

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Natural Resource refers to any portion of the natural environment such as atmosphere, water, soil, forest, wildlife, land, minerals, and environmental assets as inseparable to each other they are maintaining ecosystem under which we can find huge mass of biodiversity.

Of all vegetation type, the forest renders the greatest influence on environment which is connected to the regulation of atmospheric, hydrological, and soil processes, so the preservation of forest cover has enormous value for the sustainable development of the sustainable development of an environment.

Forest is the super combination of biotic and versatile renewable natural resources. It is the main source of fire-wood, timber, liters and animal fodder and plays a vital role in the rural livelihood. As a source of energy there has been using firewood in largest scale as a conventional source of energy in several developing countries including Nepal. These resources are indispensable to about 90 percent of the rural population is directly involved in managing forest as a part of their everyday life. Therefore, forest is an important natural resource that is highly essential for all living creatures in the world. Forest has played a significant role from the history of human civilization. It plays an important role in sustaining the productivity of the land by providing the organic manure of the animal dung supported with the bedding materials from the forest. It is also a major source of income for people. Beside this forest plays an important role in maintaining a stable ecosystem and precipitation in Nepal, forest has an enormous role to play in protecting the hilly topography from natural disaster like flood, landslides and soil erosion. In short, Forest Can be taken as superior element on the earth that is helping us for survival of all living and non living creature.

Though Nepal was rich in forest resource and there was a saying that "*HARIYO BAN NEPAL KO DHAN*" but it depleted very rapidly in the last few decades. Nepal's forest is decreasing in both quantity and quality over the last few decades. The rapid socio-economic change in Nepal has placed a new demand on forest resource. People are cutting trees; farmers are clearing trees for expanding agriculture land. Therefore, Nepal's forest is gradually disappearing causing a major ecological crisis. The natural forests in Nepal's hills have been degrading considerably due to over exploitation and absence of systematic management. An over-increasing human and live stock population intensifies the growing pressure on forest resources. As the forest declines, number of problems related to environmental degradation such soil erosion, landslides, desertification, climatic hazards etc emerge. Many acts were implemented (private forest nationalization Act in 1957, Forest Act in 1961, The Forest preservation Act in 1967) in order to conserve and preserve the forest resource. However, these implemented Acts did not work and the deforestation problem increased rapidly. The failures of past strategies were fundamentally linked to the absence of the missing ingredient of participation.

With this background new concept of community participation was emerged based on the philosophy of a people-based development "from- below" assuming participation as a fundamental precondition and tool of forest management. In this context, Nepal's attempt to encompass the ingredient of participation in development has been reflected in the forestry program. Formal forestry program was initiated with financial assistance from the World Bank and other donor agencies

Considering the rapid declination of forest, Government of Nepal implemented many forest programs since 1978. Community forestry program was adopted for the first time in 1978 by the government. Community forestry is forest conservation, management and utilization by the local community. IN this concept, a group of people who are actively participate to conserve, preserve, and manage their local forest for their benefit by themselves.

Community forestry program is highly successful in Nepal. Under this program, 1.12 million-hectares of forest land have been handed over to the community, up to 13,645 user groups, representing 1.55 million households in 31st December, 2004 (DFO, 2004).

However, the effort has played vital role to keep the balance between people, forest and environment by changing the forest management policy of the government in the recent decades. In this new policy, there is a shift from government ownership and management of forests to community or user group management with a strong desire of empowering local communities and thereby institutionalizing their participation.

Now the government and development practitioner have begun to take local people's participation as essential for the assessment, monitoring and evaluation the forest management practices in village communities in Nepal. According to Community Forestry Development Division (1991), the prime of community forestry is to develop and manage forest resources through active participation of individuals and communities to meet their basic needs and main strategy of the CF programmed is phased handing over of all accessible hill forest to the communities to the extent that they are able and willing to manage them. The decision also states that 18, 76,000 ha of forest area (32% of the total land area of Nepal) can be converted in to community forestry, and 15, 85,000 ha of non-forest area (27% of total land area) can gradually be developed as community forests.

The perception, that community participation is inevitable in forest management and development has gained widespread recognition in most parts of the world. The local community has the basic knowledge of factors responsible for the degradation of natural resources and can apply indigenous means of protection and management (Bannet, 1991 cited in Manandhar, 1993).

Policy makers have acknowledged the importance of women's activities in forestry. Many studies (Acharya and Bennett 1981, Gurung, 1987; New Era 1983; Siddiqi 1989; Landis 1964; Prasai et al 1987 & Wener M. 1981) shown that women are primary users of the forest. According to above studies, Women spent significant portion of their times in forest related activities such as fuel-wood and fodder collection, fetching water, farming, grazing animals and cooking. Considering this, it is clear that women have to be involved to make a community forest program successful.

For rural women, deforestation means that more time and energy that used to be spent on household chores. Deforestation directly affects the women. Those who consume more forest products should participate in forest management activities (Gurung, 1987:1). Siddiqui (1989) views that, rural women are among the most frequent and much important forest user in Nepal but still have a very marginal role in forestry programs. Although the government policy is to empower women to participate in community forestry planning and implementation process nevertheless, Nepal socio-cultural practices still seem to be reluctant to let women go ahead. The involvement of women must be recognized as an essential element for achieving successes in any development work including community forestry. Women are the primary users of forest resources without the co-operation and participation of women in forest development efforts will continue to flounder (Gurung, 1987:3)

Community Forestry Program is based on partnership between local community and government and is one of the nationally prioritized forestry programs in Nepal. Its main

objective is to achieve forest resources by converting accessible national forest into a community forest in sustainable manner. It has been taken as a small scale village level forestry practices where decisions and actions are made on a group basis so that the community people can interlink forest with their social life. Although this program is taken as the most successful program in Nepal, It can't cover all cast, gender, class, and different strata of people. If we are able to raise the level of participation of women in the community forestry program who are the primary users of forest products, without the feeling of cocksureness i.e. so called male dominated society we definitely can achieve the higher degree of success and satisfaction in the sustainable use of forest resource.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As many other renewable sources of energy Forest is one and main. Nepal has been losing much of its forest cover and this problem is in a very critical condition. Forest is decreasing at an alarming rate and the government effort to solve the problem is very nominal. 30 years ago, about 57 percent of the Nepal's land area was covered by forest and at present that figure even by optimistic estimates has been reduced to 30 percent (Various literatures). It is causing multi-dimensional problem such as the water retaining capacity of natural vegetation has weakened, water source are drying, the runoff has increased in both scale and intensity causing fertile soil erosion, landslides, desertification, climatic hazards, life of the people have become harder due to scarce of fuel-wood and fodder water and so forth.

Local people's involvement in the forest management activities has been acknowledged as a main strategy of the forest policy of Nepal for sustainable and effective management and conservation of the forest (Chhetri et. al; 1992). At the same time, poverty alleviation has become the development agenda. Nepal's effort for the poverty alleviation has been reflected in its periodic plan. The ongoing government policies too, emphasize the forest as a major sector to reduce poverty in New-Nepal.

As the forest nationalization Act which was under the control of various communities, the current users didn't agree immediately with the governments Acts; this led to rapid depletion of the forest. There were many other causes as well as lack and difficulties of supervision from the centre, corrupted bureaucratic practices and local political leaders, and the lack of ownership feeling among the beneficiaries of the forest products that finally led the nationalization policy to the unsuccessful and failure. Then after only the government was inspired to adopt the community forestry approach in late 1970s. This approach aimed to tackle the critical issue of the rapid degradation of forest land and fertile soil in the hills which ultimately have repercussion on the country's and even the sub-continent ecosystems (Dahal, 1994).

IN our male dominated Nepalese society Women are the primary user of forest resources. The management of fire wood, fodder, liters has been managing by women in the most of the household in rural area. For enhancing the present management system and to achieve sustainable management, the women's role cannot be underestimated especially in such rural areas. In order to conserve, manage and develop the forest or even to stop the rapidly increasing deforestation process, only government effort and male participation is not enough, local women who are directly involving in each and every aspect of forest, themselves, should be made conscious for their active participation in forest management and conservation. So, local women's participation plays a vital role in conservation and management of forest.

A micro level analysis of women's participatory approach in development efforts must be given emphasis. However, government policy is to empower and encourage women to participate in community forestry program, but laws and policies are not enough to achieve the target, they are only the means to achieve goals and target. Otherwise,

these policies will remain as the "Fruits in the sky. And there may be a situation like "Kaam Garne Kalu, Makai Khane Bhalu".

Various reports on research and critiques, too, suggest that participation of Women in community forestry is just as a 'token', no effective. Keeping this in mind the present study has been tried to pursue the following research questions.

1. What is the degree of women participation in CF at present?
2. What are the key factors that hinder or foster in obtaining women's participation for community forestry management and conservation?
3. How women participation can be increased?
4. How women are taking part in the process of decision-making, benefit sharing and implementation process of community forestry?
5. What is the socio-economic status of women of community forest user group?

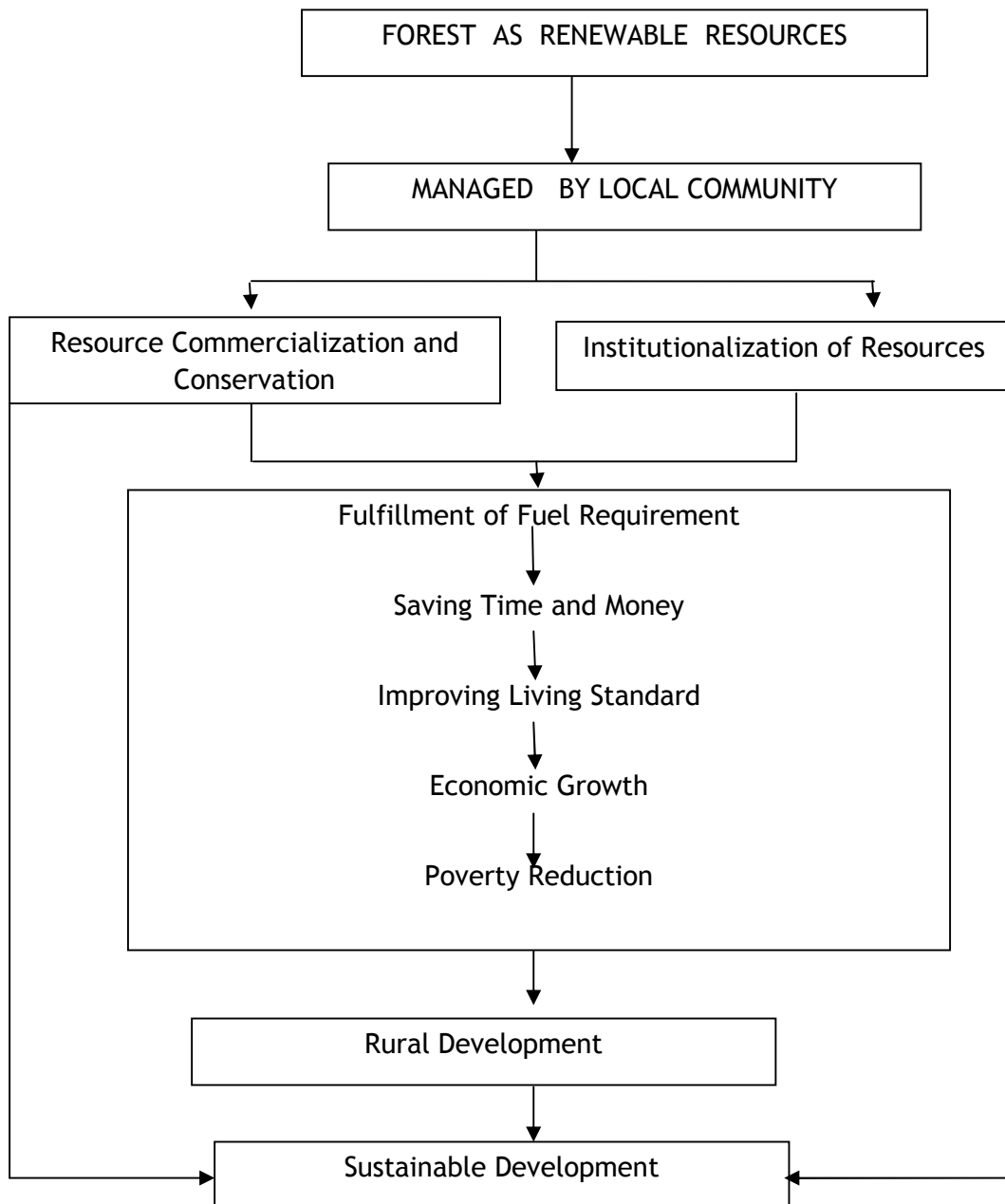
1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to evaluate the contribution of local women's experiences in the resource conservation, exploitation pattern and socio-economic parameters of the 'Community Forest' in the study area. This participation ranges from forest management, decision making process and benefit sharing. And the specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To examine the access of women involvement in Community Forestry Management.
2. To identify the major hindering and enhancing factors for women's Participation in Community Forest Management.
3. To identify the solution to make Community Forestry Program more inclusive for women
4. To assess the local people's perception towards women's role in the community forest management in the study area.

1.4 Conceptual Framework

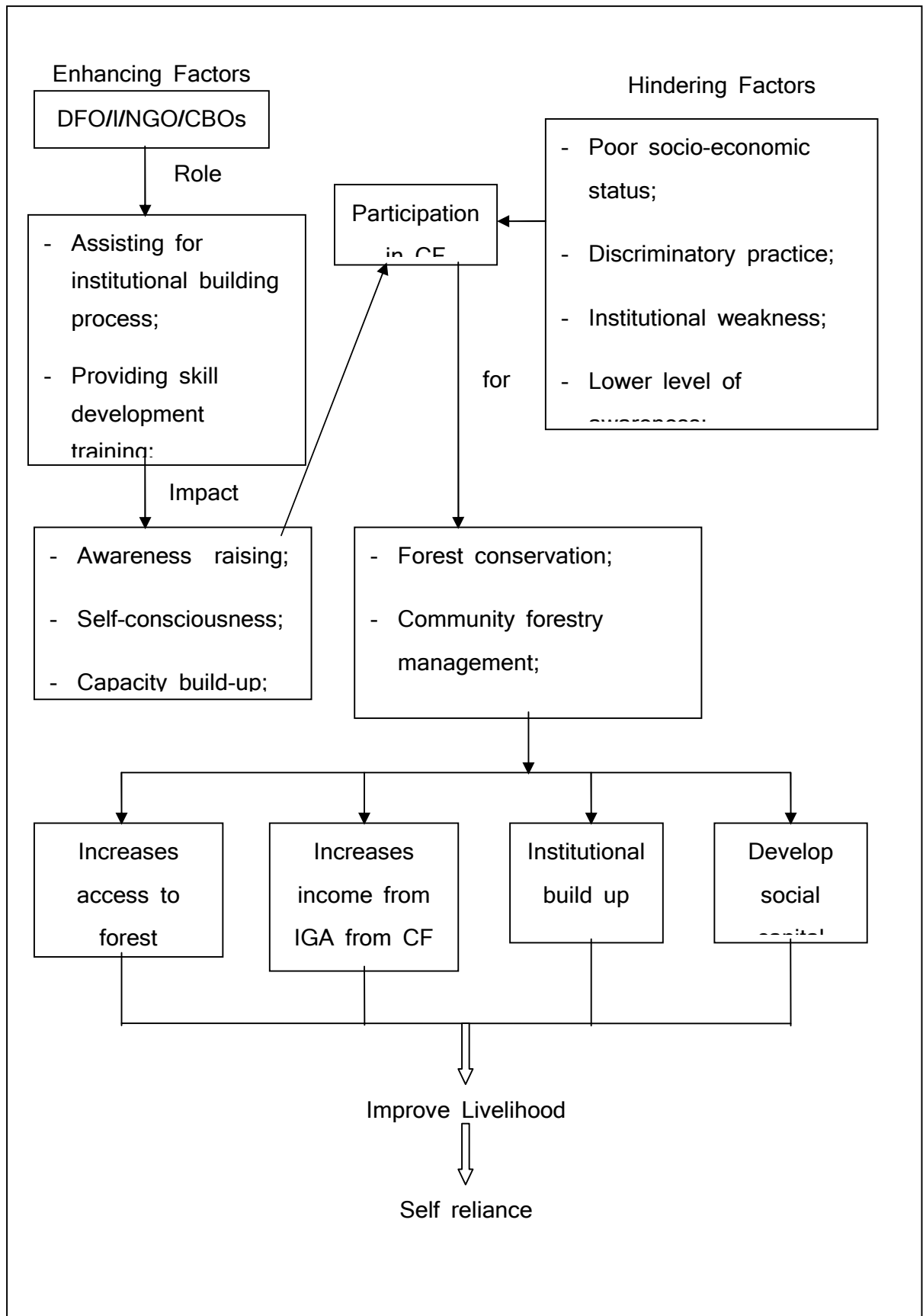
From the very beginning human beings are dependent on Natural resources for food, shelter and cloths. Being a notable natural resource, "Forest" has also that kind of potentiality for poverty reduction of the rural people. Involvement of local women and improving rural technology we should make the resource commercial in sustainable way. We can achieve economic growth, rural development, and sustainable development and improve living standard of rural people by the institutionalizing the natural resource "Forest" in particular area. A conceptual framework has been designed to make the analysis more precise.



