geographically, it is situated between 26° 59' 59" to 27° 02' 55" northern longitude and 87°17' 52" to 87° 23' 09" eastern latitude. It is 250m to 2144m high from sea level. Dhankuta Municipality is administratively divided into 9 wards. The total area is covered by the municipality is 48.73 sq. km. Whereas Dhankuta Bazaar, on the North-South Koshi Highway, is now the administrative headquarters for the Eastern Development Region. The town is a commercial center and has a population that is primarily Newar. The surrounding area is agricultural and the population is made up of many caste/tribal groups, notably Rai (*Aathpaharias*), Brahmain, Chhetri, Limbu, Tamang, Magar and Dalit (Sarki, Kami and Kami).

##### Map of The Study Area



Dhankuta Municipality is formed in 2035, with total 9 wards. It covers approximately 9212 ha, of land area. However, the land use pattern of the Dhankuta Municipality is given below in figure below.

**Figure 1: Land Use Pattern**



Source: DFO, Dhankuta, 2001

The above figure shows that forest covers 2393 ha (26%) of the total area of Dhankuta Municipality. Agricultural land is only 582.5 ha (6%) of the total land. The total agriculture land area of the district is 40339 ha where the subsistence agricultural land is the main basis of the economy. The major crops are corn, millet, potato, ginger, rice and wheat. Apart from these crops cardamom, ginger, and orange are the major cash crops of the district. Dhankuta Municipality is also famous for its fruit (orange) production.

### **4.1.3 Economy**

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

Primarily the main occupation of the study area is; government service, business, agriculture, daily wage labor and foreign employment. Most of the people here are engaged in different governmental services. Similarly some people have carried out business as their source of living. On the other hand, some of the people here grow vegetables such as, Cauliflower, potato, tomato and fruits especially orange. Similarly, in the study area, it is seen that a single man is engaged in different occupations in different time seasons as a daily wage labour; where as some of the household members have gone for the foreign employment.

### **4.1.4 Forest Situation**

Forest is the most renewable natural resources, which is mainly based on the physio-climatic condition of the area. The contribution of the forest to the people of the area mainly includes firewood, timber, fodder, vegetable and leaves and litters which will be described later. Mainly three types of forest can be found in the district (Municipality). They are sub-tropical, temperate and cool temperate forests. Main species of such type of forest are *Sal*, *Simal*, *Sisau*, *khayar* and *Satisal*. Temperate forest can be found in the mid- land and lower part of the Mahabharate range, with the altitudes raging from about 1000-2100 meters above main sea level. The major tree species are *Uttis*, *Salla Chanph*, *Phaledo*, *Katus* and *Lankuri*. The cool temperate forest can be found in between the altitudes about 2100-3300 meters which includes the main species of *Uttis*, *Devdar*, *Salla*, *Gobresalla* and *Gurans*. It provides shelter to the large numbers of wildlife like Leopard, Rabbit, Jackal, Monkey, Snake, fox and Man-goose.

#### 4.1.5 Population

The total population of the Dhankuta Municipality is 20668 in which 10342 were female and 10326 were male according the Census 2001. The total household of the Dhankuta Municipality was 4789, where the total population of the ward no.5 is 2035 in which 1001 were female and 1034 were male (Census 2001) with total 395 households. It can be seen that the male population is more than female population. The composition of age and sex of the Municipality is shown in the following table.

**Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age and Sex**

Age Group	Sex			Total	Percentage	
	No. of Female	Percentage	No. of Male			Percentage
0-14	3419	33.06	3276	31.73	6695	32.39
15-59	6257	60.05	6466	62.62	12723	61.56
60 and above	666	6.44	584	5.66	1250	6.05
Total	10342	100	10326	100	20668	100
	10342	50.04	10326	49.96		

Source: Census 2001

The above table shows that the highest age group of population is 15-59 years which is the 61.56% of the total number where male are 60.05% and female are 62.62%. On the other hand there are very few no. of the people that belong to the 60 and above age group and there 32.39% people belonging to the 0-14 years age group.

#### 4.1.6 Ethnic Composition

Dhankuta Municipality is predominantly inhabited by different ethnic groups. In view of lingual groups Nepali speakers are dominant and followed by Rai language speakers. There are mainly Chhetri, Brahmins, Rai, Limbu, Tamang, Magar, Newar, Kami, Damai, Sarki cast are found in the municipality. Regarding the local inhabitants; Athpahariya Rai is predominantly in the study area. However, the ethnic composition is given in the following table.

**Table 3: Ethnic Composition of Dhankuta Municipality**

<b>Caste/Ethic</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Athpariya rai	23.4
Newar	14.6
Chhetri	13.1
Tamang	10.2
Brahmain	9.3
Rai	8.1
Magar	5.3
Limbu	3.3
Kami	3.1
Sarki	1.8
Damai	1.7
Bhujel	1.3
Other	4.8
Total	100

Source: CENSUS 2001

If we examine the above table the caste composition of the Dhankuta Municipality we found that Athpahariya Rai is dominant caste group which covers 23.4% which is followed by the Newar caste, covering 14.6%, Chhetri 13.1%, Tamang 10.2%, Brahmain 9.3%, Rai 8.1%, Magar 5.3%, Limbu 3.3%, Kami 3.1%, Sarki 1.8%, Damai 1.7%, Bhujel 1.3% and other caste are 4.8%.

## **4.2 Introduction of the Study Area**

### **4.2.1 Dhankuta Municipality Ward No.-5**

Ward number 5 of Dhankuta Municipality possesses its unique religious, cultural and economic characteristics. The total population of Dhankuta Municipality ward no.-5 is 2035 according to census 2001. People of various ethnic backgrounds inhabit the area. Among them, *Athpahria Rai* and Newar communities dominate. The main religions are 'Hindu', 'Buddhist', 'Kirat' etc. Like other places, this locality is endowed with different historical sites like *Marga Worship Site in Bihibare Hata* and ancient twin towers (*Dharahara*) in *Tudikhel* (a big ground). Likewise, visitors can enjoy various attractive and beautiful places in this district. If we look at agricultural productions of



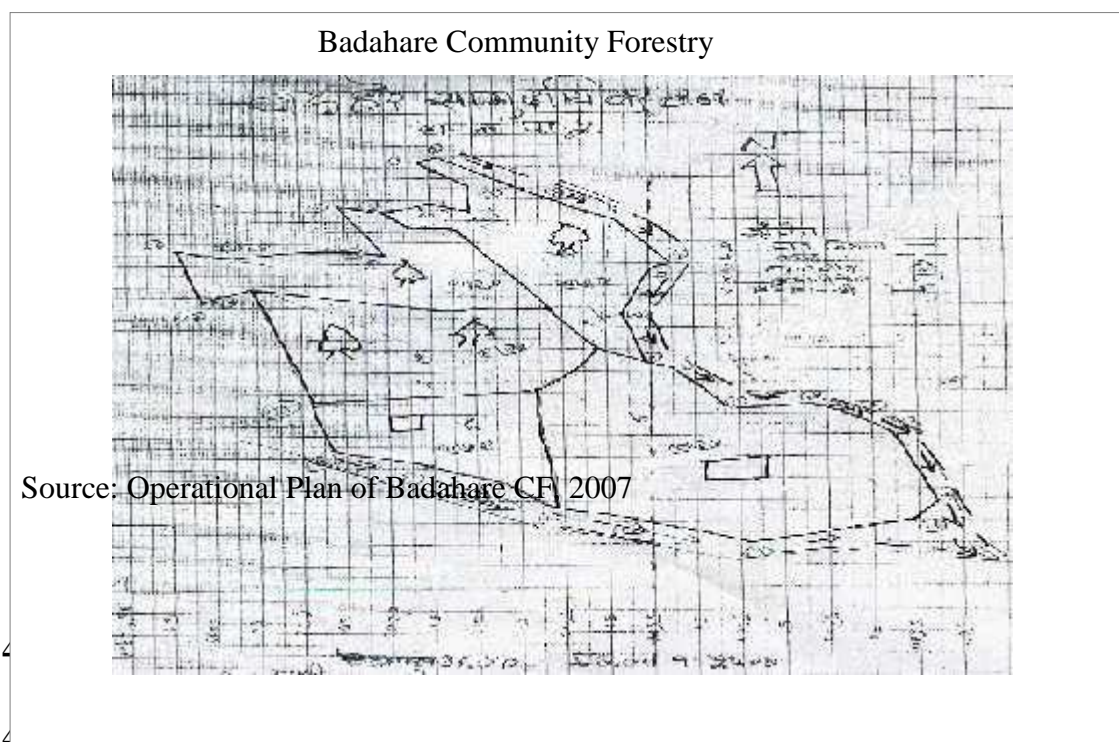
this area, approximately 45% of the farmers involve in vegetable productions. Their chief source of income is vegetables. Besides, they grow ginger, coffee and fruits like orange, avocado etc.

#### **4.2.2 Introduction of the Badahare Community Forestry**

Out of 29 CF of the Dhankuta Municipality Badahare CF is one of the famous and progressive CF which lies in Dhankuta Municipality ward no. 5. It was established in 2052 B.S. and has lies at an altitude from 1000 meter to 1300 meters above the sea level. The forest occupies 36.5 hectares of the total land and 128 HHs have been utilizing it for years now. The CF is located to the west of Ghumti Road, east of Gokunde Khola, south of Maruni Khola and in north Thanjem Khola.

Among the various plants and trees of this CF; *Sal*, *Salla* and *Satibayer* are the major trees. However, forest also provide shelter for wild animals like Monkeys, Rabbits, Foxes, Jackles etc. and some common birds like Sparrow, Crow, Parrot, Dove etc. In the present situation this CF is lead by women user in the executive committee.

#### **Map of Badahare CF**



The population of Dhankuta Municipality ward no.-5 is 2035 according to census 2001, in which 1001 were female and 1034 were male.