This diagram simply shows how proper management of forest resources by local people can help to achieve the ultimate goal of Sustainable Development.

The conceptual framework

1. Promoting and constraining factors for effective participation.



2. Dimension of effective participation

	Dimension of effective participation	Activities for promoting effective participation
Participation in CF	Forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Encouraging Agro-Forestry practice.) Formulating and implementing operational plan of a CF effectively.) Encouraging the feeling of responsibility for protecting forest, as a common resource.) Managing the forest by self-discipline.) Promoting indigenous knowledge
	Decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Providing sufficient room to articulate interests and voice of all CUFG members.) Making decisions on consensus basis.) Motivating people for participation.
	Monitoring & evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Implementing the decisions of operational plan of a CF effectively.) Encouraging - developing feeling of responsibilities among CFUG member for protecting forest.) Managing the forest by self-discipline.
	Benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Providing accessibility to forest products (fuel wood, fodder, litter, green grass etc.)) Promoting transparency to mobilize CF fund.) Promoting equity concept for distribution of opportunities and benefits from CF.

The conceptual framework I and II illustrate how to develop community forestry program effectively. The conceptual framework - I is intended to show promoting and constraining factors for effective participation. The promoting factors like DFO supports to handover the forest to the local community people and formation of CFUGs. Similarly, I/NGOs facilitate the local people by providing awareness training and skill development training and organizing educational tours so that women can develop the level of awareness and can enrich their capacities. Similarly, conceptual framework - II shows the dimension of participation and ways to promote effective participation.

1.5 Significance of the Study

It is since long time the forest has been haphazardly destroyed used at large extent. Nepalese government has realized that forests cannot be protected without involving local communities in forest management. This is why the management roles have been shifted from government to the community people.

There should be balance role of both male and female in order to succeed in any development programmed. Many studies in various districts of Nepal concede that women's participation in forest management and development is crucial to success of a forestry programmed (Landis 1984, Malla & Fischer 1987, Siddiqi 1989, Gurung D 1987, Werner 1981, Gilmour & Fisher 1991, Regmi 1987). Women as the primary user of the forest clearly know the problem of the forest. Therefore, they should be involved in the forest management activities.

However, the involvement of women is still under consideration. There has been no sufficient study, which examine the participation of women in community forest management and the factors affecting in their participation. To fill this gap, this study aims at accumulation considerable information regarding participation of women in

management experience, constrains and achievements of community forest by women that may help concerned government agencies, donor agencies, planners, policy makers, social activities, future researchers to plan similar projects better. This study also helps to lunch other women related community development program and access their role to up- lift the society. The study helps to justify the indigenous knowledge, traditional technology and appropriate technology in sustainable utilization of the local resources and conservation of natural resources for ecological management especially in forest management. The study has brought the findings on socio-economic and environmental impacts and the role of rural women in resource utilization in rural economy. The efforts of rural people for the management of 'forest resource' all are discussed in this research. Therefore, the finding of this research study is instructive to everyone interested in natural resource management. By utilizing the community forestry, the overall aim should be of community forest is to decrease the socio-economic hardship of the people living in the area.

1.6 Definition of Key Concepts and Variables

The researcher has used some of the concepts and variables in the study to clarify the readers.

Community Forest: A forest area handed over to a group of people entrusted to manage, use and protect under the provision of Forest Act and forest by-laws. .

Forest User Group (FUG): A group of forest users of a particular forest area. Members of a FUG assume rights and responsibilities for using and managing the local forests as per operational plan developed by the FUG and approved by DFO.

Interest Group: The households who depend on the forest for subsistence and who are recognized by other users as having the principal responsibility for forest management

Forest User Group Assembly: A meeting concerned with the management of a particular forest and attended by all users and representatives of user groups. Major decisions are made in the assembly meetings.

Range Post: Range-post is a geographical area in a district administered by the forest ranger.

Operational Plan: It is a document of working strategy to manage a community forest.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

This study is a social study. Main focus of the study has been given to women's status and their involvement in forest management. It is helpful document for others who are interested in "the study of forest management'. Due to time and budget constraints small and nearest area was selected for the study. Some selective social science research tools are used in the research work which is also the limitation of the study. Despite the importance of the topic, the research could not include some of the variables in the research due to resource and time constraints. As this study is a partial fulfillment of the requirement of Master's Degree, there may be short-comings that would have debarred the present study to be a study one. The study is not free from the following short-comings.

- * The findings of the study are localized to Panchakanya CF of Sunsary district.
- * The findings of the study may not be generalized to the wider area.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This dissertation has been divided into eight chapters. The First Chapter includes introduction of the study. Similarly, the Second and Third Chapters briefly deal with literature review and research methodology of the study respectively. Chapter Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh chapter include brief account of study area, sampled population, collected information according to requirement to the study and its analysis. After data analysis, last chapter includes summery, conclusion, and recommendations related to different aspects.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to review various forest related issues, policies, problems and solutions related to community forestry management system. The thesis felt benefited from the contribution made by many scholars, institutions and researchers who have devoted their time to study forestry issues of Nepal. There are several books, articles, bulletins, booklets; studies are found regarding community forestry management in Nepal written by foreign as well as Nepalese writers. Some of these studies have reviewed and this chapter has been organized as:

2.1 Emergence of Community Forestry

The use of term community before any word was especially started since 1970s in the field of development after failure of monolithic notion of development where people's participation was ignored. In the beginning, community forest emerged in response partly to the failure of the forest industry development model to promote the socio-economic development and partly to the increasing rate of deforestation and forest land degradation in the third world.

The concept of community forestry was initially defined in the late 70s when the FAO released its landmark publication as "any situation which intimately involves local people in a forest activity." According to FAO, the community forestry departed from previous conceptions and centered on the idea of people participation getting local population to plan and execute their own project on a self-help basis. It embraces a spectrum of situation ranging from wordless areas which are short of wood and other forest products for local needs, through the growing of trees at the farm level to provide cash crops and the processing of forest product at the household artisan or small industries level to generate income to the activities of forest dwelling communities. Thus community forestry was planned as encompassing activities by individuals households, men and women, farmers, and other people as well as those involving a community as a whole (FAO, 1978).

2.2 Definition of Community Forestry

The term Community Forestry has become buzz word these days. It is the combination of two words: community, and forestry. The term community, in its broadest sense, refer to any group of persons united by a 'community of interest in certain geographical area. In this sense a community may refer a professional group, a residential unit, or a club or a voluntary association prevailing in a geographical location.

On other hand, Forest is a biological community dominated by trees and other wood vegetation. Thus, when we use these two words together, community forestry means something like "people forestry". This acknowledges that community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and that "the people" should have a major and vital role in decision making. At this level, that is, as a statement about the philosophy behind community forestry, there is nothing wrong with the term (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991)

According to Fisher and Malla, community forestry or village forestry is seen as the control, management and use of forest resources by villagers. It seeks to increase the level of awareness of local people and actively to involve them in all aspects of forestry activities (Fisher And Malla, 1987).

Fisher defined community forestry as "any form of forestry activities undertaken specifically and principally to provide communal benefits to the people living in the

villages or small communities in the vicinity of the forest area which involves them directly in its management” (Fisher, 1991).

Generally speaking, the community forestry has been implemented in several countries including Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. The program in different countries covers private planting (encouraging people to plant trees in their own land) and/or community planting (planting and managing trees in public lands). Community forestry has been implemented in Nepal means growing trees on public and communal land as opposed to private farms (Gurung, 1987).

The first publication which developed a concept of community forestry in Nepal was a discussion paper by Campbell and Mahat, 1977 (Gilmour, 1988: 3). The legislation outlining the government’s shift in policy from government control to community control of some of the forest resources was passed in 1978 (Gilmour, 1988: 3; Wallace, 1987: 5 and Gurung, 1987: 4).

Community forestry involves local people in the management of forest resources, which are at least partly intended for their use. It is based on the notion that appropriate involvement by local people in forest management enhances the livelihood of sustainable use of forest resources (Fisher et al, 1987).

The basic aim of community forestry program is to increase community involvement in the management and ownership of forest resources. The underlying principle of community forestry programme is that the programme is of the people, carried out by the people themselves, for the benefit of the community as a whole (Shrestha, 2004).

Community forestry is the forest protected managed and utilized by local Forest User Groups (Kayastha, 1991).

The Community Forestry Program is also accepted as a strategy to overcome the problems posed by the private forest nationalization process in 1957 for forest conservation efforts in the country (Chhetri, 1990).

Community Forest is defined as “small scale, village level forestry practices where decisions and actions are made on a collective basis. The rural people participate in planning, establishment, management and harvesting of forest resources and receive a major proportion of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from the forest products”. After the implementation of Community Forestry, these products are equally distributed to all the CFUG members. In addition to it, people have started getting different training opportunities as well as they come in contact with different NGOs and INGOs. This contact helps them in planning the community forest for poverty alleviation through income generation (Gautam, 2001).

Pokhrel (2004) rightly examines that community forestry has become instrumental in increasing natural, social, human, financial and to some extent physical capital (quoted in Bhandari, 2004, The Kathmandu Post).

Based on the above definitions, we can conclude that, community forestry is forest conservation, management and utilization by the local community. A group of people who are actively participate to conserve and manage their local forests for their benefit by themselves for the sustainable natural resource management especially forest.

2.3 Implementation of Community Forestry in Nepal

This program in Nepal is considered to be one of the highly successful programs. It is also considered as problem solving strategy. The forest user groups are the means of achieving this goal. Forest in Nepal is an integral part of the farming system and is

closely associated with the livelihood of the rural poor people as they derive the Forest Timber Products (FTPs) and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) (Chhetri, 1992). Forestry for local community development is a new people-oriented policy which aims to raise the living standard of rural people and involve them in the decision-making process. So, it is about rural people for the rural people (FAO, 1978). The forest and its products are critical to the livelihoods of millions (Oakley, 1991). Therefore, it must be viewed with the rural life.

When we study Nepalese history, Nepal's forestry sector was administrated under the feudal system for a long period. Rana and former rulers used *Tarai* forest as their ascribed property from their forefather. The democratic movement of 1950 removed Rana rulers from power and prevented the misuse of forest by nationalizing all forests in 1957. Forests were considered to be the property of Rana rulers before the nationalization.

When the party-less *Panchayat* system was introduced in 1961, people gradually lost all benefits because they had been deprived of their right to benefit from and manage the forests. During the 1970s, the issue of forest land degradation was highlighted and poor hill farmers were blamed for forest degradation. Until 1970, the main role of the forest department was to exploit *Tarai* forest for commercial purpose largely to supply timber to British India for railway slippers. In 77, the first amendment of Forest Act of 1961 was passed in Nepal. The Act divided forest into six categories: *Panchayat Forest*, *Panchayat Protected Forest*, *Religious Forest*, *Leased Forest*, *Private Forest*, and *Government Forest*. A village *Panchayat* could own 125 ha. Of degraded forest designated as *Panchayat Forest* (PF) for plantation and protection. Similarly, 500 hectors, of existing forest area could be designated as *Panchayat Protected Forest* (PPF). The benefit was to be shared between the *Panchayat* and Department of Forest at a ratio of 1:3. Until 1987, 36376 ha. of forest land was transferred to the *Panchayat* (New Era, 1983).

After the failure of previous practices and policies to prevent forest degradation, government of Nepal launched the community forestry program as new strategy based on active peoples participation i.e. bottom up approach.

Community forestry has received high priority in the forestry sector program to the government as reflected in both the Master Plan for the forestry sector HMG: 1988 and the Eighth Five Year Plan (NPC, 1992). The main thrust of the community forestry policy of the government is the phased transfer of management and utilization of community forest to the actual users based on simple operational plans which are prepared and endorsed jointly by the Forest Users and the Assistant Ranger from the District Forest Office. Assistant Rangers are supposed to apply rules, schedule and other institutional arrangement made for forest production management and utilization (Kanel and Niraula, 2004).

Box 1: Historical Time Line of the Forest Management Policy in Nepal

Year	Policy/Act/Regulation	Remarks
Upto 1846	Conversion of forest to agricultural land Protection of Terai forest.	Increase the tax base of the state as a buffer against foreign invasion.
1846-1950	Forest land given as Birta to influential officials. Exploitation of Terai forest.	Conversion of forests to agricultural and land Export of timber of India.
1957	Private Forest Nationalization Act	Indiscriminate cutting of forest.
1961	Indiscriminate cutting of forest.	Protection, Management and Utilization of forests entrusted to the DFO.
1967	Forest Preservation Act (Special Provision)	The power of the DFO as a law enforcing agent strengthened further.
1976	National Forestry Plan	Recognized the need for people's participation in forest management.
1978	Panchayat Forest Regulation and Panchayat Protected Forest Regulation.	Handing over of limited areas of government forest land to the control of Panchayat(s).
1981	Forestry Sector Policy of the Sixth Five year Plan (1981-85).	Emphasized community participation in the management, conservation and use of forest resources.
1982	Decentralization Act	Moves towards transferring the control of forests to local people strengthened.
1988	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector Nepal	Covered all aspects of forestry designed to take Nepal's forestry into 21 st century; strongly emphasized community forestry; and recognized the role of real user in forest management.
1993	Forest Act	Regulatory function of DFO still intact but significantly softened. Forests can be handed over to FUG by the DFO.
1995	Forest Regulations	Procedural guidelines for implementation of the Forest Act 1993.

Source: ICIMOD, 1999

According to new forest policy of 1990, any patch of the forest can be handed over to local community for its management; conservation and utilization in which land is still owned by government and trees are owned by community. The community has full authority to control over resources and to decide conservation, management and utilization plan. Community has to prepare a simple operation plan in collaboration with DFOs where major decision are made by users themselves expect some technical knowledge are borrowed from forest technicians. All the revenues and benefits derived

from the community forest go to the community fund. Community can decide income and expenditure for the various rural development purposes without any approval of local authorities.

Principal features of community forestry policy 1990:

-) All the forests can be handed over to users (no area limit).
-) The forest users groups have to manage the forests as per the approved constitution and operational plan.
-) Any national forest suitable to be converted into community forest will not be assigned to other such as leasehold forest.
-) District Forest Officer can hand over forest to FUG.
-) FUG can use surplus fund in any kinds of community development works.
-) The FUG can fix the price of forestry products irrespective of government royalty.
-) The FUG can plant long term cash crops without the main forestry crops.
-) FUG can transport any forest products simply by informing the DFO.
-) FUG will not be disturbed by political boundary while handing over the forests.
-) The FUG can establish forest based industries.
-) FUG can punish misuses who offend against the ruled of the operational plan.

Community forestry is considerable a successful model of forest management in the hills of Nepal. However, the implementation of community forestry in the Terai region has been slower than in the hills. There has been widespread skepticism in the forest administration and among international donors about whether community forestry is also feasible in the Terai region. In contrast to the extensive body of knowledge on community forestry in the hills, however, little is known about the potential of community forestry in the Terai (Chakraborty and et al., 1997).

2.4 People's Participation in Community Forestry

Participation emerges as a result of some kind of bottom up process; it is characterized as being "authentic" and focusing on "distribution". Participation means, in its broader sense, to sensitize people and, thus, to increase the receptivity and ability of rural people to respond to development program, as well as to encourage local initiatives. The participation with regard to rural development process... 'participation includes peoples involvement in decision making process, in implementing programs, their sharing in the benefits of development programs and their involvement in efforts to evaluate such programs (Laski, 1981 cited in Oakley and Marsden, 1984). Similarly, participation in development should be broadly understood as an active involvement of people in the decision making process so far as it affects them (Uphoff and Cohen: 1979).

In the field of rural development the best and sustainable management of natural resource is one prime concern with regard to source of energy, maintaining ecology and environment the concept of community forestry was developed as an alternative strategy.