### 4.3.2 Ethnic Composition

The study area is the mixture of different cultural groups. The major portion of the population comprises of *Athpariya Rai* which is followed by Newar, Brahmin, Dalit, Magar, Limbu, Chhetri, Bhujel, and Tamang. The ethnic composition of the Badahere CF is given in the table 4 under the majority base.

**Table 4: Ethnic Wise Composition of Badahere CF**

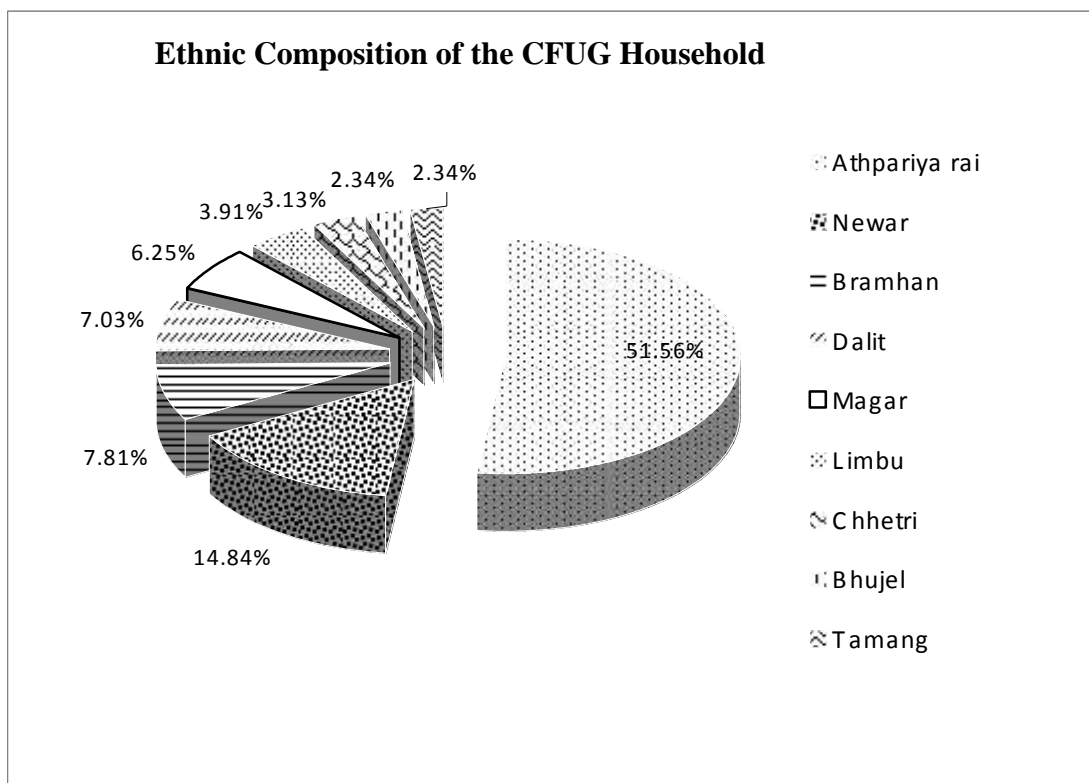
S.N.	Caste/Ethic	Households	Percentage
1.	Athpariya Rai	66	51.56
2.	Newar	19	14.84
3.	Bramhan	10	7.81
4.	Dalit	9	7.03
5.	Magar	8	6.25
6.	Limbu	5	3.91
7.	Chhetri	4	3.13
8.	Bhujel	3	2.34
9.	Tamang	3	2.34
Total		128	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Dalit= Damai, Kami and Sarki

The above Table shows that the 128 households of the communities, Athpariya rai 51.56% , Newar 14.84%, Brahmin 7.81%, Dalit 7.03%, Magar 6.25%, Limbu 3.91%, Chhetri 3.13%, Bhujel 2.34% and Tamang 2.34% were in Badahere CFUG are respectively as shown in diagram 1.

**Figure 2: Ethnic Composition of the CFUGs Household**



#### 4.3.3 Ethnic Structure of Sampled Household of Badahare CFUG

Out of 128 numbers of household of the Badahare CFUG, 20% household was taken as a sample for the study. Therefore 26 households of Badahare CFUS were selected. These are categories ethnically in the table 5.

**Table 5: Ethnic Composition of the Sample Respondents**

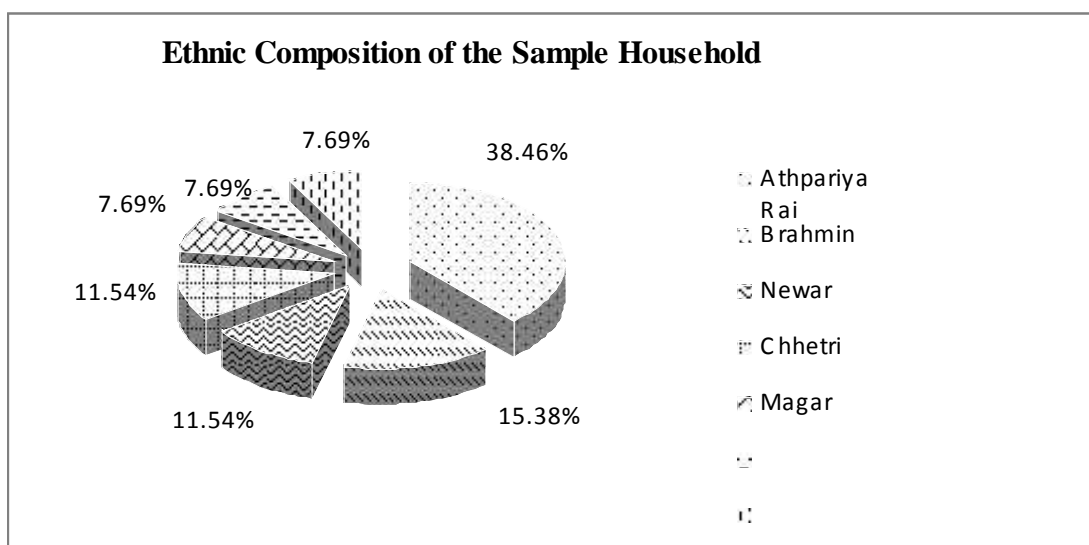
S.N.	Ethnic Groups	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Athpariya Rai	10	38.46
2.	Bramhan	4	15.38
3.	Newar	3	11.54
4.	Chhetri	3	11.54
5.	Magar	2	7.69
6.	Limbu	2	7.69
7	Dalit	2	7.69
Total		26	100

Source: Household Survey, 2011

Dalit= Damai, Kami and Sarki

The sampled households have been taken on the basis of the total household members in the Community Forestry. There are various castes groups inhabited in the area of Badahare Community Forestry. Table 5 shows that, out of 26 sampled households of the communities, there are *Athpariya Rai* with 38.46%, Brahmin 15.38%, Newar 11.54%, Chhetri 11.54%, Magar 7.69%, Limbu 7.69% and Dalit 7.69% are sampled in the study area.

**Figure 3: Ethnic Composition of the Respondents**



#### 4.3.4 Sex-Ratio of the Respondents

The respondents of this research include either male or female from the households which involve in CF activities. The registration of household in CFUG was both male and female members of the household. Similarly the single widow and divorce women were also registered in CFUG. In case of respondents, more female were involved because of availability in their home.

**Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by Sex**

Gender	Sampled population	Percentage
Male	10	38
Female	16	62
Total	26	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among the respondents male are selected 38% and female are 62%. It also shows that the female participants are in higher in no. than male participants in this user group.

#### 4.3.5 Age-Ratio of the Respondents

The respondents are belongs to the different group. Most of the respondents are between the age group from below 30 to above 60 years in age.

**Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Age**

Household size	No. of household	Percentage
Bellow-15	3	12
15-30	8	31
30-60	9	35
Above 60	6	23
Total	26	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Above table shows that the age groups from below 15 are 12%, 15-30 age groups are 31% similarly age group from 30-60 is largest in number i.e. 35%. Similarly, in the age group of above 60 years are found 23% where as the below 15 age group size is smaller than the other.

#### 4.3.6 Educational Status of Respondents

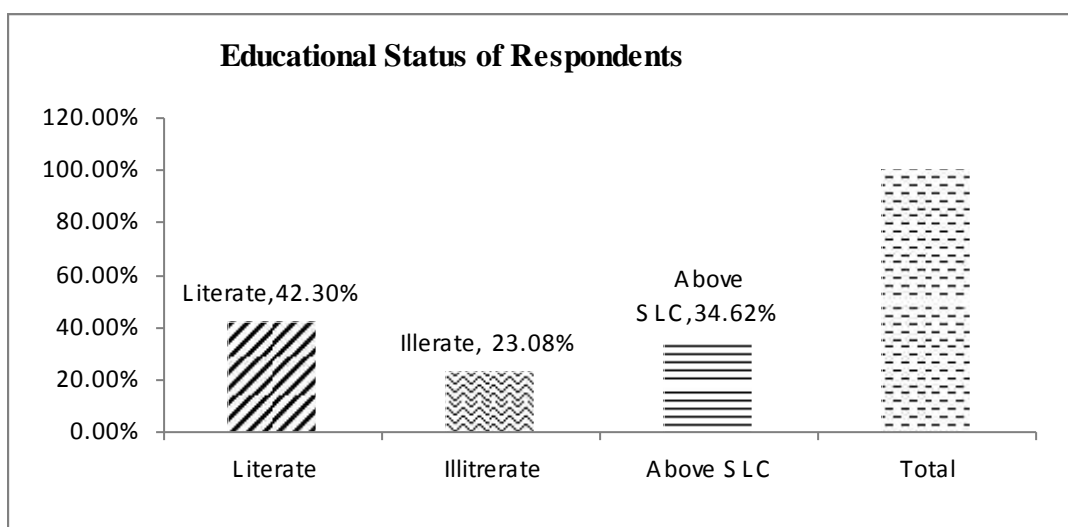
**Table 8: Educational Status of Respondents**

Level of education	No. of households	Percentage
Illiterate	6	23.08
Literate	11	42.30
Above SLC	9	34.62
Total	26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Through the able it is evidenced that there are only very few (23.08%) illiterate respondents. Where majority of the respondents are literate and are SLC level. From this it is clear that there are mostly literate people in this user group.