The concepts, People's Participation have been used since ancient time of Plato and Greek philosopher in public affairs especially in political science. Participation on those days was merely a matter of voting, holding office, attending public meeting, paying taxes and defending the state (Joshi, 1995). The meaning of participation however has in decision making, changed with the passage of time. Participation of people in the affairs of the state is necessary for a modern welfare state. The Participation ideology "bottom up" approach was originated in reaction to colonial Bureaucratic failure in 1950s (Moris, 1981 cited in Rahnema, 2000). Social activist and field worker advocated on the side of participatory development against the "top down" approach (Rahnema,

2000). During the latter half of the 1970, the concept, people's participation in development becomes more popular and fashionable as oppose to the "top down" approach (Lisk, 1981, cited in Joshi, 1995). World Bank also realized the participatory development approach due to far less achievements on expected output from billions spent on development project through "trickle down" approach of development. The concept, People's participation has become a politically attractive slogan; it is perceived as an instrument for greater effectiveness as well as new source of investment. Participation is becoming a good fund-raising device and it could help the private sectors to be directly involved in the development business (Rahnema, 2000). Community participation is now generally taken as necessary precondition to the successful implementation of any renewable or rehabilitation project. Community participation is generally agreed to be important for the long-term success of local resource management system (Kortun, 1986 cited in Joshi, 1995).

People's participation has been used in a variety of context such as community development, social mobilization, community participation, public participation etc. Various authors define people's participation in divergent way. Siddiqui (1989) regards community participation as the means of involving people outside of the government in the planning process, while according to Bhandari (1997) it is a means of reducing power differences, and is therefore, contributory to equalization and social justice. Wallace (1987) calls it as involvement of the people actively in the decision making concerning development project or in the implementation (Quoted in Joshi, 1995). World Bank defines "participation means their active not passive involvement and it should be transformative". According to Cohen and Norman, people's participation is often narrowly defined as the voluntary contribution of labor and or cash by the local people. However, conceptually people's participation includes their participation in identifying needs, decision making, implied benefit sharing and evaluation (Cited in Bhandari, 1997). People's participation has been taken as a means by the Government agencies and the projects for achieving their goals. "A problem free situation of people's participation is not easy". There is no common understanding regarding what people's participation. Different level of people has different perception about it. Participation in the sense of only physically involvement is passive participation. Such participation does not seem to last long (Joshi, 1993).

A development program can be successful by the active participation of local people. Success will depend to the high degree on identifying measures to stimulate the active participation of the millions of small farmers and landless people who daily use forest and trees to meet their needs. Oakley includes a typical set of objectives of forestry program designed on the basis of greater peoples participation.

- To involve people in forestry activities and provide the basic needs for forest resources by increasing the production of fuel wood, fodder and timber.
- To promote self-reliant among communities through active participation on the management of forest resource (Oakley 1991).

The govt. of Nepal has come forward to note "people's participation in the development of forestry sector involves giving full authority to rural people to plan and initiate their own program. Unless the rural people (men and women) participate in the management and conservation of forests, the situation of forests in the country will continue to deteriorate (HMGN/WECS, 1995 cited in Chhetri, 1999).

Collect et all (1996) supports this view that successful community forestry depends absolutely on the calling participation of local people. CF should benefit all forest users. So, it is important for all process. Similarly, forestry for community development will not be successful unless it reflects the peoples own interpretation of their needs, problems, and aspirations (Baral, 1993).

Community forest of Nepal is one of the popular programs in the context of people's participation. Many scholars and professionals have defined Community Forestry as any situation, which intimately involves local people in forestry activities. Likewise, Ojha describes "Social forestry as referring to any situation which closely involves local people in forestry or tree growing activities for which people assume responsibilities and from which they derive direct benefit through their own efforts"(Ojha, 1989). In the Nepalese context, Gilmour and Fisher (1991) have defined "Community Forestry is the control and management of forest resources by the people who use them for their domestic purposes and as an integral part of subsistence and peasant farming system". Similarly, Kheral defines "Community Forestry as management of forest by the local people who depend upon them for fuel, fodder, timber, food and raw materials" (Kheral, 1993).

People's participation is the most essential feature of Community Forest. Infield practice, idea of people's participation in Community Forest has gained high level of popularity in Nepal. The institutional arrangement and policy behind this program is popular in Nepal. The institutional arrangement and policy behind this program is quite good in the sense of people's participation. But the gap between rhetoric and realities is seen in the practices. It is happening because of an inadequate understanding of how the idea of people's participation and empowering the people could be effectively put into practice. A research on Hagam Village Development committee of Sindhupalchowk district has given feed back to know that there is no real participation of people in plantation work carried out by Forest User Group with the help of District Forest Office. Most of the users involved in plantation in return for wages. This involvement is given name of full participation. All seedlings were pulled out in the same evening of plantation work. When researcher asked the users during his field visit about such behavior; it was known that they were thinking that plantation of government seedlings means losing their convenient grazing land. From this research it was concluded that the type of people involved in decision making were elite while some other people were not fully informed and the need of general people was not recognized (Chhetri, 1999).

It is realized that peoples' participation is the best way to achieve the objective on effective protection and management of forest resources. It is suggested for popular participation that existing local practices, institution, organizational structure and local user group should be recognized. People should be convinced that they are not only the protector but the immediate beneficiaries as well. Effective participation can be further increased if people are well informed about the program and sense of belonging is created through motivation and awareness (Kyastha, 1991 and Chetri et al. 1992).

Lamichhane carried out his research in Ramechhap district and he found that before the involvement of District Forest Office and other line agencies in providing training to users, need of interest group was not addressed in most of the community. The local elite controlled most of the forest resources. The group was not mobilized effectively. But after awareness training to local users, Users started to adopt democratic decision making process. Involvement of lower cast in Forest User Committee also increased from 2 percent in 1997 to 7 percent since 1999 (Lamichhane, 2000).

Nepal has successfully implemented community forestry program with the active participation of local people. Forest committee formed by user groups take the responsibility of protecting, planting and conserving natural forest. People participate in all stage of decision making, planning and reaping benefits. They show ample interest in nursery and plantation works. Even the poor are willing to participate in community forestry program because they can collect fuel wood and fodder from the community forests and save their time for earning wages. Participation of women is crucial for the success of Community Forestry. Women are the major collectors of the

forest products such as fire wood, fodder and dry leaf. So consequences of deforestation directly impact on woman. District Forest Office and other line agencies most motivate women to participate in Community Forestry Program through extension and awareness classes (Kasthaya, 1991).

2.5 Women's Participation in Community Forestry

It is generally argued that the people who actually collect forest products must participate in the management process or otherwise they will follow unrealistic prescription (Fisher and Malla, 1967 cited in Fisher and Glimous 1989).

Involvement of women is crucial for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of forest product such as firewood, fodder and fruits, grass, etc. They have done 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 to in search of these essential forest products that has affected both health and time of rural women. However, they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected (Ojha, 1989).

Most of the case are not single women participated in the forest user's group program through self-interest and motivation. Most women were simply nominated, and they had no idea that they were participation as members said that they were there because their husband or father had forced them to participate (Dahal D.R.1994:78).

Regmi concluded in his study 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 program so that the community can protect and development the local forest resources (Regmi, 1989)

Shrestha point out that, women interact with the natural environment much more than men. But, they were not involved in the approval of the management plan and in the selection of forest watchers. Women also did not participate in any of the user meeting, committee in which included political male leaders as members (Shrestha, 1987).

Kharel , Fisher and Malla , have pointed out that a number of problems have been identified by various programs and projects that it is very difficult to involve women in forestry due to the particular nature of Nepalese society where women have a minimum role in decision making, rural women are illiterate and have a localized view of life, the society is male dominated where men are not willing to share their power and authority, without which approaching rural women is impossible (Kharel, 1987, Fisher and Malla, 1987).

If the forests are to be successfully managed by local users, then women must participate, they are responsible for collecting most of the fuel wood, fodder, leaf compost and bedding, as well as controlling grazing. They also provide much of the labour for nurseries and tree planting. The men, on the other hand generally take care of cutting and selling timber, and of administrative decisions about the forest.

Women have worked successfully on all female forestry comities in Nepal. Rural people and professional foresters generally agree that women are capable for doing committee work of learning how to do it. Gurung mention that people participation is the most essential feature of community forestry. A genus participation approach is important and the association of participation in the program should grow out of the community organizing process (Gurung, 1999).

The need and necessity of women's participation having been accepted as reality in forestry and their situation being understood in its true perspective, the strategy proposed visualize all men and women concerned with the program promoting the required focused on women (Siddiqui, 1989). The importance of women in forestry activities is acknowledged by policy makers. The master plan for the forestry sector emphasis on extension approach, aimed at gaining the confidence of wood cutters and others, particularly women, who actually make the daily management decisions (HMGN, 1988).

The involvement of women must be recognized as an essential element of achieving success in and development work including community forestry. In community forestry this means women's involvement in all activities, right from the formation of users' groups to the distribution of forest products. When women participate actively in all the stages, only then can we say that women are truly involved in community forestry. Women's participation in forestry needs to be understood in this light and taken up as a major concern for all forestry personnel (Siddiqi, 1989).

2.6 Empirical Studies on Community Forestry Management

Shrestha deals with gender issues in community forestry. This study highlights the constraints on maximum female participation in community forestry and focus on possible ways for solving the problems faced by women in community forestry. She argued that 'socio-cultural problems limited women' active participation in community forestry. Although women were participated in implementation phase, their participation in decision making and planning phase is very low. The study concluded that gender issues should be taken in to consideration in both planning and implementation state of community forestry (Shrestha, 2004).

Gurung deals with people's participation in forest development. The study reveals that different factors such as leadership, awareness of the problems, benefit distribution mechanisms and religious have an important role in determining the success and failure of forestry development (Gurung, 1987).

Koirala deals with equity consideration in community forestry. This study concludes that in community forestry program, rich farmers benefit more than poor farmers. Men benefit more than women, and accessible area receive more benefits than remote area (Koirala, 1992).

Pokheral and Nurse argued that community forestry can provide environmental, social, institutional and physical benefits. But there are some problems prevail in FUGs. Governance problem, transparent decision making and resources allocation, gender equity and power relations are some of the other problems for institutional change. To solve these problems they suggested that ensuring good governance through institutionalization of CFUG, decentralization of authority and resources, participatory and transparency in decision making and resources allocation and accountability in responsibility will help develop social capital (Pokheral and Nurse, 2004).

Gurung deals with the women's participation on community forestry management. The main finding of the study is that women's participation is important in almost all community forest management and educational status plays a key role in involvement of women (Gurung, 1987).

Chhetri and Nurse Deals with equity in community forest users group. They concluded that equity in decision making and allocation of resources are more complex process. More equitable decision making and allocation of fund may only be achieved by FUGs as they become stronger, experienced and more effective in the course of time (Chhetri and Nurse, 1992).

Dhami et al deals with the decision making system in community forest user group. The study concluded that occupational caste such as *Kami, Damai and Sarki* the ethnic minorities were found less active in decisions making process. Similarly, elites found to play important role in decision making as they could influence others easily and decisions are made in compliance with their opinion. The study recommended that consensus system of decision making should be prioritized over other forms so far as practicable (Dhami et al, 2004).

Kayastha argued that forest creates ample job opportunities for employment and income and therefore can change the socio-economic status of people towards positive direction. A good number of village people are employed in logging timber forest industries and afforestation activity. A lot of people in the villages become self-employed by making bullock carts, tools and furniture from timber. Some people even specialize in manufacturing wooden handicrafts and can earn good income by selling them. Similarly, a lot of poor families in the village collect fuel wood from the forest and sell them in the nearby markets and towns. It brings significant income in the village (Kayastha, 1991).

Malla (1970) viewed that the empowerment of rural disadvantaged groups of people especially women, poor and landless and low caste is also realized by the new extension method. Dahal viewed that involving women poor, low caste people in development activities is problematic. Therefore, they are taken as a disadvantaged group to development activities as well as Community Forestry Program (Dahal, 1994).

The several studies and research worked has been carried out in the community forestry. But there is still lack of sufficient studies on women participation and role in community forestry in the Sunsari district. Thus, there is a need for conducting separate studies on women participation/role in Community Forestry which would be very useful for the development of the women participation in the forest management. In this context, this study is an attempt to find out the hindrance and uncourageous factors for the participation of women in forest management program.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals briefly with the research methodology applied in the study. This is a purely academic research based on social science. The major content of this chapter include: rationale for the selection of the study area, research design, nature and source of data, sampling procedure, variables and operationalization, data collection techniques and instruments, method of data analysis, limitation of the study and ethical consideration.

3.1 Rationale for the Selection of the Study Area

The selection of the study area is one of the critical issues while undertaking research work. Chambers (1983) points out the various common biases in the selection. Keeping this in mind, I admit that my study site is a part of community forestry project generally considered to be one of the successful CFs in Sunsari district. Because of time, budget and security constrains the study has been focused on only one (Panchakanya Community Forestry User Group) FUG of Panchakanya VDC of Sunsary district. The rationale for the selection of study area includes:

- ❖ It is not much far away from its head quarter and it is linked with the rural road. So, it was easy to reach and travel in the VDC for data collection.
- ❖ It is one of the oldest CFUG of the Sunsari district.
- ❖ The study area consists of diversified population ranging from various castes/ ethnic groups and from different economic, education level. Those factors widely affects the women to involve in the community forest management
- ❖ No study has been carried out on women's participation in community forestry management in this area.
- ❖ This study will be useful to other parts of CFUGs in Sunsari district because of their similar geographical structure, social and cultural situation.

3.2 Research Design

The present study has tried to assess women's role in managing community forestry resources. The main objective of this present study is to explore the involvement of local women in forest management. It also aims to identify the general socio-economic patterns of the local people, role of 'women' in their income generating, employment and poverty reduction pattern. So, an exploratory as well as descriptive research design was used for empirical study. Exploratory research design was prefer for its flexibility to provide an opportunity for considering different aspect of the problems such as 'Forest' exploitation, socio-economic significance, cultural and environmental relationship and so on. This present study has given emphasis on both qualitative and quantitative aspects of the phenomenon. In short:

- i. The research design is based on descriptive and exploratory.
- ii. It is descriptive as it is based on detailed investigation and records of the participation of Women's in community forestry management, decision making process, implementation and monitoring and benefit sharing from the forest products.
- iii. It is exploratory in the sense that analysis focused on exploring whether women's participation in community forest is effective or not. An attempt has been made to make the community forest management process more inclusive for Rural Women.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

This research is field-based study. The nature of the data in the study is both quantitative and qualitative. The sources of data were both primary and secondary. So both primary and secondary data have been collected for the purpose of study.

- i. Primary data are based on household survey, observation, interview, focus group discussion and case study.
- ii. Both published and unpublished documents, records, books and relevant materials related to the subject matter have been incorporated as secondary data.

3.4 Universe and Sample

For this study Panchakanya Community Forestry User Group was deliberately selected. The PKCFUG covered ward no. 4, 5 and 8 of the Panchakanya VDC. The sample size was determined on the basis of the total households in the study area. There are 430 households in these three wards, among them 80 households (more than 18 %) were taken as sample households. In this research work, the households of the study area were taken randomly for detailed household survey.

3.5 Methods of Data Collection (Techniques and Tools)

For the collection of primary data, the following techniques were adopted.

Household Survey: Household survey was conducted to gather more information about the population characteristics of women. Various information regarding the participation of women members of the CF was collected from structured questionnaire.

Observation: Participation observation was applied during research to study the location, and concerning relations of women with other people including forest-user group communities, their perception, involvement of women in management and access of forest resources for Women etc.

Focus Group Discussion: Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) technique was applied for both male and female members of the CF to discuss about the past and present situation of community forestry management, people's perception about management, and operation of forest resources, dissatisfaction of Women. Check list was prepared for conducting focus group discussion.

Interview with Key Informants: Some knowledgeable persons such as elderly persons, members of forest-user group committee, range-post staff, and community based representative personnel of WWF, staff of DFO, teachers and local leaders were selected as key informants to carryout research. Checklist and guidelines were prepared for key informant's interview.

3.6 Variables and Operationalization

In this study, variables like age, sex, literacy status, landholding, marital status, and leadership quality etc. of Women were treated as independent variables. The major dimension for inquiry and its operationalization for the study have been given below:

Dimension	Operationalization
Demographic characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Age group) Sex ratio) Age dependency ratio) Marital status
Socio-cultural characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Literacy) Religion
Economic characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Major and alternative occupation) Average monthly income) Land holding) Type of land) Level of subsistence
Participation in decision making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Representation of Women in FUGC) Pattern of participation in committee meeting/assembly) Role played by Women and effectiveness) Level of satisfaction of Women with FUGC) Awareness level
Participation in monitoring and evaluation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Forest protection mechanism) Illegal activities controlled or not) Influence of women in forest protection) Pattern of participation) Forest quality improved or not) Effectiveness of programs effect effectiveness or not?) Training for M and E received or not?
Participation in benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Perceived benefits by women?) Access to forest products utilization or not) Benefits from CF fund received or not?) Pattern of CF fund utilization) Constrains for women participation 1
Way to make CF program inclusive for Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Issues) Views of key informants and Women) Solution

3.7 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

The collected data were edited, coded, classified and tabulated for data organization. The quantitative data have been presented in tabular form and suitable statistical tools like percentage, ratio, mean etc. has been adopted for data analysis. Pie-chart, Bar-diagram and trend analysis have been presented to make figure attractive. The quantitative data have been interpreted and analyzed in descriptive way based on their numerical characteristics. The findings have been described in various topics and headings.