**Figure 4: Educational Status of Respondents**



#### 4.3.7 Land Holding Patterns of the Respondent HHs

Land holding pattern determines the income and food sufficiency of the people. The more land more income and less land less income. The land-holding status of HHs of the respondents is presented in table below.

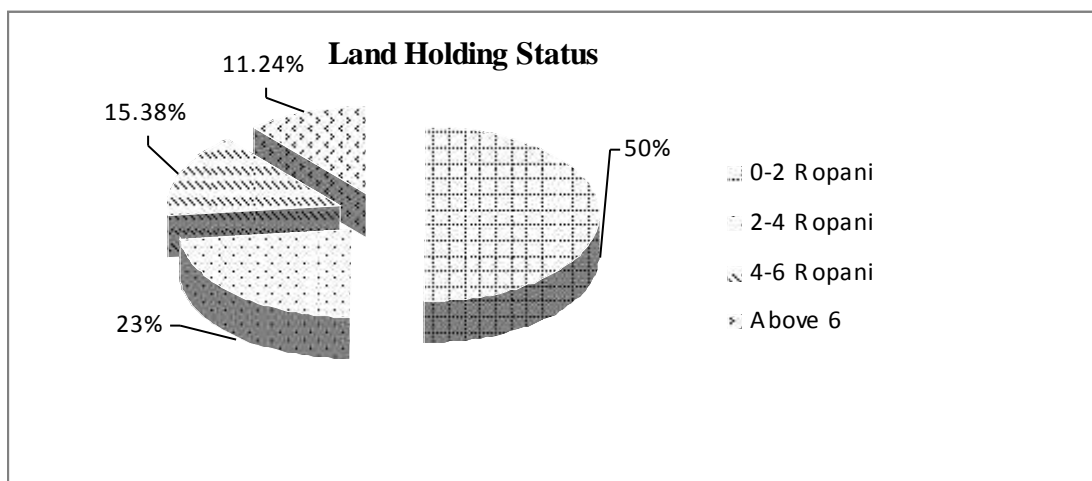
**Table 9: Land Holding Status of Respondents HHs**

Land hold Size (Ropani)	Total Respondents Household	Percentage
0-2	13	50
2-4	6	23.08
4-6	4	15.38
Above 6	3	11.54
Total	26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that 50% of the respondents have all less than 2 Ropani land. It shows that the sample households are in the poor categories and large in number. The respondents having land above 6 Ropani is only 11.54%, they are rich and less in number. However the second large number of respondents lies in the medium categories.

**Figure 5: Land Holding Status**



#### 4.3.8 Occupational Composition of the Respondents

Agriculture is the main occupation in the study area along with live-stock rearing. Thus, the major sources of income are agriculture and livestock. Since, very few households (including male and female population) are engaged on government services (teaching profession, government service etc). However, some households are engaged on non-agricultural occupation too; (for e.g.: Foreign employment, Tourism, Daily-wage earners etc) taken as others. The following table and figure shows the occupational composition of sampled HHs with reference to male and female population.

**Table 10: Occupational Composition of Sampled HHs**

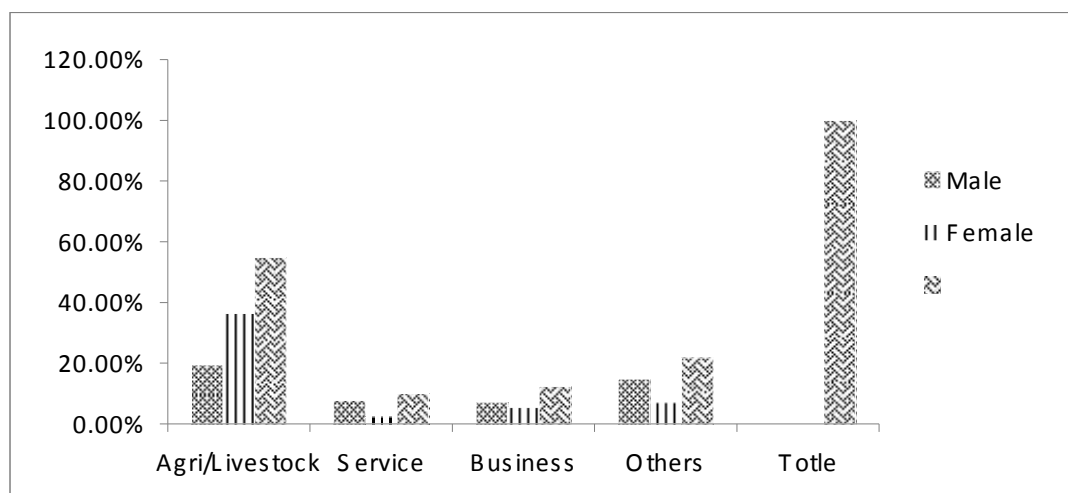
Occupation	No. of households	Total no. of Respondents Engage in Different Occupation		Percentage of Male	Percentage of Female	Total Percentage
		Male	Female			
Agriculture/Livestock	14	25	47	19.38	36.43	54.81
Services	2	10	3	7.75	2.33	10.00
Business	4	9	7	6.98	5.43	12.4
Others	6	19	9	14.73	6.98	21.71
Total	26	129 ( Disabled and Children are not included here)		100	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Above table 10 shows that majority of the population i.e. 53.85% household of sample CFUG is depend on the agriculture where female have 36.43% and male have 19.38% , which is their main occupation. Others of the table implies the foreign

employment which is the highest percentage following agriculture. Similarly, business involves 15.38% of total household whereas only 7.69% of the households involved in the service sector.

**Figure 6: Occupational Composition**



#### 4.3.9 Livestock Composition of the Respondent HHs

Livestock is the complementary occupation of the people in the study area. Cow/Ox, Buffalo, Goat, Pigs are the main livestock's. Cow provides milk and ox are kept for ploughing purposes. Goats and pigs are kept for the meat purpose where the other includes chicken and pigeon. Livestock holding is also a part of agriculture. The prosperity of a family can be judged by the number of livestock they owned. Buffaloes, cows and goats are the main domestic animals in the study area. More than 90% of the sampled households have their own livestock. Since, it also acts as a means of liquid assets that can easily be converted into cash during the necessity. The following table and figure depict the status of livestock holding of sampled HHs.



**Table 11: Livestock Composition of Respondents HHs**

<b>CFUG</b>	<b>No. of HHs</b>	<b>Cow</b>	<b>Ox</b>	<b>Goat</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
Badahare	26	27	18	87	47	113	292

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table shows that the greater amount of livestock is of goat which is kept by most of the people and the other are cow, ox pigs etc.

## CHAPTER – V

### FINDINGS OF THE EMPIRICAL STUDY

#### 5.1 Role of Women in Community Forestry

Women's role in Community forestry has been noticed through three activities such as development, protection and management of the Community Forestry. In this study area women are found actively playing roles in the above mentioned activities which are further elaborated below.

##### 5.1.1 Women's Participation in Community Forest Management

Women's participation in many activities of Community Forest as during the formation of forest user's group committee, selection of leader and Community Forest sites, planting seedlings and protection is very important. However, nature of women's participation in Community Forest management is given in the following table.

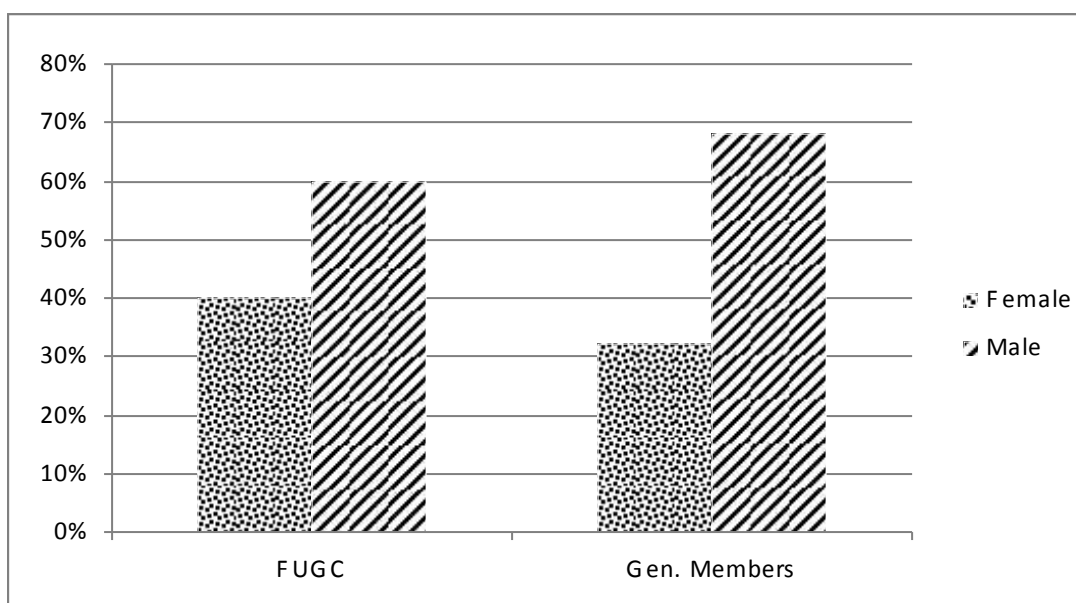
**Table 12: Women's Participation in Community Forest Management**

Sex	Participation		Total (Percentage)
	Community FUG Committee	General Membership	
Female (Percentage)	40	32.03	36.72
Male (Percentage)	60	56.25	63.28
Total Members	15	113	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that a total of 36.72% women participate in two categories of Community Forest related activities, such as involvement in executive committee member and general membership. Within the composition of the committee, 40% of women's consensus is honoured. Information is communicated and shared among women as they are encouraging other women to join various meetings. Although the ideas of forming Forest User's Group Committee came from DFO, the decision to join Forest User's Group Committee came by themselves. Likewise local knowledge and experience of handling agro-forestry help to plan when and where to plant seedling. However the technical assistance is taken from DFO.

**Figure 7: Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management**



The table 12 shows previously that how women take part in CF program. This study area, Dhankuta Municipality ward no. 5, is also male dominant like other part of Nepal. Therefore, the number of women’s participation is low as mentioned in table 13. A 65% of women spend their time on pruning and thinning and 20% of respondents involve in decision-making role as taking care of forest in rotational basic.

### **5.1.2 Frequency of Women’s Participation in Community Forest Management**

Due to the heavy work pressure of rural women they get a little off time to participate in the village level development activities. In the study area, women’s participation in Community Forest is found limited. Few women have a time to attend user group assemblies and meetings. Major decisions are made among committee members during the regular meetings and the annual assemblies. However, women are still confined to agreeing the decisions taken by the members at FUG meeting and assemblies. Women’s participation pattern in FUG meeting is shown in the following table below.

**Table 13: Frequency of Women's Participation**

Community FUG Meeting	Sex				Total No.	Percentage
	No. of Female	Percentage	No. of Male	Percentage		
Regularly	3	21	6	50	9	35
Frequently	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occasionally	2	14	1	8	3	12
Once a year	5	36	3	25	8	30
Never attended	4	29	2	17	6	23
Total	14	100	12	100	26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The meeting includes Community Forest User's Group's regular meeting and general assembly. The above table shows that, 21% of women are attending Community Forest user's group committee meeting, regularly. 29% of total women have never attended Community Forest related meeting. 36% of women have been attending annual assembly regularly. One of the respondents has reported that no Community Forest user's group committee meeting is held in the year 2067.

### 5.1.3 Women's Roles in Community Forest and Decision-Making Process

As table 12 previously mentioned that, 40% of women are participating in Community Forest executive committee; they are involving in some kinds of decision making process. During the seedling protection, they forced others members to fence with barded. The committee members contributed all necessary materials for fencing where as DFO/NUKCFP supported rest of the activities. However, the willingness of meeting female participants is reflected in following table below.

**Table 14: Women's Participation in the Focus Group Discussion**

FUG area	No. of Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage	Total No.	Percentage
Balmandir Tole	67	57	51	43	118	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that 57% of total participants are women during the study period. According to table 12, 65% of women are supporting to take care of forest, and they decide who should make the forest- visit for guarding purposes. They must be prepared for forth coming event during the course of caring the forest. 40% of women decide about selecting planting, seedling at the beginning, which is taken as an exercise of decision- making roles.

#### 5.1.4 Types of Women’s Participation in Decision Making Process

Self management and protection are fully impossible without the participation of women. Although, women’s representation is very low but women are the key agents in the management of Community Forest. They are the primary users and protectors of forest or the forest products as already mentioned above. However, the rationale of participation in Community Forest management by respondents is given in the following table.

**Table 15: Rational of Participating CF Management**

Reason for Participation	Sex				Total	Percentage
	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage		
Moral Support	2	14	4	33	6	23
Giving Suggestions	3	21	3	25	6	23
Discussion	8	57	2	17	10	38
Decision Making	1	8	3	25	4	16
Total	14	100	12	100	26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that 57% of women are participating for group discussions and 21% of women giving suggestions. 8% of women say they are participating for making decisions in the process of group. Thus, the percentage of responding for decision making purpose is found very low.

### 5.1.5 Role of Women in Implementing Community Forestry Activities

Women users have main role in implementing CF activities. The participation of women for the use of forest and platform created by Community Forest activities are more than that of men doing. The statute of Badahare CF has mentioned that at least one-third women members in the Community Forest Users Group must mandatorily be included. Participation of female members in decision-making process is rather low even among the active groups of forest users. However the activity taken by FUG executive committee is given in the following table.

**Table 16: Activities (Initiatives) Taken by Community FUG Committee**

Community FUGC Initiatives	Sex	
	Female (Percentage)	Male (Percentage)
Reforestation	18	12
Afforestation	20	18
Seedlings Distribution	11	14
Promote Agro-Forestry	20	16
Fencing	2	17
Fine for Illegal Rule and Regulation	12	13
Formation of Improved Store	0	0
Seeking External Financial, Technical Assistance	0	3
Provision of Training of Forest Efficient Management	0	7

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that 27% of women say that initiatives taken by executive committee are setting and charging fines and punishment for illegal users of the Community Forest. 20% of the female respondents only could involve the afforestation activities launched by the committee, at the beginning. 20% of women advocate the promotion of the agro-forestry as well.

### 5.1.6 Women's Participation in Community Forest Activities

Family comprises of father, mother, son, daughter, daughter in law, grand daughter and so on. These members of the family have different role holding the family smoothly. Both the working patterns in household activities and CF related activities of the family members in CFUGS area are shown in the following table.

**Table 17: Working Pattern of the Family**

Works	Family Members (Percentage)				
	Mother	Father	Daughter	Son	Daughter in Law
1.Agriculture	39	78	44	39	69
2.Business					
) Selling milk	0	55	0	25	0
) Selling Vegetable	19	42	16	39	28
3.Kitchen	22	0	33	0	55
4.Animal Grazing	25	33	25	39	28
5.Collection of Firewood and Fodder	33	14	61	39	69
6.Service and Labor Job	8	31	0	25	28
7.School	0	0	62	61	0
8.Gatherings and Meetings	14	28	5	11	0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table presents the working patterns of the family in the study area. The detail explanation is given below:

#### i) Agriculture

Subsistence agriculture is the main occupation of the study area. There is limited wet land for paddy production. Majority of people depends on dry land (*Bari*) with commonly two crops in a year. The cropping system of the study area is traditional, which required the involvement of most of the family members. Traditionally identified roles of children, women and man in the farming system are observed in the study area. However, the above table 17 shows that 78% of fathers are engaged in farming where as 39% of mothers and sons are also engaged in the same activities.

## **ii) Business: Selling Milk**

The same table 17 shows that 55% of fathers and 25% of sons are involved in selling milk. This shows the strong relationship between milk selling and male member of the family. There is no milk collection center in the study area. Most of the household sales milk to Dhankuta Bazaar. The amount of milk production is 10 liters per day in a family for selling. Most of milk brought in small pot separately for the purpose of easy distribution and measurement. Generally the milk selling business occurs early in the morning before 6:00 am. Other female members of the family were not seen engaging in this purpose.

## **iii) Business: Selling Vegetables**

The same table shows that 42% of fathers and 39% of sons are engaged in vegetable selling. Other female members of the family are also engaged in vegetable selling. But the nature of vegetable selling is different. Most of the family members of the family take vegetable to Dhankuta Bazaar for selling where as 16% of daughters and 19% of mothers sell vegetable from their own land, sometimes buyers visit their home for stock purchase. 28% of daughter in laws carry vegetable and go to Dhankuta Bazaar.

## **iv) Kitchen**

The same table shows that 55% of daughter-in-laws are engaged in Kitchen. This includes preparation of food, cooking, washing clothes and feeding cattle. Daughters and mothers have slightly less involvement i.e. daughter 33% and mother 22% for the same purpose. The table shows that father and son have nothing to do with this specific task.

## **v) Animal Grazing**

Due to the protected Community Forest they have to spend time on animal grazing on their own private lands. The same table shows that 39% of sons and 31% of daughters are engaged in animal grazing near by the forest with care. All the members of the family are involved in this works in rotation basic.



#### **vi) Collecting Firewood**

The same table no.17 shows that 69% of daughter-in-laws, 33% of daughters and 61% of mothers are engaged in collecting firewood and fodder. This indicates those maximum hours of time a female member of the family is engaged in this job. This indicates that most important time of the women is spent on collecting firewood and fodder. This shows that there is strong relationship between firewood and fodder collection and female members of the family. In compare to female members of the family, son and father are less engaged in collecting firewood and fodder. 39% of the sons are engaged in the above mentioned activities as well as 14% fathers are engaged in the same activity. This shows that there is an incomparable involvement of women in these aspects than the male members.

#### **vii) Services, Labor Job**

The same table shows 28% of daughter-in-laws are engaged in labor job to solve daily hand to mouth problem, 31% of father, 25% of sons and 8% of mothers are engaged in both day labor and service. Daughters are not doing labor job or service.

#### **viii) School**

The same table shows that 61% of daughters and sons are attending schools in the study area. Besides this no daughter-in-laws or other members of the family are found to attending in the school.