CHAPTER FOUR

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 District Introduction

Sunsari district is known as food store of Nepal which lies in Koshi zone of the Eastern development region of Nepal. It has been named through its famous river Koshi. The district is situated at the latitude of 87° 55' East to 87° 16' East and at the longitude of 26° 23' North to 26° 5' North and 152-m to 914-m altitude above the sea level. The district is bounded by Morang district in east, Saptari and Udaypur district in west, Dhankuta is in north and Bihar (India) in south. It occupies a total area of 1257 sq.k.m. Among the total area, about 74541 ha is cultivated land. For political and administrative purposes, the district has been divided into 5 constituencies, 1 municipality, 49 VDCs and 13 Ilaka. Inaruwa is the headquarter of the district. According to the **population census of 2001**, total population of this district is 6, 23,226. Among the total population, 50.15 percent are male and 49.85 percent are female. Likewise, the total number of households is 1, 20,185 and average density of population seems 455/ km². The population of this district has been composed by Rai (39.55%), Tharu (13.99%), Muslim (10.95%), Chhetri (8.38%), Brahamin (7.94%), Newar (4.43%), Yadav (4.36%) and Limbu (2.89%). Agriculture is the main occupation and major source of livelihood of the people of this district. The climate of the district is moderate with a maximum temperature of 30.6°C and the minimum temperature 14.2°C in average. The average annual rainfall of the district is about 2300 ml. (source: Sunsari DDC: 2007).

4.2 Introduction of the Panchakanya VDC

Panchakanya VDC lies in the electoral constituency no 1 of the Sunsari district. The VDC is located in the north east area. It is bounded by Morang district on the east, Dharan municipality on the west, Dhankuta district on the north and Hasposha VDC or Charkoshe jungle on the south. The VDC is 40 km far from its headquarter Inaruwa and 5 km far from Dharan municipality. The total area of the total VDC area is 5016 ha and out of total VDC area the forest area is 2257 ha total cultivated land is 2606 ha.

Agriculture is the main occupation and the main source for the livelihood of the VDCs people. According to the village profile;2007, about 76 percent people are directly engaged in agriculture, 4.55 percent engaged in small own business, 4.47 percent engaged in governmental/non governmental service and 5.83 percent engaged in others different kinds of work. There is not even a single industry in the VDC. Unemployment in the nonfarm season is common. People, especially youths go to the different parts of the country and foreign countries for job (Village Profile, 2002).

4.2.1 Climate

The climate of the VDC is tropical. The maximum temperatures of the VDC reach up to 34°C-36°C in summer and 18.59°C in winter. The minimum temperatures of the VDC reach down 15.69°C in summer and 5.6°C in winter. The average rainfall of the VDC is 200 mm.

4.2.2 Natural Resources

In general land, forest and water are the important natural resources of the VDC. Brief account of these resources is as follows:

4.2.2.1 Land

Land is one of the most exploited and utilized natural resources in the study area. The total area of the VDC is 5016 hectare. Among the total population 76 percent people

are involved in agricultural activities on the basis of availability of irrigation facilities, land is classified as Bari and Khet.

4.2.2.2 Forest

Another important natural resource of the area is forest. The total forest area of VDC is 2257 ha among this 552 ha of forest area is managed by Panchakanya Community Forest User Group.

4.2.2.3 Water

Even though water is one of the most important resources of Panchaya kanya VDC, one major river (Seuti river) is located border of study area. Other main water resources are Shera khola, Budi khola, Bhalu khola and Andheri khola. These resources are useful for drinking water supply and irrigation facility. Three irrigation cannels were constructed in the VDC for agricultural purpose. Different type of drinking water projects is supplying drinking water to the people of VDC.

4.2.3 Demographic Profile

The total population of the VDC is 14521. Among them, 49.08 per cent are male and 50.92 per cent are female. The total household number of the VDC is 2868 and the average family size is 5.24 The majority of the population belongs to different castes and ethnic groups, viz. Tamang 19.66 per cent, Brahman and Kshetri 54.71 per cent, Newar 6.88 per cent, Kami, Damai and Sharki 15.07 per cent, Magar 1.03 per cent, Gharti 1.39 per cent and others 1.25 per cent. Among the total population, 62.64 per cent are literate and 37.36 per cent are illiterate. Among the total literacy, 72 percent male and 55 percent female are literate.

4.2.4 Age Structure

The age structure of people in the Panchakanya VDC was highly dominated by 0-9 years age children, which represent 25.01 percent of total population, while the proportion of elderly people was of 6.61 percent (of those 60 and above). This shows that the VDC has high dependency rate, causing the economic problems in households - thus increasing the poverty level. The working age group (20-59 years age group) represented 43.42 percent of total population which shows more than half of the population depends upon the fewer proportion for their daily survival. The age structure of the sampled population also shows the same pattern of age structure which proves the representativeness of the studied population.

Table 4.1: Age Structure of Population of Panchakanya VDC

Age Group	Total	Percentage
0-9	3631	25.01
10-19	3625	24.96
20-29	2273	15.65
30-39	1764	12.15
40-49	1376	9.48
50-59	892	6.14
60 and +	960	6.61
Total	14521	100.00

Source: National Labour Academy, Oxfam, 2004

CHAPTER FIVE

DESCRIPTION OF PANCHAKANYA COMMUNITY FOREST USER GROUP

5.1 Establishment of PKCFUG

Panchakanya Community Forest User Group was registered in 2047/2/15 and the forest was handed to the user group on 2053/9/15. Population of ward no. 4, 5, and 8 are the users of the PKCF. This community forest is distributed in ward number 4, 5 and 8. The total area of three wards (4, 5, and 8) is 2006 ha. Among this 552 ha is covered by Panchakanya community forest area. Out of total CF area 111 ha is already handed to the user group and rest is conservation area which is yet to be handed over. PKCF is rich in bio-diversity. Variability among living organisms from all sources is called biodiversity. In simple form, flora and fauna are biodiversity categories. In the study community forest, the major flora includes Sal, Sisoo, Masala, Chilaune, Bamboo and Simal as a major timber plants. The medicinal plants include Kurilo, Sarpagandha, Amala, Hadjoda, Nimpata, Bojho, etc. Similarly, major fauna includes Tiger, Bear, Rabbits, Leopards, Jackal, Monkey, Nilgai, etc. Likewise, among birds, Kaliz, Wild-cock, Mayur, Dove, Crow, Parrot, etc. are found in the forest.

5.1.1 Objectives of the PKCFUG

-) Protection, development, management and utilization of the forest
-) Supply of timber, firewood and other forest resources according to their requirement
-) To collect the fund from the selling of the extra forest resources from the requirement of the member
-) To conserve water resources
-) To control soil erosion
-) Mobilization of Women Group to preserve and conserve the forest
-) To establish the Nursery and distribute the plants to make self- dependent by Plantation on private land`

5.1.2 Constitution Procedure and Term of Committee Member

User committee will of 13 members, among them 50 % seats are secured for women. But in PKCFUG there are 6 female members and 7 male members. That shows 46.15 percent seats are filled by female in practice now. The term of committee member is of 5 years generally. Users committee member are used to select by the co-ordination of the general meeting of the user group. If any opposition rises, members must be selected through election among the members of the users group. Present PKCFUG/Committee was formed through election which was held on 2062/8/4

5.1.3 Distribution System of Forest Resources

The distribution system of forest resources in PKFUG are as follows:

Box 2: Distribution of Forest Products

Forest Product	Time for Collecting	System	Distribution
Fire wood	Once in Magh & Phalgun	Can take from dry branches, Green branches during thinning.	30- 40 Bhari per HH. Rs.105 per HH
Timber	Mangsir & Paush	Dry wood only	Per cubic ft Rs. 350
Beam for housing	As per FUGC discretion and user's requirement	As per the decision by the FUGC meeting	As when needed
Fencing materials	All round the year	As per FUG decision	As when needed
Fodder	Within Sawaan	As per FUG decision	As when needed
Grass	All round the year	As per user's requirement	Free up cost
Leaves & Litter	All round the year		
Plough	Magh & Phalgun	As per the decision by FUGC meeting	Four plough per HH per year with the cost of Rs. 20

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.1.4 Penalties

PKCFUG has made the provision of penalties in its operational plan based on the Forest Act 2049, to control the activities against the operational plan. Following table shows the rates of penalties about the main forest resources.

Box 3: Rate of Penalties to User based on Operational Plan

S.N	Forest Resources	Penalties
1	Grass cutting	20
2	Timber	250
3	Green wood	120
4	Dry wood	30
5	Leaf litter	15
6	Bedding	15
7	Grazing	60
8	Coal making	60
9	Hunting	According to law
10	Firing	According to law
11	Absent in Forest development activities	50
12	Sayula	35
13	Ballaballi	35

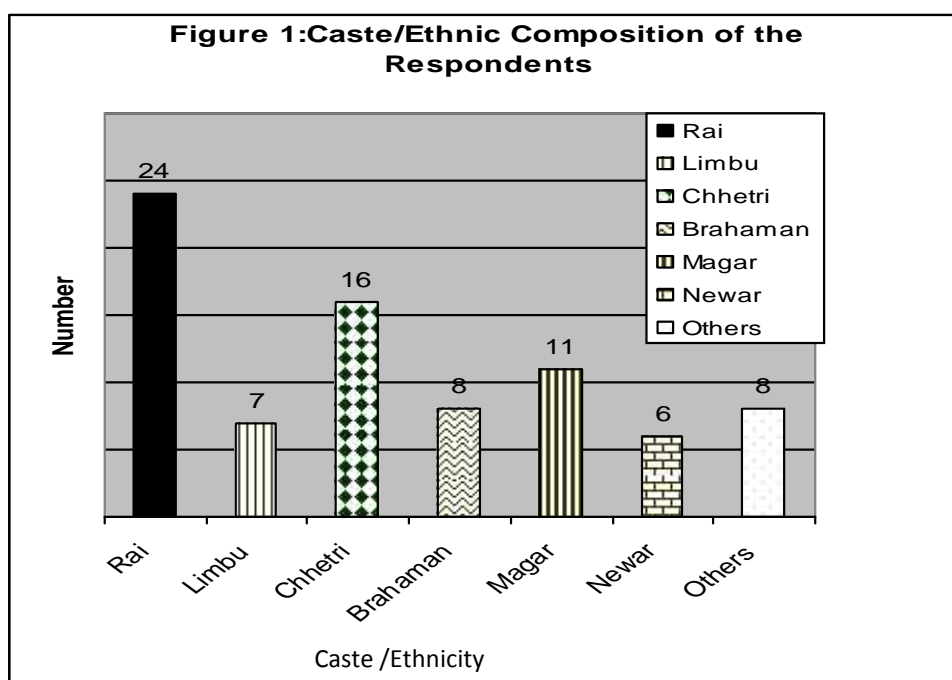
Source: Operational plan 2059, PKCFUG

5.2 Social/Economic Characteristics of FUG

Social and cultural features of 80 sampled household were examined to discuss the socio-economic characteristics of the forest user group.

5.2.1 Caste/Ethnic composition of Forest User Group

Panchakanya Community Forest User Group has covered 430 households. These households are the primary users of the forest and the total population of FUG is 2502 consisting different caste/ethnic composition. The cast/ethnic composition of the sampled households of the FUG is presented in the figure below:



Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above figure shows that Among the 80 sampled respondents 30 percent are Rai, 8.75 percent are Limbu, 20 percent are Chhetri, 10 percent are Brahaman, 13.75 percent are Magar, 7.50 percent are Newar and 8 percent are others.

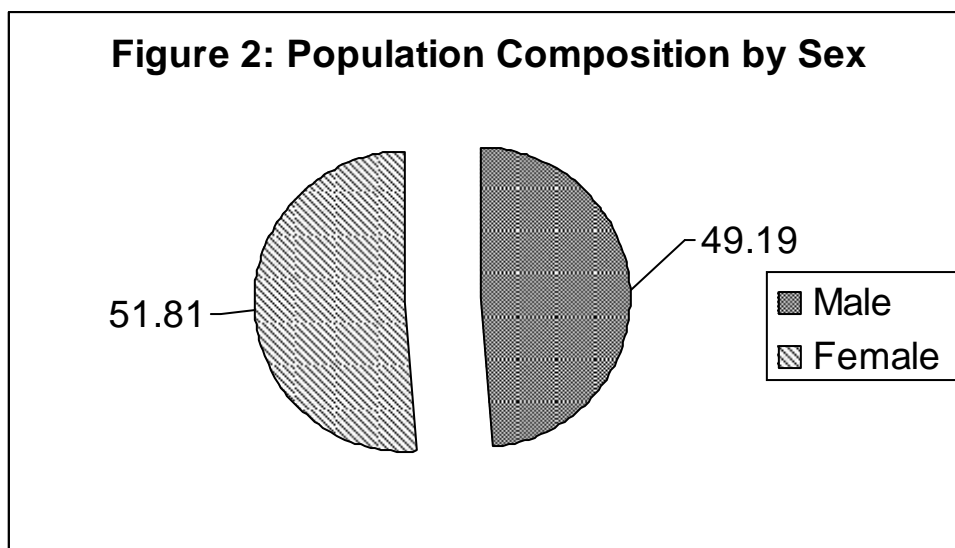
5.2.2 Age and Sex Structure of the Sampled Population

The age group of the sampled population is mainly dominated by nonworking age group in the study area. The field survey shows that, large percent of the people (24.94%) is in 10-19 years age group, 24.20 percent of the total population is below 10 years, 17.04 percent of the total population is lies in 20-29 years age group, 12.59 percent of the total population is lies in 30-39 age group, 9.14 percent of the total population lies in 40-49 age group, 6.17 percent of total population lies in 50-59 age group and 5.92 percent of total population lies in 60 and above years age group, respectively. Likewise, among the total sampled population 49.19 percent are male and remaining 51.81 percent are female. These are given in the table and figure below:

Table 5.1: Age Structure of the Sampled Population

Age Group	Total	Percentage
0-9	98	24.20
10-19	101	24.94
20-29	69	17.04
30-39	51	12.59
40-49	37	9.14
50-59	25	6.17
60 and +	24	5.92
Total	405	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2.3 Family size

The average family size of the sampled households in the study area is found 5.65 persons. Distribution of respondent's households by family size is presented in the table below.

Table 5.2: Family Size of the Surveyed Households

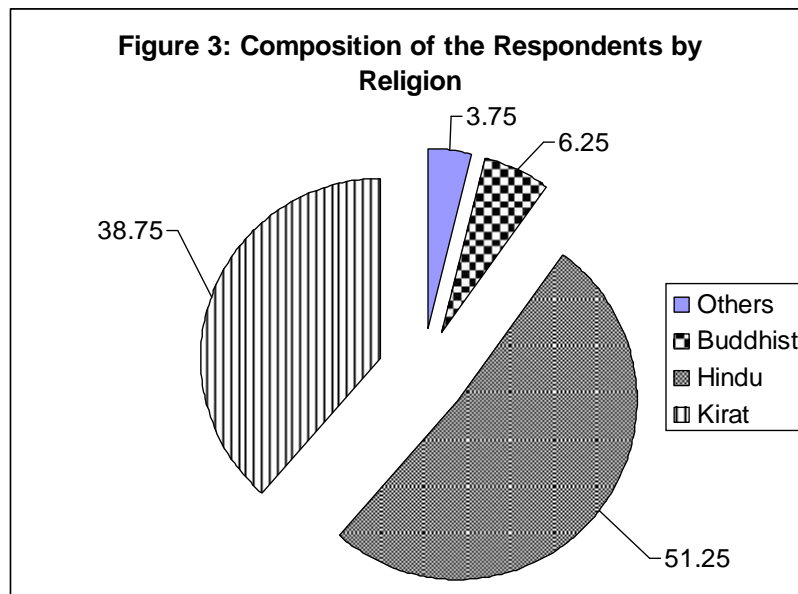
Family size	Households	
	Number	Percentage
3-5	26	32.50
6-9	43	53.75
Above 9	11	13.75
Total	80	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table indicates that most of the households were found having 6-9 members in the family which is 53.75 percent of coverage of the user group. Likewise, 32.50 percent households were found having 3-5 members, 13.75 households were found having above 9 members.