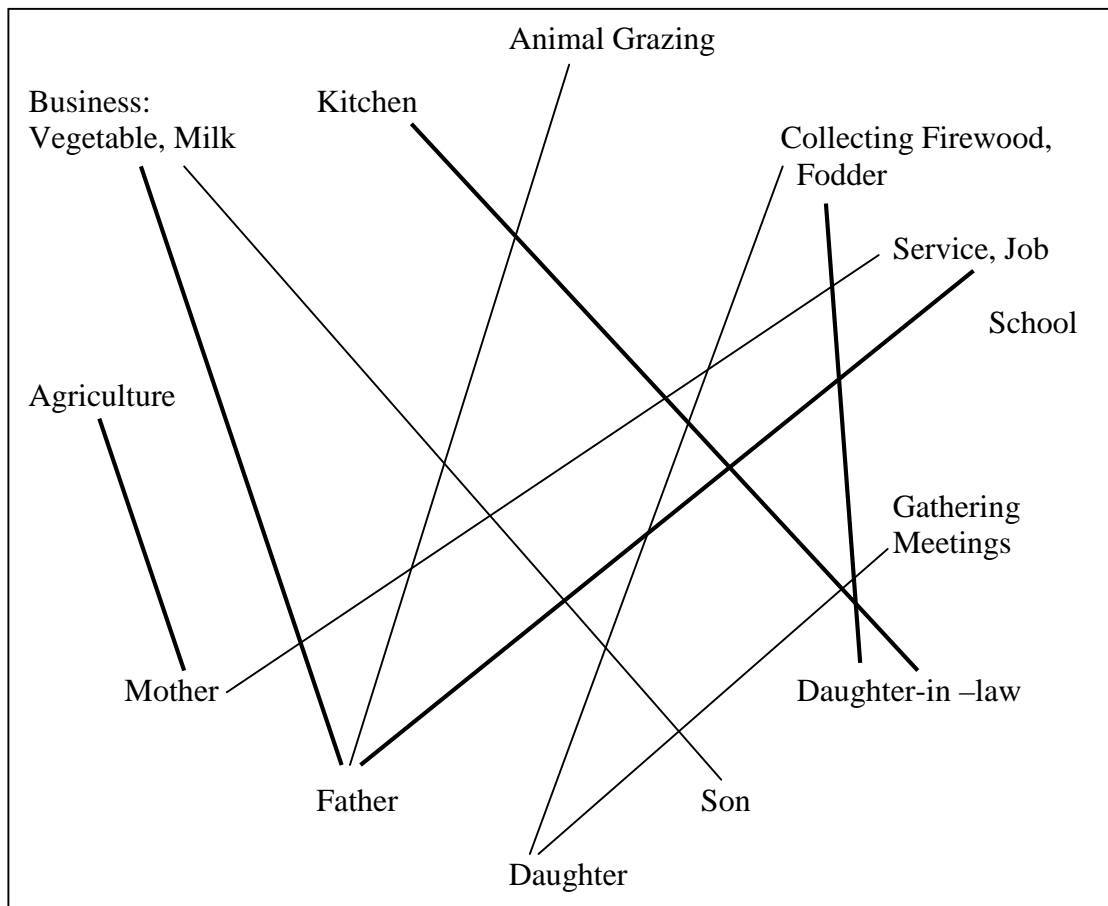
#### **ix) Gatherings and Meetings**

The same table shows that 28% of fathers and 14% of mothers are attending meetings and community gatherings. Only 11% of sons and 5% of daughters are also occasionally attending the same. But no daughter-in-laws are attending the meeting and gathering, which indicates there is strong male domination in family representation.

After the above analysis we have concluded that most of the household jobs of the family like cattle caring, collecting fodder etc are done by women. In other words, indoor and supportive activities are done by female members of the family unlike the

outdoor activities done by the males. Thus, the female members are naturally closer to the forestry work. Figure 7 further illustrates that there is strong relationship between male members and business activities which indicates the dominant role of male in handling family income and female and the forestry as well as indoor house hold activities.

**Figure 8: Gender and Their Role in the Family**



Source: Field Survey, 2011

Legend: Relationship **—** = Strong **—** = Mean

The above figure shows the unjustifiable relationship between man and women, where women are seen particularly domesticated and confined to the household works. It clearly shows that women are congested in households activities, such as in kitchen, sanitation; child caring, animal husbandry etc. But men on the other hand are involved in social service, outer job and decision making activities. It foregrounds that women are generally taken as powerless being in decision making process who are limited to their household activities.

### 5.1.7 Protection and Management of Community Forest Area

Women members participated themselves in the management process of the Community Forestry. They started encouraging other women to do so. They follow the scheduled forest activities particularly involvement in pruning and thinning.

The forest is protected from cattle grazing, illicit felling of trees and collection of forest products through a strict system of forest watching overseen by the forest user's group. Every day two households are required to patrol the forest on a rotation basis. Failure to take one's turn at patrolling leads to a fine equals to Rs. 50 equivalent to a day's wage.

Grazing is also one of the important methods of animal husbandry in the study area. The livestock are moved freely in search of green twigs and ground grass in most of the months in a year. Usually they take the livestock in the government forests for the grazing purpose and also agricultural land after crops are harvested. However, the place where the respondents take their livestock for grazing purpose can be summarized as shown in the following table.

**Table 18: Grazing Place for Livestock**

Grazing Place	Respondents (Percentage)
Common Grazing Land (fellow government land)	31
Near by Forest with Care	46
Own Agricultural Land	8
Private Grazing Land	0
Never Taking to Grazing	15
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table no. 18 shows that the profile of grazing places where the respondents took their livestock for grazing purpose. 46% respondents are taking their livestock in near by government forest of grazing purpose and 5% respondents are taking in their agricultural land after harvested the crops. 31% take their livestock to common grazing land. 15% of respondents reported that they never took animals for grazing.

### 5.2 Role of Male to Encourage the Women's Role in Community Forestry

Community forestry development program guideline 2001 has made it mandatory to include one male and one female from each HHs in the CF program; as a result the participation of women is rising which FECOFUN has also emphasized the equal participation of women. These efforts have cumulatively encouraged the participation of women in CF. Besides this our patriarchal society always dominate the women. So, it is fruitful when the role of a male is encouraging for the participation of the females in CF.

### 5.2.1 Role of Males

The most of the female respondents say that they have been supported by their counterparts for the participation. But few of them have insisted that their husbands object them to participate in CF. There is low participation of women even if male's supportive role in Badahare CF due to males' support only in words but not in actions. It is said that male does not send his wife, but while interviewing individual females, everyone opposed the statement and said that her husband has helped her. This indicates that female still hesitates to speak against her husband. The aspects in which the necessity of men's cooperation is felt include hard works like logging, punishing offender, coordination with other agencies, accounting, helping them in household activities and encouraging to participating in meetings and other activities were found to some extent good in the study area.

### 5.2.2 Role Evaluation among Users

Users of the Badahare CF have unanimously envisioned that both males and females should play important role in the success of CF activities though reality is different. Generally males are considered to work in out sphere but there are large numbers of Community Forest users accepting women backed up by men could better work in CF activities. The table 15 shows the views of users on whose role between men and women is more important in participation of women in CF.

**Table 19: Role Evaluation in CF Activities**

<b>FUGs</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Women's Role</b>	<b>Men's Role</b>	<b>Women supported by Men</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Total</b>
Badahare	26	4	12	8	2	26

CF						
----	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Approximately half of the users have considered that women supported by men could play vital role in Community forest, as females are directly related to the domestic and household works such as management of fuel wood, grass and water which has made them love forest and protect the forest first. In women FUG, women have been trying so far but facing lack of quick decision making and dilemma in many cases. The support needed from males includes hard works like logging, punish offenders, extension, coordination with other agencies, accounting, and help them in household activities, and encourage to participate in meetings and other activities. All female respondents accept that males are quick but females have no more ideas and they should be requested to be a committee member not because of male's non cooperation but being unaware themselves. They say that they have got cooperation from their family and no objection of their male heads. One female during interview said that she could take leadership if males help in outside activities. Out of the rest half, role of females and males alone has been considered important by 25% and 20% respectively while 5% do not know whose role is very important. Not only the males but some females also have considered the men's role important as usual.

### **5.2.3 Decision-Making role of Women in Community Forestry**

There are only six women members in the executive committee of Badahare CF. They are from two different ethnic groups. The involvement of women in every meeting shows that better level of women participation in decision-making is not so good.

Women don't play the strong role in the decision-making role because of the male's domination, only for fulfilling the formality of committee member. In fact, males are not the voice of females, as the higher ethnics groups are not the voice of lower ethnic group because Nepal is based on the patriarchal and conservative society. Women are getting rights only in speech in the public area. In public area as well as outer door, male are giving the rights as well as opportunity to female in speech but in practice they don't do anything for their women members. In Badahare CF also the same activities have been practicing for a long time. Besides this women of this area are back warded due to the illiteracy.

**Table 20: Level of Women Participation in Decision-Making Process**

<b>Women Participation</b>	<b>Response from Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Active	6	23
Fair	13	50
Not good	7	27
Total	26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the above table, we can see that most of the women's participation from their house is fair i.e., neither they are actively participating nor are they neglected. From the field survey it is found that they are mostly influenced by their husbands and they don't express the domination of their husbands.

#### **5.2.4 Motivating Factors for Women's Participation in Community Forestry**

There are different factors which are responsible to motivate the women to participate in Community Forestry activities. About 40% women are motivated by self interest. Causes of the self interest are experience in the gradual decline of forest and their desire for better management for the future. Some women were participating in the absence of men in their household. It is also a kind of motivating factor. Often men do not like women to participate in development work. However, the males in 27% have played some roles in motivating women to take part in different activities. There are 13% women who participate in Community Forestry activities by villager's request.

**Table 21: Motivating Factors for Women's Participation in CF**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Motivating factors</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Self Interest	6	40
2	Husband advice	4	27
3	Official request	3	20
4	Villager's request	2	13
Total		15	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table shows that 40% of the women say that their participation is due to their own self interest likewise, 27% of them say that their participation is because of their husband's advice which clearly shows that there is strong need of encouraging support from the males for the women in the participation in CF.

### **5.3 Constraints and Potentialities of Women's Role in Mobilization of Community Forest**

The Role played by women in CF is socially in built involvement from the beginning. The farming roles of women in the farming system of the Nepal's hill and mountain areas have necessitated their involvement in the whole cycle of crop production from seed selection to consumption and collection and use of various plants and animal from forest and pasture lands. Their responsibility for caring for the household members, livestock and croplands have provided them with extensive knowledge of the uses and usefulness of plants and therefore made them key actors in the management of bio-diversity of the forest and agriculture plant resources. However, some of the possibilities and constraints factors for women's roles in CF are found in committee level factors, physical and social factors, structural factors and political factors.

#### **5.3.1 Committee Level Factors**

User group's performance of many CF's has been found uneven. The formation Badahare CF user group dates back to 1995 A.D. Some of the respondents said that sufficient attention has been paid to identifying user and informing them of their

rights and responsibility. Elites' dominants on decision-making issues are seriously taken into consideration. In other instances, the situation within user groups is more alike to "Committee Forestry" rather than Community Forestry. Furthermore, the marginal groups such as women, scheduled caste and the poor are incorporated. We have already said that 1 out of 3 women is from *Athpariya Rai* caste in the executive committee. The user groups' exchanges (trainings, meetings, networks or assemblies) are helping to raise the awareness to the rural people which ultimately help increase the women's role in CF more effectively. The table no. 13 has already shown that 40% of the women are involved in the executive committee. This indicates that the dominance of the male members is still a national phenomenon besides several efforts have been introduced.

Under the committee level factors, the issue of women's participation depends upon the degree of familiarization between villagers (women and man) and the activities of CFUGC i.e. how the beneficiaries involved and participated in the initiation and operation of CF program. Do they really know the values and usefulness of CF? As women are highly busy involving household chores and household level forestry activities. They hardly get time to share in these meeting and gathering even though they are the primary user and manager of the forest product. But it was obvious that women are highly busy involving in planting trees, thinning, collecting firewood and fodder and grazing animals.

Majorities of women are participated in the group interviews and discussion. Table 15 shows that the 57% of total participants are women and 43% are men. Focus group discussion, daily activities, seasonal calendar and time-line are the main participatory activities during the study period.

The participation fluctuates as per the requirement of Community Forest management. Respondent participated because of their willingness to work in the CF User's group committee as executive member. It was a self-value and maintaining status among the community people. Another concrete point was being a FUGC member; they do not have to provide any substantial input such as: land, capital. According the close observation, the present executive women members is ready to



pay time and labor to CFUG. All the women members are middle income group. Therefore, they can even contribute nominal cash also. FUGC required lots of time for Community Forest operation and management on the volunteer basis. From this it could be status that, lower the contribution of cash from villagers, higher would be the women's participation.

The degree of participation depends on what the clear prospect of benefit after joining FUGC. Generally, there is high participation at the beginning. Because they thought that they would be able to fulfill their several needs, such as: spent less time for collecting fire wood, fodder, and grazing animals, continual drinking water supply from forest, enough rainfall for crops. Interests on participation decreased gradually, later on. More attraction could be seen when there are opportunities to attend training and workshop. Thus, uncertain of benefits lowers the women's participation in CF.

Pull factors to involve in the committee are determined by degree of attraction to the benefit; such as support from DFO. The other factor for participation is the opportunity to make linkage with NG officials and exposure and opportunity to receive development roles. Opportunity to attend workshop, meeting, seminar, training outside of village and receiving outside visitors are also the factors affecting to women's participation. Form this description we can conclude that higher the chances of support for other activities from committee, higher would be the women's participation in CF. However, the pattern of women's participation in CF related and other meeting is less effective than men as shown in the following table.

**Table 22: Women's Participation in Community FUG Meeting**

<b>Community Meeting</b>	<b>FUG</b>	<b>Female (Percentage)</b>	<b>Male (Percentage)</b>
Weekly, Monthly		0	0
Yearly		57	68
Does not Know		43	32
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that 57% of female respondents are informed about yearly meeting of executive committee and 43% of women are unaware of the CFUGC meeting. The demonstrated system of sharing benefit among the present executive members also plays a vital role on women's participation. The example of equal sharing of benefit could be taken from the distribution pattern of firewood per household level. The environment of Community Forest as a common property among the group also plays a vital role for increasing women's participation. Thus, it is found that, lower the conflict between members, higher would be the women's participation in CF.



Photograph 1: Women Participation in Community Forestry Monthly Meeting (Badahare CF, Dhankuta Municipality)

### **5.3.2 Physical and Social Factors**

The location of the CFUGC committee, size of the Community Forest area, issues of gender equality and participatory orientation plays a vital role in the nature of the women's participation in CF. Most of the members are unable to attend regular meetings. It takes 30-45 minutes from *Santang* on foot to attend regular CF meeting

venue at Balmandir Tole. The house of present secretary, who kept FUGC documents with her also, situated in far distance from the majority of users. Thus, it is concluded that, closer the place for committee meeting higher would be the women's participation.

Local cultural understanding between *Athpathariya Rai* and Newar also pays a vital role. Majorities of women are involved in pre-defined social role. It is very difficult to work out and get spare time to attend new developmental activities as well as attending CF meeting. The clear picture of minority; role due to social system and social structures is shown in participatory in the following table 23, which is self explanatory.

**Table 23: Daily Activities of the Women Members of the Family**

<b>Morning (Between 4-10 am)</b>	<b>Day (10am-2pm)</b>	<b>Evening (Between 2-8pm)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) Get up early,</li> <li>) Sweep the house,</li> <li>) Grinding with quern and <i>Dhiki</i></li> <li>) Fetching water,</li> <li>) Cutting grass,</li> <li>) Cooking lunch for the family members,</li> <li>) Feeding children,</li> <li>) Eating (<i>Bhat Bhansa</i>),</li> <li>) Fetching firewood,</li> <li>) Talking livestock for grazing,</li> <li>) Feed the pigs,</li> <li>) Take milk to the bazaar,</li> <li>) Sell firewood in the bazaar,</li> <li>) Buy few essential in the bazaar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) Send children to school,</li> <li>) Go to cut fodder grass,</li> <li>) Water the animals,</li> <li>) Feed animals grass,</li> <li>) Look after small children,</li> <li>) Go to Dhankuta bazaar to go to hospital (sometimes to Dharan),</li> <li>) Work in the crop fields (e.g. picking millet).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) Clean up the house,</li> <li>) Food preparation for family members-cook rice,</li> <li>) Look after the children,</li> <li>) Make the children study-asking them to read and their homework,</li> <li>) Feed the pigs again,</li> <li>) Shut the goats and chicken in their sheds,</li> <li>) Tie up the cow,</li> <li>) Eat and make the beds,</li> <li>) Grinding on grinding stone '<i>Jhanto</i>'</li> <li>) Prepare the grains for the next morning meal</li> <li>) And, sleep.</li> </ul>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table is self –explanatory, which represents the majority of women of the rural Nepal in general, and the women of the of the study area in particular.

Relationship between frequency of women’s participation in CF and size of the CF area also affect the women’s participation in Community Forestry. The Badahare CF is on top of Balminder Tole. It has access to ward no 5. It is extended in some how large area. Therefore, it could be summarized that smaller the sizes of Community Forest easier to appropriately mange and create ownership. Thus, smaller the size of Community Forest, higher would be the women’s participation in CF.

When a rural woman became the member of FUGC, than her new developmental role will start. The general situation of the study area is non-of the women member could have jointed or done anything in the Community Forest, if their husbands or fathers opposed their involvement in the community. The support given to the women by male counterpart within their household level helped to determine the active participation of women in CF. Thus, the greater would be the chances of active participation of women in CF.

The formation of FUG plays important roles on the degree of women’s participation. No one was forced to join the group. NUKCFP spent time through Chuliban range post during pre-group formation. Thus, more participatory orientation from the beginning, especially during the period of establishment, the greater the level of participation among intended beneficiaries have been noticed.

### **5.3.3 Structural Factors**

The structural factor has equally played important role in determining women’s participation in CF activities. This includes the size of the committee, composition of committee, rights and authority of the committee and decision making and implementation of the decision. Table 12 indicates that there are 40% of users taking part in decision-making roles and 60% users are listed as general users. There are 128 households in Bedehare FUG area. They formed CFUGC out of 15 members, which is smaller in size. The smaller the size of the executive committee, the easier to notify and meet each other. Quick communication could happen within the time limit. Smaller size is considered as the best and there would be less conflict between

members. Thus, smaller size of CF executive team, greater would be the chances of mobilizing the women's participation in CF.

The degree of women's participation in CF depends upon the composition of committee also. This includes the marital status and age. Generally, an adult committee member participates actively. The main reason found by the study is that most of the women members are married above 20 years of age and women are the stable parts of the committee. Usually, married women do not leave the village, as there are high chances of young women leaving the village after they get married. Married women take many responsibilities within the household as well as collecting firewood, fodder, fetching water, grazing animals cooking for all of the family members and caring animals. They seem more willing than men to accept the responsibility do.

Education is necessary factor for completing important paper work, making contacts with concerned officials and building up strong relationship with local people. Moreover, it empowers, builds understanding and creates awareness. Thus, the higher the educational status of the women, the higher the chances of participation.

Women's participation in CF depended on the process how the selections of women for the committee are performed. In this study area, some people say that there is open communication among the FUG members, but the number of the women's participation is low i.e. 40% in FUG committee and 32% in general list of users group. The selection of the women members of the FUG has done by general consensus of the ward people among the representatives from different localities of the ward. It is assured that the committee is the real representation of community. According to the committee they have given full support and authority to carry out the activities.

The present FUGC member said that they have selected those who are interested to join FUGC and those who are not going to create any problems for the group. But some people in the community argued this statement as they feel the present fug committee is no longer representing the community.

Groups meet to discuss Community Forestry rights and responsibilities. The participation depends upon how many villagers understood the rights and authority of

the FUGC members. Preparation of the role, rights and authority to both FUGC and villagers are considered important factors. The levels of understanding FUG rule depend upon the process of its development. Thus, the clearer the rights and authorities of group the greater will be the chances of mobilizing women's role in CF.

Another factor for enhancing the women's role depends upon how the decisions are made and implemented. This could be the case deciding fines and punishment for illegal users. How far villagers are happy with the decision made by FUGC, some situations like who take decision-making roles and who lead the group are the vital. On the other hand, rules and regulations describe in Operational Plan (OP) hardly read by all members. The frequency of meeting, assembly and people participation also affects the women participation. From above description, we can summarize that more programs are incorporated in the ideas village women and men; there would be the greater chance of women participation in CF.