5.2.4 Population Composition by Religion

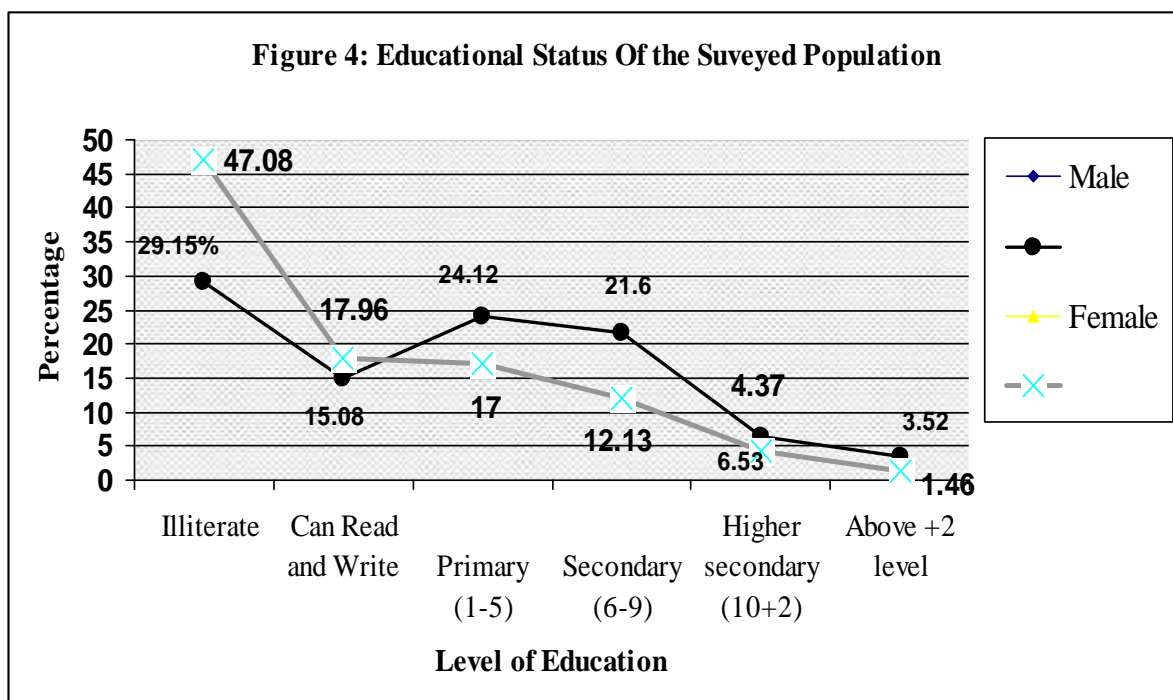
Religion is considered as an important part of the population analysis. The habit and nature of the people is affected by religion. The population of the study area is mainly composed of Hindus and Kirats. Among the total sampled population 51.25 per cent are Hindus, 38.75 per cent are Kirats 6.25 per cent are Buddhists and 3.75 per cent are other including Christians, which is shown in the figure below:



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2.5 Educational Status

Education is one of the ingredient factors for socio-cultural and economic change in a society as it has direct bearing with development process and development outcome. Many literatures suggest that education plays an important role in building confidence, increasing mobility, increasing access to information, employment opportunities and much more. The educational status of the rural people is still lower than national average, and also the Nepal's status has remained below than other SAARC countries. The educational status of the surveyed population is given in the figure below:



Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above figure shows that the literacy rate of the people is more than the national literacy rate. Among the surveyed population, 47.08 per cent female cannot read and write. Likewise, 17.96 per cent women are can read and write, 17 per cent are primarily educated, 12.13 per cent are secondary level, 6.53 per cent are higher secondary level and only 1.46 per cent are above +2 level educated. Likewise, according to the figure, 29.15 per cent male are still illiterate in the study area which is below than female illiteracy rate. The figure also shows that male literacy rate is higher than female literacy rate. According to this, 15.08 per cent male are only read and write, 24.12 per cent are primarily educated, 21.60 per cent are secondary level, 4.37 per cent are higher secondary level and 3.52 per cent are above +2 level, respectively including Bachelors and Masters Level.

5.3 Economic Characteristic of FUG

For the economic characteristics land holding, livestock holding, occupation and income sources (primary, secondary) of the forest user group were surveyed and examined. The details of these activities are briefly discussed in the following section.

5.3.1 Land Holding

Land is the most important factor for rural income and employment generation. The households can be categorized (rich household, medium household and poor household) according to the quantity of ownership of the land. Households having more land ownership are called rich, their income and living standard are obviously better than the others; those having low ownership of land are called poor. The size of the landholdings in the study area is unequally distributed. Most of the families have their own land, but relatively a few of them do not have sufficient landholdings. The landholding size of the surveyed households is given in the table below:

Table 5.3: Landholding Size of the Sampled Households

(Land in Kattha)

Land size	Khet		Bari	
	Households	Percentage	Households	Percentage
0-10	28	35.00	60	75.00
11-20	35	43.75	15	18.75
21-30	12	15.00	5	6.25
31-40	5	6.25	0	0.00
Total	80	100.00	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008

* One Kattha is equivalent to 0.0335 hecter

The above table shows that the households of the study area are small and medium farmers. They do not have enough land to cultivate. According to the above table most of the household have small size of the land holding. The table shows that 35 percent households have 0-10 Kattha Khet, 43.75 per cent HHs have 11-20 Kattha Khet, 15 per cent have 21-30 Kattha and 6.25 per cent HHs have 31-40 Kattha, Likewise, 35.00 percent have 11-20 Kattha, 15.00 percent have 21-30 Kattha and 6.25 percent household have 31-40 Kattha Khet, respectively. Likewise, 75 per cent HHs have 0-10 Kattha Bari, 18.75 per cent have 11-20 Kattha and 6.25 per cent have 21-30 Kattha

Bari, respectively. The table shows that the land holding size of the sampled HHs is low. According to this the size of the Bari is lower than size of the Khet.

5.3.2 Livestock Holding

According to the respondents and stakeholders, the livestock rearing pattern in the study area has been decreasing due to the lack of grazing land, shortage of fodder and bad effects of animal diseases. The main livestock reared by the sampled households are buffalo, cow, ox, pig and goat. The purpose for rearing these animals are for getting fertilizer, milk, meat, plough land and other income generating activities. The major livestock reared by the sampled Households is given in the table below:

Table 5.4: Livestock Holding of the Sampled Households

Types of Livestock	Number	Average	Percentage
Cow	48	0.60	12.53
Oxen	96	1.20	25.07
Buffalo	57	0.71	14.88
Goat	62	0.78	16.19
Pig	120	1.50	31.33
Total	383	4.80	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that the share of the Pig is higher than other in the total livestock holding. It occupies 31.33 percent of the total livestock. Likewise, in the total livestock, the share of Cow is 12.53 percent, Oxen are 25.07 percent, Buffalo is 14.88 percent and Goat is 16.19 percent.

5.3.3 Agricultural Production

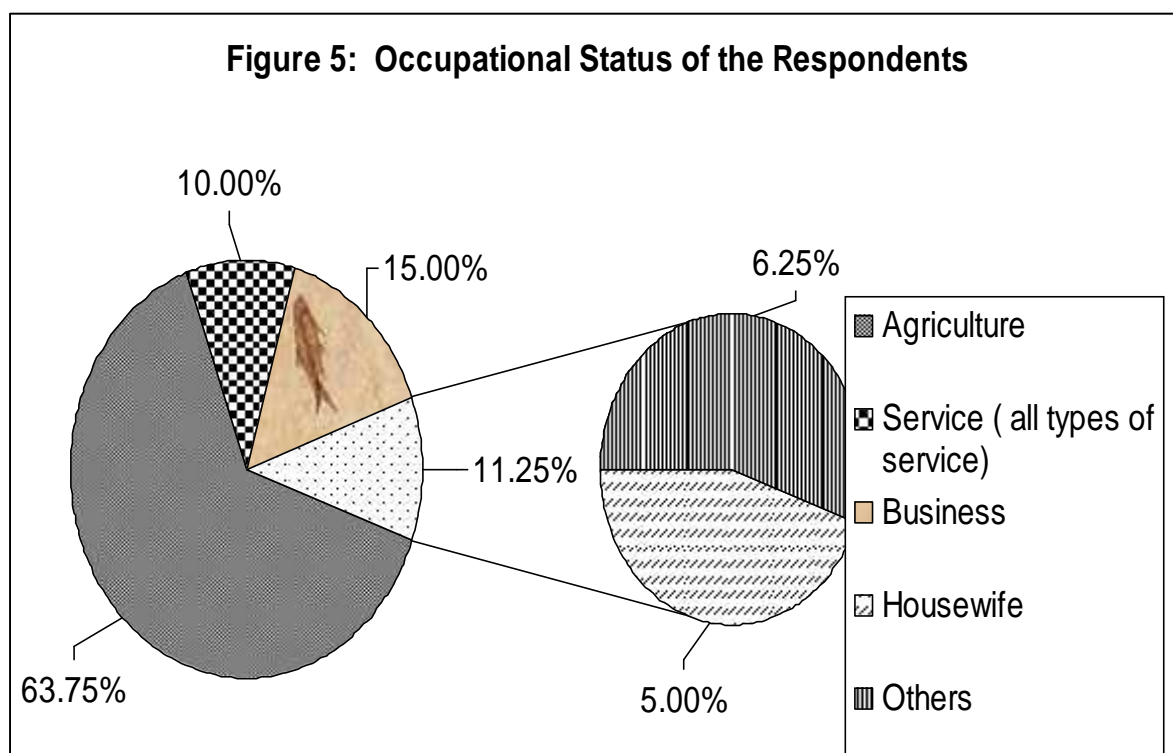
Rice, maize, wheat, paddy, millet and potato are the major agricultural production produce by the households in the study area. Because of low availability of the plain land the productivity of the land is also low. According to the respondents and key informants, the HHs of the study area is not sufficient to food by their own production. Only few HHs are totally depend on for food on their-own agricultural production for full year. Most of the HHs is borrowed agricultural production from market and local land lord.

5.3.4 Occupational Structure

Occupational status is another factor, which reflects the socio-economic status of a person. Agriculture is the main occupation of the Nepalese people. It has also been remaining as mainstreams of the employment for livelihood and income generating activities. Similarly, Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the study area. But, agricultural production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of this area involved in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well foreign employment. Based on the data collected during study, occupational status of the population of study area has been presented below:

5.3.4.1 Occupational Structure of the Respondents

In the study area, most of the respondents are engaged in the agriculture. This is the main source for their livelihood or income. According to the field survey, 63.75 per cent respondents main occupation is agriculture in the total sampled HHs, 15 per cent have their own rural business like glossary, fancy, cosmetic shop, hotel, etc, 10 per cent are engaged in various types of job including governmental and nongovernmental service, 5 per cent are working as a housewives and remain 6.25 per cent are engaged in other agricultural and non agricultural job such as wage labour, respectively, which is given in the figure below:



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.3.4.2 Occupational Structure of the Sampled Population

Like the respondents occupation, agriculture is also the main occupation of the sampled population. According to the field survey, 48.15 per cent of the total people's main occupation is agriculture, 11.11 per cent are engaged in different types of services (government and private service), 4.69 per cent have their own business, 30.62 per cent are studying in school and college (but they are also helped to their family), 3.70 per cent are wage labour and 1.73 per cent are engaged in different types of works, which is given in the table below:

Table No. 5.5: Occupational Distribution of Sampled Population

Occupation	No.	Percentage
Agriculture	195	48.15
Service	45	11.11
Business	19	4.69
Study	124	30.62
Wage labour	15	3.70
Others	7	1.73
Total	405	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

CHAPTER SIX

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

As Peoples' participation can be defined as a value loaded inclusive concept of sustainable development that provides the organized form to local initiatives based on the notion of bottom-up approach where people are central to any dimension of discussion. Likewise Community forestry has been defined as small scale village level forestry practices where decisions and actions are made on a collective basis and where the rural people participate in planning, establishment, management and harvesting of forest crops and receive a major proportion of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from the forest products.

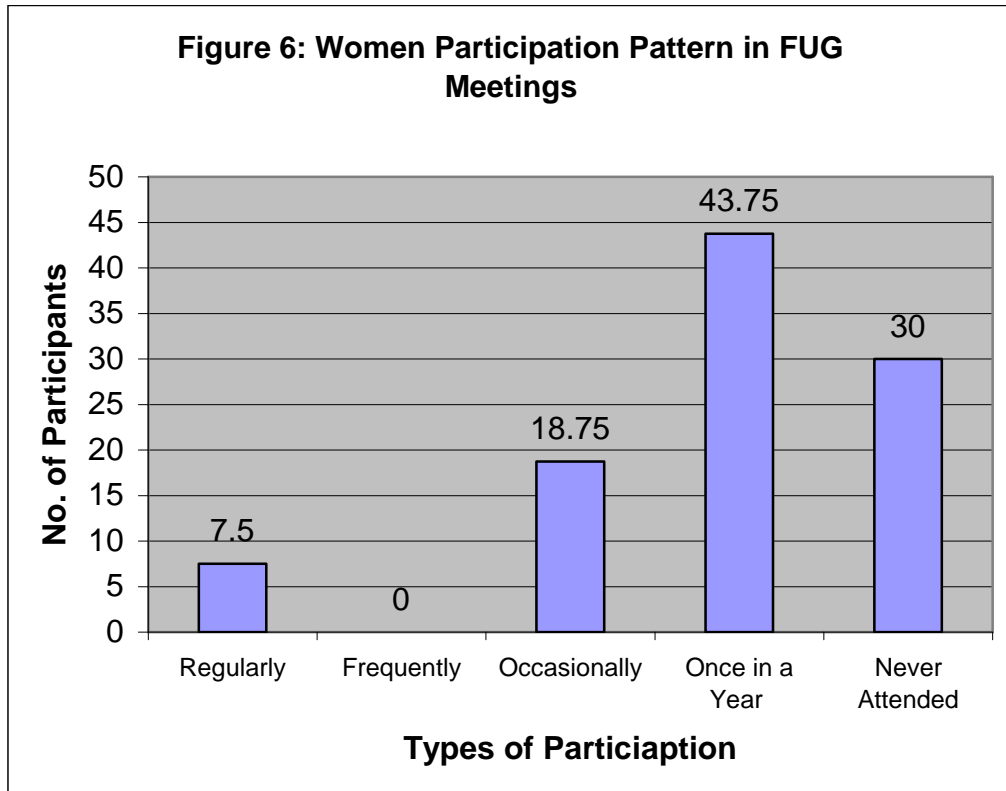
This is the main section of the study. Basically, it concerns with the specific objectives and their corresponding results. The results are totally based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources. Four dimensions of participation such as women's involvement indecision-making and planning process, implementation process, monitoring and evaluation process and benefit sharing are discussed as their participation in community forest management. These dimensions included various sub-dimensions. However, only common but important issues of each dimension are considered while analyzing the results.

6. 1 Women's Involvement in Decision Making Process

In Panchakanya community forest, the FUG makes decisions through committee meetings and group assemblies. Meeting of group or committee relied on the issue to be decided. Committee members decide minor issue whereas group decides major issue. Women's involvement in decision-making process in CF development and management is considered in terms of their involvement in committee regular meeting and general assembly, constitution preparation meeting, name registration in CFUG, involvement in operational plan preparation, using voting right for executive committee member selection and involvement in conflict management.

6.1.1 Frequency of Women's Participation FUG Meetings and Assembly

FUG meetings and assemblies are means of decision making. Therefore, the frequency of meeting attends by women also determine the women involvement in decision-making process of CF. because major decisions are made between committee members during the regular meetings and the general assemblies. However, the women's participation pattern in FUG meetings is shown in figure below:

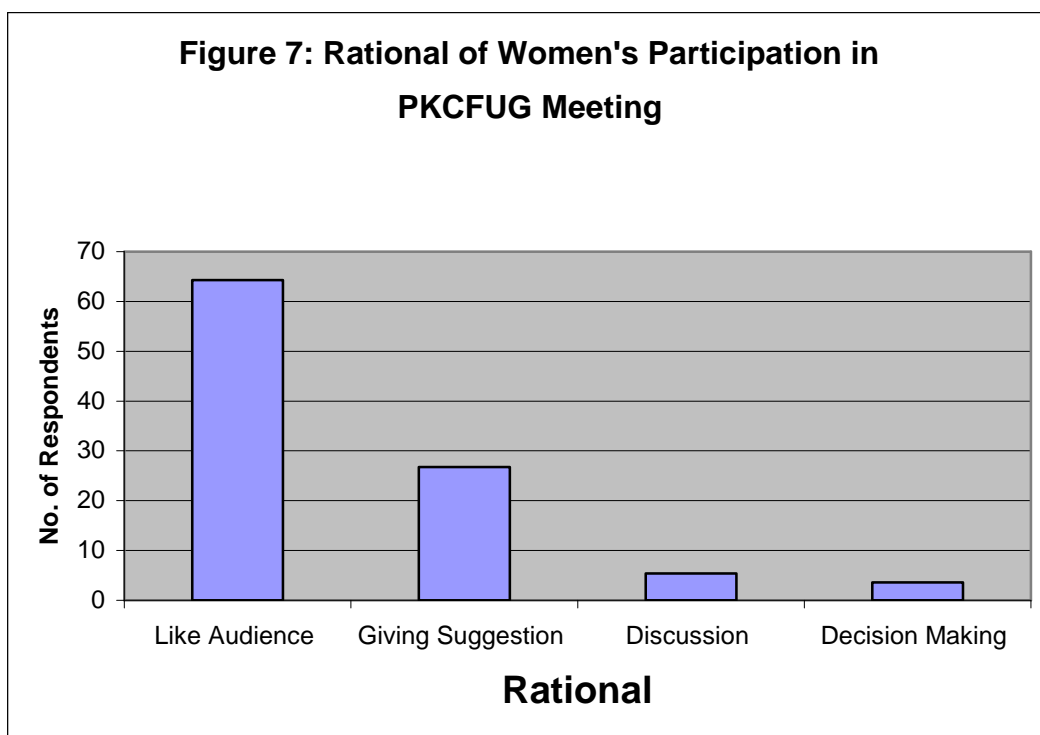


Source: Field survey, 2008

The meeting includes CFUG committee regular meeting and general assembly. Above, figure shows that 7.5 percent of women are attending community forest user's group committee meeting regularly. 30 percent women have never attended CF related meeting. 43.75 percent of women have been attending annual assembly regularly.