#### **5.3.4 Political Factors**

Political factor plays a significant role for women's role in CF. this includes, social norms, local politics and government support and resource availability. Women's depends on traditional norms, powers in decision-making process and benefit sharing. There is strong feeling that women should not be involved in development activities such as: attending meeting, interacting with outsiders and outgoing, which have been traditionally domains of males. Following such traditional thinking these men like to see women members always should be involved in cooking, washing, caring children and animals. Traditional norms of *Athpariya Rai* are strict in these matters. Traditionally women were not given chance to practice to face outsiders; they cannot express their ideas properly to the outsiders. There is a fear of losing development support from outside when women deal the situation. This again lacks the confidence of women. Poor attitude towards women made the situation worse. It can be summarized that the lesser the imposition of traditional gender norms the higher will be the chance if active roles in CF.

The degree of women's role in CF also depends on local politics. Villagers keep close watching on who participate and why. They are always keen to know what decisions are taken and how the decisions are taken for whom.

There was increasing confidence on the village women and men through the support of DFO/NKCFP at the beginning. It results in the group formation and enhancing awareness to the community role on the CF activities. Ginger and *Amriso* cultivation also is launched as argo-forestry program. Gradually the support from DFO and NUKCFP decreased then village women and men keep saying that there is poor support from DFO/NUKCFP at present. Thus, more constant support from DFO and other agencies would be the chances of generating women's roles in CF.

The system of utilization of local human resources, knowledge and resource also play the vital role in the pattern of women's roles in CF. Regular income source, open and participatory decision-making roles and professional development opportunity thrust the degree of women's role in CF.

## CHAPTER - VI

### SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Summary of the Major Findings

This study on “Role of Women in Community Forestry” was conducted in Badahare CF of Dhankuta Municipality, aiming to assess the role played by women in CF program with the magnitude of their contribution and man’s role to enhance the role of women in forest resource utilization. Moreover it also explains the constraints and potentialities of women’s role in Community Forestry. Among the 128 total users, 28 households are surveyed. The study is carried-out in some sequential steps of research methodology such as defining research problem, reviewing literature, designing research, collecting data, analyzing data and interpreting data. However the major findings of the study are as follows.

- ) Among the 26 sampled population, 16 i.e. 62% are female and 10 i.e. 38% are male. The average HHs size is found 6.3 members. Where the population below age of 15 years are 3(12%), age of 15 to 30 are found 8(31%), age of 30 to 60 are found 9(35%) and more than the 60 are 6(23%). So it is found that there are active populations (Population belongs to the age of 15 to 60) in large number in the study area.
- ) Out of 26 HHs, 10 HHs are *Athparaya Rai*, 4 HHs are found Bramhan, 3 HHs are Chettri and Newar, and 2 HHs are Magar, Limbu, Dalit (Kami, Sarki and Damai). Among them *Athparaya Rai* the highest average size (38.46%), Bramhn (15.38%), Newar (11.54%), Cheettri (11.54%), Magar (7.69%), Limbu (7.69%) and Dalit are (7.69%).
- ) It is also found that there are only very few i.e. (23.08%) illiterate respondents in this CF. Where the majority of the respondents are literate and they have passed SLC level i.e. 76.92%. From this it is clear that there are mostly literate people in this user group.
- ) It is found that the majority of the population is engaged in agriculture/livestock which has accounted the 54.81% (14 HHs) of the total.



On the other hand, services are found only 2. Similarly, business having HHs is 4 and other (foreign employment, daily wage and tourism) are 6. Thus, in this study area agriculture is seen as the main occupation.

- ) The average land holding population in the CF is found 6.5 Ropani. Among them 50% of the respondents have less than 2 Ropani. Where as the respondents having land above 6 Ropani is only 11.54%, they are rich and less in number.
- ) Among the 292 numbers of livestock reared by the respondents in the study area, goats are found in the highest number (87), and cow/ox are found the lowest in number (45). Similarly Pigs are found 47 in the CF.
- ) The study shows that there is only the source of energy is firewood which is obtained from CF itself.
- ) It is found that out of total members, only 40% of the women are involved in executive committee and 32.03% women participate in general membership.
- ) Similarly, it is found that only 21% of women are attending Community Forest user's group committee meeting regularly. Whereas, 29% of total women have never attended community forest related meeting and 36% of women have been attending annual assembly regularly.
- ) Through the study, it is found that 65% of women are participating in forest management activities but among them, only 8% of them are participated in decisions making process. Thus, it is concluded that the percentage of participation in decisions making process is found very low.
- ) Out of total female respondents only, 50% of them say that women supported by men could play vital role in CF.
- ) In the study area, some of the possibilities and constraints factors for women's roles in CF are found. These are committee level factors, physical and social factors, structural factors and political factors.

- ) Under the committee level factors, the issue of women's participation depends upon the degree of familiarization between villagers (women and man) and the activities of CFUGC.
- ) The location of the CFUG committee, size of the Community Forest area, issues of gender equality and participatory orientation plays a vital role in the nature of the women's participation in CF.
- ) It is found that the smaller size of CF executive team, the greater is the chances of mobilizing the women's participation in CF.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

The concept of Community Forestry is a vital one for preserving and devolving natural resources in general and forest resource in particular in Nepal. Forest is one of the major resources of rural livelihood. It is the source of food, firewood, timber, fodder, leaves, and litters etc. The rapidly increasing population growth and its subsequent effects on natural resource, particularly in the forest resource have been noticed since the long time. For the better management and the enhancement of the forest resource, the concept of CF was emerged during 1970s in Nepal. As the women are the ultimate managers and users of the forest resources, their role is increasing in their society. They can play a significant role in Community Forest development, protection and management. Hence, success of the CFUGs largely depends upon degree of women's participation in its management from the very beginning.

On the basis of this study, and through various researches and analysis carried out during its period, it can be said that women have very important role to play for the protection and better management of Community Forest. Due to the several socio-historical constructions, men in this respect can be seen as an important as well as vital factor in deciding and determining the position of women.

Although there are several potentialities for women's participation in CF, But women participation in CF is greatly determined by various factors like bio-physical situation of CF, socio-economic and cultural practices, institutional structure of the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organizations, perception and attitude towards CF and allied issues, as well as the status of women in the family

and society. As women are highly busy and confined to the HHs chores and HHs affairs, women participation in decision making process is still very low.

Along with the other factors, the equity in decision making process is more complex due to the unsupportive role of male who are usually considered to be the superior and determiner of women's role in different socio-economic aspects. Through this study, it is evidenced that due to the various confinements set by the socio-economic and structural parameters women are still deprived to proceed in the executive body and decision making process.

In all, the participation of women in Community Forestry helps to enhance the living standard as well as the socio-economic status of women. It can be regarded as one of the major agents for developing the female participation and the inclusive involvement of female in all the bodies of socio-economic sphere. As the female are primary users, managers, protector as well as administrators of the local resources, their active participation in CF and in managerial body helps to promote the status of the level of CF. So the female participation in CF is an essential pre-requisite for the enhancement of the forest as well as female themselves.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

On the basis of this study, following recommendations can be provided to the present executive committee of Badahare CF, policy makers, decision-making development agencies, various NGOs/INGOs and other stakeholders. Some of the recommendations are as follows:

- J A mandatory provision should be formulated ensuring at least equal and proportional participation of women in executive committee, which leads to compulsory participation of women.
- J FUGs should be reviewed, categorized and awarded based on their performance. Among various parameter people's participation especially the women's participation should be the main. For the time being, all-women groups should be reviewed and awarded separately.

- J Focus should be made onto males and their awareness for the creative support for women's involvement in the decision making process should be inspired.
- J A gender sensitizing training should be organized at village to minimize the feeling of misconception regarding women's involvement and their leadership in development process. Other trainings such as leadership development, time management, community development, income generation etc. should be also organized.
- J As the women and children are the main collectors of the forest products in the study area, they should be allowed to participate in all meetings and trainings related to forestry. Their views should also be incorporated.
- J Income received from the CF should be invested on such activities, which could be benefited to women and disadvantaged groups. So that these groups utilize the fruit of CF and further inspire to participate in CF programe.
- J The employment opportunities should be given through the different Community Forestry programes in order to get an economic return.
- J Further, researchers on different activities of Community Forest participation should be carried out to find the degree of involvement of women and to suggest possible measures to encourage their participation

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Identification

Name of Municipality:

FUG Name:

Tole /Village:

#### 1.1 General Information of the Respondents

Name:

Sex:

Occupation:

Education:

1.2 Family size

Male

Female

[ ]

[ ]

1.3 Types of House

a. *Pakki* [ ]

b. *Semi Pakki* [ ]

c. *Kachhi* [ ]

1.4 Land own by household

*Khet* in ropani [ ]

*Bari* in ropani [ ]

1.5 Live stock own by household

a. Buffalo [ ]

b. Cow [ ]

c. Ox [ ]

d. Goat [ ]

e. Sheep [ ]

f. Other [ ]

1.6 Main Secondary Sources of Income (occupation)

Occupation	Male	Female
Agriculture		
Service		
Overseas work		
Other		

2. Questionnaire for Respondents

2.1 What is the vision of your to look CF?

- a. Positive [ ]                      b. Negative [ ]                      c. Neutral [ ]

2.2 What is the role of women in forest management?

- a. Good [ ]                      b. Better [ ]                      c. Worse [ ]  
d. Nothing [ ]

2.3 Why do you join FUG? Specify

- a. Religious reason [ ]                      b. Under social pressure [ ]

2.4 For what purpose do you utilize the forest?

- a. Firewood [ ]                      b. Fodder [ ]  
c. Tree lives and litters [ ]                      d. Raw material [ ]  
e. Others [ ]

2.5 Do you involve in forest products distribution?

- Yes [ ]                      No [ ]

2.6 How many times did you attend CF monthly meeting in a year?

.....