6.1.2 Types of Women's Participation in Decision Making Process

Self motivated participation is considered the real participation. Though, women's representation is very low but they are the key agent in the management of CF. However, the rationale for participation in Community forest management by respondents is given in figure below:



Source: Field survey, 2008

According to the field survey, among 80 respondents, 24 were not attending meeting. Among 56 meeting attend women 64.28 percent of women use to attend meeting like audience, 26.78 percent member giving suggestions, 5.37 percent attend meeting taking part in discussion and 3.57 attend meeting sharing in decision-making. Compulsory provision of meeting attends and absence of male member in family makes the high attendance of women in meeting but the attendance of women is like audience is high. And the percentage of women for decision making purpose is found very low. Details of women's involvement in decision-making process are given in table below:

Table 6.1: Women's Participation in Decision Making Process

Description	Participant	
	Number	percentage
Involvement in Constitution Preparation	6	7.5
Name Registration from Family as CF User	9	11.25
Involvement in OP Preparation	6	7.5
Practicing Voting Right	8	10
Conflict Managing	5	6.25
Total	80	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

Above table shows that only 7.5 percent women were involved in constitution preparation meeting, which is equal to women's involvement in operational plan preparation. According to respondents, this was due to mainly the ignorance of users in CF registration and patriarchy influence of men and inadequate information regarding CF's constitution. On the other hand, some respondents had an experience that they were ignored to the extent that their attendance was not registered.

The field survey found that 11.25 percent involvement of women as household head. According to the respondents, an executive committee member neither takes interest of women to involve in CF management or the liberal nature of men but was due to absence of males by any reasons or no presence of mature male in the family. Lack of awareness and exposure was found one of the causes of this situation.

In the study area, found again low involvement of women in operational plan preparation. Only 7.5 percent women are found from the FUG involved in OP preparation. The involvement of women in plan preparation was not active and decisive. Due to lack of adequate knowledge and skill on concern matter, it had found more dependency of executive committee on forestry technicians regarding operational plan preparation.

Regarding conflict management, respondents of the study area expressed their views during household survey and executive committee's meeting that the involvement of women was negligible. Only, 6.25 percent women are found involved in conflict management.

6.1.3 Women's Representation in FUG Executive Committee

During the study it is found that the executive committee members were selected through the unanimous decisions. There are total 13 Executive Committee members in Panchakanya Community Forest User Group, among them 6 female members were represented in EC of FUG. The CFUG consists of 46 percent women members in EC, which is not that much lower from gender balance perspective. Unfortunately, men in EC have occupied the vital portfolios such as chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary etc., which is presented in the table below:

Table No.6.2: Women's Representation in FUG Executive Committee

Name	Designation	Age	Sex	Education
JeetBahadurKhalang	Chairperson	57	M	S.L.C
GokulParsadBajghai	Vice-Chairperson	32	M	I.A.
Krishna Rai	Secretary	28	M	I.A.
Jeet maya Rai	Vice-Secretary	46	F	Literate
Jas maya Rai	Treasurer	35	F	Literate
Parsad Rai	Member	42	M	Literate
KamalaRai	Member	40	F	Literate
Pooja Rai	Member	28	F	Literate
Dhan kumari Rai	Member	30	F	Literate
Man Bahadur B.K.	Member	23	M	S.L.C.
Krishna Pedisai	Member	41	M	Literate
Harka raj Rai	Member	37	M	Literate
Suk mays Rai	Member	32	F	Literate

Source: Field Survey, 2008

6.1.4 Socio-economic Status of Women Executive Members

The socio-economic status of women EC members was assessed based on their age, education and economic status through conducting FGD.

Table 6.3: Women in Executive Committee by Socio-economic Status

Name	Designation	Age	Edu	MS	Occupation	Religion
Jeetmaya Rai	Vic-secretary	46	Literate	Married	Agriculture	Kirat
Jasmaya Rai	Treasurer	35	Literate	Married	Agriculture	Kirat
Kamala RAi	Member	40	Literate	Married	Agriculture	Kirat
Pooja Rai	Member	28	Literate	Married	Agriculture	
Sukmaya Rai	member	32	Literate	Married	Shop,Agri.	
Dhanmaya Giri	Member	30	Literate	Married	Agriculture	Hindu

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table shows that, majority of the women EC members are representing from Rai community. The members are between the ages of 28-45 years. Women below 25 years were not found in EC. According to women respondents below 25 years were not easily acceptable EC member due to their instability and immaturity. Hence, middle age women EC were forced to act as EC member. Regarding education status women EC were found just literate. In the context of economic, women are from medium class families. Unfortunately, researcher found no representation of Dalit women in EC. Reasons behind it were either such women hesitate to hold such post or they rejected from those who are so-called highly recognized people.

Attendance of EC member in monthly meeting was assessed based on the minute books of (last five years) the concerned FUG. The researcher found low attendance of women EC member as compare to men. According to women respondents this was mainly due to inappropriate time of meeting. In their opinion, the monthly meeting used to conduct during morning, which is the peak hour of women. Women EC members seem more dependent on male members due to lower confidence and knowledge about subject matter. Hence women's decision-making process in CFM is highly influenced by the educational status. Women EC member's participation was passive in the vital discussion and in taking decision.

6.2 Women's Involvement in Implementation Process

Implementation is the real practice of operational plan, constitution and other decision made by the user group. It is the main responsibility of the user committee to implement all decisions an operational plan with the full participation of users. It is the responsibility of forest users to be involved in implementation of rules and plan for effective implementation of CF program. Protection and management are major implementation activities of community forestry. Implementation of decision includes which area of the forest is considered for the application of management operation, what period of the year is allocated for the harvesting of forest products, planting and distribution of forest products, how and what practices are to be applied in the planting, harvesting and protection and so on.

Women respondents of Panchakanya FUG were asked their participation in three major implementation activities of CF, such as protection of forest and implementation management operation. Participation in implementations categorized in three levels.

High Participation: Respondents who are participating regularly in implementation activities

Moderate Participation: who are participating frequently in such activities

Less Participation: who are participating occasionally.

Participation of women in different activities is discussed in following sub headings.

6.2.1 Women Participation in Protection of Forest

Panchakanya Community forest user group has not appointed paid watchman for the protection of forest but for this purpose there are thirteen area committee (*Tol Samiti*) has established (each area committee has included 40-45 HH) and they protect forest by volunteer guarding on the regular rotational basis as a “Ban Heralu”

Table 6.4: Participation level of Women in Protection of Forest

Participation Level	Participant	
	Number	Percentage
High	12	15.00
Moderate	18	22.50
Less	22	27.50
Never	28	35.00
Total	80	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

The field survey shows that 15 percent women was highly participated in protection of the forest, 22.5 percent moderately participate, 27.5 percent less participated and 35 percent never participated in protection of the forest which is given in the table no 10.

6.2.2 Participation of Women in Forest Management Activities

Forest management is the scientific operation that is applied in forest. Forest management operation includes plantation, weeding, thinning and pruning, clearing bushes, shingling, collection/transporting forest products and fire line construction inside the forest area. It needs technical knowledge for the forest management. Therefore, management operation needs technical assistance form DFO. So, users as well as DFO often play several roles simultaneously in forest management.

Panchakanya CFUG planted more trees seedlings inside the forest area. Every year they carry out thinning, pruning and clearing operation in the forest.

Table No.6.5: Women's Participation in Forest Management Operation

S.N.	Description	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Plantation	8	10
2	Weeding	21	26.25
3	Thinning/Pruning	17	21.25
45	Bush Clearing	13	16.25
5	Collection of forest products	21	26.25
Total		80	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows that majorities of women, about 26.25 percent of the total respondents are involved in weeding and collection of forest products and 21.25 percent of women respondents are involved in thinning and pruning. 16.25 percent of women mentioned about the bush clearing. It is very interesting that only 10 percent

women respondents are involved in collection and transportation of forest products. It shows that the involvement of women in implementation part of the CF management is higher than other parts like decision-making, monitoring and evaluation.

Intensive farming roles of women and their inherited roles of managing, collecting and using of various plants and animals from forests and pastureland is vital. Therefore, women are the key actors in the managing forest products and agricultural plant resources.

Respondents of the study area expressed that men send women to participate in silviculture activities. At the same time, requirement of forest products to the women found as another coercive factor behind it. Like silviculture activities, the researcher found more involvement of women in also in the study area. Men found responsible for digging the pit and fencing and protecting the plantation areas. The respondents added that seriously take care of growing plants.

In the observation of researcher found both women and men involved in forest products collection and transportation. However, the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the actual field. Users reported that men used to consider it as women's work. Sometime, men feel losing their prestige by transporting the fuelwood from the community forest. Hence, men used to deny collection and transporting forest productions from the community forest except timber.

6.3 Women's Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation Process

Some common issues regarding monitoring and evaluation aspects such as involvement in monitoring of silviculture activities, involvement in regular assessment of community forest (quantitative and qualitative) and involvement in reviewing of operational plan were selected for the study. Detail of involvement is given the table below:

Table 6.6: Women's Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation Process

Activities	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Monitoring in Silvicultura Activities	12	15.00
Quality Control	1	1.50
Reviewing OP	2	2.50
Not Involved in any activities	65	81.25
Total	80	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above table shows that women are involving in various sub-issues of monitoring and evaluation aspects. Involvement rate of women was found very low in each sub-issue in the study area. Among 80 female respondents, only 1 (1.5%) respondent has involved in assessment of community forest, 2.5 percent women are involved in reviewing operational plan, 15 percent women has been involving monitoring in silvicultura activities. Majorities of women (81.25%) have never involved in monitoring and evaluation process of Community forestry.

Respondents of the study area explained that only executive committee member can take part in monitoring and evaluation aspect. Key informants expressed that, this is the task of executive members and forest technicians. Thus, an ordinary user was

found unaware about monitoring and evaluation aspects of community forest management.

6.4 Women's Involvement in Benefit Sharing

Benefit sharing is an important element and aspects of CF participation. The benefits that can be derived from forests range from socio-economic and ecological which are often called tangible and intangible benefits respectively. If there is no equal sharing of forest products, people may be frustrated with the CF programme. Equal sharing of forest products may make user's to realize the CF as their own. That means sharing of benefits on equal and equity basis creates own feeling towards community forestry. Some common issues of benefit such as forest products sharing, opportunities to participate in training and utilize the benefits to be available from social activities launched from the income of community forest are analyzed in the study.

The women members of Panchakanya community forest user group were asked whether they share the benefits from the Community forest equally or not and they are satisfied with the present condition of distribution system or not. It was found that benefit is shared equally on household basis. A detail of women's involvement in benefit sharing process is described below:

a) Sharing of Forest Product - After the establishment of CF, women of the study area are benefited remarkably. According to the respondents, almost of the forest related work like fuel wood and fodder collection have to perform by women. Before establishment of CF they had to walk far for this purpose. But, now the forest products are easy to get comparing to a decade ago. The CFUG had distributed the community forest area 5 Kattha per household for the purpose of protection, development and utilization of Community forest.

Users were found mainly concerned with distribution of timber and non-timber forest products from CF. In the initial days due to limited production of timber the CFUG was found adopted equal sharing of forest products to be available from the CF. According to the executive committee members, now users are getting timber as per need based, season based and cost based as determined by committee and forestry technicians.

The field survey found that the CFUG used to consider each household as unit of user and distribute forest products based on HH concept. Throughout the study, the researcher found that no gender based forest resources were distributing system in the study area.

b) Human Resource Development: Mainly the training, workshops and study tour were considered under the HRD activity. The younger and adult user was found very enthusiastic in HRD activities. However, elderly people were found not so interested to participate in training and visits.

It was found that planning, management and awareness related activities were conducted mainly by the Illaka forest office, Dharan. The data reveals that there is dominance of male in such trainings. Researcher found various reasons behind low participation of female. Some of them are - lack of female representative in the executive committee, depends on range post, conduction of trainings without female consultation. Beside lack of awareness was also found among them which hinder them in their meaningful participation. Similarly, lack of earlier information, lack of confidence and lack of time are also some of the major obstacle.

During the study, it is found that Panchakanya community forest user's group has conducted limited number of community development activities from the income of

the community forest. Some of them are timber supporting program for school building, road construction within the community forest area, river bank protection and donation to victims of natural disaster.

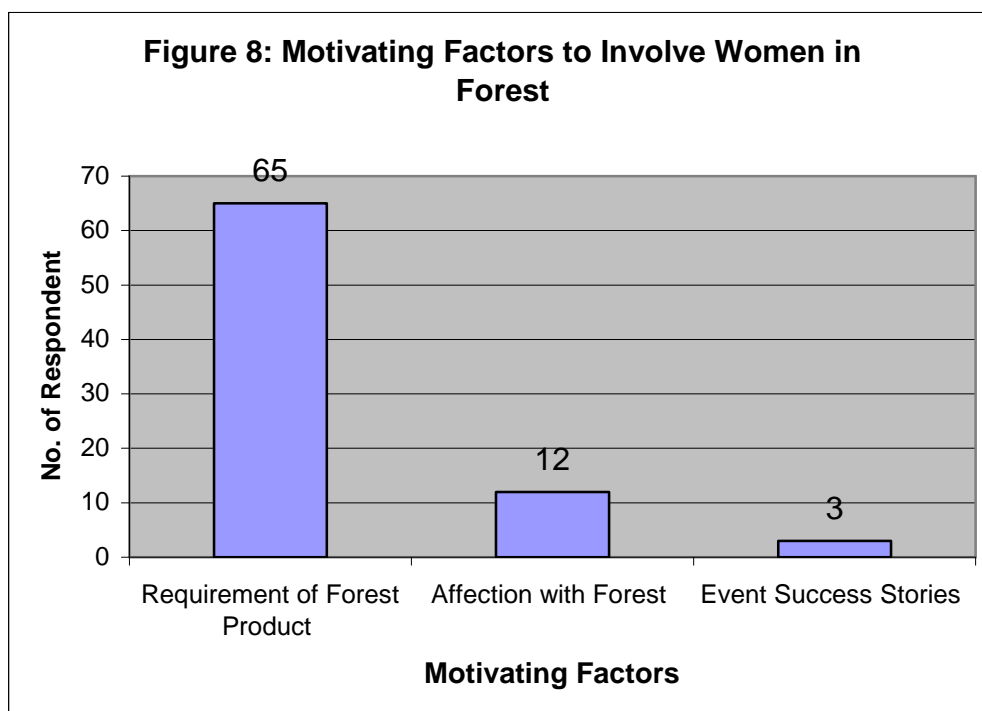
Majority of respondent reported that both male and women are getting benefit for those social and community development activities. The researcher found that there is lack of special program targeted to women like skill development and income generating activities which supports them to become self-reliant.

6.5 Factor Affecting Women's Participation

There are some factors, which are responsible for the active participation of the people in community forestry program. To analyze the constraints of Women for effective participation in CF, focus group discussion, and key informants views were adopted as methodology during the research time. Similarly, socio-economic characteristics of the Women were also taken into consideration. Therefore, an attempt has been made to describe some major factors that are considered to be constraining factors for effective participation of Women in CF. However, some of the enhancing and constraints factors for women's participation in Community forest management are found. Factors supporting to increase the women's participation are included in motivational factors and factors, which are the barriers for women's participation, are mentioned in obstacles.