2.7 Are regular in attending meeting?

- Yes [ ]                      No [ ]

2.8 Have attained seminar on CF? How many times?

- Yes [ ].....                      No [ ].....

2.9 Do you think programme like tanning, workshop, meeting will enhance the role of women?

.....

2.10 Is the role played by women in CF satisfactory?

- Yes [ ]                      No [ ]

**3. Questionnaire for Respondents and UGC**

3.1 Are the women equally benefited from community developmental activities?

Yes how?.....

No why?.....

3.2 Do the women participate the committee’s activity? If they don’t participate, what are the main factors?

a. Individual Problem.....

b. Problem related to family members.....

c. Social Problem.....

d. Legal Problem.....

e. Others.....

3.3 Have you get family support to involve CF management actives?

If yes,  
how?.....

If no,  
why?.....

3.4 Are there any obstacles to increase the women participation? If they are, what are they?

.....  
.....  
.....

3.5 How has present forest user’s committee participated in their activities?

.....  
.....

3.6 Do all women committee participate to manage the forest researches?

.....  
.....

3.7 Does the operational plan of CF address the problem of women?

Yes [  ]

No [  ]

.....  
.....

3.8 Are there any constraint regarding the role of women in effective utilization of forest resources?

.....  
.....

3.9 Is the role played by men to enhance the role of women in forest resources utilization encouraging?

Yes,  
how?.....

No,  
why?.....

3.10 What is your or family's socio-economic status before/after participation in CF programe?

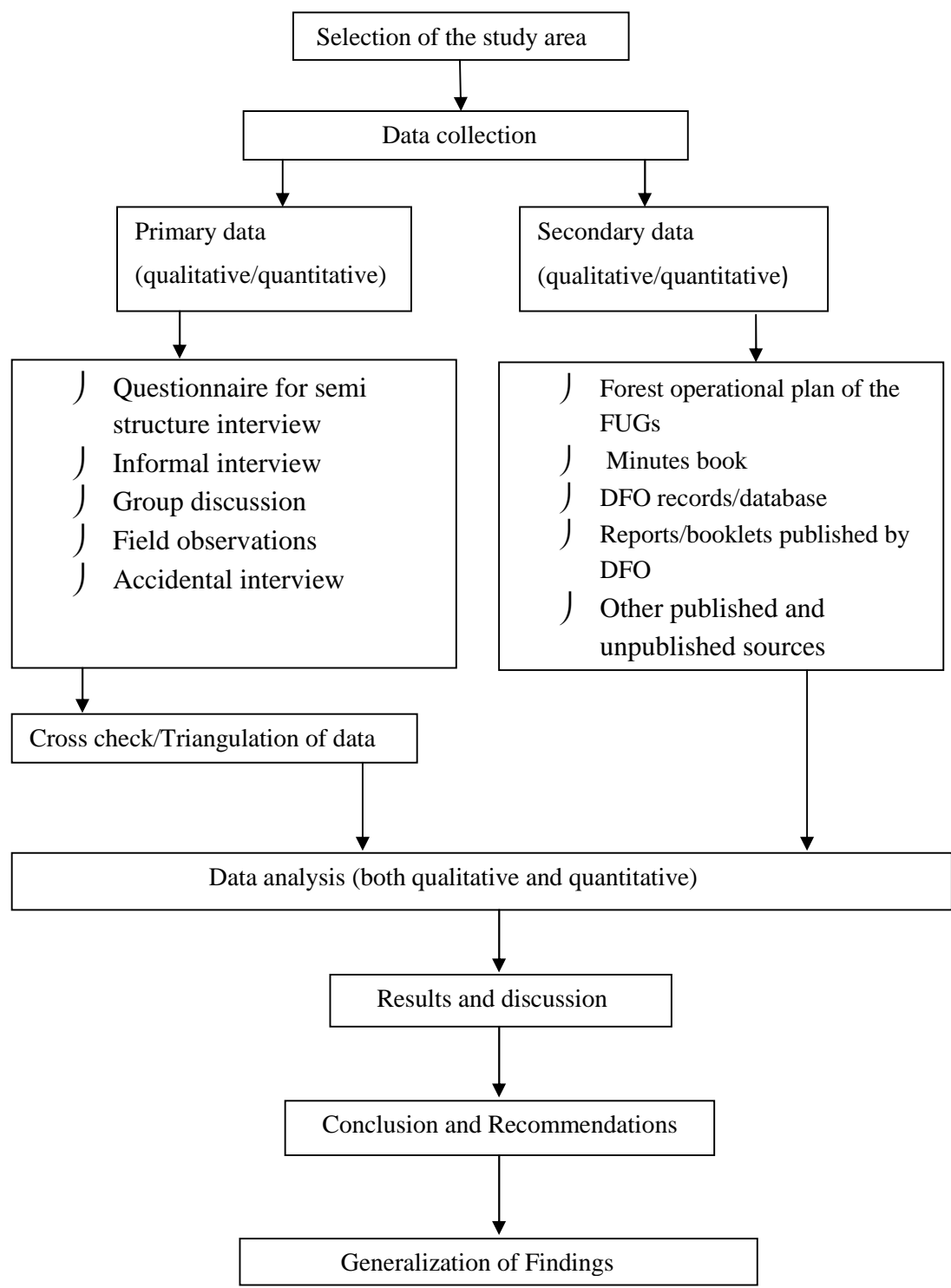
.....  
.....



## **APPENDIX II: GUIDE LINE FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What are the major benefit that you receiving from this CF?
2. Does the operational plan (OP) of the CF address the problem of women?
3. How has been women's participation influenced the decision making process of the CFUG member?
4. What types of problems faced by this CF?
5. Are the activities of CF address to the very-poor and women?
6. What are the major programe of this CF sanctioned for women?
7. What are the principle reasons of women participation for being not effective in forest resource utilization?
8. What measures should be adopted to make the women's participation in CF's effective mobilization?
9. Are you satisfied with this current FUGC?
10. Do you know the community development social activities conducted by CFUG?

**APPENDIX III: DIAGRAMMATIC PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH DESIGN**



**APPENDIX IV**

**Photo Sheet No. 1**



B & W Plate: 1

Over View of Badahare CF



B & W Plate: 2

Women's Participation in CF Mass Meeting



B & W Plate: 3

Women Attending in an Awareness Training



B & W Plate: 4

Women Busy at Income Generating Work

## REFERENCES

- Acharya, B. and Oli, B.N. (2004). *Impacts of Community Forestry in Rural Livelihood Nepali Mid-hill: A Case Study from Bharkhore Community Forest, Parbat District*. Banko Jankari, 14 (1) pp 46-50
- Agarwal, B. (2001). *Participatory Exclusions, Community Forestry and Gender: an analysis for South Asia and a conceptual framework*. World Development 29(10): 1623-1648
- Carr-Harris, Jill (1992). *A case Study of Jakeshwar Shikshan Sansthan: Changes in the Hill Economy Forest Cover and Status of Women in Dasholi Block, Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh*. Prepared for the ILO Workshop 'Women and Wasteland Development', New Delhi, 9-11 Jan 199
- CFD (2004). *National Database Community Forestry Division, Nepal*
- Department of Forest, (1990). *Master Plan of Forestry Sector, Nepal Revised Sector Policy*, Nepal HMG Press.
- DFO (2003). *District Forest Office, Dhankuta*.
- FECOFUN (2010). *Federation of Community Forestry Nepal, Dhankuta*
- Forest Act, 2049 (1993). *Produced by: Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Forestry Development Project, HMG/USAID*
- Giri M.K. (1989). *A review of literature on pastures and fodder, including a documented list of references in Nepal Himalayan Pasture and fodder research*. FAO/UNDP RAS/79/121. Kathmandu: IUDP, FAO
- Gurung S.M. (1994). *Women in Mountain Resource Management in Nepal*. MPE Discussion Series No.3 Kathmandu, ICIMOD.
- Inserra, A.E. (1989). *Women's Participation in Community in Forestry Nepal, An Analysis for Forestry Development Project* Report Prepared for U.S. Agency for International Development.

- Jackson, C. (2004). *'Doing What Comes Naturally? Women and Environment in Development'*, World Development 21 (12): 1947-963
- Kayastha, B.P. (1999). *"Elements of community Forestry in Nepal,"* Sabitri Devi, Kathmandu.
- Khatiwada, Rita (2008). *Participation of Women in the Management Community Forest, a Case Study of Community Forest with an Sathbariya Range Post of Dang District, Nepal*, An unpublished master's degree thesis, submitted to Central Department of Geography Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.
- Lamichhane, D. (2004). *Deciding Making Role of Women in Community Forestry, a Case Study of Community Forest with an Syangja District, Nepal*, An unpublished master's degree thesis, submitted to Trichandra Multiple Campus Department of Sociology Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.
- Pokharel, R. K. (1991). *An Evaluation of the Community Forestry Program in Kaski District of Nepal: A Local Perspective*. Dissertation for the degree of Ph. D. Michigan State University.
- Regmi, Dr. Sibesh (1989). *Participation, A Nepalese Journal of Participatory Development*, Year - 4, No. 4, pp. 9-12.
- Shrestha, M. (2004). *Eco-Feminism and Women's Role for Ecologically Sustainable Development with Special Reference to Nepal*, Published in Environment: A Journal of the Environment of Nepal.
- Williams, Paula J. (1991). *Women's Participation in Forestry Activities in Africa: Project Summary and Policy Recommendations*. Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), Nairobi, Kenya.

[www.forestrynepal.org](http://www.forestrynepal.org),

[www.sandeeonline.com](http://www.sandeeonline.com)

[www.forestaction.org](http://www.forestaction.org)

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