6.5.1 Motivating Factor for Women's Participation

Motivating factors of women involvement in Community forestry was assessed in the study. According to users there are various factors, which determines to frequency and effectiveness of women's participation in Community forest management. Following figure shows the view of respondents about the motivational factors.



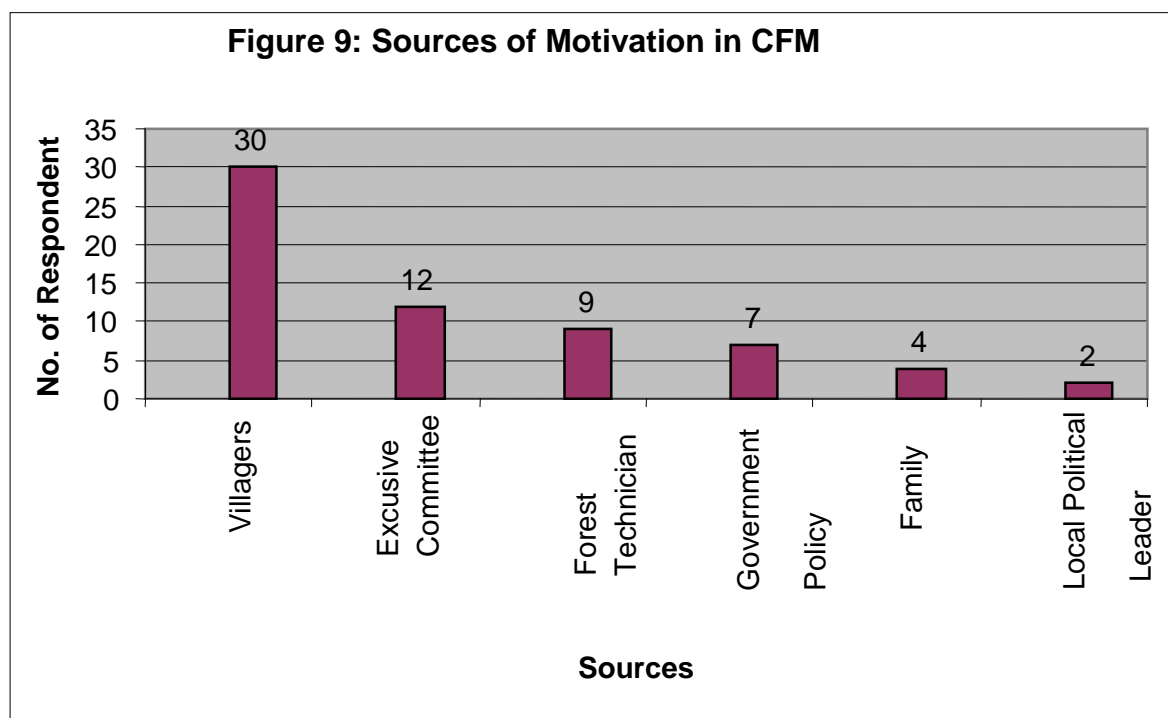
Source: Field survey, 2008

From the study it was found that majority of the women of the study area were involved for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of forest products like fuel wood, fodder and non timber production. According to the field survey, it was found that among the total sampled HHs, 65 Respondents are involved in CF for the requirement of forest products. Similarly, affection and attachment with forest found as second (12 Respondents, see figure 9) factor of motivation of women. The affection with community forest was deep-seated due to continuous attachment with forest from the childhood of women, which influenced women to involve in CFM. Minorities of the respondents (3 Respondents, see figure 9) were inspired with some success stories carried out in neighboring villages and other parts of the country, in which women's role was substantial. This factor found as supportive and encouraging one.

From the interaction with forestry technicians, EC members, respondents and field observation, the researcher found that motivation is a psychological and sentimental situation of user, which lead them to involve in community forest management.

6.5.2 Sources of Motivation

After the factors of motivation, the researcher assessed the sources of motivation, which inspires women to involve in Community forest management are presented in the following figure:



Source: Field survey, 2008

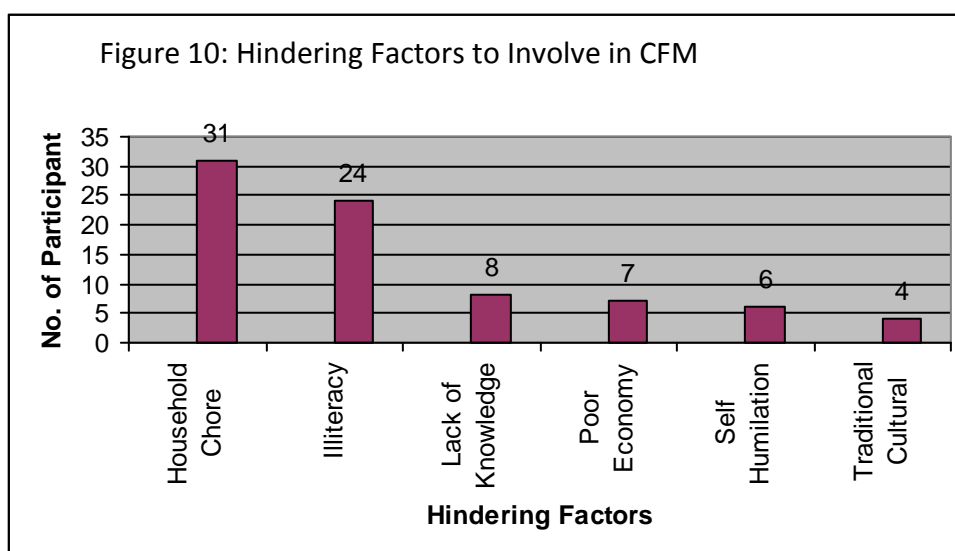
From the field survey, it is found that majority of the respondents guided to involve in CFM by their villagers/society. It is found influence of demonstrative effects created by villagers. On the other hand, peer groups are found as effective tool of motivation, which positively influenced women in CFM. The secondary source is self inspiration, which was created due to long and continuous practice of the seniors as well as the users (see figure 10).

Similarly, the respondents were considered that the executive committee as third source of motivation. The EC conducted meetings in certain interval of time, which converted as source of motivation. Respondents considered that the forestry technicians were the fourth source of motivation. It was also found that the forestry technicians were interacted with women during meeting, training and other activities, which inspired women to involve as executive committee member, participant of training etc. The government policies make pressure to involve minimum one third female member must be in EC. Any govt. policy to focus on advertises and communication about CF model motivates for women to participate in CF activities.

Above figure shows that husband (family member) and local political leader are also the source of inspiration for women to involve in Community forest activities. Both voluntary and involuntary motivation found crucial in the mobilization of people in Community forest management.

6.5.3 Hindering Factors for Women Participation in Community Forestry Activities

Various factors, which negatively influence to women's participation in community forest management and other local development activities in the study area is analyzed accordingly.



Source: Field Survey, 2008

a) Household Chore: In the study area, higher involvement of women in child rearing, feeding household members and livestock and agricultural work makes the women busier. Respondents of the study area were considered that regular HH chore as a main problem of women. So, lack of time is major obstacles for women's participation.

b) Illiteracy: Women are more illiterate than male in study area. According to the respondents, women of the community are lacked with formal education. Thus they have problem to read & write the rules, regulations and minutes of the CF meeting. Due to illiteracy they have problem to learn forest management skills also, illiteracy is another major obstacles of women's participation.

c) Lack of Knowledge about Rules of Community Forest: According to the respondents, inadequate knowledge and skills about the CF is next problem of women. Due to the lack of knowledge about the rules of CF women couldn't share in discussion

and decision makes process properly. Because of the lack of these knowledge women were became passive in CFM activities.

d) Poor Economic Condition: In the study area most of the households are poor. They spend their time for substantial economic activities. Due to the poor economic condition, they have lack of time and education. So, poor women have obstacles to participate in public activities. In this way poor economic is one of the major obstacles of women participation.

e) Self-humiliation: Females have humiliation feeling in study area. They feel that they are not able than male for discussion, decision-making and forest rearing. They also feel that they couldn't make good relation with district forestry staff and they are not capable to do managerial task than male. The humiliation feeling makes the women passive in community forest management.

f) Traditional Male Dominated Culture: In the study area, there is existing Hindu culture system. According to the culture, meeting attend, decision-making and participate in public activities are the duty of male not of female. Male used to give less chance to keep view for women in every development activities. So, this is also one of the problems for women's participation in community forest management.

Above mentioned any single causes are not responsible for the low participation of women in community forest management activities. The combinations of all of the causes are main problems for women participation.

g) Lack of Leadership Quality: Lack of leadership quality has been traced as one of the major constraining factor for effective women's participation in community forestry in the study area.

CHAPTER SEVEN

VIEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE ABOUT WOMEN'S ROLE TOWARDS COMMUNITY FOREST

In this chapter, views of local people were collected from the key informants and the courses of data collection local people were consulted informally. Various views were found about the women's role toward the community forest management and other development activities. Views of local people are divided in two parts; positive views and negative views for presentation.

7.1. Positive Views about Women

Positive views of local people about the role of women are as follow:

-) Women are also helping to manage community forest.
-) Women used to help for forest watchman to rear forest.
-) Women respects and follows FUG rules
-) Women can be active if they have chance to do something
-) Women used to participate in CF meeting and they share their ideas and used to take part in discussion and decision-making process.

Women of study area are positive about community forest program. Unless they are busier in their household work but they are helping to manage the forest. Women's actively participation in general meeting of CF and they follow and respect rules, they help for forest guard for forestry rearing. They have no experience to take part in discussion in decision-making but they are trying to keep their views in CF general meeting. If they have training, awareness programs and support and encourage of male they can play active role in forest management and other development activities. They must be included in development activities without gender bias.

7.2 Negative Views about Women

In study some of the local people view that women cannot play good role for forest management. The negative views of local people are as follows:

-) Women do not want to participate in CF meeting
-) Women have no idea and ability to manage forest
-) Women don't care about public concerns
-) Women must manage their internal household tasks, it is not a duty of women to attend meeting and be active in social development activities
-) Women couldn't be able to be active and to play dominant and creative roles even they have chance to do something
-) Women have not wide concept, to mange public concerns without bias

According to the some local people views, women did not want to participate in development activities. They have not interest about the social development activities including CF management. By tradition, task of women is inside the household and agricultural field. Women are of narrow concept; they couldn't make social issues with neutral way. They couldn't play dominant role tin public activities even they have chance to do so.

The negative view about women is affected by the traditional male dominated concept. The strong supporter of traditional male dominant cultural system has negative views about women's role towards public concerns. The next group of local

people believes that social development is not possible without proper involvement of women in local development activities including the management of resources.

CHAPTER EIGHT

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the study, draws conclusion about the role of women in community forest management and provides recommendations to make women more active in CFM for the stakeholders concerned.

8.1 Summary

Participation has become the essence of the modern development context. The Community Forestry Program is a popular program to protect and manage the forest resources in a sustainable way. For the successful management of the program, effective participation of the CFUG members is essential. This thesis is conducted to assess the effectiveness of Women's participation in CF with different objectives.

On the basis of the study, some major findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

-) There are various caste and cultural groups who are the users of CF. The Panchakanya Forest User Group is a multi ethnic group where Rai, Chhetri, Gurung, Brahman, Limbu, Magar, Tamang and Newar work together.
-) Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the study area. But agricultural production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of the area are involved themselves in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well as foreign employment.
-) The Panchakanya FUG has made rules for protection, management, benefit sharing and implementing following those rules and regulations. The main leadership has been taken from Rai community.
-) The FUG had distributed the CF area 5 kattha per household for the purpose of protection, development and utilization of CF.
-) Women participation in general assemblies and regular meetings of FUG is not satisfactory. In the study area, women's participation in CFM is found limited. Women's involvement in operational plan preparation is found very low and was not active and decisive.
-) The study has revealed that the involvement of women in implementation part of the CFM is higher than that of other parts like decision-making, monitoring & evaluation. Some exceptional women have been found contributing in decision-making process to a certain level.
-) Access of ordinary women in sub-dimensions of decision-making found lower.
-) Regarding conflict management the involvement of women was negligible. Only 6.25 percent women found involved in conflict management.
-) The FUG consists of 46% women members in EC which is not that much lower from gender balance perspective. But men have occupied the vital portfolios.
-) No representation of Dalit women in EC. Reason behind it were either they hesitate to hold such post or they rejected form those so-called highly recognized people.
-) Women EC member's participation was passive in the vital discussion and in taking decision.
-) The women EC members seem more dependent on male members due to lower confidence and knowledge on subject matter.

-) Both women & men found involved in forest products collection and transportation. However, the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the actual field.
-) The field survey found the FUG used to consider each household as a unit of user and distribution FPs based on household concept. There is no gender based forest resources distribution system in the study area.
-) PKCFUG found weak in conducting number of training. EC totally depends on range post and do not arranged training and visits by own imitation.
-) PKCFUG has conducted limited number of community development activities in study area from the income of CF. Respondent reported that both sexes are getting benefit from those social and community development activities.
-) There is lack of special program targeted to women like, skill development and income generating activities which support them to become self-reliant.
-) Involvement rate of women in each sub-issue of Monitoring and Evaluation process found lower in the study area. However, involvement in monitoring in silvicultura activities found higher as compared to other sub-issues. Only EC members and forest technicians took part in M & E.
-) In every year the proportion of women's involvement in general assembly found higher.
-) Majority of the respondents of the study area were involved in forest resource management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of forest products.
-) Majority of the respondents guided to involve CFM with their villagers/society. On the other hand, peer groups found effective tool of motivation.
-) Maximum workload is the major problem of women to involve in CF management. Likewise, lack of knowledge, self-humiliation and illiteracy among women found other problems.
-) The findings reveal that education is the major influencing factor in decision making and leading the group in user committee.
-) Most of women are found untrained and unaware of the activities lunched by the GOs/NGOs.

8.2 Conclusion

The concept of community forestry programs a vital one for preserving and developing natural resources in general and forest resources 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 resources particularly forest resources has been noticing since long.

For the better management and enhancing the forest resources the CF program is launched in Nepal since 1978. The community forest is the forest handed over to the local community on which they have the full authority to use, protect and manage CF in their own way so that t they can fulfill their basic needs for fire-wood, timber and other forest products in a sustainable manner. Women are the primary user of forest resources and their roles increasing in CFM. Thus, the ultimate manager's and users of the forest are women.

The research unit "Panchakanya Community Forest" was handed over to the user group in 2053/9/15. It lies in the ward no. 4, 5 and 8 of Panchakanya VDC & 430 households are directly involved at present. Rai and Chhetri are the major caste groups. User group is highly dominated by Rai so; their representation in user committee is also

high. The level of income of the people of this area is medium and their economic activities are subsistence farming with livestock.

Panchakanya community forest is used mainly for fire-wood, fodder, grass, leaf litter, poles and timber. The forest products are collected for the domestic purposes. General rules for using forest products are outlined in the FUG constitutional forest operational plan.

During the field observation most of the women were busy the whole day in doing productive as well as reproductive work. Most of women were involved in vegetable arming, animal husbandry, farming, caring family members and labor work. Due to this women had no leisure time, while men were only busy in productive work.

Women collect fire-wood during the scheduled community distribution time. They fulfilled their additional requirement of firewood from agricultural residues. It took an average of 5.27 hours for collecting a Bhari of fire-wood in the past. These days fire wood collection from CF is much more time saving and easier.

Timber is used for house construction and HH tools. Except very few houses, others houses are made by the timber and forest products. Fodder is the main animal feed for the live stock in this area. People use this fodder for stale-feed which is important for animal husbandry. Every HH maintains livestock for domestic purposes. Therefore, collection leaves and flitters become the main job of the local people. Tree leaves and litter are collected specially for bedding purposes.

Forest is an integral part of the farming system in general and therefore, the management of CF has helped to protect the fragile ecosystem. Nepal succeeded to protect the several species of medicine plants in particular.

Women's participation is important in almost all aspects and activities of CFM. But the self-motivated participation is considered the real participation. The importance of women's participation noticed from the period of formation to the protection of forest.

Findings of this study show that women can play a significant role in CF development, protection and management. Hence, success of the community forestry program largely depends upon the degree of women's participation in its management from the very beginning. Women's participation in CFM was greatly determined by various factors like biophysical situation of CF, socio-economic and cultural practices, institutional culture of the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organizations, perception and attitude towards CF and allied issues, and status of women in the family and society. Women's participation as executive committee members and their presence in regular meetings were found satisfactory but their participation in discussion was found passive. Participation of ordinary women was found very low in the decision making process due to deep rooted patriarchal domination in the society.

Participation of women in the implementation process was found high. Male's influences in decision making in the family, requirements of forest products to women, and tendency of giving less response to social works, prevailed in the community are the reasons for it. Women's participation in monitoring and evaluation process was found poor in the PBCFUG due to lack of knowledge on women in this regard.

In the case of benefit sharing from social and development activities implemented by FUG, access of both sexes was found almost equal in the study area. But there was a lack of women focused development activities. For the better involvement of women in CFM human resource development activities should be launched effectively and sufficiently.

The participation on forest management by women is limited due to social role. Women are found highly busy involving household chores and household level forestry

activities. However, majorities of women are participated in the group interview and discussion.

Women were motivated to participate in CFM due to requirement of forest products, attachment with forest and women involved success stories carried out in different parts of the country. Similarly, women considered the self inspiration, their villagers, concerned EC, forestry technicians, local political leaders and husband (family member) as potential sources of motivation to involve in CFM. Factors like regular household's chores, inadequate knowledge, illiteracy, poor economic condition, self humiliation, patriarchal influence in the family and society, and backbiting nature of society found as hindering factors of women participation in Community forest management.

The level of women's participation depends upon the composition of FUG executive committee. Generally, an adult committee member participates actively. Usually, married women do not leave the village, as there are high chances of young women leave the village after they get married.

Regular income sources and participatory decision making roles and professional development opportunity thrust the degree of women's participation. The system of utilization of local human resources, knowledge and resources also plays vital role in the pattern of women participation.

As long as more people are clear about the benefits joining after FUG and clear about the rights and authorities of groups as well as less conflict between members, higher would be the participation of women in community forestry management.

Educational status of the people plays a key role for better involvement of women. High educational status of the women, higher would be the participation of women. Similarly, if more constant support from DFO and other line agencies are provided and professional development opportunities among FUG members are available, greater would be the chances of generating women's participation in Community forest management.

Even today, two types of issues are outstanding regarding women's participation. First issue is quantitative aspect of women's involvement in different activities of CFM and second is qualitative aspect of women's involvement, which is very difficult to analyze and interpret. Involvement of women in equal proportion with male in all dimensions of Community forestry management is the burning issue of the forest resource management.

8.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions can be formulated:

8.3.1 Recommendations Related with Stakeholders

Community forest itself is a complex phenomenon, which is interrelated with various stakeholders in different steps and aspects of its management. The policy-makers, concerned EC and local governmental organization and non-governmental organizational are major stakeholders of CF. Therefore, some recommendations are provided to the major stakeholders to boost up women's participation in Community forest management.

8.3.2 Related with Policy Makers

Forestry policy is the apex body at national level that directs to constitution, strategy and implementation procedures formulation. In this context, some recommendations are made to the policy-making body, which are as follows:

-) 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.
-) Being a corporate body the FUG empowered to develop operational plans independently.
-) Compulsory mandate should be given to FUG to organize the AGM with equal presence of users and active participation of women.
-) FUGs should be reviewed, categorized and awarded based on their performance.
-) A special meeting of all women FUGs should be arranged annually at district level.
-) Focus should be given to introduce alternative strategies to bring women in to main stream of development in general and their role in decision making process in CFM in specific for gender equity.

8.3.3 Related with Respective FUG

Forest user group is a corporate body that is authorized regarding operational plan preparation, forest resource distribution and CFM as a whole. In this context, FUG has a crucial role in policy formulation at local level and user mobilization. Some recommendations related with FUG are as follows:

-) Key positions such as chairman, secretary and treasures should be assigned to women. Such type of practice helps to boost up knowledge, morale and feeling of responsibility among women that ultimately will increase women's participation.
-) User group has no sufficient technical knowledge on forest management. Thus, more training should be conducted in this field.
-) User group has given more emphasis only on protection but is not applying management operation effectively. They should increase their participation in forest management.
-) Women participation in decision making should be increased through awareness. They should be encouraged to hold responsible position in user committee.
-) The FUG should organize non-formal education program to women. So that the importance of CFM for the present as well as future generation could be well understood.
-) 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.
-) User to users especially women to women system (peer education) of awareness should be adopted for awareness and women empowerment.
-) Operational plan should be prepared with equal presence of both sexes and maximum number of users.
-) Women are the real users of the forest resources and immediate victims of deforestation. Therefore, CF activities should be launched with timely consign and voluntary participation of women at all stages of the CFM.
-) Income received from the CF should be invested on those activities, which could make benefited to women and disadvantaged groups.

8.3.4 Related with GOs/NGOs

The GOs/NGOs launching in the FUG area play a catalytic role in the community. GOs/NGOs have a vital role in supporting and sensitizing the users. Major recommendations related with development agencies are as follows:

-) These organizations should provide facilitation support to FUG member to improve women's participation in CF development and management.
-) Training materials of technical aspect should be provided to user committee as reference material.
-) Users are aware of the value of forest products but lack of technical knowledge on how to grow. Therefore, technical knowledge should be provided to them and linked them to appropriate market.
-) Several studies could be made on this subject with more explanation and emphasis on ethnic perspectives.

Thank You

Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Women's Participation in Community Forestry Program
(A Case Study of Panchakanya Community Forest User Group in Sunsari)
Questionnaire for M.A. Thesis - 2008

Questionnaire for Household Survey

Date:

Name of the respondent:

Age:

Occupation:

Sex:

Cast:

Religion:

Marital status:

Education:

VDC:

Ward No:

Details of the family member's of the Household

S.N.	Name of Member	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation	Remark
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Section A: Demographic and Socio-Economic Identification of CFUG Members

- A-1 Which religion do you follow?
 a. Hinduism b. Buddhism C. Christianity d. Others
- A-2 What level of education have you received?
 a. Non Formal Education b. Primary Level c. Lower Secondary Level
 b. d. Secondary Level e. Above Secondary Level
- A-3 How old are you?Years
- A-4 What is your major occupation?
 a. Agriculture b. Wage labor c. Service d. Business e. others
 (remittance/pension)
- A-5 What is your secondary occupation?
 a. Agriculture b. Wage labor c. Service d. Business e. others
 (remittance/pension)
- A-6 May I know your monthly income from all sources?
 a. below Rs.2000 b. Rs.2000-3500 c. Rs. 3500 -
 5000 d. Rs. 5000 and above
- A-7 Do you have own land?
 a. Yes b. No
- A-8 How much land do you have?

Land Type	Farm size	Adhiya/Rent	Own land
Khet			
Bari			

- A-9 Have you tamed cattle too? (Yes/no) if yes,

Animal	Number
Buffalo	
Cow/Oxen	
Goats/Sheep	
Pig	

- A-10 Is your annual income sufficient to sustain your livelihood through the year?
 a. Yes b. No
- A-11 How long your family income holds your livelihood?
 a. Up to 6 months b. 6-9 month c. 9-12 month d. 1 year
 and above
- A-12 What is your House type?
 a. Pakki b. Semi- Pakki c. Kachhi
- A-13 What about Other facilities?

- a. Drinking water b. Toilet c. Bio-gas d. Electricity e.
Telephone
- A-14 Do you have your private jungle?
a. Yes b. No
- A-15 From which forest do you collect forest products?
a. Private forest b. National Forest c. Community Forest

Community forest related information
Section B: Participation in Decision Making Process

- B-1 When was this Community forest user group established?
.....
- B-2 Are you informed when the general Assembly of the CFUG members was held?
a. Yes. b. No
- B-3 What contribution did you make when establish this CFUG?
a. Cash donation b. Labor contribution c. Formulation of policy & plan
d. Participation in the meeting e. In registration process f.
Nothing
- B-4 Whose name has been registered in CFUG from your family?
Sex:
Position:
- B-5 Do you use to participate during operational plan preparation?
a. Yes b. No
- B-6 How do you participate while formulating policies related to the community forest?
a. Regular b. Irregular c. Not at all
- B-7 Are you willingly participating in the decision making process?
a. Yes b. No
- B-8 Do you used to involve in decision making process? If yes specify.
a. involvement in constitution preparation
b. Name registration from family as community forest user
c. Involvement in operational plan preparation
d. Practicing voting Right
e. Conflict management
- B-9 If you participate, how many times?

a. Lack of information b. Lack of time c. Lack of interest d. Lack of education

C-8 Do you follow the forest protection mechanism adopted by the CF effectively?

a. Yes b. No

C-9 Do you observe any improvement in forest quality?

a. Yes b. No

C-10 In your opinion, who should play the major role for the protection of the forest?

a. District forest office b. FUG members c. FUG committee members d. Forest Guard

C-11 Have you received any training for monitoring and evaluation of the CF.?

a. Yes b. No

C-12 Have you ever discussed in meetings about the annual progress report of CF?

a. Yes b. No

C-13 If not May I know the reasons behind it?

a. Fear of elite's b. Domination of malec. Lack of interest

Section D: Participation in Benefit Sharing

D-1 Are forest products being used according to the rules of the operational plan of the CF?

a. Yes b. No

D-2 Is Sharing of benefits equal for all the CFUG members?

a. Yes b. No

D-3 Do you use to involve in forest product distribution/allocation?

a. Yes b. No

If no, what is the reason.....?

D-4 Who is receiving the benefits more?

a. Elites b. Members of FUG Committee c. Secondary user group

D-5 Are you obtaining forest products from the CF easily?

a. Yes b. No

D-7 Is the principle of equity followed in distribution of forest product?

a. Yes b. No

D-8 Are you satisfy with the process of CF fund mobilization?

a. Yes b. No

D-9 Have you ever tried to get loan from CF fund?

- a. Yes
- b. No

D-10 If not what is the reason behind it?

- a. Getting no opportunities
- b. Negligence of CFUG committee
- c. Other specify (e.g. high interest rate)

D-11 Have you participated in any sort of trainings for your skill enhancement from the CF?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Section-E : others Information related to Women participation in Community Forest Management

E-1 How did you motivate in CF management?

- a. Requirement of forest products
- b. Affection with forest
- c. Event/ Success story

E-2 If you are not participated, what are the obstacles?

- a. Traditional culture
- b. Illiteracy
- c. House hold chore
- d. Lack of knowledge and skill about CF
- e. Poor economic condition
- f. Self- humiliation

E-3 what are the source of motivation for involve women in CFM.

- a. Local political leader
- b. Family/Husband
- c. Forest Technician
- d. Executive Committee
- e. Villagers/ Society
- F. Government Policy

E-4 Have you got family support to involve in CF management activities?

- a. Yes
- b. No

E-5 Tell me about male/female participation in harvesting and fetching forest products.

Activity	Male	Female	Both
Firewood collection			
Grass cutting collection			
Leaf liter cutting / bedding collection			

E-6 How far has community forest helped in providing forest products? Is that capable for meeting the needs of the users?

- a. very much
- b. not significantly
- c. not good

E-7 what do you think about the present forest condition?

- a. Increased
- b. Decreased
- c. As it is
- d. don't know

E-8 Do you have any idea on local people's perception towards women's participation in community forest management activities?

- a. Positive b. Negative c. Indifferent attitude

E-9 what are your suggestions for the improvement of women involvement in Community forest management? (In short)

THANK YOU

Focus Group Discussion : Women CFUG Members of the CF

1. Does the operational plan of the Community Forestry address the problems of women?
2. How has women participation influenced the decision making process of the CFUG members?
3. How has women participation influenced the monitoring and evaluation process of the CFUG members?
4. What are the major benefits that you have been receiving from this community forest?
5. What are the major programs of this CF sanctioned for women?
6. What are the principal reasons of women participation for being not effective in forest management?
7. What measures should be adopted to make women participation inclusive for forest management?

Interview of Key Respondents: Ranger of DFO, Teachers, Range Post Staff, Community Based Representative Personnel of WWF, Local Leaders and Members of the CFUG Committee

1. In your opinion, can Community Forestry Program help to reduce poverty even at national level?
2. What are the principal reasons of women's participation for being not effective?
3. What measures should be adopted to make women's participation inclusive for forest management?

Checklist

Details of community forest:

- a) Date of hand-over:
- b) Area:
- b) Total number of households:
- d) Total number of women headed household:
- e) Status of forest (past and present):
- f) Status of bio-diversity:
- g) Representation of ethnic groups in CFU committee:
- h) Programs sanctioned for women
- i) Participation of women's in General Assembly (of last 3 years)
from the minute book)
- j) Rules for recruiting and terminating FUG members.

REFERENCES

- Bhandari, D.L. 2004. *Wither Community Forestry Movement - I*, The Kathmandu Post, Kantipur Publication, Kathmandu.
- Chakraborty, R. N., Freier, L., Kegel, F. and Mascher, M. 1997. *Community Forestry in the Tarai Region of Nepal: Policy Issues, Experience and Potential*. Kathmandu: German Development Institute.
- Chamber Robert 1983. *Rural Development Putting the Last First*, Intermediate Technology Publication.
- Chhetri, R.B. 1994. *Indigenous Community Forestry Management System: Reviewing their Strengths and Weaknesses*, In Anthropology of Nepal. Peoples problem and processes, 1994, edited by Michael Allen, Mandela Book Point Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Chhetri, R.B. and M.C. Nurse 1992. *Equity in User Group Forestry: Implementation of Community Forestry in Central Nepal*.
- Dahal, D. R. 1994. *A Review of Forest User Group: A Case Study from Eastern Nepal*. Kathmandu: ICIMOD.
- Fisher, R.J. and Gilmour D.A. 1989. *The Management of Forest Resource in Rural Development*, A Case Study of Sindhupalchok and Kabrepalanchok District of Nepal, ICIMOD, Kathmandu.
- Gilmour, D.A. and Fisher, R.J. 1992. *Villagers, Forests and Foresters: The Philosophy Process and Practice of Community Forestry in Nepal*.
- Gurung, D. K. 1987. Women's participation in Forestry: A Case Study of Akrong Village. Forestry Research Series No.10. Kathmandu:
- HMG/N 1999. Forest Resource of Nepal (1987-1998), *Department of Forest Research and Survey*, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.
- HMG/N 2001. *Guidelines for Community Forestry Development Program*, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Forest Department, Community Forestry Division.
- HMG/N 2002. "Banko Jankari", *Journal of Forestry Information for Nepal*, Department of Forest Research and Survey.
- HMG/N 2003. *Community Forestry Development Program in Nepal*, An Introduction, Department of Forests, Community Forestry Division Babarmahal, Kathmandu.
- HMG/N 1993. *Forest Act 1993*. Kathmandu: MoFSC.
- 2058 (B.S). *The Operational Plan*. Kathmandu: MoFSC.
- 1995. *Community Forestry Directive*. Kathmandu: MoFSC.
- 1998. *Ninth Plan, 1997-2002*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- 2002. *Tenth Plan, 2002-2007*. Kathmandu: NPC.
- 2004. *Human Resources Strategy*. Kathmandu. MoFSC.
- ICIMOD, 1999. *Participatory Forest Management: Implications for Policy and Human Resources Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas*. Vol (5). Kathmandu: ICIMOD.
- Kayastha, Baban P. 1991. *Elements of Community Forestry in Nepal*, Sabitridevi Publication.
- Kharel, S., and Regmi, S. C. 1995. The Bokshe Mahadevsthan Forest Conflict. *Banko Janakari* Vol (5) No.3 PP. 123-119

- Malla, Y. 1997. *Stakeholders' Response to Changes in Forest Policies*. Proceedings of Pluralism and Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development, 9-12 December, FAO. Rome.
- Malla, S. P. 1995. Jalbire Women's Community Forest Group vs. Gorkha District Forest Office. *Banko Janakari*. Vol (5) No.3 PP. 123-129
- New ERA, 1998. *Population and Community Forest Management, Lesson from an Action Research in Nepal*. Kathmandu: New ERA
- Oakley, Peter and Marsden David, 1984. *Approaches to Participation in Rural Development*, International Labor Office, Geneva.
- Oxfam-NLA. 2004. *Jillaka Gabisa Stariya Tathyanka Ra Naxaharu: Saptari*. Kathmandu: Oxfam-NLA.
- Pokharel, B. K. and Nurse, M. 2004. Forest and People's livelihood: Benefiting the Poor from Community Forestry. *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*. Vol (4) No.1 PP. 19-29
- Regmi, Mahesh C. 1999. *Land Ownership in Nepal*, Adroit Publications Delhi.
- Shrestha, K.B. 1996. *Conflict in Community Forest*. R.(Compiled), Report on Conflict Resolution Workshop, August 11-13, Dhulikhel. Kathmandu: Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha.
- Siddiqi, Najma 1989. *Towards Effective Participation in: A Guide for Working with Women in Forestry*, Nepal Australia Forestry Project.
- Sitaula, N. P. 2001. *Sustainable Community Forestry Management Practices and People's Participation: A Case Study of Manakamana Community Forest Users' Group of Sakhauwasabha District*. An unpublished M.A. Thesis
- Tiwari, S. 2002. *Access, Exclusion and Equity Issues in Community Management Forest: An Analysis of Status of Community Forestry in the Mid-Hills of Nepal*. Kathmandu: WINROCK International Nepal.